



The security bollards will be small outside the new Barclays Center, a Forest City Ratner official said on Wednesday.

CROWD CONTROL

Ratner may boot groups of more than three from plaza

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

You and your friends are welcome to hang out at the colossal plaza in front of the Barclays Center, but you may be kicked out if there are more than three of you.

Forest City Ratner officials dropped a bombshell last Wednesday night when they men-

tioned the possibility of a no-group policy at the new plaza — meaning that groups of four or more will be kicked out of what designers hope will become Brooklyn's most popular outdoor

community center. "[Our] Atlantic Terminal Mall policy allows security to disperse groups of four or more — that creates a safe and comfortable experience," Forest City Exec-

utive Vice President MaryAnne Gilmarin, said as she revealed the plaza plan to the public. "We will continue to make policies that will create that same experience at the plaza," she added.

Gasps rang out at the public meeting when Gilmarin made the announcement, but their cries went relatively unheard — Forest City officials took a few questions during the meeting, but refused to talk to reporters afterward. The rule essentially gives cops

See **GROUPS** on page 5

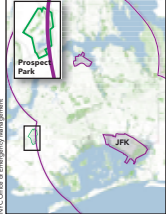
BUT BOLLARDS WON'T BE TOO BIG! SEE PAGE 5

A GOOSELESS CITY?

Feds reveal that they can kill birds pretty much anywhere

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

No goose is safe. Federal officials laid out a scenario for a gooseless city this week as they revealed their seven-mile "kill zones" around JFK and LaGuardia airports



The city's own map shows that the lake in Prospect Park (see inset) is outside the seven-mile "airport protection" zone.

— zones so big that they encompass nearly the entire city. A map of the broad zone used by the federal Department of Agriculture to determine where geese can be captured and killed comprises roughly half of Brooklyn, all of Manhattan except the Battery, much of the Bronx, and all of Queens.

City's map shows that geese didn't have to die

A just-released map of the federal seven-mile "kill zone" around New York City airports actually confirms the long-held suspicion that the lake in Prospect Park — where hundreds of geese were slaughtered in July — was actually not within the zone.

As the map reveals, the radius only barely grazes a small sliver of the east-

ern portion of the park. But that didn't stop federal agents from mass-slaughtering some 290 to 400 geese (the exact number remains the subject of much speculation) on the opposite side of the park outside the kill zone.

Bannerman would only say that Prospect Park was fair game because the seven-mile kill zone boundary touched part of the park. "The distance for airport wildlife hazard mitigation is measured from the boundary of the airport to the boundary of the 'wildlife attractant site' — in this case Prospect Park," said Bannerman. "The park boundary is within the seven miles identified for removal of resident Canada geese." — **Stephen Brown**



GOOSEWATCH 2010
14!
GEESSE IN PROSPECT PARK
(As of Tuesday, Oct. 5)

Three months after authorities slaughtered geese in Prospect Park, 141 of the waterfowl have returned to the lake, according to Anne-Katrin Titze. Keep an eye out for Goose-Watch 2010 — our weekly update.

Side effects

Nursing crisis avoided at LICH, but further negotiations loom

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Inmate nurses fighting for their job security struck a last-minute deal that prevented another public protest in front of Long Island College Hospital — but another round of negotiations looms as the finan-

cially flailing institution completes its merger with SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The sticking point of negotiations between LICH and the nurses union was language that ensured job security in the event of a merger.

See **LICH** on page 13



On TV (left). In Boro Hall (above)

'Welcome Back'

'Kotter' sign found and restored

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Mr. Borough President, welcome back to that same old place that you laughed about!

The iconic "Welcome to Brooklyn" sign from the opening montage of "Welcome Back, Kotter" has been restored by Borough President Markowitz, and was set to be presented on Thursday to the man who had the sign made, then-Besp Sebastian Leone.

Fans of the hit 1970s sitcom about a former troublemaker teaching a new generation of troublemakers will certainly remember the opening shot of a

sign that hails Brooklyn as "the fourth largest city in America!"

But there are elements of a "Brooklyn history mystery," as Markowitz put it, that add intrigue to this tale filled with nostalgia.

The sign obtained by the Bep bears a border of red and blue stars, leading some at Borough Hall to theorize that the original was modified for America's bicentennial in 1976. Others believe that there are actually three "Welcome to Brooklyn" signs: the first was the one featured in the show, the second is the one Markowitz now has in his possession, and the third bears former Bep Howard Gold-

See **SIGN** on page 13

She knew!

Tupper objected to killing — yet didn't try to stop it

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

When they came for the geese, she said nothing. Prospect Park's top administrator

Tupper Thomas opposed a federal decision to massacre close to 300 Canada geese in her park this summer, but she chose not to cry foul because the program was orchestrated by Mayor

Bloomberg and federal agencies, a spokesman revealed this week.

"Tupper wasn't the one who gave permission, but she did know [the feds] were coming," said the spokesman, Eugene Patton. "As for when and what time and how many geese [would be killed] — she was not in the loop."

"Personally, Tupper was not for the culling," Patton added. Thomas, who is retiring at the end of the year from running both the Prospect Park Alliance as well as day-to-day operation of the park for the city, See **PARK** on page 13



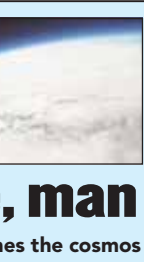
Space, man

Slope dad reaches the cosmos

By Joe Anuta
for The Brooklyn Paper

Who needs NASA? A Park Slope father and son started a space program of their own when they launched a homemade ship into the heavens, and captured some incredible footage of the very edge of the airless abyss that borders our world.

Cinematographer Luke Geissbuhler used a weather balloon and a few other simple materials to send a tiny videocamera on a 70-minute joyride into the stratosphere — nearly 20 miles above the ground — before it successfully parachuted back to earth, landing just 30 miles away from the launch pad. "We were stunned it went up so quickly," Geissbuhler said. "We were stunned every step



Father and son with the craft. (Top) Their space shot.

of the way." Before bursting from lack of atmospheric pressure, the balloon was still technically 30 miles shy and crevice for the notorious creepy-crawlies — and found no traces in our part of the building.

See **SPACE** on page 13

Bedbug war comes to us

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

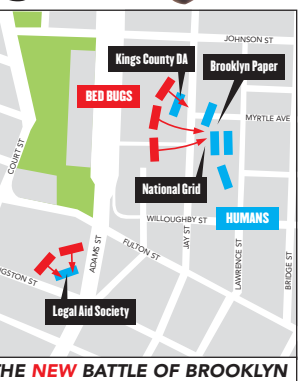
The bedbug invasion of Downtown Brooklyn came right to our door last week — but we beat back the pernicious pests. For now.

After a month that saw outbreaks of the pesky bugs across our thriving civic center, the bloodsuckers were spotted inside the headquarters of National Grid, which occupies an upper floor in the southern part of our office building at 1 Metrotech Center on Jay Street.

"Bedbugs were identified in two small work areas," National Grid spokeswoman Karen Young said last Friday. "We notified the landlord and immediately took action with pest control experts to clean and inspect the affected area."

Great for them, but what about us? Fortunately, building managers were proactive, sending in Cosmo, a bedbug-sniffing Jack Russell terrier, to sweep the entire building, including the Community Newspaper Group wing on the north side.

See **CRIMINAL MINDS** on page 13



Cosmo and his handler, Michael Loughnane of Synergy Scents searched every crack and crevice for the notorious creepy-crawlies — and found no traces in our part of the building. But this happy ending was certainly in doubt before the



Cosmo, the bedbug-sniffing Jack Russell terrier, gave our office a clean bill of health this week. Good dog.

(For the record, very little would actually change in Brown's life.)

Bedbug-sniffing dogs — which tend to be beagles or Jack Russell terriers, for their keen sense of smell — are being touted as significantly more effective than

man-based search-and-destroy, and Cosmo's quick work in our offices was no exception. But the canine specialist has a lot of work ahead of him, as officials say that the bloodsuckers have attacked one in 15 city residents — and that number is sup-

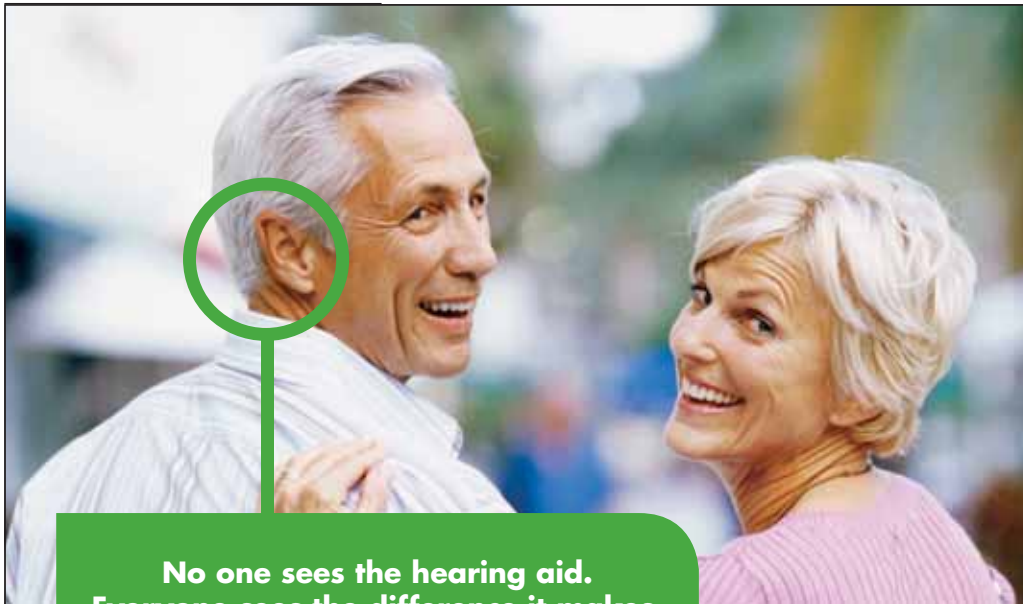
posed to increase over the next five years.

But how long will we really be safe? Not for long, apparently, as bedbugs can lay dormant for a year and hunt a new blood supply by tracking animals by carbon dioxide emissions — in other words, they'll find you so long as you're breathing.

And even walls don't stop them. "If their food source [blood] is eliminated, they'll go through electrical circuitry seeking heat and carbon dioxide for more food," said Alexander Rogue with Beyond Pest Control.

"They can certainly spread fast — when they run out of food, they move on."

CRIMINAL MINDS
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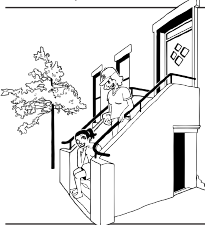
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THE SLOO

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

DOWNTOWN



(Top) Trucks like these used to surround Downtown's Metrotech Center. (Above) Now Bridge Street is a stroller's paradise.

Free at last!

Security perimeter comes down at Metrotech Center

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Downtown's exhaust-belching ring of steel has finally been dismantled after nine years.

Manned security trucks that had blocked key vehicular entrances to the Metrotech office complex since 9-11 were shipped out after a division of the New York Stock Exchange left the center last Friday.

The terrorism line of defense — in this case, a series of manned, exhaust-belching GMC pickup trucks — was tightened around the Downtown office complex to stop vehicles from getting near the Security Industry Automation Corporation, a stock exchange division that was deemed a high-profile target after the 2001 terror attacks.

Trucks blocked underground parking entrances along Jay Street and Duffield Street, while a third was positioned on the north side of Willoughby Street at Lawrence Street.

Some locals understood the need for a highly visible display of security.

"[SIAC] was a high-risk operation that dealt with all the computer operations of the stock exchange," said Michael Weiss, executive director of the Metrotech Business Improvement District. "You know that building out, and the stock exchange doesn't work... So they held that security perimeter 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

The perimeter consisted of the trucks, which idled day and night to provide comfort for their drivers, who only let in verified employees at the campus.

Weiss said the operation probably cost "over \$1 million a year."

With the trucks gone, the city could restore public parking on Lawrence Street between Willoughby Street and the Metrotech campus, but the Department of Transportation said it needs to study the area first.

Opening the street has eased some traffic and parking tension on several beleaguered Downtown roadways, but it's certainly not a celebratory time for a handful of stationed security workers and one bomb-detecting dog.

"Yeah, we're out of a job — do you guys have any photography positions available?" asked one officer at the Lawrence Street security post, who declined to give his name.

PARK SLOPE

Too few nurses

Union say Methodist lies

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The nurses at New York Methodist Hospital are understaffed and overworked because administrators are violating a contractual obligation to provide enough medical workers, the state's largest nurses union alleged this week.

The New York State Nurses Association said that the administration of the venerable hospital on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope is required to have at least one nurse for every six patients — but nurses claim that the hospital is actually providing only one RN for every 14 customers in some wings.

"When hospital management short-staffs a unit, it puts the patients at risk and creates difficult working conditions for the staff left to carry the extra patient load," said union rep Elaine Chappell. "Meanwhile, the hospital saves money on the salaries of the missing nurses."

Not surprisingly, the hospital brass says it is not in breach of the contract.

"Our data shows we're in compliance with the contractual guidelines," said Lyn Hill, a spokeswoman for New York Methodist, who suggested that the union is miscalculating the staffing levels.

Representatives from the union and the hospital administration will meet in late November before an official arbitrator to settle the score.

This isn't the first time that the issue of understaffing at New York Methodist has reared its head. Last year, nurses complained that the nurse-to-patient ratio had gotten to one-to-10.

And last year, peeved parents on the Park Slope Parents message board complained about agonizingly long waits at the hospital before their kids received medical care. The hospital then pledged to hire new staff to reduce the wait.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

The 'Squibb' and the whale

Park reopens as a skateboarders' paradise with a view

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Dude, Squibb Park is open, and it got a gnarly facelift — Brooklyn Heights' long-defunct playground is now a skater's paradise with a sick view.

The sunken space at Columbia Heights and Middagh Street had been all but forgotten by the city until the Parks Department ripped apart the dirt floor in May and replaced it with an expansive, flat rubber surface — perfect for landing that killer nollie you've been working on.

"This park is gonna draw everybody — skateboarders, scooters, in-liners — making it a multi-use area," said Paula Hewitt Amram, founder of the Open Road project that conceptualized and maintains the space. "There are no good skate parks around here. This type of park brings people from neighborhood to neighborhood and draws attention to the area."

Right now, the "skate park" is more like a skate space. Flat, multi-colored rubber covers the entirety of the lot, with a few benches here and there and a small bathroom building sits near the entrance. It's certainly not the best spot to hone your grinding skills, but Open Road is designing some simple skate elements that may be added later — most likely cement boxes that



Joseph Delgado catches some air in the newly restored Squibb Park on Columbia Heights. It's essentially now a skate park — but one with a great view.

can second as seating, Amram said.

But at this point, having access to the quiet park is enough. Prior to its closure — it used to be a small, dark greenspace with seating — locals complained about the lack of security and available exits in the park, which can't be easily seen from the road.

Now, Amram and her crew of thrashers — including pro skateboarder Rob Campbell — will be on

hand during all park hours, currently between 3 and 6 pm every weekday.

"These guys are mentors to the kids," Amram said. "They're sweet as kittens and they're involved in the community. Just great guys."

She also landed the second phase of the Squibb Park project — the proposed \$5-million bridge extending over Furman Street to Pier 1 of Brooklyn Bridge Park — saying that the city-con-

trolled park agency finally has the funding to build it.

Brooklyn Bridge Park officials didn't confirm that fact by press time, but it would mean big news for the waterfront development's budget. The city has always wanted to build the bridge, but mayoral budget woes and Brooklyn Bridge Park's own struggles with its maintenance and operations have put the idea on the back-burner for months.

PARK SLOPE



Taming the mean street: The North Flatbush Business Improvement District has hired an architect to make the meanest of the mean streets more friendly.

Fix is in for Flatbush

City hopes seating areas will slow cars

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has found a triangular solution to the traffic problems on Flatbush Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Grand Army Plaza.

Transportation officials say the perilous stretch — treated like a raceway by drivers — will be safer once four three-sided islands are

expanded and converted into plazas with seating and trees.

"It's a safety enhancement," said Craig Hammerman, the district manager of Community Boards, which hosted a presentation on the project last Tuesday. "And more pedestrians in the area will mean more visiting and shopping on Flatbush Avenue."

The eight-block stretch has been under the spotlight for years, but now for a traffic-calming fix was

highlighted in February when a pedestrian was killed in a hit and run accident.

The crash led to the elimination of some left turns, but traffic speeds have not diminished.

The expanded plazas at Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Carlton avenues are another attempt to reduce the sketchy situation by giving pedestrians wider side- and cross-walks.

Sharon Davidson, the executive director for the North Flatbush Business Improvement District, said that the expanded triangles would force turning drivers to slow down. Plus, the spaces will be more inviting.

"There will be tables and chairs, more trees and new benches — it will be more plaza-like," said Davidson, citing a similar plaza at Ninth Avenue and 14th Street in Manhattan, a neighboring city.

Even solar-powered trash compactors will be installed along Flatbush Avenue as part of the \$2.7-million project.

The Department of Transportation expects to finish the project in 18 months.

RED HOOK

Superfund clean-up

Feds reach 'deal' with broke Chemtura

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

A chemical company with two dirty Red Hook plants agreed this week to help pay the bill for the \$1-billion Superfund cleanup of the Gowanus Canal — oh, but there's one catch: the company is bankrupt.

Chemtura Corporation, a Connecticut-based specialty chemicals maker, agreed on Thursday to pay \$3.9 million toward cleaning the fetid waterway, the Department of Justice announced.

No timetable was given for when Chemtura would pay, but the feds cheered the agreement — and said they expect the sum to be "fully paid in cash."

"EPA is pleased that a company potentially responsible in part for the contamination will contribute to the clean-up," agency spokesman John Senn said.

Along with Chemtura, the agency has so far reached agreements with far more solvent polluters like the city of New York and energy gi-



The state is suing Chemtura, which once operated a plant at the dirty end of Court Street in Red Hook. The site itself is behind a locked door, though you can peer through the keyhole.

ant National Grid.

From 1950 to 2000, Chemtura operated two manufacturing facilities at the dirty end of Court Street in Red Hook. According to court papers, hazardous substances "have and/or are continuing to migrate" from the sites.

Indeed, besides polluting the canal, Chemtura has also been fingered for polluting

Red Hook Park. Earlier this summer, state environmental inspectors discovered "unacceptable" levels of cancer-causing PCBs and other toxins near the park — and sued Chemtura claiming that the firm had released the chemicals from the Court Street plants.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a class

of organic compounds once widely used in a host of industrial applications, particularly favored by the electrical industry as coolants and insulating fluids for transformers and capacitors, but used in an array of products, from paints to adhesives.

In 2002, Chemtura had begun sealing leaks from cracked and deteriorating tanks at its now-shuttered manufacturing plant, but the company halted such work after finding PCBs in 2007, saying it needed further investigation.

The clean-up resumed, and the company filed for bankruptcy.

Cleaning the canal, named a Superfund site last March, is expected to span a decade. Federally overseen clean-ups can take years because alleged polluters and their successor companies often dispute the charges levied against them by the EPA — just as Chemtura did.

In a separate agreement with the feds announced in August, the company agreed to pay \$26 million to clean up 17 contaminated sites in 14 states.

Chemtura did not return a call for comment in time for our alkaline online deadline.

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Stabbing at Vanderbilt bar

By Thomas Tracy and
Joe Anuta
The Brooklyn Paper

An unhinged dog walker with an extensive criminal record has been arrested for last Thursday's rampage outside a popular Vanderbilt Avenue nightclub where two employees were stabbed — one fatally.

"He's definitely the guy," a police source said hours after bartender Chai Eun Hillmann, 42, was knifed to death in front of the Branded Bar, a country-themed bar at the corner of Bergen Street.

According to police, Hillmann, waiter Daniel Hultquist, 36, and a handful of patrons were inside the bar at 2:18 a.m. when two dogs, a Shih Tzu named Buggy and a pit-bull named Rocco, began snar-

ling at each other outside. Hillmann investigated the noise and quickly got into an argument with 36-year-old Daniel Pagan, who owned Buggy, cops said.

Police allege that Pagan, who spent nine years in jail for manslaughter, pulled a knife and attacked, stabbing Hillmann twice. He then turned his blade on Hultquist, slashing the man's neck.

"This whole thing began as a fight between two dogs," the police source said. "The argument and the killing — it's all related to each other."

Both Hillmann and Hultquist were rushed to Kings County Hospital, where the bartender died of his injuries. Hultquist was stitched up and released the same day. Detectives who identified



Alleged killer Daniel Pagan (center right) is walked from the 77th Precinct hours after his arrest for killing bartender Chai Eun Hillmann (left) at Branded on Vanderbilt Avenue.

Pagan, who lives nearby on Underhill Avenue, through surveillance footage and charged him with murder, attempted mur-

der and criminal possession of a weapon. The killing shocked regulars of the Branded Saloon, which just

opened this past Memorial Day. "I don't even know what to say, this is beyond ... beyond!" wrote Jennice Centella on the bar's Facebook page.

The bar was closed last Thursday, but grief-stricken employees were inside preparing for a private memorial.

"[The police] got him. We caught him on our cameras," a visibly upset employee told us. "Tonight, we're just gathering with family friends."

Neighbors were also shaken by the news. "It surprises me," remembered area resident Erick Rowley. "I never felt I'm in danger here."

Another resident, Bailey Saliwanchik, said she was in the new hipster hangout until 1 a.m. about



Dozens of mourners crammed the sidewalk in front of the Branded bar on Vanderbilt Avenue last Thursday to mourn bartender Chai Eun Hillmann, who was stabbed a day earlier in a dispute with a dog-owner.

an hour before the murder.

"I've been seeing a lot of fights on the street lately," she said. "But I'm totally surprised something that violent happened here."

A second memorial service for Hillmann took place on Saturday so patrons could show their "solidarity against violence," bar employees said.

Vicious mugging for iPhone in Fort Greene

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Two dogs grabbed a woman at the corner of Lafayette and Vanderbilt avenues on Sept. 26, snatching her iPhone.

The 29-year-old woman was near the corner at 11:35 p.m. when the duo grabbed her from behind, covering her mouth so her pleas for help couldn't be heard.

The thieves then grabbed the pricey smart phone and ran off, leaving her unhurt, police were told.

Gunpoint rob

Three hoodlums pulled a gun on a man on Greene Avenue on Sept. 27.

The victim was approaching Clermont Avenue at 9:10 p.m. when the trio jumped him. One of the men pulled a gun while the other two went through the victim's pockets, taking \$180 and a BlackBerry cellphone.

Train hijack
A thief mugged a 26-year-old strap-hanger at Knickerbocker on Sept. 28 during a daring

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

daytime heist inside the Fulton Street station.

The victim entered the station at 12:15 p.m. and was waiting for a Queens-bound G train when the thief crept up behind her and thrust a knife to her throat.

The thief then ran off with the woman's purse, which contained an iPhone and some credit cards, police said.

Meat hooks
Two hoodlums brutally beat a 38-year-old woman on Adelphi Street after botching an attempt to cover her mouth during the Sept. 29 mugging.

One of the hoodlums tried to muzzle the woman with his meaty palm after grabbing her between Greene Avenue and Fulton Street at 12:35 a.m., but threw her to the ground and began punching her in the head when she wouldn't hand over her purse, police were told.

Brown billk
A careful thief swiped a purse from a diner at Magie Brown's on Myrtle Avenue on Sept. 29.

The 33-year-old patron put her purse on a shelf as she dined inside the eatery between Waverly and Washington avenues at 9 p.m., but when she went to retrieve her bag two hours later, it was missing.

The thief emptied the bag and pitched it into a restaurant garbage can, cops said, adding that one of the victim's credit cards was later used to buy a Metrocard.

— Thomas Tracy

77TH PRECINCT
Prospect Heights
Romeo ruffians

Two crooked Casanovas begged a woman for her phone number on Sept. 28, but settled for her wallet when their courtly flirtations turned violent on Park Place.

The hoodlums followed their 36-year-old victim from the corner of Atlantic Avenue and South Oxford Street at 10:50 p.m., repeatedly calling out to her and asking for her digits.

The woman managed to ignore the would-be thieves until she reached Washington Avenue, where the thugs punched her in the back of the head and ran off with her purse.

iPhone collar
A greedy iPhone thief snagged the pricey piece of hardware from a Lincoln Place resident on Sept. 26, but didn't have long to check out all of its nifty features.

The victim was standing near his building between Underhill and Washington avenues at 6:55 p.m. when the teenage thug approached and punched him in the face.

The thief then threw the victim to the ground and ran off with the phone, but cops nabbed him a short time later.

Cafe crook
A thief mugged a 25-year-old woman's handbag as she ate at a Flatbush Avenue outdoor cafe on Sept. 24.

The woman hooked her bag to the back of her chair at 9 p.m. as she dined between Prospect and Park places. When she turned around to get her bag a half hour later, it was gone, she told police.

Bag snag
A slick snake swiped a woman's handbag as she enjoyed a meal inside a Va Vanderbilt Avenue restaurant on Sept. 23.

The woman had strung her purse along the back of her chair at the restaurant between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue at 9:15 p.m.

The thief managed to snag the bag without anyone noticing and used one of his victim's credit cards to buy a \$50 Metrocard.

— Thomas Tracy

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook
No fun, games

Someone stole a video game console from a car on President Street overnight on Oct. 2.

The 48-year-old victim said that he parked his 2008

Toyota near Smith Street at around 9 p.m. When he returned to the car at 8:15 a.m. the next day, he was agitated to find his rear window smashed and his \$100 Nintendo DS game console missing.

— Gary Buiso

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Fruitful smash

Some thugs stole a laptop and an iPod Touch out of a car on Eighth Street on Oct. 2.

The victim told police that he had parked his car between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 9 a.m. Nine hours later, he discovered the back window smashed and his Apple products — and a navigation device — missing.

Dodging it
A thief stole a Dodge van from his Eighth Street parking space overnight on Sept. 29.

The victim told cops that he had parked the car near Fifth Avenue at 2 p.m. at 7:30 a.m. the next morning, he discovered the vehicle missing.

— Joe Anuta

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Northside
Kentucky foiled

A gun-carrying hoodlum held a 26-year-old woman on his way home and swiped more than \$9,000 from her car on Oct. 1.

The victim told cops that he was on his way home from work, near Eckford Street, trying to deposit his massive paycheck at about 11:48 p.m. The perp ran up behind him, held a gun to his head and said, "Don't turn around or I'll shoot you," then ran his pockets and took the cash.

The hoodlums followed their 36-year-old victim from the corner of Atlantic Avenue and South Oxford Street at 10:50 p.m., repeatedly calling out to her and asking for her digits.

The woman managed to ignore the would-be thieves until she reached Washington Avenue, where the thugs punched her in the back of the head and ran off with her purse.

iPhone collar
A greedy iPhone thief snagged the pricey piece of hardware from a Lincoln Place resident on Sept. 26, but didn't have long to check out all of its nifty features.

The victim was standing near his building between Underhill and Washington avenues at 6:55 p.m. when the teenage thug approached and punched him in the face.

The thief then threw the victim to the ground and ran off with the phone, but cops nabbed him a short time later.

Cafe crook
A thief mugged a 25-year-old woman's handbag as she ate at a Flatbush Avenue outdoor cafe on Sept. 24.

The woman hooked her bag to the back of her chair at 9 p.m. as she dined between Prospect and Park places. When she turned around to get her bag a half hour later, it was gone, she told police.

Bag snag
A slick snake swiped a woman's handbag as she enjoyed a meal inside a Va Vanderbilt Avenue restaurant on Sept. 23.

The woman had strung her purse along the back of her chair at the restaurant between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue at 9:15 p.m.

The thief managed to snag the bag without anyone noticing and used one of his victim's credit cards to buy a \$50 Metrocard.

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a Bedford Avenue apartment and stole a laptop and iPhone on Sept. 30.

The victim arrived at home near N. Seventh Street at about 3 a.m. and noticed the stuff missing. He told cops that he had left the window unlocked.

— Andy Campbell

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights
65th shoot

A gun-wielding thug shot a man in the leg inside a 65th Street bar at around 2:45 a.m. on Oct. 3.

Cops did not say what provoked the shooting in front of F1 Night Club, which was between Eighth and Ninth avenues. The victim is in stable condition.

The unknown perp is still on the loose, but cops found 40-caliber shell casing at the scene.

Light minded
A man mustered up enough courage to chase after the perp who had just stabbed him on Seventh Avenue on Oct. 2.

The victim-cum-vigilante told cops that he stopped at red light near 70th Street at around 5:15 p.m. when a black car pulled up next to him. The two buff dudes inside the ride stabbed him in the arm and fled towards Fifth Avenue.

The bleeding victim chased them for several blocks, but couldn't catch them.

Head case
Four burglars assaulted a 44-year-old woman on Fifth Avenue on Oct. 1.

The victim told cops that he was near 82nd Street at around 12:20 a.m. when the assailants bashed him in the head and then fled in a white Ford Explorer.

The man was treated at the scene by emergency services and did not have to go to the hospital.

Purse snatching
Two dudes snatched a woman's Coach bag on Fort Hamilton Parkway on Oct. 1.

The victim told cops that she was near 80th Street at around 10 p.m. when the thieves snatched the designer purse, which contained cash and cards, right out of her hand and ran toward Fifth Avenue.

Nissan stolen
Someone stole a gray 2000 Nissan Xterra from its parking spot on Senator Street overnight on Oct. 1.

The owner told cops that he parked his ride between Ridge Boulevard and Colonial Road at around 10:30 p.m. It was gone when he returned at 3:15 p.m. the next day.

— Alex Rush

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown
Starbucked!

It wasn't a good week for everyone's favorite coffee chain, as at least two Starbucks popped off at the Starbucks Court Street at Joralemon Street.

A thief swiped a backpack from a woman who was

beginning to doze off at the cafe on Sept. 30.

The victim — who apparently had not consumed enough caffeine — said she started to fall asleep at 4 p.m. Minutes later, she realized her bag, containing an Apple laptop computer, an iPod, and a cellphone, was missing.

A thug with a flat for her dramatic storming the name Starbucks as it was closing and demanded money from the cashier and a pair of customers on Oct. 3.

Witnesses said the crook entered the cafe through a side door at around 11 p.m., threw a black bag on the floor and said, "Give me all your money now, then give me your IDs and phones."

The victim told cops she had left the door unlocked at her apartment between Willow Street and Columbia Heights at around 2 p.m. when the jerk must have struck.

— Stephen Brown

90TH PRECINCT
Southside-Bushwick
Head shot

A perp fired several shots in the air in the back of a Bushwick Avenue playground on Sept. 29, one of which struck an 18-year-old man in the head.

The perp and an accomplice confronted his victim at Scholes Street at 5:49 p.m., and fired a round into the air. After the victim was struck by a bullet, both perps fled on bicycles.

Rx robbery
A drugged-out perp punched his victim in the face on Oct. 2 and stole \$30 from him because he would not surrender his prescription drugs.

The perp approached the victim on Hooper Street near First Street at 2 p.m., demanding the medications, punching the man in the face and threatening him to the ground.

The victim surrendered \$30 to the perp, who was arrested the next day in Manhattan allegedly possessing a bag of cocaine, a popular illegal drug and pill bottle containing Percocet and Xanax, also popular mood-altering substances.

Meserole rob
A six-foot perp robbed a man at gunpoint on Meserole Street on Sept. 30 as he left the L-train station.

The perp, wearing a dark green hoodie and a black baseball cap, approached the man near Graham Avenue at 10:50 p.m., saying, "Give me yer money."

The victim obliged, but the perp then demanded, "Give us your phone," while holding a black firearm. The victim surrendered his phone, and the perp pushed him to the ground and fled down Humboldt Street.

Ainslie robbery
A gunman robbed two women on Ainslie Street on Sept. 29 as they were walking home.

The perp approached the two women from behind at Graham Avenue at 10:40 p.m., while flashing a gun.

"Empty your pockets, cell-phones, wallets, everything," he said before the victims surrendered their stuff.

Grand burglary
A thief broke into a Grand Street building on Sept. 26 and stole \$6,900 worth of cameras and computers.

The thief broke into the rear window of the apartment near Driggs Avenue after its tenant left at 3:30 p.m. When she returned at 2 a.m. the next morning, she found her stuff was missing.

— Aaron Short

Wyckoff Gardens Child Health Clinic & Williamsburg Dental Clinic

Will Close on October 15th

The Wyckoff Gardens Child Health Clinic, located at 266 Wyckoff Street in Brooklyn, is closing. Dr. Quilly Lee will be moving to the Fort Greene Child Health Clinic, located at 295 Flatbush Ave Extension. If you would like information about how to continue receiving services from Dr. Lee, or one of the many highly qualified pediatricians who work at Woodhull Hospital, or one of our other health centers, please call us at 718-260-7500. You child's health is very important to us and we look forward to continuing to serve your family.

If you choose to go to another pediatrician, please call us at 718-260-7500 to obtain your child's medical records.

The Williamsburg Dental Clinic, located at 214 Graham Avenue in Brooklyn, is closing. If you would like information about continuing your dental care at Woodhull Hospital, please call us at 718-388-5889. Your health is important to us and we look forward to continuing to serve you.

If you want to obtain your dental records, please call 718-388-5889. We would be happy to give them to you or your new dentist.

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Barclays Center security will be less obtrusive than LIRR

"You do not see that sort of monstrosity in front of the White House or the Capitol, do you?" said Lionel Rawlins, a former Marine and military instructor, about the

The architectural firm that designed the terminal, John di Domenico and Partners, continues to elude phone calls seeking answers about the bollards.

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Continued from page 1

the same leeway they have at the crime-ridden, Bruce Ratner-owned malls down the street: the ability to kick out a kid who is under 21 if he happens to gather with three or more other friends.

Forest City officials have said that the policy stops groups of kids from turning into all-out angry mobs at the mall — but at the end of the day, enforcement is up to a police or security officer's discretion.

Earlier this week, Ratner touted the plaza as "one of Brooklyn's great public spaces," one that will host events, movies, and maybe even the Brooklyn Flea or a greenmarket. That's a different setting than the mall, where the goal is to get customers in, make them pay, and get them out to make room for the next batch of wallets.

It's unclear whether cops would break up crowds at, say, a movie screening, but one thing is clear — Ratter's concern over groups of kids does not go unwarranted. The Atlantic Terminal Mall is a breeding ground for criminals, as our comprehensive police blotter data

There have been at least 17 crimes reported in or around the mall in the past 90 days, according to police data. On Monday, a knife-wielding psycho got in an argument and slashed a man in the neck just outside. On Sept. 18, some jerk stole a woman's purse inside Ratner's notorious crime-infested Target. On Sept. 16, a cruising caper stopped his car near the mall, got out and stole a man's phone, and drove away.

The list goes on. On Thursday, Forest City officials said that it's too soon to speculate about whether the plaza policies will match the mall's rules verbatim. "We'll work closely with the local precinct and security experts to ensure that the plaza is safe, just as the police and security officials ensure that other public spaces in Brooklyn and throughout the city are safe," said Joe DePlasco, spokesman for Forest City Ratner. "As of now, we have not developed a policy for the plaza, but our hope that it is used by lots of people in many different ways—all of them safely."

[illegible]

[illegible]



(718) 260-2500

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

October 8-14, 2010



Rock on: In Performance Lab 115's production of Wagner's "The Ring Cycle," the gods are metal loving pro wrestling stars.

Wagner rocks!

'The Ring Cycle' on steroids at the Bushwick Starr

By Alex Rush
The Brooklyn Paper

Forget holy deities—the gods of 1980s-era America were World Wrestling Federation stars. At least that's the case in a Bushwick theater's version of the 19th-century opera, "Das Rheingold," or "The Ring" cycle—a rock stage play production of the very same opera that the Met is stag-

ing right now. Of course, there's a lot less pretension in Performance Lab 115's '80s rock 'n' roll take on Wagner's classic work (how can there not be when the immortal characters are pro-wrestlers and the lowly humans are represented by janitors?). "I grew up with 1980s pro-wrestling, and these characters are as bombastic as gods," explained director Dave Dalton. "Pro-wrestlers are a great com-

porary equivalent to Wagner's gods because they have such big egos." And ego is central to Wagner's main theme: the quest for power. "The storyline can serve as a metaphor for American foreign policy in the 1980s," Dalton said. "There is that central dilemma involving bending the rules to do what one believes will be good for the world." Americana characters and setting

THEATER

"The Ring Cycle: Part 1 and 2" at The Bushwick Starr, 277 Starr St. between Wyckoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, no phone, Oct. 14-30, Thursday through Sunday at 8 pm. In previews Oct. 1-10. Tickets are \$15. For info, visit www.thebushwickstarr.org.

aren't the only things that make Performance Lab 115's "The Ring Cycle" distinct.

Instead of classical music, this Brooklyn play features a soundtrack of classic '80s metal, like "Rock You Like a Hurricane" by The Scorpions. There will also be burlesque dancers replacing the traditional production's mermaid characters.

And unlike Wagner's "Das Rheingold," which is comprised of four parts that can total a 17-hour long performance, this modern take on parts one and two is only two hours long.

"We encourage multiplicity of interpretations of classic works," Dalton said. "Because most people will probably never get to see the full version of the Ring Cycle, so we wanted to make it more accessible."

Coincidentally, Performance Lab 115's "The Ring Cycle" is opening only five days after The Metropolitan Opera House's \$16-million performance of "Das Rheingold" closes for the season. This Brooklyn version's budget may be a lot smaller, but its eccentricities (and \$15 tickets) make it worth watching.

And make sure to look out for Performance Lab 115's version of parts three and four down the road.

"We're working on developing a script for the final two parts of 'Ring' right now," Dalton said.

"We hope The Met runs parts three and four of 'Das Rheingold' at the same time we do our version."

One 'Ring' to rule them all?

Only one performance can be the true lord of the "Ring." The Performance Lab 115 troupe has turned Richard Wagner's seminal German opera into a 1980s rock opera. Their show at the Brooklyn Starr opens on Oct. 7, just as the Metropolitan Opera's multi-million dollar production of "Das Rheingold" comes to a close. Since the "Ring" cycle is about a quest for power, which version wins our first-ever Wagnerian smackdown?

"DAS RHEINGOLD"	PRODUCTION	"THE RING CYCLE"
A chanderled opera house that seats 3,800	Venue	Black box theater that seats about 60
A god's quest for a ring of power	Storyline	A 1980s pro-wrestler's quest for a ring of power
Classical music orchestra and German language opera	Music	American hair metal
Metal plates that give the actors prosthetic six-pack abs	Men's costumes	Spandex that hides nothing
Spears	Weapon of choice	Fists
Sold out, but you can't afford it anyway	Ticket price	\$15
Five and a half hours	Running time	Two hours
New set didn't work properly on opening night, keeping gods from Valhalla	Why Wagner is turning over in his grave	None of his music is played

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THEATER



New 'Plan 9'

"Plan Nine from Outer Space" may be the worst movie ever made, but that's not stopping one theater troupe from bringing it to the stage.

From Oct. 8 to 31, the Brick Theater in Williamsburg will host DMTheatrics' take on Ed Wood's classically bad film about aliens and zombies that take over the earth.

"It's partially a spoof of the original movie and a spoof of every sci-fi and action movie cliché," said director Frank Cwiklik. "Ed had no skill, ability, talent, no craft whatsoever, but he had enthusiasm, and instinctively knew how to keep an audience happy," he added. "So this show, much like Ed's movies, is solely meant to entertain you."

There's definitely lots to work with. "Plan Nine" plays and looks like the 1950s sci-fi thriller on which it is based, beginning with a trio of flying saucers descending upon a suburb of Los Angeles, using what else—power rays to raise the dead in a plot to take over the earth. And it's up to a bumbling duo of cops to save the day.

Wood may have thought otherwise about his own talents, but Cwiklik and company are well aware of the script's limitations—from awful, comically casual dialogue, a poorly built set that had tombstones falling over, and three completely different actors playing the same part. They also keep to the do-it-yourself look of the original, without betraying the troupe's own aesthetic.

"I want shows to look like they cost 10 times as much as they did," said Cwiklik. "I don't want to give away too many surprises, though you will believe a saucer can fly."

This isn't the first time DMTheatrics has brought a familiar text to new light. A previous adaptation of "Macbeth"—called "Bitch Macbeth"—was a futuristic S&M fantasia.

"We want to get people attracted to theater, people who are often scared off from bad experiences—maybe dragged to a bad production of 'Hamlet' in high school—get excited and entertained, and come back again," said Cwiklik. "Our theater is a gateway drug."

"Plan Nine from Outer Space" at the Brick Theater [575 Metropolitan Ave. near Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189]. Fridays and Saturdays at 10 pm, Oct. 8-16; and Thursday through Saturday at 10 pm; and Sundays at 8 pm from Oct. 21-31. Tickets \$20. For info, visit www.dm-theatrics.com.

—Meredith Deliso

DINING

Baklava Ridge

To baklava connoisseurs, Samia Viade's baklava is legendary. It is the kind of stuff rarely found in this country—airy, not too sticky or tooth-achingly sweet like most baklava.

For years, the baklava was available only online, but now, after a brief hiatus from baking, Viade has opened a brick-and-mortar shop.

The Café at Sam's Bakery in Bay Ridge, serving up fair-trade, organic coffee, hummus, tabbouleh and lamb pieces alongside her famous pastries and Robicelli's cupcakes.

The trick, Viade explains, is subbing walnuts for pistachios, butter for vegetable shortening, and using a light hand when pouring on the sauce of sugar, lemon, rose water and orange blossom water.

"Usually I don't like sweets, so these are not too sweet," said Viade. "One day I tried to make baklava, and lucky for me it came out good."

There is no recipe and never has been—Viade relies purely on scent and intuition.

Viade's daughter, Rita Viade, says the idea for the store actually came about when her brothers were hunting for good, organic coffee in Bay Ridge and failed to find any. The place will eventually feature open mic nights and music, but for now, the baklava takes center stage.

"There is no baklava like this," said Rita Viade.

The Café at Sam's Bakery [275 94th St. between Third Avenue and Ridge Boulevard in Bay Ridge, (347) 560-6657]. Order online at sambakery.com.



Photo by Kristin V. Brown




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HERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
October 8

Soul party
After a sold-out run last year, the Brooklyn Soul Festival returns to the Bell House for two nights of funk, soul and guaranteed boogieing. Friday's lineup includes southern stalwarts Barbara Lynn (pictured) and Vernon Garrett. Dancing shoes are highly recommended.

8 pm, Brooklyn Soul Festival at the Bell House (149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). Tickets, \$20 (\$40 for a two-day pass). For info, visit www.thebellhouse.com.

SATURDAY
October 9

Still 'Rail'ing
Look, we're not so grizzled and bitter that we can't throw some respect at our pals at the Brooklyn Rail. The magazine has been covering the borough for a decade now — and the editors have just come out with a compendium of their best "Brooklyn has changed a lot" essays. Party with them tonight! We'll be there, bitter, in the corner.

7 pm. Contributors will read from "Pieces of a Decade: Brooklyn Rail Notification, 2000-2010," at Spoonbill (218 Bedford Ave. between N. Fourth and Fifth streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387-7322). Free.

SUNDAY
October 10

Far East fun
Like flan, there is no difference between "good" Gilbert and Sullivan and "bad" Gilbert and Sullivan — it's all good, especially the duo's classic, "The Mikado," which has snapper dialogue than even the best Aaron Sorkin teleplay. The Heights Players' version is the event of the season.

2 pm, "The Mikado" at The Heights Players 226 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752. www.heightsplayers.org. Tickets, \$20.

MONDAY
October 11

A lad insane
It's about time you really give some props to David Bowie. Sure, he never had a Number 1 hit album in the United States, but the Thin White Duke was Lady Gaga, Philip Glass, Robert Heinlein and the Beatles all rolled into one — decades before most people could appreciate it. Tonight, the Monday Night Vinyl Club finally pays homage.

7 pm-2 am. Bowie-themed "You Brought It, You Spin It" night at The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). www.thebellhouse.com.

TUESDAY
October 12

Drawn together
Word Bookshop has a cool graphic novel panel tonight featuring the yin and yang of the memoir business: Julia Wertz, a twentysomething urbanite who is quick with a fart joke, and Martin Lellemann, a retired Brooklyn professor whose book is about being the son of Holocaust survivors. Watch the sparks fly.

7:30 pm. Martin Lellemann and Julia Wertz at Word (126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096). Free, RSVP suggested.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, OCT. 8

GREENPOINT FLEA MARKET: Noon-8 pm. Greenpoint Reformed Church (138 Milton St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5941).

THEATER, "CIRCUS OF CIRCUS": George Orwell's classic, "Animal Farm," gets a burlesque adaptation. \$30-\$35. 8:30 pm. House of Yes (342 Mauger St. near Morgan Avenue in Bushwick, www.houseofyes.org).

THEATER, "PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE": Stage version of the Ed Wood "classic." 10 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (212) 352-3101).

THEATER, T.S. ELIOT'S "MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL": CBE award-winning Alec Duffy helms this site-specific production. \$30 (suggested donation). 7:30 pm. St. Joseph's Church (856 Pacific St. between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues in Prospect Heights, www.murderinthecathedral.com).

THEATER, "THE RING CYCLE": It's Wagner on steroids, in his opera gets a rock and roll twist featuring pro-wrestlers as gods. \$15. 8 pm. The Bushwick Star (207 Starr St. between Wyckoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, www.thebushwickstar.org).

THEATER, "THE MIKADO": A Gilbert and Sullivan classic. \$20, \$18 for seniors and children under 12. 8 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752. www.heightsplayers.org).

READING, BROOKLYN RAIL ANTHOLOGY: 7-8:30 pm. Spoonbill & Supperclub, Bookstore (118 Bedford Ave. between N. Fourth and Fifth streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387-7322. www.spoonbillbooks.com).

THEATER, "THE DEER HOUSE": Jan Lauwers and Neeldrop company perform. \$25. \$45. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 336-4100). www.bam.org.

MUSIC, ELONORE OPPENHEIM AND LESLEY FLANIGAN: Bass at Oppenheim and sound artist Flanigan perform as part of Music at First series. \$10. 7:30 pm. First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn (124 Henry St. in Brooklyn Heights, www.oppenheim.org).

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (College Humor) and Jason Saez (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. Cocolife (66 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, (917) 807-0455. www.myspace.com/cocolife).

THEATER, "PORTRAYED — THE UNBEARABLE BURDEN OF DECIDING WHAT TO DO BEFORE DYING": A new play by James Holland. 8 pm. Invisible Dog (51 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Cobble Hill, (347) 981-4186). www.theinvisibledog.org.

MUSIC, THE FANCY THE BRIDESMAIDS, WE CAN'T ENJOY OURSELVES: 8 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org.

SAT, OCT. 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TOUR, HISTORIC AIRPLANES: Visit restored cars. Free. 10 am-4 pm. Floyd Bennett Field Hangar B (Flatbush Avenue and Avenue R in Marine Park, (718) 338-5986). webpage.weebly.com/people/dh/harfb/.

TOUR, BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Group offers an inside look at its 1881 building. Free. 2 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111). www.brooklynhistory.org.

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "CIRCUS OF CIRCUS": 8:30 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, "PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE": 10 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, T.S. ELIOT'S "MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL": 7:30 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, "THE RING CYCLE": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, "THE MIKADO": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

MUSIC, SHAKY'S RECORD FAIR: Free. 11 am-5 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510).

DANCE, "ANGELS AND ACCORDIONS": Part walking tour, part performance, part guided meditation. Free. 7 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

CIVIC CALENDAR

WED, OCT. 13

Community Board 2: Monthly full board meeting. 6:30 pm. Old First Reformed Church (129 Canal St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 643-3023. www.brooklyn2.org).

Community Board 14: Combined public hearing and board meeting. Free. 6:30 pm. Swingin' 60's Senior Citizens Center (211 Anslie Street in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0009). www.cb14brooklyn.org.

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

THURS, OCT. 14

Cobble Hill Association: Agenda includes a panel discussion with local bloggers moderated by Jeff Strabone. Free. 7:30 pm. Long Island College Hospital (339 Hickey St. near Atlantic Avenue in Cobble Hill).

CNG Community Newspaper Group

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Member: **SNY** **NYP** **SRDS**

Backyard eats

Enjoy **REAL** home cooking in Prospect Heights — before the city shuts it down!

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

On a recent Saturday, a handful of people gathered in a Prospect Heights Garden backyard, happily devouring plates full of sliders, sweet potato fries and corn.

But this was no backyard barbecue, or secret supper club. It was Taste of Hawthorne Street, a weekends-only eatery that Prospect Heights Garden resident Patrice Carter runs out of her backyard with her friend Doreen Simpson.

Carter and Simpson serve their delectable salmon sliders and sausage to anyone brave enough to knock on a stranger's front door, though the eatery is officially only open for friends and friends of friends (so it's not really a "restaurant," you understand? Got it, Health Department?).

"We wanted a place you could grab a good burger in the neighborhood," said Carter. "Somewhere you could go for good, fresh homemade food instead of just settling for Popeyes."

The two women learned to cook from their mothers ("It's incredible how much you learn when you aren't paying attention," said Carter). They focus on foods that are easy to cook quickly, meaning barbecue-style fare like sliders, fries and chicken-skewers. The food has a West Indian slant, with other cultural influences popping up, like the cheese and chili powder-encrusted corn on the cob.

They say they charge only to recoup the costs of food, the menu featuring nothing over \$7. By day, Carter works at an independent record label and Simpson for a "well-known" director. They haven't really kept track of how many customers they have each day, but say it must be more than 20.

"We really don't sleep," said Simpson.

A small sign and menu, featuring the eatery's logo, a playful, hand-drawn house, mark the entrance to the ground-floor apartment. Diners are greeted at the front door by the chef's and their rambunctious dog, Ori, who spends the afternoon attempting to scale the wooden backyard fence in pursuit of squirrels on the other side.

In a neighborhood lacking in good sit-down eateries, Taste of Hawthorne Street has become a lively place to catch up with friends and have a bite. The budding chefs like to think of themselves as champions of community and local businesses. Carter sports clothing designed by



What is the 'taste' of Hawthorne?

Here's the menu at Taste of Hawthorne (at least as long as the city allows it to keep operating)

Three Corn on the Cob: \$2.50
Sweet Potato Fries: \$2.50-\$4
Super Sausage Dogs: \$3.50
Poppin' Hamburger Sliders: \$5
Fresh Turkey Burger Sliders: \$5
Dope Salmon Burger Sliders: \$6
OMG! Veggie Burger Sliders: \$5
Savory Salmon Cakes: \$5
'The Jerk' Chicken Skewers: \$4
Mmm Carrot Cake Cupcake: \$2

local artists, and she displays a friend's T-shirts in the back, pointing visitors toward a row of business cards for local businesses on their way out.

But what about letting strangers through the door? Not a problem when every stranger leaves as a friend.

"This is just something nice to have in the neighborhood, somewhere nice to sit and eat good food," said Curtis Franklin, whose aforementioned shirts are on display in the backyard. Franklin brought his mother for the first time, who raved about the sweet mint green iced tea.

Currently, the eatery is operating without permits, but when they shut down for the winter, the women plan on looking into options to make the eatery legal and potentially expand to

What's cooking: Doreen Simpson (left) and Patrice Carter run a restaurant in the backyard of Carter's house in Prospect Heights Gardens. Sweet potato fries (below) are on the menu.



a real restaurant.

"We discovered this is something we're really passionate about," said Carter. "We don't want to pass up the opportunity to follow through on this just because it's not what we planned to do with our lives."

Carter and Simpson hugged a reporter when she left. "You see," said Simpson, "you've had lunch in our home, now we're friends."

For information on Taste of Hawthorne Street, e-mail tasteofhawthorne@gmail.com.

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Sun., Oct. 17, 2010 at 3pm

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Sacred art

'Angels and Accordions' ends its life at Green-Wood Cemetery

By Meredith Deliso

The Brooklyn Paper

These angels' time on earth is up.

For the past six years, "Angels and Accordions" has delighted visitors to the Green-Wood Cemetery in a site-specific performance featuring "angels"—dancers clad all in white—and accordions.

This Saturday, the production will officially be killed off. All things, as any fan of

Green-Wood Cemetery knows, must pass.

"It's just reached its time," said creator and choreographer Martha Bowers. "You do an event for a certain number of years, it feels like it's time to move on to something else."

But not before two more performances on Oct. 9, as cemetery historian Jeff Richman leads a tour of Green-

DANCE

"Angels and Accordions" Green-Wood Cemetery (25th Street and Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights, 718-768-7300). Oct. 9 at 12:30 pm and 4 pm. Tickets \$15 (\$25 for families). For info, visit www.green-wood.com.

Wood while dancers interact with trees, tombs, 19th-century statuary and even the catacombs to the accompaniment of accordion music.

"The event is designed to



Grave: "Angels and Accordions," a dance piece that is the epitome of site-specific performance, runs at Green-Wood Cemetery on Oct. 9.

get people who are walking through the grounds to feel the music around them and dance around them and interact with the monuments and hills and the trees," said Richman. "It's really meant to be an interaction between the arts and the landscape. It's kind of, what surprise awaits you as you proceed down the road?"

Such a show may be the only one of its kind in the country, said Richman, as the 30 dancers and 10 accordions take over the landscape and provide an opportunity

to contemplate death and the possibility of resurrection.

"It's a more gentle, hopeful view of how we include death in life," said Bowers. "In this city of the dead, which is so

beautiful and quiet, the performance is set up in a way to be timed to walk in a beautiful place and contemplate the richness of living."

In that sense, the inclusion of angels is obvious. As for the accordions? Besides the nice alliteration, they were chosen for practicality—the instruments don't have to be plugged in and are loud enough to hear without a mic or amp, perfect for you happen to stray from the tour.

"People get lost, which is why we have the accordions to make the route," said Bowers. "It's crazy to be in the middle of Brooklyn and have no idea which way is out."

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Henry St. between Clark Street and Love Lane in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 862-2533, www.zioncig.org.

READING, RANDY WESTON:

Premiere of his book, "African Rhythms," 5-8 pm. McCadda (80 Hanson Pl. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 230-0952, www.mccadda.org).

SUN, OCT. 10

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, T.S. ELIOT'S "MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL": 2 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, "THE RING CYCLE": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

THEATER, "THE MIKADO": 2 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

MUSIC, CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS: Harpsichord, flute and cello. Free Oct.

MAKERS MARKET: Featuring a diversity of artists united by their use of high-quality materials with an emphasis on design. 11 am-5 pm. Old American Can Factory (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 237-4335, www.projects.com/market.html).

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

FULTON FLEA: Free. 10:30 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center (650 Fulton St. between 5. Elliot and Fort Greene, (718) 364-5648, www.brooklynplaza.com).

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 9.

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-5 pm. J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope).

FARMER'S MARKET: Fresh breads, vegetables and fruits. Free. 11 am-4 pm. The Commons (188 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 216-8754, www.foodsharemarket.com).

FALL MARKET: 11-7 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 9.

OTHER

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: The annual blessing of the animals with a coffee hour following service. Free. 11 am. Christ Church Bay Ridge (700 Bay Ridge Blvd. in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-1438).

SEAN CASEY ANNUAL RESCUE Q&A: Seven live bands, raffles and 50/50. \$10 (donation). 7 pm-4 pm. The Wicked Monk Irish Pub (845 Fifth Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, 718-921-0601).

MON, OCT. 11

Columbus Day

AUDITIONS: Adults and children 8 and older by 10 am for the "Musical Christmas Ball." Bring sheet music, headshots, resumes and appropriate dancewear. Free. 4-7 pm. Shore H88 Community Center (1000 Shore Rd. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173, www.narrowscommunity-theater.com).

MUSIC, DAVID BOWIE NIGHT: Monday Night Vinyl Club celebrates the "The White Duke's" "Sound and Vision" LP. Free. 7 pm-2 am. The Bell House (449 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse.org).

MUSIC, JAZZ NIGHT: 8 pm. Spike Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737, www.spikehill.com).

READING, AUTHORS NIGHT—"IDENTITY CRISIS": Featuring James Han- nahan ("Cousin Sam"), Michelle Caric ("Fish Out of Water"), Shelly One ("New York 1-1el Aviv") and Alyson Gerber ("Gracie Garber Loves Gypsies"). Free. 8-10 pm. Franklin Park (618 St. John Pl. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, franklinparkbrooklyn.com).

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READING, AUTHORS NIGHT—"IDENTITY CRISIS": Featuring James Han- nahan ("Cousin Sam"), Michelle Caric ("Fish Out of Water"), Shelly One ("New York 1-1el Aviv") and Alyson Gerber ("Gracie Garber Loves Gypsies"). Free. 8-10 pm. Franklin Park (618 St. John Pl. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, franklinparkbrooklyn.com).

MAKERS MARKET: Featuring a diversity of artists united by their use of high-quality materials with an emphasis on design. 11 am-5 pm. Old American Can Factory (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 237-4335, www.projects.com/market.html).

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

FULTON FLEA: Free. 10:30 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center (650 Fulton St. between 5. Elliot and Fort Greene, (718) 364-5648, www.brooklynplaza.com).

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 9.

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-5 pm. J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope).

FARMER'S MARKET: Fresh breads, vegetables and fruits. Free. 11 am-4 pm. The Commons (188 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 216-8754, www.foodsharemarket.com).

FALL MARKET: 11-7 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 9.

OTHER

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: The annual blessing of the animals with a coffee hour following service. Free. 11 am. Christ Church Bay Ridge (700 Bay Ridge Blvd. in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-1438).

SEAN CASEY ANNUAL RESCUE Q&A: Seven live bands, raffles and 50/50. \$10 (donation). 7 pm-4 pm. The Wicked Monk Irish Pub (845 Fifth Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, 718-921-0601).

MON, OCT. 11

Columbus Day

AUDITIONS: Adults and children 8 and older by 10 am for the "Musical Christmas Ball." Bring sheet music, headshots, resumes and appropriate dancewear. Free. 4-7 pm. Shore H88 Community Center (1000 Shore Rd. at 91st Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 482-3173, www.narrowscommunity-theater.com).

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OUR OPINION

Killing the goose

The horror of the middle-of-the-night goose massacre by city and federal agents back in July is becoming clearer by the day.

Documents and shoe-leather digging by our bird-dog reporter Stephen Brown revealed this week a systematic anti-goose agenda on the part of our government — and efforts to conceal that foul foul policy. For example, Brown has discovered that:

- The city has a secret map of a goose "kill zone" that extends seven miles around both the city airports and, presumably, the one in Newark as well. This radius makes majority of the city a goose-free zone.

- The "kill zone" is actually far larger than the one that the city has mapped out, as the geese in Prospect Park were slaughtered even though they were not actually inside the seven-mile zone. These geese were "close enough," we were told.

- The woman who runs Prospect Park knew about the goose massacre before

it happened, yet did not try to stop it because she did not want to take on Mayor Bloomberg, a political patron.

Taken together, the latest news reveals a pattern of callousness and subterfuge that governments usually reserve only for taxpayers, not wildlife.

City and park officials now say they are seeking a humane way to keep the resident goose population low so that the federal authorities will not have to act again. A humane way? Perhaps. But even in an editorial about the other animal is required to complete the appropriate metaphor: Someone wants to lock the barn door now that the horse is out.

There's no reason to believe that these hasty discussions will actually lead to a new, more animal-friendly policy.

Indeed, though we have learned so much this week, so much more needs to be revealed — yet federal and city authorities keep behaving as if the public does not have a right to know what government is doing. For example:

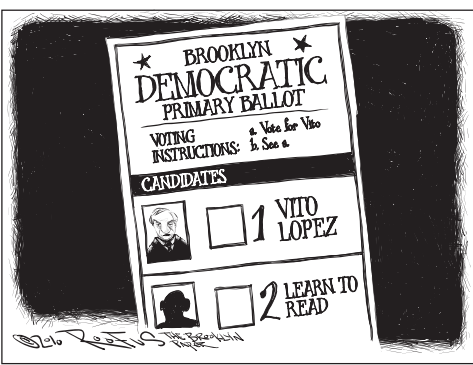
- Now that the population of geese in Prospect Park is back to nearly 150, are those birds already on the chopping block? After all, a population of 250 was enough to trigger the federal government's midnight massacre, so should we start saying our farewells now?

- Where else have federal authorities killed geese populations? For now, the agency in charge has only said that it has acted near airports. But given the new map, the definition of "near" is actually "everywhere."

- Are these slaughters even effective? Statistics on bird strikes reveal that the vast majority of collisions with aircraft occur at very low altitude and directly next to airports. So why is the city now wasting effort on an offensive and much broader city-wide goose eradication?

Of course we demand safety for airline passengers. But we also demand honesty and accountability from our leaders.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Your reporters show real guts on goose story

To the editor,
Thank you for having the guts to do excellent investigative work and publish the truth ("A gooseless city? Feds reveal that they can kill birds pretty much anywhere," online, Oct. 4).

There were 368 geese and goslings gassed at Prospect Park, according to one official I spoke with, including Beaky and three tagged migratory geese from other states. This should be disturbing to anyone who cares about nature, wildlife and a government that should act with trans-

parency and responsibility, which is certainly not the case with Canada geese.

These social birds have been targeted for destruction because they are easy to catch, particularly when molting and unable to fly, although no one has ever died in a commercial airliner due to a collision with them. More starlings and pigeons collide with planes than do Canada geese. More than a month ago, one eagle colliding with a plane in Alaska forced the airliner to land.

Killing Canada geese gives the public a false sense of security. There are radar techniques that can show pilots the flying patterns of birds, even from many miles away, but they aren't being used because of the expense and the extra attention to duty.

Rounding up and killing a bunch of geese every year is not protecting airline travelers. Even the extermination of each goose in New York City would not have prevented the "Miracle on the Hudson" incident. The few geese that were swallowed up in the engines were migratory geese

from Labrador, Canada. Should we then kill every migratory bird that flies? We are talking many billions of birds.

Patty Adjamine, Manhattan
'Asphalt blob?'

To the editor,
Residential parking permits are an excellent response to the traffic deluge that will accompany events at the Barclays Center.

Your "Mean Streets" article on the call by Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) for such permits focuses wrongly on their cost and the notion that this is privileged parking near Atlantic Yards ("A Yards parking tax?" Oct. 1).

It also misses a larger point about whether anyone needs to drive to the Barclays Center at all. The cost, compared to that of owning and operating a car, is likely to be nominal. If the Wrigley Field area is any indication, that's about the price of a half-tank of gas. Without that permit, I would probably waste at least that much gas, not to mention time and money, circling the congested blocks around my home looking for a spot.

The question is not one of "...having to pay to park by the controversial Atlantic Yards project site," but one of having to pay to protect the privilege of parking near our homes, and not ceding our street space to occasional visitors. Sure, this is NIMBY-ism, but where else in this city can you find a major sports arena that is so close to low-rise, low-density residential neighborhoods, and yet far from both sizable parking facilities and arterial highways?

I still don't see where exactly the cars are supposed to go, if not the public streets of my neighborhood. You point out that a "portion" of event attendees may be accommodated at on-site or near-site parking garages. These garages are not going to be constructed for all four years. I hope this doesn't mean the apocalyptic vision of a pure asphalt blob of surface parking, stretching from Sixth Avenue to Vanderbilt Avenue, between Atlantic Avenue and Dean Street, is upon us?

A better solution would be a strategy that absolutely disincentivizes driving to the Barclays Center, by not providing any public or private parking facilities. The arena sits atop one of the

busiest transit hubs in New York City, between two of the busiest avenues in Brooklyn. With proper planning, better infrastructure and service improvements, the vast majority of the thousands of attendees at each event should be able to easily arrive and depart by subway, train, bus, shuttle, or taxi service.

These improvements would benefit those of us who live, work, and spend time and money here every day, whether the Nets are in the playoffs or not.

Rob Withershaw, Prospect Heights
The writer is second vice chairman of Community Board 8.

Ricky's not fine

To the editor,
Your report on the Ahava protest ("Cosmetic improvement," Oct. 1) included an unchallenged and unanswered charge that these types of protests are anti-Semitic. Specifically, your statements, "Protesters may have outnumbered supporters of the cosmetics company, including Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B'nai Avraham on Rensselaer Street in Brooklyn Heights, who has called the protests anti-

Semitic. Anti-Semitic, perhaps, but great for business. Ricky's employees said that they sell out of Ahava products every time there is a protest — and there have been others in Manhattan, a neighboring city."

You should be aware that this charge is thrown about indiscriminately against anyone who criticizes Israeli policy.

In the case of the illegal (under international law) Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank), even U.S. policy-makers who are friendly to Israel recognize that these settlements have been, and continue to be, the greatest impediment to reaching peace.

Speaking out against them, and urging people to avoid buying the products of that "theft of land," are ways that people can take effective, nonviolent action to end the injustice themselves, when governments do not act.

Nomi Allen, n neighborhood withheld

Class of its own

To the editor,
I graduated from PS 107 in June, 1939 with great memories ("Arrest in PS 107 computer ca-

per," Sept. 17). My wonderful teacher was Ms. Ward.

Raymond Kassar was one of my classmates. He went to the Wharton School of Business and became the president of Burlington Mills. He later became the president of Atari, a well-known manufacturer of computer games. Another classmate, Walter Boegemann, lived on Ninth Street where I have lived for 79 years. His son, Paul Boegemann, owns the well-known business, "Paul Signs" here on Fourth Avenue. The family of yet another school pal, Edward Warren, had a well-known delicatessen a few blocks away on Eighth Avenue. We would often drop by to get free samples.

I would call the laptop suspect a coward for selecting young students as his victims, who likely had important data in those computers. He can either replace the original cash value of the computers (he allegedly stole), or leave his punishment up to the jury, which could recommend up to seven years in prison for him.

PS 107 has a wonderful history, and I look forward to reading about it in future stories.

Robert Caire, Jr., Park Slope

Send a letter

By e-mail:
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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). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.



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WOMEN FRAUD

Poll workers cry foul over Lopez-hired hacks

By Aaron Short
 The Brooklyn Paper

Two Bushwick centers affiliated with Assemblyman Vito Lopez — one of which that's already under investigation played host to serious election fraud that helped secure a Lopez victory last month, poll workers charged this week.

A Primary Day poll worker at the Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center asserted that other workers hired by Lopez ignored homework aides employed by the Lopez-affiliated Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Homecare Council who escorted seniors into the voting booth and marked their ballots for Lopez.

"The homeowners went into the booth with every one of them," said the source. "Sometimes there were two attendants. They even pointed to the [Lopez] box to fill in. One time, a senior voted for Lopez's opponent and they brought the ballot back and said, 'He made a mistake.'"

State election law allows a resident to be assisted in marking a ballot by a person selected by the resident. But the

EXCLUSIVE

law prohibits a voter's assistant from "seeking to persuade or induce the voter to vote any particular ticket or for any particular candidate."

The source also charged that a translator, hired by Lopez as a poll worker, was telling seniors how to vote — and who to vote for.

"I can understand Spanish, she was telling them how to vote," said the source.

Voting impermissibly were not limited to Hope Gardens.

On a polling site inside a Lopez-affiliated retirement home on Hiram Street, the building manager actively campaigned for Lopez inside the polling station and filled out affidavit ballots for senior residents who could not vote in person, several poll workers said.

One of the poll workers, Luis Ramos, called the cops, who told her to stop filling out ballots.

"In no way manner shape or form was she supposed to touch the regis-

tration rolls," said Ramos. "But the inspector at the table allowed her. Instead of the voter standing behind the place where you mark your ballots, she was there."

When Ramos came back from a lunch break, he found that the building manager was back at the polling site filling in ballots. Ramos and an agitated co-worker confronted her again outside, to little avail.

"She kept doing that the whole day, but she denied doing it," said Ramos.

"Vito had an opponent this time. And the woman works for Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council [another Lopez-affiliated charity]. There's a conflict there. It stinks to high hell."

The building manager at the Hiram site declined to comment about the incident. And the Board of Elections does not return calls for comment.

The connections between Ridgewood Bushwick and the Democratic Party are more than just a coincidence.

Many of Democratic poll workers at the Hope Gardens and Hiram Street poll sites work for Ridgewood Bushwick, which is currently the subject of three investigations.

One of the duties of a state committee is to hire poll workers on election days, and Lopez often taps the nonprofit's employees for lucrative poll worker jobs that pay between \$200 and \$300 for the day.

"Anybody who works [at Ridgewood Bushwick] is given this job," said Esteban Duran, who lost in a landslide to Lopez for a state committee position. "He doesn't even give other people a chance [at the job]."

Many Bushwick polling sites are located within senior centers, managed by Ridgewood Bushwick, giving its seniors easy access to the voting booth — and "assistance" from interested parties, said Marty Needelman, an attorney with Brooklyn Legal Services.

"Vito got almost 100 percent of the votes in buildings that Ridgewood Bushwick managed," said Needelman. "The property manager controls that site with the poll workers."

It wasn't 100 percent, but it was a Soviet-style landslide for Lopez in those buildings. The Brooklyn Party boss won the Hope Gardens polling site, 139 to 16, or roughly 90 percent, and the Hiram Street site 64 to 89 percent, en route to an easy 70 percent to 29 percent victory over Duran for the state committee position.

TV artist meets his viewers

By Stephen Brown
 The Brooklyn Paper

Their favorite son made it big.

Abdi Farah, the artist who won an exhibit of his work at the Brooklyn Museum after conquering Bravo's "Work of Art" reality TV competition, spoke to an adoring throng of students from his old high school in Maryland last week.

The roughly 250 visiting students from the George Washington Carver Center for Arts and Technology were star-struck by Farah as he took the stage of the Center Auditorium inside the museum — one student even asked the budding artist if he would marry her, much to the crowd's delight.

But Farah displayed the same humility that made him a hit with television audiences, reminding the students about the value of hard work and perseverance.



Reality TV show winner Abdi Farah led a tour of his exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum. Here, Farah, who won Bravo TV's "Work of Art" show, hangs out near his best piece, "Libation."

After giving a brief slideshow of his work and taking questions, Farah guided them to his gallery space, where he signed plenty of autographs, gave more friendly advice and explained the artistic process behind his racially charged sculptures and paintings. Likemost visitors, the students were most struck by the two supine figures stretched out on the floor as if they were dead — both of which were wearing designer Nike shoes.

Farah's art was a hit with the students, but earlier this summer he generated controversy among some critics and museum-goers as he took issue with the notion that a low-brow "reality TV" show had given a beachhead in Brooklyn's most august art institution.

"Work of Art: Abdi Farah" at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000), runs through Oct. 17. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Struggling with faith — and two daughters

The season of rituals started early this year, right after Labor Day. Whether you claim religious membership or not, you can't escape the feasts, fasts, and festivals that cover the calendar from now until Christmas.

I drag my children to services beginning with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and we'll be at it until Hanukkah, the festival of lights. I can make my children attend synagogue, dress up, learn prayers, do dances, but what I secretly want is the very thing over which I have no control: their faith. I feel old-fashioned and very PC saying it, but I'm a believer in, you know, the divine, the eternal, the universal spirit, God. There I probably just blew years of liberal, rational, democratic street cred, but it's true. I find God in babies voices, in each sunset and sunrise, in each of my daughters' hugs. Faith supports me through traffic jams on the Gowanus, adds joy watching my girls sled at the dog park or making cookies for a bake sale.

But as deep as my faith runs inside me, it's impossible for me to give it to my girls because, indeed, I don't know how I found it, given how much I loathed the very rituals that I turn to today. I started brainwashing my oldest when she was too young to protest, strapped in the stroller and wheeled to Welcoming Shabbat (which is really just Jewish Music Together, a sing-a-long version of the Friday evening service).

Next, Religious School started, first one afternoon each week, then two. She never liked going, especially after fifth grade when she went on a weekend retreat which didn't go so well (injuries, rebellion). When I announced she would be attending the trip the following year, her screams claimed that she would be the "only" sixth grader going and how "miserable" she would be. She resented religious school for making her miss team practices and hang-out time. She is 15 now, in the last year of her delightful education

I've forced upon her, culminating in Confirmation, acronyms "confirming" a faith about which she's still not sure. Since her bat mitzvah, she's yanked against her involuntary participation or tried to negotiate her way out. "Since you've made me go, I should get a big Confirmation party."

My younger child has gone through the same indoctrination, but enjoys the experience more. She gets to religious school early to meet her friends, share snacks and read comic books. She was sad to miss the second year of her retreat (scheduling conflict) because she had so much fun the first year. Now approaching her bat mitzvah, the peak of religious demands, she is still excited.

I'm not sure this is what I was after. Watching my girls learning the prayers, the melodies, the stories, I still don't know if this was the right thing to do, requiring their participation in rituals. But I know what it did for me: my faith adds joys, but more — it sustained me when my father died, when the doctor tried to turn my oldest daughter around in utero and the numbers on the fetal heart monitor started dropping like crazy.

Everyone needs something to get them through the break-ups, the college rejections, the lost wallets, the deaths. Ceremony and liturgy told me what to do at those times, but faith is my companion when facing what I feel.

Faith is also a mystery to me. Where did it come from? How did I get it? Like a virus or a gift? My ritual life started by sitting on itchy red velvet chairs, wearing an uncomfortable suit and tie, having to be quiet during long, really long High Holy Day services twice a year. Like my daughter, I really didn't like Sunday School, rushing out the door to go watch football or eat backlogs. It was a chore sloggish through the years until my confirmation. At home though, my mother spoke of God as

The Dad
 By Scott Sager

a presence like a neighbor down the hall. For her, the spiritual was part of one's life, talked about like the weather.

And, most important, it

wasn't in a synagogue where I discovered my belief in God. When I saw my daughter for the first time, at 10 weeks on a fuzzy black and white screen, a small peanut with wings flapping, flying towards this world, I sensed the miraculous. In the woods, looking at a quiet lake, seeing the silver bridge of moonlight on the small, nighttime waves I felt something deep, eternal.

This is the place I want my

daughters to find, to have, to help and sustain them and feed them when they have a hunger no amount of ice cream or cookies will satisfy. For me, that is faith.

I don't know how to take them there, only how to show them a path littered with rituals and hope that somehow one leads to the other. Their road may pass through really boring services and compulsory religious school. In the end they may become artists, scientists, scholars, believers in the power beyond or the powers that be. As a parent, I will never really know how they experience faith, belief, God.

All I can do is pray for them to find what they need, what will carry them through the vagaries of life.

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BIRDS...

Continued from page 1
middle-of-the-night, unannounced, multi-agency operation that rounded up the animals and sent them to gas chambers.

"Wildlife Services" [goal] is to manage resident Canada goose populations to achieve an optimal balance between the positive values and conflicts associated with these birds," Baumaner said. "Near airports, this would mean fewer wildlife hazards and risks."

It is unclear how the controversial operation reduced the hazard to airplanes, as the population of Prospect Park waterfowl has quickly rebounded to more than 100, and many anti-slaughter activists were stunned by the ambition of such a broad kill zone, which was revealed through a Freedom of Information Law request by this newspaper.

"The goal of eliminating geese in seven miles, it's just not possible," said Patrick Kwan, the state director of

the Humane Society of the United States. "We know that wildlife eradication programs don't work." The now-notorious culling was carried out in the name of airline safety, as officials said that the birds must be eliminated to prevent a collision similar to the one that caused the "Miracle on the Hudson," in which a plane crash landed after flying into a flock of geese.

Since then, some 1,235 geese were killed in 2009, and hundreds more were killed in 2010, though Wildlife Services has yet to reveal the exact number of birds it culled. It is unclear whether the operation will be resumed next summer, but some parkgoers are already dreading the notion of more grim reaping.

"To have a city without geese, without respect for wildlife—where does that lead you?" asked Mary Beth Artz, who organized a vigil for the geese last July. "It would be devastating, absolutely devastating."

Park officials: We'll save geese this time

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The goose population of Prospect Park has mostly rebounded from a federal massacre earlier this summer—but park officials now say they'll control the bird numbers to avoid another feathered mass murder.

A committee of park administrators, birders, academics, environmentalists and Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope) convened last month as part of a multi-faceted, long-term approach to controlling the bird population.

"We want to keep their numbers low enough so the feds don't have to come back," said Eugene Patron, a spokesman for Prospect Park.

The group convened under the best of circumstances, the head of



Park officials are looking at ways to save geese—before the feds have to move in again.

Prospect Park, who herself was opposed to the waterfowl culling, though she never spoke out against it.

Thomas's last major decision before she retires from her job early next year will be to define a new wildlife management plan for the park and present it to the public.

"If successful it could be implemented elsewhere," said Patron, who added, "I'm sure it'll be called her 'swan song.'"

mentation has already been put in place: signs discouraging parkgoers from feeding the birds.

It was only two months ago that agents from Wildlife Services, an advisory of the federal Department of Agriculture, entered Prospect Park under cover of darkness and corralled some 290 geese and their baby goslings. The agents then threw the birds in a gas chamber—a move that shocked the borough and reverberated throughout the nation.

Federal, city and state officials said the mass culling was necessary to ensure airline safety and prevent a disaster similar to the so-called



In hopes of forestalling another federal slaughter of the growing population of geese, Prospect Park officials are reaching out to park users, like this tyke, to stop feeding the fowl.

the various parties who attended last week's meeting of the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee.

"[The culling] was hard to justify from their point of view," said Patron, who hastened to add there were no aviation experts on the panel.

The committee will convene one more time and then make a presentation to the public sometime before the end of the year, Patron said.

"We can't guarantee the feds won't come again," he added, "but we get to do what we can."

PARK...

Continued from page 1
faced a barrage of criticism in her silent response to the goose slaughter in July. Nine days after the operation, the under-fire Thomas finally issued a letter addressing the issue, though one that did little

to quiet critics. "A lot of people were angry about this, and she was silent," said Tony Chiappelloni, the president of FIDO, a dog walkers advocacy group.

Chiappelloni added that the geese massacre had made

Thomas's final year as the boss of Prospect Park a difficult one.

"Look, she put her heart and soul into that park, she's done a lot—but we didn't know what was going on [after the slaughter]. I couldn't say whether she authorized it or not, I didn't know, I had no idea!"

Patron said that one of

were to take to the streets the next morning.

Last February, the nurses marched in front of the hospital at Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street protesting the very same issue over contractual language pertaining to job security, only weeks after the merger was announced.

That time, the parties reached an agreement that lasted only six months, leading

to Thursday's near-protest.

Now, the nurses and the hospital are likely to sign another contract that lasts only three months—setting the stage for another round of negotiations in the near future.

"We're hoping the next contract will be more agreeable," Hoffman said.

A spokeswoman for LICH did not get back to us.

LICH...

Continued from page 1
—in this case with SUNY Downstate, a hospital in Flatbush, which pulled LICH back from the brink of financial ruin earlier this year.

"We fought for language that said that if the employer has a merger then the nurses'

jobs are protected—that they couldn't fire half the nurses when the merger goes through," said union spokeswoman Randi Hoffman.

The hospital administration reached the language at 6 pm on Wednesday night—only hours before the nurses

SIGN...

Continued from page 1
on's name (and was featured in the final season of "Welcome Back, Kotter").

"We hope that someone will recall how exactly these different signs came to be," said Mark Zastovich, a spokesman for Markowitz.

Until this week, the restored sign was being kept under wraps—literally in the Loraleum Street lobby of Borough Hall to preserve the "vocal" moment of Thursday's event. But our print deadline was looming, so we had no compunction about reaching out to Leone in advance.

Reached via a regular telephone, the former Beep recalled the inspiration for the sign he commissioned during his six-year stint as the borough's supreme leader during the dark days of 1970 to 1976.

"In those days, you always had to be Brooklyn-positive," said Leone. "I used to say, 'One out of every 80 people that live in American live in Brooklyn! If you consider people that were born here, worked here, and have rel-

atives here, then one out of 10 people have come to Brooklyn!'"

"Then I'd close with, 'If Brooklyn were still a separate city, it would be the fourth-largest city in America!'"

From there, Leone got the idea to put "a nice welcome sign" on the Belt Parkway. Markowitz has followed in his predecessor's footsteps by commissioning his own signs at various entrances to the Borough of Kings, which bear slogans such as "Leaving Brooklyn—Fuhgeddaboutit!" and "Brooklyn: How sweet it is!" So, it's no surprise that Markowitz was keen to obtain the original.

It wasn't hard to locate—it had been in Gargiolo's restaurant in Coney Island since a going-away party for Leone in 1976. Owner Nino Russo had promised to give the sign to Markowitz if he won a third term—a political inevitability as certain as the sunrise. Hence Thursday's unveiling featuring Leone, who is in his 80s and retired, but still lives in Bay Ridge.

And some "Sweethearts" were even supposed to show up.

SPACE...

Continued from page 1
the big blue marble's low atmosphere.

Geissbuhler was happy with the mission's out-of-this-world success, but didn't want to encourage others to mimic his homemade Hubble without first checking with the authorities.

That might be prudent advice, since a spokesperson from the Federal Aviation Administration said that launching such unmanned balloons could violate several laws if the payload is too big or heavier than four pounds.

And it's always illegal to launch from an urban area—a rule that Geissbuhler got around by using an hour north to Newburgh.

Geissbuhler said he made sure to follow FAA protocol, and added that his payload was only a pound-and-a-half.

He also took lots of time to prepare.

The balloonist and his son spent eight hours planning, which included "testing" at their home and in Prospect Park, as well as devising a simple method for retrieving the package once it landed back on Earth.

They included an iPhone inside the balloon's Styrofoam case, and used the Internet to locate the package, which ended up high in a tree.

Hand-warmers kept the camera functional in the -60-degree frigidty of space.

The video has exploded on the Internet, garnering

over a half-million hits and inspiring many gossamered blog posts. Judging from the viewer comments, the footage also cements Geissbuhler's status as world's greatest dad—although he might have been just as excited as his boy.

"My son, Max, wanted to build a rocket. But honestly, I would have done it without him," he said.

Before takeoff, the camera captures all the fun: the pre-flight checklist, the giddy countdown, liftoff and then the blissful ride the upper atmosphere and space. At almost exactly 19 miles above earth, the video captures the moment when the balloon bursts and the spacecraft begins its descent at 150 mph.

The camera cut just seconds before landing, and doesn't tell how this story almost had a major malfunction.

The payload landed in a dense forest at night, and Geissbuhler couldn't find it. What he did eventually find was a light that had broken off and fallen to the ground, and that saved the entire project.

"We found the light just before we went out to give up," Geissbuhler said. "It turned out the ship was in the tree, because it had broken off and fallen to the ground, and that saved the entire project."

"This thing went to space!" the caption reads.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

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What they do get is an intelligent, fun evening at the theater made by people who absolutely love being onstage.

Meineck thinks there's no reason Shakespeare can't be accessible, and maintains that an Aquila show should be an excellent date night option. Too often, he says, we think we can only enjoy Shakespeare in a park with a bottle of wine, assume it will bore us to tears, smirk at its own cleverness, and generally not engage us. "You should not even be aware that you are watching a 'Shakespeare' play with our work."

The material, Meineck says, is universal.

Aquila's version of the band's classic lands at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 3 pm.

Set in Greece, this production has a 1930s feel, set in a ruined Greek theater—an overgrown, mystical, childlike world. Aquila wanted to emphasize the presence of the Greeks as a sort of mystical past for the contemporary characters happened upon it.

"The play's fairies are English myth," says Meineck. "Greece has its own myth. Shakespeare sort of put them together."

Aquagives equal voice to characters of all classes, employs a multiracial cast, and really tries to speak to the audience. Expect to see highlighted working-class characters, as the mechanicals stumble into the ruin and discover the magic of a theater.

This production embodies the company's biggest mission—to breathe new life into touring theater. "It is the responsibility of artists to be global," Meineck says. Although based in New York for a decade, Aquila is devoted to actors developing skills through touring and enriching audiences everywhere in Shakespeare, Greek and other classic plays. The best plays, he says, combine art and politics, can mean different things to different people, and through talkbacks, can allow dialogue on conflict-laden topics to commence.

A British Royal Marine in his youth and a professor of Classics at NYU today, Meineck finds that classical theater speaks deeply to the military demographic. In "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Here you have this soldier [Theseus] who has not been very nice to his family, has taken a war bride [his queen], and needs an otherworldly thing to happen to make everything right." Of course, he adds, "Midsummer" is one of those plays that you come back to because it really is a great play.

Aquila targets all ethnic groups, and veterans specifically. These days, he says, working class people go to the library to interact with people and information, not necessarily the theater. By exposing people to professors and playwrights, allowing them to access the greatest minds of our time, Meineck hopes to create a conversation between cultures.

Aquila Theater Company's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (Campus Road at Hill Place in Flatbush, 718) 951-4000, Sunday, Oct. 17 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$27 (in advance), \$30 (at the door). For info, visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

Continued from page 1
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SPAN

Residents choose design to replace old Kosciuszko

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The people have spoken, and they want a suspended cable-stayed bridge to take the place of the tired Kosciuszko Bridge.

The state Department of Transportation gave Brooklyn and Queens a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in February to choose one of four designs for the long-awaited replacement span—an aesthetic decision in the more important process of widening the current bridge from six to nine lanes, adding a shoulder and a bike lane, and

eliminating the Kosciuszko's notorious steep incline.

The runaway choice? A sleek cable-stayed bridge, a modern, heavy-vehicle take on the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Leaning Tower Bridge in London. The design was chosen by a panel of judges in this area (they were here first), one resident said. "The cable-stayed design reminds me of an Indian dancing with his head back of feathers on, and each cable represents one of his long feathers flowing from his costume."

A total of 101 votes were cast: 53 for the cable-stayed

design, 37 for the Bayonne Bridge knock-off, a suspended bridge, 13 for the dull but view-preserving box girder, and 18 for the highway-like deck arch. The state hasn't made a final decision on the design yet, but officials predicted that the community votes would serve as a "critical element of the main span selection process."

But the department has bigger fish to fry than the aesthetics: drivers just want the city to get it done. The current bridge is constantly in gridlock, with some 160,000 daily drivers pushing forward—very slowly—at on- and off-ramps, making two important lanes. The new bridge is supposed to cure all these problems.

Luckily, project manager Robert Adams has said that the \$1 billion needed to finish construction—which ballooned from \$700 million last year due to a longer build-out time—is already there, using through federal funding,

and that the tentative completion date is in 2017.

The refurbished, now 60-year-old bridge would last another century and hold the same name (pronounced "coss-kyoo-ko"), after Tadeusz Kosciuszko, an instrumental Polish general in the American Revolutionary War.

The tax is back

Sales tax on clothes and shoes kick in

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

The next time you go clothes shopping, bring an extra 4.375 percent with you.

The cash-strapped state has again added a 4.375-percent tax on clothes and shoes costing under \$110, effective on Friday.

The tax, which hands over four percent to state coffers and .375 percent to the MTA, had been levied on and off for years. It was most recently rescinded in 2006. But facing an \$8.2-billion deficit, the state decided to reinstate the tax this summer, but delayed instituting it until Oct. 1, the day after the appearance of so-called back-to-school shoppers.

"We have all the funding in our five- and 10-year budgets," Adams said earlier this year and reconfirmed this week.

The refurbished, now 60-year-old bridge would last another century and hold the same name (pronounced "coss-kyoo-ko"), after Tadeusz Kosciuszko, an instrumental Polish general in the American Revolutionary War.

Still, the move doesn't sit well with Brooklyn retailers.

"When there's an additional cost on basic clothing items, you're going to feel a pinch," said Carl Hum, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

"Shoppers will feel it and so will the vendors. It could stall the growth of retail operations opening in the borough."

Maybe they're right. It's charged its 4.5-percent sales tax on clothing under \$110 since Sep-

tember, 2005, meaning that shoppers don't have to pay the extra 4.375-percent sales tax on top of the purchase price. A law now says that next April 1, the state will again stop taxing clothing—but only on shoes and garments that cost \$55 or less.

Yet, Hum is still hoping the tax will one day go away completely.

"One the state has more robust tax base, maybe they'll realize that they can do a lot more with money than vinegar," he said.

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Clothes shopping just got a tiny bit more expensive thanks to the return of sales tax on garments.

tember, 2005, meaning that shoppers don't have to pay the extra 4.375-percent sales tax on top of the purchase price. A law now says that next April 1, the state will again stop taxing clothing—but only on shoes and garments that cost \$55 or less.

Yet, Hum is still hoping the tax will one day go away completely.

"One the state has more robust tax base, maybe they'll realize that they can do a lot more with money than vinegar," he said.

Clothes shopping just got a tiny bit more expensive thanks to the return of sales tax on garments.

OF OBJECT OF ACTION

STATE OF NEW YORK, DISTRICT COURT, COUNTY OF KINGS, FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE

HSCB BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE ELLIOTT TRUST, SERVS

2007-1 Plaintiff, vs. CHERILL H. HARELL, Defendant

INDEX NO. 100-11343/09 MORTGAGED PREMISES: 932 EAST 83RD STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11235, S.F. 6,000, 001/20

NOTICE is hereby given that an Order entered by the Court on 09/24/2010, bearing Index Number NC-001002-10(K), a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to Assume the name of First Sean Middle Kevin Last Middle Marie Last Daniel

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Brooklyn Union Gas » KeySpan Energy
 » National Grid » Brooklyn Union Gas
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 Union Gas » KeySpan Energy » National Grid
 Brooklyn Union Gas » KeySpan Energy » National

nationalgreed?

The New Name for Your Gas Company?

Monopolies are great for investors, not so great for their customers and workers. That's the case with **National Grid**, which used to be known as **Brooklyn Union Gas** and then **KeySpan Energy**. Call them, "**National Greed.**"

Through the corporate name changes, the members of TWU Local 101 have brought gas service to your home, repaired leaks and cracked mains, and dispatched crews to provide great service since 1947. We've installed thousands new mains, taken millions of bill payments, and maintained an enviable safety record throughout. We make sure pipeline explosions like the one that demolished 56 homes in San Bruno, California don't happen here. **You know us.** You don't know **National Greed.**



National Grid PLC is a British-owned company that bought KeySpan Energy for \$7.3 billion. Now, it has a monopoly on gas lines and distribution in the Eastern U.S. Two dozen former KeySpan executives took huge payouts on their way out. Now it's time to pay back the investors, and for customers and workers to take it in the neck.

Stock market investors like National Grid stock because, to quote one analyst, "The stock works as a great hedge against a declining dollar. With the dividend paid in pounds and converted into U.S. dollars, it becomes even more valuable to U.S. investors if the dollar declines — a bet I am willing to make."⁽¹⁾

National Grid's business isn't about our neighborhoods. It's about profit, pure and simple — despite what you may read in the cheery notices you get with your monthly gas bill.

On October 15, over 1,500 National Grid workers could be on the street, because the company wants to slash wages and benefits. They want to rip up our contract and pay new workers \$9 an hour, and get rid of paid holidays including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, and Christmas Eve for new hires. If we don't like it, the company says, they'll take our customer service jobs and ship them to Syracuse. **They say they'll lock out National Grid employees, endangering public safety.**

Taking jobs out of Brooklyn and Queens. Taking money out of NYC and the USA.

We are putting you, our neighbors, on alert. Do the British really care about Brooklyn and Queens customers and workers and the safety of our neighborhoods? We'll keep you advised.

Say No To Grid-Lock On October 15.

Brought to you by: Transport Workers Union of America Local 101 | 5724 2nd Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220

Marsha Spinowitz
President Local 101

Michael Conigliaro
Vice-President

Josephine Arroyo
Financial Sec'y-Treasurer

Frank Cinque
Recording Secretary

And the Local 101 Executive Board



⁽¹⁾ "National Grid's Boring Little Secret," from the Motley Fool financial advisor website.