

INSIDE: 24 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!

The Brooklyn Paper

Your Neighborhood — Your News®

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Swish!

Park Slope kids were the first users of the Seventh Avenue Armory, which opened for school recreation programs on Monday after a seemingly endless delay. **See page 3.**

A SALT ON BORO HALL

Snowy winter wreaks havoc on plaza

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Walk safely, Marty! The plaza around your Borough Hall office is now an obstacle course of disaster! The salt-covered sidewalk outside looks like it's been through a Moscow winter, what with wide cracks and chunks of slate sidewalk breaking away on the north side of the building near Court Street.

Some who walk the area daily, like Downtown office worker Lawrence Fiffer, are so fed up with the dangerous mess that they're calling 311 — but are clearly getting nowhere.

"Some of these agencies, you can write from now until doomsday and they won't respond," said Fiffer. "It's neglected, I tell ya."

It's also ironic, given that Marko-

witz made his personal fortune in part from a \$225,000 slip-and-fall settlement in 2003 after he took a spill on an icy Albany parking lot in 2001.

The plaza in front of Borough Hall is the responsibility of the Parks Department, but the agency's response to The Brooklyn Paper's inquiry was murky at best. In a statement, a spokeswoman blamed both the weather, "heavy traffic," and the economy for the problem.

"We believe the bluestone was cracked by heavy traffic on the plaza," the spokeswoman said in an e-mail. "This repair job is weather-dependent, and we hope to complete the work as soon as possible. When funding becomes available for replacement slates, we look forward to installing them."

In the meantime, city taxpayers should hope for no more icy Albany-style weather — or else a borough president could slip and sue us!



The sodium-covered bluestone pavement in front of Borough Hall is falling apart.

Putting an end to the affair

A few days ago, these plaintive words appeared on Park Slope Parents, that invaluable list-serve for parenting and, er, marital advice:

"I wanted to ask fellow Park Slope Parents how you deal with a spouse cheating. My husband has a real desire to act out on it, and I have caught him browsing the Craigslist ads. He has not actually met with anyone, but I feel that if he continues browsing the ads, it will happen. It's very upsetting to me, and I also realize the reality of things that it's hard to be with the same sexual partner all your life. How do you deal with this? Besides getting a divorce? Any advice would be so helpful."

Obviously this woman is very upset. Why else would she write to a bunch of virtual strangers about something so personal?

Smartmom pored over the plethora of responses, which expressed many points of view. One person wrote that viewing the Craigslist listings does not mean that he plans to cheat.

"I've been married for seven years, have never cheated on my wife, would never consider cheating, but have browsed plenty of Craigslist sections. It's fantasy fodder."

It's tough not to notice that he's been married seven years ...

Another person suggested that the wife should send her husband to strip clubs to get his ya-yas out. "Send him with the understanding this is an outlet for visual stimulation, not permission to go home with anyone," she wrote.

Smartmom thinks strip clubs are sexist and just plain silly (and they didn't help Ti-



By Louise Crawford

ger Woods from straying).

Another married woman, who has had affairs mostly with women, said it was OK as long as the affair-haver is honest about it. "It was amazing. My husband, somehow was fine and I found myself feeling more head over heels in love with him than I had in a long time," the bisexual adulteress posted. "I felt so trusted, loved and blessed that he would let me have this — and the blast of sexual energy from being with someone 'new' just recharged our marriage."

Smartmom was intrigued — and annoyed by the overly effusive tone of this post. Sure she knows that there are loads of people out there who engage in some form of polyamory, the practice of having more than one intimate relationship at a time, with the knowledge and consent of everyone involved. But clearly, it's not for everyone.

If your partner trusts you to go out and fool around a bit because the love is there, then maybe this could work. But if your partner, **See SMARTMOM on page 9**

Tale of two superfunds

City backs Newtown site, keeps battling Gowanus

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Bloomberg Administration has quietly backed a federal effort to list North Brooklyn's Newtown Creek as a toxic Superfund site — though the city continues to fight the very same classification for the Gowanus Canal.

Two days before Christmas, the city submitted its testimony in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Newtown Creek Superfund bid, citing the waterway's pollution. Yet at the Gowanus Canal, which is similarly befouled — but ripe for luxury development along its banks — the city is backing the feds and moving forward with its own clean-up.

"The dichotomy is striking — it's a contradiction, really," said Eric McClure, a member of the Park Slope Civic Council.

"It makes political sense for the mayor to support the Newtown Su-



perfund designation because it is polluted, too, but, of course, he's putting the interest of developers ahead of the environment with the Gowanus.

The mayor downplayed any notion of hypocrisy.

"They are different situations, and we evaluate each one independently," said Marc La Vorgia, a mayoral spokesperson. "Each situation is not the same."

The pollution in both waterways certainly is. The main difference is that the city, with the help of developers like Toll Brothers, is hoping to turn the rundown manufacturing zone around the Gowanus Canal into a residential, commercial

See FUND on page 11

Windows 7 was Norah Jones's idea

Singer's new home plan has fewer portals

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Score one for or make it three — for Cobble Hill preservationists in their war against Norah Jones's windows.

The salty singer quietly amended

her bid to punch 10 windows into the side of her three-story Amity Street townhouse, reducing the amount of new holes to seven.

"I'm still concerned that this sets a precedent," said Roy Skane, the president of the Cobble Hill Association after hearing about Jones's new plan, filed on Dec. 9. "But I'm always in favor of a

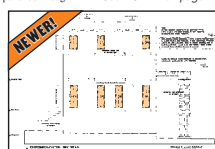
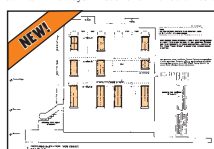
compromise, if that's what happened here."

The kerfuffle over the windows into Jones's home began in late November, when preservationists discovered that her plan for renovations to her backyard — which had already been approved — had been amended to now include the 10 new windows punched through

the side façade.

The discovery of the amended plans set into motion a frenzy of back and forth between local landmarks lovers and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Skane and others said that the windows would open the door to a radical change in the aesthetic of

See NORAH on page 11



Songbird Norah Jones (right) — a Brooklyn native — irked some of her Cobble Hill neighbors with a plan to punch more than 10 windows in her wall, an offense to historic preservation, some say. But now, she only wants seven portals.

B'Ridge battles for bus

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge residents and their political leaders rallied on Monday against proposed Metropolitan Transit Authority service cuts that will slice across the neighborhood far deeper than elsewhere in the city, they said.

About 50 people, brought together by Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) and State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge), gathered at 88th Street and Third Avenue along the B37 route, one of the community's arteries that the MTA would sever entirely to help plug a \$383-million budget shortfall.

The line starts at Fort Hamilton and runs up Third Avenue to Flatbush Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn. It is one of the slowest buses in the city, according to the Straphangers Campaign. It is also the 156th busiest bus route out of 194 in the city, with a daily ridership of 3,524 people, according to MTA stats. By comparison, the city's busiest bus line, the M1 in Manhattan, has 56,723 riders per day.

That said, the B37 has its fans.

"The B37 is southern Brooklyn's lifeline," said Gentile, who rallied the troops in similar fashion when a prior round of cuts was announced roughly this time last year. "Don't leave us out in the cold! We're going to turn the heat up on the MTA!"

Golden, whose job in Albany presumably affords him more

See BUS on page 11



Starlite Lounge manager Tim LaViticus shows off the letters of support he's received from his customers.

Starlite Lounge to go dim

One of the boro's oldest gay bars about to close

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Longtime regulars of the Starlite Lounge, the self-proclaimed oldest gay-friendly, black-owned watering hole in Brooklyn, are rallying to keep their establishment alive after the building was sold and the new owners signaled that they don't want the bar on the ground floor.

The watering hole — at the corner of Bergen Street and

Nostrand Avenue in Crown Heights — has been ordered to close shop by Jan. 15, though bar manager Tim LaViticus says he'll fight in court for a lease renewal.

"If we lose this, I don't know where these people would go," he said. "They've been scattered, and there's nothing like your neighborhood bar."

LaViticus and owner Dennis Parrott-King received a letter late last year stating that

the building had been sold for about \$455,000, a figure confirmed by the Department of Finance. And though LaViticus admits having been late on the rent once or twice, he is frustrated that he was not offered a chance to buy the building, or offered a new lease.

Next, he got the letter telling him to get out by next Friday.

In the meantime, LaViticus

and Parrott-King are plotting their next move: either taking the new owner to court or moving to get the Starlite Lounge protected as a historic venue.

If the bar isn't officially the oldest gay bar in the borough, it's certainly an icon. Some of its patrons who filtered in on Wednesday night — after being buzzed-in by the transgender diva at the door

See GAY BAR on page 11

Cold Weather Tips: Save Energy. Save Money. Stay Warm.

Conservation is a smart energy strategy year round. Frigid weather brings its own challenges for New Yorkers, and these cold weather tips offer ways to help you keep warm, save energy and get help with energy bills.

CONSERVE

- Seal leaks around windows and doors with caulk or weather stripping.
- Keep drapes or furniture away from heat sources so heat can flow freely.
- Open curtains and let the sun warm rooms; close them at night to keep heat in.
- Close doors and warm-air vents in unused rooms.
- Get financial incentives for upgrades to homes and businesses that will help you save energy and money. Learn more at www.conEd.com/energyefficiency or call **1-877-870-6118**.
- Find more energy tips at www.conEd.com and www.getenergysmart.org, the web site of **NYSERDA** – New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

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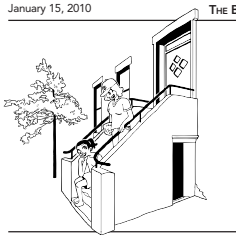
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- Never extinguish a pilot light. It could lead to a dangerous gas leak.
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- If you see steam on Manhattan streets, call us immediately at **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)** so we can check it out. Steam is caused by water falling on a steam pipe or manhole cover, or it is caused by a leak.



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THE SLOOB

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



Marty rejects 'Rose' complex

Beep wants lots more below-market housing

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz has rejected a developer's bid for an 800-unit apartment complex on the South Williamsburg waterfront, unless the builders set aside 100 more below-market-rate units than they originally promised.

In a written statement that is part of the public review process for the Rose Plaza on the River project, Markowitz said that developer lack Rosenberg's promise of 160 "affordable" units, or 20 percent of the apartments, wasn't enough. Markowitz said he would support the developer in his bid to rezone his waterfront lot, currently a junkyard, if he raised the figure to 264 units, or roughly 33 percent of the project.

In a meeting on Dec. 7, Rosenberg told Markowitz that he would come through with the extra units, but the Bep wants it in writing.

"It is the borough president's policy to obtain a written commitment or explanation" before offering approval, Markowitz wrote in the recommendation, which was released late last Wednesday.

In another demand, Markowitz wants developers to include a substantially higher number of three- and four-bedroom units in the complex, which was originally slated to have studios and one- and two-bedroom apartments comprise 95 percent of the units. Markowitz said he could approve the rezoning if Rosenberg set aside 70 percent of the low-income units as three- and four-bedrooms.

The recommendation is consistent with Community Board 1's strong objection to the project in early December, when members objected to the limited affordable housing and the security of family-sized apartments.

"It's another development that gentrifies a community that is suffering already from a lack of housing," said principal opponent Rabbi David Niederman, who is president of the United Jewish Organization and a rival of Rosenberg's in the Hasidic community.

Currently, the waterfront site — just south of the Schaefer Landing complex — is zoned for manufacturing. If the site is rezoned, Rosenberg hopes to build a 3.7-acre complex with 801 units in three towers of 18, 24 and 29 stories.

Rosenberg is also seeking to build the tallest towers a bit higher, but Markowitz put the brakes on that bid, too, disapproving of a special permit that would allow taller (and more lucrative) towers. But again, Markowitz's denial was conditional, saying that he could accept taller buildings if moderate- and middle-income units got the nice views, too.

The proposal now heads for the Department of City Planning and the City Council. Both of which are likely to approve it, if the developer makes the requested changes. The project is in the council district of newcomer Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg). It is unclear what the freshman lawmaker's position is.

Rosenberg did not return calls for comment.

GREENPOINT

'Exit' strategy Nightclub shuts down

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Greenpoint's Club Exit — notorious for its rowdy crowds, short skirts and violence in and outside — suddenly closed on Friday night after 15 years as a nightlife epicenter.

"We've just tired with the scene," manager Mariusz Kupiec told The Brooklyn Paper on Monday. "We had a lot of people, but people didn't translate to money. The pretty girls want free drinks, but the fun of giving away free drinks wears off."

And the fun wore off fast

enough that little notice was given to long-term patrons, except for a sign on the door and the club's Web site.

"We've had a great run," it reads. "Fifteen years is a very long time in the life of a nightclub, there are limits to any venue, and it's time for Club Exit to retire."

Dichard fans were said to see Club Exit go, but admitted that they've come to expect a punch or two thrown by closing time every weekend. The fights sometimes escalate past punches, too — gunfire was reported

once.

PARK SLOPE

NET GAIN!

At long last, the Slope Armory opens for kids

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Hundreds of public school students finally got their chance to run, jump, scream and play inside the lavishly renovated Park Slope Armory, which opened on Monday after years and years of delays.

The 114-year-old former regimental drill facility, on Eighth Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, was renovated at a cost of \$16 million in 2007, but the project ground to a halt as the city first struggled to find an outside operator for the facility, and then stalled in finalizing the deal.

But much of that was forgotten at Monday's grand opening ceremony, which featured delighted students from PS 107 across the street.

"It's ginormous!" said excited 10-year-old Tess Lovell, a first-grader at the school, which has no gym of its own. The facility will be operated by the Prospect Park YMC A as a recreation center for nearby public schools, though the details of how students will get there are still being worked out.

The 70,000-square-foot drill floor can accommodate separate track, soccer and basketball events at the same time.

The Y will also offer adult and family memberships for access to weight rooms, cardio fitness machines and exercise classes, either as an add-on to existing Y memberships or a separate, higher fee.

Part of the delay stemmed from more extensive post-renovation fine-tuning that needed to be done, said Robert Hess, the commissioner of the Department of Homeless Services, which runs a 70-person shelter in the building and oversees the renovation and subsequent contract with the Y.

"These are tough projects once you get into them, and things that look straightforward sometimes aren't," he said. "We have a great partner in the Y, but we need to build this out to their specifications, and that takes time."

Looking around the arena-



Park Slope kids were the first users of the Seventh Avenue Armory, which opened for school recreation programs on Monday after a seemingly endless delay.

like facility, Hess added, "What I see today is that the wait was worth it — we did the job right."

Community Board 6 member Nica Lalli, who had earlier blamed the city for the delays, agreed with Hess. "Look, there's more than enough blame to go around, but we now have a world-

class facility for our kids," she said.

Park Slope Armory (15th Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues). Memberships are on sale now, though the Armory won't be open to non-students until February. Memberships are \$40/month (adults) and \$20/month (families). Call (212) 912-2580 for information.

BOERUM HILL

Unfinished business

Thompson does Bloomy a big favor at the Brooklyn House of Detention

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

On his final day in office, then-Comptroller Bill Thompson bowed to the mayor's wishes and quietly approved a contract that paves the way for the controversial expansion and reopening of the Brooklyn House of Detention in Boerum Hill.

Before then, Thompson had three times refused to register the \$32-million contract for the renovation of the prison at Atlantic Avenue and Smith Street, citing the increasing cost of the project.

Mayor Bloomberg returned fire by suing the comptroller's office, alleging that Thompson shirked his civic duty by ignoring a man-



THAT WAS THEN: Early last year, Comptroller Bill Thompson was defiant against Mayor Bloomberg's plan to reopen the House of D. Last month, the comptroller gave in.

dade to give the \$440-million plan the green light.

But now that Thompson has rubber-stamped the renovation contract, the mayor's office has withdrawn its suit.

But don't open up the double-locked cellblocks just yet. Before the city can make good on its plan to turn the long-shuttered House of Detention into a 700-bed prison, city officials say they will reach a settlement with community groups.

The Department of Correction has long said that a reopened House of D would offer much-needed relief to antiquated facilities on Rikers Island and cut down on the cost and security risk of transporting Brooklyn inmates to and from the rock.

Thompson could not be reached before The Brooklyn Paper's lock-tight online deadline. And a spokesman for Comptroller John Liu said the new bean counter would not rekindle the Thompson-Bloomberg battle.



Club Exit manager Mariusz Kupiec wasn't so sad to be closing down after 15 years. "We're just tired with the scene," he told The Brooklyn Paper on Monday.

twice in 2008 outside the venue, which is on Greenpoint Avenue between Manhattan Avenue and Leonard Street and is surrounded by apartment buildings and a McDonald's.

Kupiec said the site was also rented out by third parties, bringing in a variety of trouble-making crowds from Queens to Manhattan.

He didn't deny that scuffles had broken out since the he built and opened the club, but he maintains that its death spiral had nothing to do with police. Others had different theories.

"There's always people screaming at each other outside," said Heather Gordon, a Greenpoint resident who called the club's drinks too expensive. "Cops were here

just last weekend."

It's true — a fight between at least nine people spilled out onto Greenpoint Avenue on Jan. 2, right in front of our reporting staff. The drunken melee, which began with a loud argument, resulted in two people unconscious, some bloody noses and plenty of police scrutiny — though the group of about seven attackers jumped into a van and left before cops arrived.

Kupiec said he was out of town, but confirmed the incident.

"People get hot at any club," he said. "There are a lot of rumors going around that we've had drug charges, liquor license problems and the like, but it's all drama that we don't have. We're just tired."

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Two more iPhone thefts in the Slope!

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Thieves grabbed at least two more iPhones in separate incidents that fit an increasing — and disquieting — pattern.

In the first incident, the iPhone bicycle thief struck again, this time cruising up behind a 24-year-old woman as she walked near the corner of Park Place and Seventh Avenue at around 10 pm on Jan. 7.

Before she could react, the thief had grabbed the fancy phone and kept on riding.

The next day, a 39-year-old woman told cops that a thief grabbed the multi-use device from her hand on a Bronx-bound 2 train between the Grand Army Plaza and Bergen Street stations at around 2:35 pm.

She told cops that she was writing an e-mail at the time and only got a fleeting glance at the thief, whom she described as 16 years old.

Shoe bomber

A thief swiped 40 pairs of shoes from the lobby of

a Prospect Park West building in the new year.

The 40-year-old resident told cops that he was not in his building, which is between Fourth and Fifth streets, from 8 am on Dec. 31 until 5 pm on Jan. 4, when he returned to discover that the two score of shoes were missing from the vestibule.

Burg update

There were at least three other break-ins last week. Here's a roundup.

• A thief broke into an apartment on Degraw Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues and stole \$2,000 in savings bonds sometime between Jan. 2 and Jan. 7.

• A woman told cops that she left her coat in front of her President Street apartment at around 7:30 pm on Jan. 5, but when she returned downstairs to retrieve it, the coat — which contained her iPhone, iPad and \$75 — was gone from the stoop, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

• A thief stole an Apple laptop out of an apartment on Union Street between Sev-

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

enth and Eighth avenues on Jan. 9. The resident told cops that she was not in the unit from 8 pm until 8:40 pm, when she returned to discover no obvious evidence of the break-in. She told police that she was not sure if the front door had been locked.

— Gersh Kuntzman

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Brutal attack

Some jerk brutally punched and kicked a woman until she was unconscious, then stole her purse on Jewel Street on Jan. 8.

The 22-year-old victim told cops that she was at Nassau Avenue at 11 pm when the thug came up behind her, choked her and threw her on the ground before kicking and punching her until she blacked out.

— Andy Campbell

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

A phone's throw

A hoodlum threw a phone and injured a woman in order to steal her purse on Manhattan Avenue on Jan. 9.

The woman was following the perp, watching him remove contents from someone else's purse in a separate theft outside a bar near Montrose Avenue at about 2 am.

But that's when the jerk noticed her, threw a cellphone from the purse and hit her in the face, then ran up and took her purse before fleeing.

— Andy Campbell

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Miss snatch

Two teenagers tried but failed to get a purse off the shoulder of a woman on Jan. 1, but were still arrested.

Cops said that the thieves, working together, made their move at around 8:10 pm near the corner of Carroll and Court streets, but ran off when their would-be victim screamed.

She canvassed the area with cops and quickly found the two troublemakers, ages 13 and 14.

Moonshined

A thief swiped a gold purse off a chair at the Moonshine Lounge early on Dec. 29, cops said.

The 36-year-old victim reported that she was in the popular roadhouse, which

is at Hamilton Avenue, at around 2 am, when she noticed that her purse — and the cellphone it contained — was gone.

— Gersh Kuntzman

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

About a boy

A lady threw a glass at her friend during a dispute over a man in a Myrtle Avenue bar on Jan. 4.

The women were chatting at Anima between Waverly and Washington avenues at around 9 pm when the 31-year-old now-forget-me-not.

The glass cut the victim over the eye, sending her to Brooklyn Hospital for further treatment.

— Stephen Brown

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

Jewel heist!

Two thieves — one in a suit and tie — stole \$10,000 in rings and jewelry shot their way out of a Fulton Street jewelry store on Jan. 9.

The daring heist went down at the jewelry between Flatbush Avenue Extension and Hanover Place when the two men asked to examine engagement rings at around 4:30 pm. The well-dressed thief then brandished a silver pistol and said to the employee, "Give me everything!"

The foolhardy vendor then stepped from behind the counter and attempted to push the thieves out of the store. One of the thieves then pistol-whipped the employee as his partner grabbed a rack of rings.

The employee then alerted the thieves that they had just locked themselves in the store. Undeterred, the pair shot at the glass door and fled in opposite directions.

Bank heist!

A bandit stole \$15,000 from a DeKalb Avenue Chase Bank on Jan. 6.

The teller in the branch, which is near Flatbush Avenue Extension, told cops that the thief passed her a note that read, "I have a gun, give me money," around 9 am.

Mysteriously, the teller reported the crime three days later.

Train trouble

The 84th Precinct was stricken by a variable suburban crime wave in the past week. Here's a rundown:

• Two female brutes were arrested for pushing a woman down the stairs at the Borough Hall subway stop on Jan. 10 while snatching her purse. The victim told cops that the 18-year-old ogres surrounded her around 6:30 pm and demanded the bag.

When the victim refused, they pushed her down the stairs and snatched it anyway.

• A bozo snatched a cellphone and cash from a woman on the A train on Jan. 7, only to be apprehended after a multi-line search.

The perp was caught swiping a cellphone and \$300 out of his victim's pocket at the Jay Street stop on the A train at around midnight.

The victim followed to Jamaica, where, with the help of a bystander, the crook was located.

• A brigand snatched a woman's iPhone at the Court Street-Borough Hall station on the R train on Jan. 4. The victim told cops that she was playing games on her gadget phone at around 6 pm when the thief grabbed it.

IGrabbed

A thief snatched an iPhone from a woman's back pocket as she waited to cross the street on Jan. 9.

The victim told cops she was at the intersection of Livingston and Court

streets when the perp made his move around 1:30 pm.

IGrabbed again

A thief swiped a woman's iPhone as she walked on Joralemon Street on Dec. 28. The victim told cops that

she was between Garden Place and Henry Street at around 3:45 when a man snatched up from behind and demanded the popular "app phone."

She handed it over and the thief fled. — Stephen Brown

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A Story of Broken Promises

By Michael Mulgrew

Tens of thousands of children across the city are crammed into overcrowded classrooms. Yet the city has received from the state more than three-quarters of a billion dollars in the past three years to lower class size. Despite this influx of funds — and the city's promise in writing to use it to lower class size — class sizes have actually increased in New York City.

That is why the United Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, the Hispanic Federation and a coalition of other groups and individuals sued the city Department of Education earlier this month. Our lawsuit charges that despite a decline in overall student enrollment and the injection of more than \$760 million in state funds from school years 2007-08 through 2009-10, class sizes have gone up by the largest amount in 11 years.

This \$760 million was part of the state's solution to an earlier case called the Campaign for Fiscal Equity, which challenged how state education funding had shortchanged urban districts, including New York City. The new funds, under the guidelines known as Contracts for Excellence, came with the proviso that the city deliberately target funds to smaller classes.

New York City took that money, and then ignored its promise, permitting principals to spend the money on other things, including replacing funds lost to city budget cuts, a clear violation of the agreement with the state.

The effects of that refusal can be seen in classrooms throughout the city. Just consider what is happening in 8th-grade classes. In the Bronx, 39 percent of such classes have 30 or more students. In Brooklyn the figure is 41 percent; Manhattan has 49 percent; Queens has 57 percent; and Staten Island has a whopping 70 percent of its 8th grade classes with more than 30 students.

But the problem is more than a question of statistics — the effects are felt in individual schools and classrooms. For in-

stance, in PS 268 in Brownsville, which got more than \$63,000 in class size reduction money for the current school year, the number of classes was reduced, despite rising enrollment.

Anyone who has ever spent even a day in an urban classroom can clearly understand that it's easier for teachers to provide individual attention and focused instruction to students in smaller classes. That is why lowering class size is such an important priority for parents.

But the DOE chooses to continue to ignore the long-standing wishes of parents and abdicate its duty to use the state class size reduction funds as intended. That's mismanagement, plain and simple.

For years DOE officials have called for holding teachers and other educators more accountable for what happens in our schools. Where's the accountability for the children in overcrowded classes?

Michael Mulgrew is President of the United Federation of Teachers



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

January 15, 2010

Home run!

With baseball and nudity, 'Take Me Out' is a ballsy show

When "Take Me Out" premiered in 2002, people flocked to the Public Theater in Manhattan — some with binoculars — to get a close look at the lush full-frontal male nudity.

Now, thanks to the cozy confines of the Heights Players playhouse on Willow Place, theatergoers can enjoy an even more intimate relationship to the characters in Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning play about a fictional (or is it?) baseball superstar who comes out of the closet.

But don't let all the ballpark franks distract you — this play provokes in ways beyond the simple shock of seeing eight men taking a shower on stage. It also tackles issues of homophobia and racism through the prism of baseball's connection to American identity.

In other words, go to this baseball game for the hot dogs, but stay for the drama. The story centers on Darren Lemming (Ugo Chukwu), a Derek Jeter-esque superstar who is admired by both his fans and teammates on the "Empires." Chukwu credibly captures the arrogance of a slugger so successful that he cannot even imagine having his lifetime of success be derailed, even by something as significant as coming out of the closet.

Needless to say, Lemming's revelation causes awkward moments in the locker room — hence the shower scenes — and also difficulties with the few people he calls friends.

Narrating the play is Kipp Sundrum (Seth Grigle), a scrappy baseball player considered one of the smartest in the big leagues. A clever conceit, Grigle is able to add entertaining commentary and perspective to moments that would normally be limited by the monosyllabic jocks who populate the baseball world.

Grigle, a newcomer to the Heights Players, occasionally addresses the audience without becoming obnoxious, and brings wholesomeness to the role appropriate for a play about the great American pastime.

As Lemming's sexuality spits the locker



Hanging out: Fabio Taliercio directs the Heights Players in "Take Me Out," Richard Greenberg's Tony Award-winning play. It features locker room chatter and male nudity (cropped for your protection).

room chemistry, the Empires plunge into a mid-season slump. But when the manager calls up a flame-throwing country boy closer from the farm, the problems really begin — both for the protagonist and the play itself.

As the ogre-ish reliever, Shane Mungitt (Craig Kehon Peterson), begins striking out hitters left and right, it quickly becomes clear that he has a tortured past filled with violence and distraction.

Unfortunately, Peterson is only able to communicate this torment through one-word responses and, in the final act, an outburst of racial and homophobic slurs that left the audience uncomfortable and distracted.

Anytime a morose character uses a southern accent and pronounces "situation" as "sitch-e-ation," the cliché alarm should be going off.

But he is not the only character who enters the realm of caricature. Nathan "Mans" Marraz (Nathan Wagner), an accountant who Lemming hires to handle his not-so-

small fortune, at times strives to be so gay he becomes less of a well-rounded character than the all-too-familiar flaming comic relief.

Still, Mans — possibly the queerest money manager ever to take the stage — slowly becomes enamored with baseball, and delivers a rousing soliloquy about how baseball is the apotheosis of democracy. It's the play's best scene.

Perhaps the most awkward character is the Empires' ace pitcher Takeshi Kawabata (Doua Moua, last seen, believe it or not, in Clint Eastwood's "Gran Torino"). Kawabata does not speak a word of English and tends to respond in samurai grunts. In one particularly ill-conceived scene, Kawabata actually emerges in a kimono befitting a Kurosawa flick. Looking like a rosin who wandered onto the pitching mound, Kawabata delivers a long, exaggerated speech entirely in Japanese while the audience laughs.

So, at points, the play's ambition becomes a burden to director Fabio Taliercio. Nowhere is this more direct than in a poorly staged shower room rape — a critical moment in the plot that unfortunately left the audience whispering at each other,

"Did that just happen?"

Similarly, any potential catharsis gleaned by the tragedy of the third act is undermined by Greenberg's final scenes, which feel like a tacked-on "guy finally gets the guy" ending.

Still, Taliercio deserves a lot of credit for avoiding the many pitfalls of a play with so much nudity. In general, the eight penises on display do not detract from the play — in fact, judging by one actor Miguel Angel Sierra's gifts, he must have a stunning on-base percentage, if you know what I mean.

Taliercio also does an excellent job of taking advantage of every inch of the Heights Players' stage, fitting a baseball diamond and showers into the small space.

So don't let the adults-only material ward you off. "Take Me Out," delivers a revealing portrayal of how a baseball team would respond to a revelation that bafflingly still has yet to occur in professional sports.

"Take Me Out" at the Heights Players [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752] will run through Jan. 24. Tickets are \$20.

(Broadway's "The Real Thing"), Ron Cephas Jones (Broadway's "Gem of the Ocean"), Juliet Rylance (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre's "The Winter's Tale") and Thomas Sadoski (Broadway's "Reasons to be pretty").

Holding it all together is Director Sam Mendes, the theater and film auteur ("American Beauty") who helmed the previous Bridge Project productions.

One of Shakespeare's so-called "pastoral comedies," "As You Like It" is actually best known for all the cross-dressing in a plot that has more gender bending than a night at Lucky Cheng's. The good news? During the run of "As You Like It," the same cast will also begin performances of "The Tempest," Shakespeare's last play. Both shows will then run in repertory through March 13.

"As You Like It" at the BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], Jan. 12-March 13. "The Tempest" runs Feb. 14-March 13 at the same theater.

Bridge Project returns

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Academy of Music's transatlantic "Bridge Project" will start its second season with a Shakespeare play that's a bit of a consolation from prior works in the series, "The Cherry Orchard" and "The Winter's Tale."

"As You Like It," one of the Bard's most-performed, but certainly not best, plays, began previews on Jan. 12, but critics won't be allowed in until next week (catch The Butcher of Flatbush Avenue Extension's review in our issue of Jan. 29).

One thing that will be on our minds is the



low-wattage of this particular Bridge Project event. Where "The Cherry Orchard" and "The Winter's Tale" boasted the stylings of Ethan Hawke, plus radiant performances by Simon Russell Beale, Rebecca Hall, Josh Hamilton

and Sinéad Cusack, "As You Like It" features Michelle Beck (from Chicago Shakespeare Theater and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival), Christian Camargo (best known for the film, "The Hurt Locker"), Stephen Dillane

MUSIC

Banshee man

Steven Severin helped form the seminal post-punk band Siouxsie and the Banshees in 1976 — but now he's doing something really post-punk: He's scoring classic experimental films.

This weekend at Galapagos, he'll show off his talents with two live soundtracks. On Saturday, he'll perform while Jean Cocteau's 1930 film, "Blood of a Poet," is screened, and on Sunday, the event features "The Scavenger and the Clergyman" — thought by some to be the first Surrealist film.

The films may be silent, but Severin's experimental electronic scores are far from it. "I like to play loud so the audience feels they are at a 'cine-gig,'" he said. "I want people to get as immersed as possible."

Back when Severin played with the Banshees, the group did a number of songs for movies, most notably for Tim Burton's "Batman Returns." By the time the Banshees split up, he was ready to step back from the pin-hole perspective that being in a band affords. Severin says he enjoys the fact that in film scores, he's not constrained by "song-band" constraints. Instead, he can explore the full trajectory of a scene.

"The Banshee albums are documents of an age — a diary even," he said. "The work I do now is much less so, as it's only part of my life. I'm not consumed in the same way like I was in my 20s. Thank, God."

Steven Severin at Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500] on Jan. 16 at 7 pm and Jan. 17 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$20. — Sabrina Jasti

SHOPPING

Grab a beer

Yes, you may still find Bud tallboys holding down one corner fridge case, but Dharmesh Chokshi's new BR Specialty Beer Store offers 500 other bottles of beers for the rest of us.

"All of our beers were rated 95 percent or higher on Beeradvocate.com," Chokshi said, adding that he spent considerable time roaming the borough's best bars before putting together his own shopping list.

As a result, BR's offerings extend well beyond the familiar of popular all-beers like Dogfish, Rogue and Chimay to add organic craft beers and Belgian ales, plus an extensive line of winter-time strong brews that come in at more than eight percent alcohol.

With 11 refrigerators doing their best to hold down one corner fridge case, but Dharmesh Chokshi's new BR Specialty Beer Store offers 500 other bottles of beers for the rest of us.

BR Specialty Beer Store [7201 Third Avenue at 72nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-5609]. — Mike Benigno

COMEDY

Green laughs

Comedy is about to get the Greenlight.

On Jan. 21, Fort Greene's new Greenlight Bookstore hosts its first literary humor night. The series will bring together comic writers from print and audio/vision.

The comedy world is so compartmentalized. There really aren't a whole lot of shows that offer a place for that," said Scott Jacobson, a former "Daily Show" writer who lives a few blocks from the bookstore. "I want to get a good mix I never quite achieved with the stand-up show."

The first event pulls heavily from talent in and around the neighborhood, with Jacobson, fellow "Daily Show" exile Jason Reich of Boerum Hill, and Bob Powers, a Clinton Hill comedian joined by Josh Luch ("Daily Show") producer, Tami Sager ("30 Rock") and Fort Greener Gabe Liedman (VH1's "Best Day Ever," pictured). "I want a lot of locals, and I also want it to be a destination for people outside of the neighborhood," said Jacobson, who is actually relocating to Los Angeles to write.

But the show must go on. Comedy night, every third Thursday at 7:30 pm at Greenlight Bookstore [646 Fulton St. at 2nd Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200]. — Meredith Deliso

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
January 18



Yuk it up

There are plenty of comedy nights around town with big names, but it's time for the next generation of comics to make a stand. Tonight at Cocolab, Nick Turner (from CollegeHumor.com) and Jason Sezer (an organizer of the DC Comedy Festival) host their weekly "Too Cool for School" show featuring some real up-and-comers, including Baron Vaughn (pictured).

8 pm, "Too Cool for School" at Cocolab (66 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets, (718) 807-6045).

MONDAY
January 18

Living the dream

It wouldn't be the third Monday in January without the Brooklyn Academy of Music's annual tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. This year's event features actor/humanitarian Danny Glover (pictured) and the New Life Tabernacle Mass Choir — plus every politician in town. Yes, Chuck Schumer will be there!

10:30 am, Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute at Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org



MONDAY
January 18

Astral traveler

Yes, she's spacey and she's ethereal, but English singer-songwriter Beth Orton is not New Agey garbage. If she was, would everyone from Ryan Adams to the Chemical Brothers be hounding her for collaborations? And would everyone from Bristol to Benicorhast be dying for her long-promised follow-up to her trippy "Comfort Of Strangers" LP? No.

8 pm, Beth Orton at the Bell House (107 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). Tickets are \$25 (\$22.50 in advance).

MONDAY
January 18

Boob job

Our friends at Sweet and Nasty Burlesque say that tonight's show at Public Assembly will be the last ever. "Burlesque shows are born, get covered in glitter and various sticky substances, and ultimately pass through the veil to world beyond," Nasty Canasta told us this week. Canasta (pictured) says her final show will be part Irish wake, part Viking funeral and part "getting naked onstage in front of strangers."

10 pm, Public Assembly (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue, (718) 782-5188).

TUESDAY
January 19

Heller of a writer

She's not a Brooklynite, but we're going to head to Powerhouse tonight to hear English writer Zoe Heller read from "The Believers," her book about faith, family and the flaws that keep it all interesting. Heller's own family history — a Stalinist mother, screenwriter father, atheist upbringing — is a novel unto itself.

7-9 pm, Powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049).

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI. JAN. 15

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": Great rock photographs from 1955 to the present. 10 am-5 pm, Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000). www.brooklynmuseum.org

THEATER, "TAKE ME OUT": Richard Greenberg's trap-comedy about a gay baseball player. 8 pm, Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Jerome and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2750). www.heightsplayers.org

ART, "WHITE WASH 2009": Installation by Kevin June Haring, featuring sculptures, paintings and performance art. 4 pm, Corridor Gallery (134 Grand Ave. at Lexington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 638-0781). www.corridorgallerybrooklyn.org

MUSIC, CELLO CONCERT WITH RUFUS CAPPADOCIA: Cello works in genres ranging from Middle Eastern folk music to rock and jazz. 8 pm, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (153 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). www.bsec.org

THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": Shakespeare's comedy, directed by Sam Mendes. 8:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater (601 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100). www.bam.org

THEATER, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": Multi-media theater piece based on the famous David Lean's famous film. 8:30 pm, St. Ann's Warehouse (152 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779). www.stannarehouse.org

FILM, "THE APOSTLES OF PARK SLOPE": Directed by Park Slope-based filmmaker Jason Cusato. 5:10 pm, Brooklyn Museum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 638-5000). www.brooklynmuseum.org

SAT. JAN. 16

Big bug: Xavier Roux's 60-foot-long sculpture, "The Ant," will be on display at Invisible Dog in Boerum Hill from Jan. 23-March 31. Experts say that the piece is a Holocaust metaphor.



OPENING RECEPTION, "PORTRAITS FROM THE BARN": Illustrations of great drinkers. Free. 8 pm, Sundry's Bar (252 Conover St. at Beard Street in Red Hook, (516) 565-4981). www.kingcocktail.com

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (CollegeHumor) and Jason Sezer (DC Comedy Festival). 8 pm, Cocolab (66 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets, (718) 807-6045).

THEATER, "A BRIEF HISTORY OF MURDER": Two interlocking plays, "Detective" and "Victims," explore violence in the small town of Sentinel, OK. \$18 for either play/\$25 for both. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189). www.bricktheater.org

READING, "LOVECAFT UN-": An evening celebrating H.P. Lovecraft, a pioneer of weird literature in the early 1900s. \$5. 8 pm, Montauk Club (22 Eighth Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 638-0803). www.montaukclub.com

MUSIC, CHAMBER CONCERT: Works by Schubert and Schumann. 8 pm, First Unitarian Church (Pierpoint Street between Clinton Street and Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718). www.brooklynchambersmusicociety.org

THE MUSIC OF CURTIS MAYFIELD: The Black Rock Coalition performs selections from the acclaimed songwriter as part of a weekend-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. 9 pm, BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100). www.bam.org

IMPROV COMEDY, "GENTRIFY BROOKLYN": Weekly improv show at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0003).

Community Board & Parks Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Cobble Hill School of American Studies (347 Baltic St. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 443-3027). www.brooklynboard.org

THURS. JAN. 21 Community Board 2 Transportation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 596-5410).

Community Board & Transportation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Long Island College Hospital (339 Hicks St. near the corner of Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill, (718) 443-3027). www.brooklynboard.org

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@brooklynpaper.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SUN. JAN. 17

Electronics recycling. Drop off your obsolete equipment. 10 am-4 pm, Prospect Park Prospect Park West at Third Street in Park Slope, (212) 360-1331.

Forum on Public Schools. Featuring state Sen. Eric Adams. 11 am-12:30 pm, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (153 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972). www.bsec.org

MON. JAN. 18

Day of Service. Park Slope Parents Web site hosts a food and clothing drive, plus offers other ways to donate your time or money. 11 am-3 pm, Church of Gethsemane (1012 Eighth Ave. between 10th and 11th streets in Park Slope).

TUES. JAN. 19

84th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7 pm, Brooklyn Borough Hall (229 Johnson St. between Adams and Court streets in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 875-6850).

68th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm, 68th Precinct (1000 Avenue M. between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 439-4220).

WED. JAN. 20

Community Board 2 Land Use Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm, Polytechnic University (5 Metro tech Center Way Street between Wiloughby and Johnson streets in Downtown, (718) 596-5410).

Community Board 7. Monthly full board meeting. 6:30 pm, Community Board 7 office (4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0003).

Community Board & Parks Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm, Cobble Hill School of American Studies (347 Baltic St. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 443-3027). www.brooklynboard.org

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ights in film

Celebrating Brooklyn's celluloid star

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

And the Oscar for supporting actor goes to... Brooklyn Heights. Fabled for its gorgeous apartments, scenic streets and killer views of Manhattan, America's first suburb has been a backdrop so often that some of Hollywood's great moments think Cher kicking a can down Cranberry Street in "Moonstruck," some of the period street scenes in Martin Scorsese's "The Age of Innocence," or Jack Nicholson entering 57 Montague St. in "Prizzi's Honor."

It's also fodder for a great lecture next Wednesday by writer Peter Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape?" "About a Boy") to kick off the Brooklyn Heights As-



In the Heights: Hollywood writer Peter Hedges, who penned the awesome "What's Eating Gilbert Grape," will lead a discussion on Jan. 20 about why he and his ilk often choose Brooklyn Heights as a backdrop.

sociation's 10th anniversary commemoration.

Hedges will show off a montage of legendary Brooklyn Heights scenes, but also talk about why his colleagues in the film biz keep hitting up his old stomping grounds.

"For one thing, the architecture is exquisite," said the current Cobble Hill resident. "And because of the proximity to the city, you often see the bridge and the Twin Towers, sadly, in the background."

"And in some areas of the Heights, it feels that time has slowed down," added the director of "Pieces of April."

Originally, the Brooklyn Heights Association had thought of screening one definitive "Heights" film, with Hedges hosting.

But like so many things, the idea morphed into a compilation, forcing Hedges to distill the greatest moments from roughly 20 popular films.

He said the time in the editing suite was well worth it. "It's really amazing seeing the old subway signage, the boats docked at the piers under the Promenade that are not there anymore, or Jack Nicholson walking into a building on Montague Street," he said.

"It took a long time, but it ends up being like an awards show montage—an awards show to the Heights."

"Hollywood in the Heights" with Peter Hedges at St. Francis College (180 Rensselaer St. between Court and Clinton streets, (718) 858-9193, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m. For info, visit www.thebha.org.

This brisket rules

When we talk pastrami, we mean business, and we don't give just any tower of meat a seat among the borough's best sandwiches.

So it comes as a bit of a surprise when one delicatessen blows the competition out of the water and throws in a curveball. David's Brisket House on Nostrand Avenue in Crown Heights did just that, and gave us the most buttery, melt-in-your-mouth stack of brisket and pastrami we've had in a long time.

We went the more expensive route (\$13 for the brisket-pastrami combo), but with the standard pastrami at such an affordable price (\$7.50), it's hard to resist going for the double (especially when the counterman hands you a salty, succulent portion of protein while you're waiting in line. All priority goes out the window).

The components are simple: a few dachshund of fatty brisket, another three of pastrami and a dollop of luscious gravy, making it a behemoth (and a mess).



The Best Thing We Ate This Week

got yourself a nap waiting to happen.

The spot used to be under Jewish ownership until it was bought in the late 1980s, but the skill and care with the curing process are still there—the marriage of juices, salt and intricate flavors in this sandwich are easily on par

with the supposedly legendary Katz's on Houston Street in West Brooklyn, leaving the mouth with its own saucy rendition of the Hora. David's Brisket House (533 Nostrand Ave. between Herkimer Street and Atlantic Avenue, no phone).

—Andy Campbell

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'Utopia' now

What makes Brooklyn such a special place? Is it the brownstones? Prospect Park? The bridge? The Dutch roots? The eight-to-one Democratic advantage?

The Brooklyn Historical Society will give you more time to ponder our elusive essence now that its "Brooklyn Utopias" exhibit has been extended through Jan. 24. The show includes plenty of optimism, but also Grace Graupe-Pillard's "Brooklyn Homes/Fire" (pictured), "Brooklyn Utopias" at the Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierpoint St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111) through Jan. 24.

Valentine's Day Sunday, February 14th, 2010

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

SUN, JAN. 17

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "TAKE ME OUT": 2 pm. See Friday, Jan. 15.

THEATER, "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 2 pm. See Friday, Jan. 15.

THEATER, "A BRIEF HISTORY OF MURDER": See Friday, Jan. 15.

THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

"TEARING DOWN THE VEIL OF MAYA": Eugene Mirman's monthly comedy show, \$7.7-30 ppn. Union Hall 1702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhall.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Indoor crafts and antique market, 10 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

GREENMARKET AND MAKERS MARKET: 10 am-5 pm. Crafts and produce under the same roof. Old American Can Factory, 232 Third St. between Third and Fourth avenues. For info, visit www.communitymarket.org.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

OTHER

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

TALK, "AFRICAN-AMERICAN CANS AND THE REVOLUTION": Examine the contributions of African-Americans to Brooklyn's early history. Free, 1 pm. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center. Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 723-3218.

TALK, HISTORY OF THE HOT DOG: An insightful discussion. Free, 1 pm. Marine Park Nature Center (Avenue U at East 33rd Street in Marine Park, (718) 421-2021). www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers.

ART, "WHITE WASH 2009": See Friday, Jan. 15.

READING, YULI KITAEVICH: Author of "Almost a Life," 4 pm. Shorefront TMYA (16300 Coney Island Ave. at Brighton Court in Brighton Beach, (718) 646-1444 X 356). www.shorefront.org.

FILM, "THE SEASHELL & THE CLERGYMAN": Contemporary color film, \$20. 7 pm. Gallapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500). www.gallapagosartspace.com.

MON, JAN. 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

MUSIC, ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING TRIBUTE: Featuring Danny Glover and the New Life Tabernacle Mass Choir. Plus every politician in town, 10:30 am. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100).



Rebecca Promsky, Free, 7:30 pm. Union Hall 1702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400.

MUSIC, BETH ORTON: With Sam Amidon, \$25 (\$22.50 advanced), 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). www.thebellhouse.com.

SWEET AND NASTY BURLLESQUE: It could be the group's final show! 10 pm. Public Assembly (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-1188).

TUES, JAN. 19

Chic: Charlotte Gainsbourg plays the Bell House on Jan. 19.

www.barn.org

THEATER, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIBUTE: Shades of Truth Theatre presents "The Meeting," a fictional account of MLK and Malcolm X, \$25 (\$15 for students and seniors), 3 pm and 6:30 pm. Kumbale Theater, Long Island University 1 University Plaza at Wiloughby Street in Downtown, (718) 488-1624). www.brooklyn.liu.edu/KumbaleTheater.

CONCERT, MLK TRIBUTE: Concert featuring Sounds of Blackness. Free, 6 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (290 Bedford Ave. at Campus Road in Midwood, (718) 625-6401).

BROOKLYN SONGWRITERS EXCHANGE: Featuring Anne Crane, Jason Myles Goss, Maia Macdonald and

WORKSHOP, SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR: Learn how to refocus your core business during a down economy. Free, 8:30 a.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch (180 Cadman Plaza West at Tillary Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 875-1000 ext. 133). www.brooklyn.com.

READING, ZOE HELLER: Paperback launch party for author of "The Believers." 7-9 pm. PowerHouse Arena (17 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 646-3049). www.powerhousearena.com.

THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

THE ON AND ON SHOW: Comedy night featuring the Alex Clough Group. Free, 7-8:30 pm. Puppets' Jazz Bar (481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2622). www.puppetjazz.com.

DANCE SHOW: A celebration of diversity. Young Dancers in Repertory (345 Quinnton Ave. between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge, (947) 702-7155). www.youngdancersrep.org.

MUSIC, CHARLOTTE GAINSBORG: \$30 (\$25 in advanced), 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510). www.thebellhouse.com.

WED, JAN. 20

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

HISTORIC TROLLEY TOURS: Explore Green-Wood Cemetery's history, grounds and bird life, enjoy views of Manhattan's skyline, and more. Reservations are not required, but recommended. \$20 (\$10 for Historic Fund members), 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights, (718) 768-7000). www.green-woodcemetery.org.

FILM, BROOKLYN HEIGHTS IN THE MOVIES: Director Peter Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape") talks about why filmmakers often choose Brooklyn Heights as their backdrops. 7 pm. St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 558-9193). www.thebha.org.

THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

WORKSHOP, WEDDING CRAFTS: Esther Smith, author of "The Paper Bride,"

See 9 DAYS on page 9



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JANUARY RECOMMENDATIONS



Our Best Buys for January!

Frontera Carmenera
A Chilean blend of 85% Carmenera, 10% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Shiraz. Intense purple in color. On the nose, black plums, black pepper, with hints of vanilla. Nice balance, medium in body with a long Pair with a steak, roasted veggies, rosemary chicken or a hearty plate of pasta with red sauce. **\$8.95**

Terre Primitivo
The 2007 Primitivo is made in a super-racy style, with plenty of ripe fruit, sweet spices and herbs. It offers excellent length and balance, particularly at this price point. Primitivo is the Apulian name for Zinfandel. Pair this red with pizza, a burger with melted blue cheese or BBQ chicken. **\$9.95**

Lancatay Bonarda
Intense ruby in color. Aromas of red fruits with a hint of cashews. Well-balanced and persistent; with soft tannins gives it a general elegance. This Argentinian red is an ideal accompaniment for red meat and other robust dishes. **\$9.95**

Le Prieur Bordeaux Blanc
From one of France's serious producers we have a blend of 60% Sauvignon blanc, and 40% Semillon. On the nose, lemon rinds, aromatic peach, and melon. Swirl the glass around, in the mouth ripe green apples, crisp, nice minerality, with a clean with a long elegant finish. A treat on it's own or pair with seafood, oysters. Treat yourself and crack some crab legs! Winter blues, here is another idea warm up the house by roasting a chicken. **\$9.95**

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This mouth-watering Sauvignon Blanc is full of crisp lime and fresh apples that excite from start to finish. It bursts with juicy gooseberry and citrus flavors mixed with sweet herbs and spices. Enjoy on its own or with your favorite lunchtime menu. Salads, pasta, seafood and vegetable dishes will all get a lift from the delicious flavors. **\$13.95**

Wild Rock Pinot Noir
This succulent Pinot has aromas of strawberries and raspberries with floral undertones. The palate is medium bodied, soft and supple with fine lingering tannins. A lush wine that's great by itself or enjoy with savoury gourmet pies and casseroles, BBQ's or a classic cheeseboard. **\$19.95**

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OUR OPINION

Superfund hypocrisy

Mayor Bloomberg's environmental officials have erred greatly—and acted hypocritically—by continuing to reject federal Superfund designation for the Gowanus Canal even as they prodded the feds last month to go ahead with the very same toxic designation for the Newtown Creek on the Brooklyn-Queens border.

This two canals, two strategies approach raises one central question: if Superfund is good enough for the Newtown Creek, Mr. Mayor, why isn't it good enough for the Gowanus Canal?

The mayor's office says that the conditions in both waterways are different,

but that's bureaucratic balderdash. The canals are both horrifically polluted and need to be cleaned up at once.

The main difference is that the Gowanus is sought after by developers who want to build luxury housing along its banks. The mayor supports that development.

We've long backed private housing development in the canal zone, too, but because no developer controls the waterway itself, the government must step up and do the job. Last year, we backed the federal Environmental Protection Agency over the city, which has failed to clean the canal under this mayor, his predecessor, his predecessor's predecessor.

Where would the canal rank? We asked the official, Tom Shea. "I don't know," he said. "He doesn't know? And this is the program that is the main pillar of the mayor's plan?"

At this point, the mayor needs to set aside the turf battle. Superfund designation is best for the Newtown Creek and the Gowanus Canal.

HELP FOR HAITI

The hemisphere's most-improved nation has just been devastated by a massive earthquake. Here's how to help the people of Haiti right now:

• **The Red Cross:** The international relief agency has set up a "do-

nation by telephone" service that allows you to give \$10, which will be charged on your next mobile bill, by merely texting "HAITI" to 90999.

• **The Mayor's Fund:** Call 311.

• **UNICEF:** Donate at www.unicef.org.

LETTERS

Editor's coffin comments make some readers sick

To the editor,

In his column about the Long Island Rail Road's new Atlantic Terminal ("Fear factor," The Brooklyn Angle, Jan. 8), Gersh Kuntzman criticizes the bollards in front of the station, claiming they were dictated by the "so-called realities of the so-called

Send a letter

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By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter; names may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

post-9-11 world."

Such an attitude is astounding, particularly in light of the so-called aborted Christmas Day airplane terror attack.

Kuntzman's rant is childish whining at best; irresponsible journalism at worst.

The Atlantic Avenue station was a target of a bomb plot in 1997; the perpetrators admitted the attraction was its position as a major transportation hub.

And this was the world before 9-11. Alexander Goldstein, Brooklyn Heights

To the editor, Kuntzman gave himself space on the front page to complain about the LIRR's security measures. It was hard to know if Kuntzman was upset because of the aesthetics of the man-

moth cement bollards or whether he was venting about the "so-called realities of the so-called post-9-11 world."

If it's the latter, then Kuntzman becomes part of the problem and not the solution. For the last six years, local electeds, community groups and professionals have been raising the issue that Atlantic Avenue developer Bruce Ratner claims that no special security measures are required for his "bustling arena."

But the LIRR terminal is an underground facility, while the Barclays Center is above ground with lines of sight directly into its interior. That means that traffic along Atlantic and Flatbush avenues will be impacted when adequate security measures are finally imposed just as they were when two streets were closed hardly two weeks

before Newark's Prudential Center opened.

Alan Rosner, Prospect Heights

To the editor, The coffins are a reality of the times.

What is not a reality of the times is the filthy conditions of the place. What is the point of building all of these new facilities and not keeping them clean?

Al Pankin, Downtown

Mean streets

To the editor, In reply to Benjamin Shepard's letter ("Pedal Pusher," Jan. 1), I had to ask this: Benjamin, you wrote that "no biker ever killed an automobile driver." Perhaps

that's true. But they sure have come close to killing their share of pedestrians, including myself and my sister, who was hit by a biker in Manhattan and had to have surgery on her wrist as a result. (He was going to ride away when a group of pedestrians surrounded him and held him until the police arrived.)

They ride through our streets on vehicles capable of inflicting severe damage, even if said damage is not as deadly as a car or truck. It is absolutely the responsibility of "drivers" to exercise due care, but that includes bicycle "drivers."

Tom Angelo, Crown Heights

Fly in the "Soup"

To the editor, As a recent former Brooklynite,

I found Andy Campbell's take-down of the "bridge and tunnel" crowd that frequented the New Indian show a little hard to take ("Hey, Brooklyn, where were you Thursday?" Campbell's Soup, Jan. 1).

Rather than celebrate the change in Brooklyn's profile—out-of-towners now want to come there rather than Manhattan—he takes a gratuitous potshot at the very customers he allegedly's music venues need to survive.

And what's the deal with the "we're better than the attitude so common among Brooklynites these days?"

Out-of-towners, as far as I can tell, you all have the same problems—poverty, poor schools, and a housing shortage—as any other borough.

Lawrence Goodman, Providence, R.I.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Smartmoon...

Continued from page 1 feels the slightest bit of betrayal then the whole thing is a bust.

And why would you want to hurt your spouse that way? "Do no harm" should be the mantra of marriage.

Still another person wrote: "Cheating is almost always more about narcissism than self-esteem or being a captain and immaturity than any purely sexual need. For the most part, people who are self-assured and happy with themselves, their lives, their achievements, etc. don't cheat."

Smartmoon isn't sure that it's all together true. All kinds of people have affairs—even self-assured and happy ones. Tiger Woods? David Letterman? Bill Clinton? These are men at the top of their games, for Buddha's sake.

By the same token: having a low self-esteem or being more narcissistic is necessary to mark you as an adulterer. For instance, Smartmoon has issues with self-esteem, but that doesn't mean she's "hitting the Appalachian Trail." Not exactly.

But if it's the mid-life crisis,

ident even had his mistress at his state funeral! While that sounds sophisticated and fun, Smartmoon knows she's not capable of being quite so French. Truth is, Smartmoon is the jealous type. She goes a little crazy when Hepcat visits ex-girlfriends from sophomore year in college to fix her computer.

As for being unfaithful herself, Smartmoon knows with certainty that an affair would be very unwise. When she falls in love, she falls big. She's not capable of Clinton-esque compartmentalization. Plus, she's a busy lady. She'd probably become obsessed and stalk the guy or at least Google him until her fingers fall off.

Worst of all, an affair might force Smartmoon to question her marriage. While Smartmoon loves to analyze and test her marriage, she doesn't really want to challenge it through an obvious way. She's worked good and hard to get along with Hepcat, and they even have a new couch. Who wants to pine for someone other than person with whom she shares

her bed? Truthfully, Smartmoon is too much of a pragmatist for an affair. Sure, at the beginning it might be hot and sexy—and a seemingly great panacea for a mid-life crisis. But inevitably, the sparks stop

flying and eventually it will be just like her marriage—no better or worse. Pretty soon, you'll be discussing hemorrhoids and colonoscopies with your paramour, and it won't be quite so romantic after all.



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Learn more at BrooklynCamps.org

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8 leads a crafts demonstration for brides-to-be, friends of brides and wedding planners. 7:30 pm.

Word 126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint. (718) 383-0096. www.brooklynwordpress.com

DANCE, "CONFESSIONS" AND "I AM A BIRD": Two-act program from Milica Perovic that includes dancers, organ, cello, live painting and video games. \$20. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 222-8500. www.galapagosartspace.com

ROOTS AND RUCKUS: Weekly American folk showcases. 7 pm. Jersey 115 Columbia St. at Woodluff Street. (718) 395-3216. \$5.

THURS, JAN. 21

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

WORKSHOP: TRANS-GENERATION CHANGE: CLINIC Co-presented by the Brooklyn Community Pride Center. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon St. at Court Street in Brooklyn Heights).

SINGLES "PHR" SINGLES: MIXER. 7-9 pm. Mirrors on Grand (284 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill). (718) 398-0008.

READING, "THE MARY-OWEN ARMY POETRY SERIES": 7:30 pm. Pete's Canteen (572 7th Avenue St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg). (718) 302-3770, multiartisans.org.

THEATER, "AS YOU LIKE IT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

READING, LITERARY COM-EDY NIGHT: Featuring Josh Lieb ("Daily Show"), Tom Sauer ("30 Rock") and Gabi Liedman ("Best Day Ever"). 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore (866 Fulton Street, at South Portland in Fort Greene). (718) 246-0203.

READING, "TIN HOUSE READING" WITH FOUR AUTHORS: See Friday, Jan. 15.

FRI, JAN. 22

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

THEATER, "TAKE ME OUT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

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THEATER, "A BRIEF HISTORY OF MURDER": See Friday, Jan. 15.

MUSIC, "THE TRACHTENBURG FAMILY SIDE-SHOWPLAYS": Live vaudeville conceptuals. 8 pm. St. Ann's Church (157 Montague Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 707-1411. www.newworldsympathy.org

FRI, JAN. 22

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

THEATER, "TAKE ME OUT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "TAKE ME OUT": See Friday, Jan. 15.

FAMILY CALENDAR

SAT, JAN. 16

10:30 am: Story time for kids. Greenlight Bookstore (866 Fulton Street, at South Portland in Fort Greene). (718) 246-0203.

1:30 pm: Martin Luther King tribute. Kids learn that words have power by analyzing the "I Have a Dream" speech. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant). (718) 733-4400. www.brooklynkids.org

1:30 pm: Play science lab. Brooklyn Children's Museum (see venue info above).

1 pm: Flower power. Learn about the biology and importance of the carnation. Free. Marine Park Nature Center (East 13rd Street and Avenue U in Marine Park). (718) 421-2021. www.nyc.gov/parks/rangers

1 pm and 3 pm: Conroy Island puppet show. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

1:30 pm: Science power hour. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

MON, JAN. 18

11:30 am: Martin Luther King tribute. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

11:30 am: Story time with Emily, Moxie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 923-9710. therainforest.com

11 am: Singalong with Lloyd, Moxie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 923-9710. therainforest.com

11 am: Storytime for kids. Free. Barnes & Noble Court Street (106 Court St. between Seaton and State streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 246-4996. therainforest.com

WED, JAN. 20

1 pm: Storytime with Emily. See Monday, Jan. 18.

THURS, JAN. 21

11 am: Dance around with Nat, Moxie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 923-9710. therainforest.com

FRI, JAN. 22

11:30 am: Storytime with Emily. See Monday, Jan. 18.

SAT, JAN. 23

10:30 am: Story time for kids. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

1 pm and 3 pm: Conroy Island puppet show. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

1:30 pm: Science power hour. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

To stay event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/sunmit

SUN, JAN. 17

11:30 am: Martin Luther King tribute. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

11:30 am: Play science lab. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

2 pm: Environmental Stories, plus follow-up.

To stay event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/sunmit

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SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: See Friday, Jan. 15.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

BROOKLYN FLEA: Indoor crafts and antique market. 10 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 16.

OTHER

ART, "WHO SHOT ROCK & ROLL": See Friday, Jan. 15.

OPENING RECEPTION, "THE ART" Xavier Roux's sculpture. 5 pm. Invisible Dog (15 Bergen St. in Cobble Stone Historic District). www.therainforest.org

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