

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE BROOKLYN PAPER

The Brooklyn Paper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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2010: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

12 months of crazy

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
January
The Brooklyn Paper

ALL ABOARD!
Ribbon cut on new LIRR gateway

Fear Factor
New terrors in regard to...
The tomb raters

HIGH IN THE HOG
Fruity! A house made of pork

SUGARLAND
Domino project ready to take its lumps

Whole Foods will clean up site, but store is uncertain

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
January
The Brooklyn Paper

LUNA NEW YEAR
Camp going back to future

OVERKILL
Cops: LRR's bollards are really big

'Reflecting' in Brooklyn
BTV's memorial is named after Henry David Thoreau

PARROT TROOPER!
Bird found after three days on the lam

Dem boss drives Ford thru B'klyn

Report: Brownstones are down zones

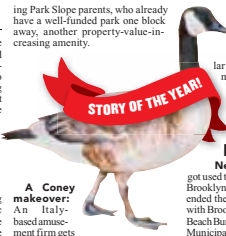
Compiled by our crack staff
The Brooklyn Paper

What a year it was — from the installation of the Long Island Rail Road's massive stone bollards at its new Atlantic Terminal to the snowstorm of the century during the last week of 2010. And through it all, The Brooklyn Paper has been there for you (try to remember us with something nice next Christmas!). So without further ado, here it is — our loving, somewhat cynical tribute to 2010.

January
Concrete coffin: The new Long Island Rail Road opens at Atlantic Terminal and everyone rips the granite sarcophagi outside that give the place the look of a Green Zone fortified bunker. Not only did the NYPD admit that the cement bollards were bigger than they needed to be, but even Bruce Ratner's architects said they stunk.

Domino falls: The city begins its public review of Williamsburg's largest development project, the former Domino factory, leading to months of predictable bickering and the inevitable approval by City Council.

Slope armory: Finally! The long-delayed Park Slope Armory opens, giv-



(the name refers to a Jewish neighborhood in owner Noah Bernamoff's native Montreal). The place becomes so popular that Brooklyn Paper lunch meetings quickly need to be scheduled as breakfast meetings, before being turned into "Gersh picks up the deli before coming into the office" meetings.

February
New moniker: Just when we got used to calling it Keyspan Park, the Brooklyn Cyclones and National Grid ended their naming rights partnership with Brooklyn's "field of dreams." The Beach Bums eventually inked a deal with Municipal Credit Union to re-name the green — tsk! — M.C.U. Park. But the Cyclones were the same old team on the field — carving a swath of destruction through the New York-Penn League, yet failing in the playoffs.

Brooklyn poet: Tina Chang is named Brooklyn's poet laureate, and promptly tells us that she considers the edge of the Gowanus Canal the most romantic spot in Brooklyn — we have a lot in common.

Jackson station: The MTA says See 2010 on page 3

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
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STATE'S YARDS TERROR PLAN
THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE!
Just these two e-mails about arena security

Marion's gone
Missing woman from Stone

You pick the new Kosciuszko Bridge

WAR OF THE ROSE!
Red Hook wine shops battle it out

Crash on Flatbush
Person left for dead in hit & run

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
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Blood in the Park
Prospect Park has become a macabre crime scene

'Domi-NO!'
New residents Leda reject their project as urban blight

Hating hate
Louds gather at gay bath night

Just a Tish-grace!
Catholicism's sacred sites in Queens beach

Stable situation for horses

SUNSET SIPPIN'!
Brooklyn's new wine scene

Southern dis-comfort
Real change? Not so much

LOWEST PARKING RATES IN THE AREA

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
May
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Bling there, done that
Urban Outfitters accused of copying local's designs

Pipe down!
Bay Ridge board votes for waterfront on hookah bars

First Walmart protest
Pam Lombard supporters — but rally is tiny

A PUPPY PARADISE
Chow-hounders get a head for South Ocean dog run

is for lemon
WPA bridge, bank listed shuttles buses

NO, THANKS
Smoking-drinking, low-riding, fatherless Fosters

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
June
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Brownstone drug kingpin
Queen's home becomes a prescription pill shop

KILLING FIELDS
Feds slaughter hundreds of Prospect Park geese

Park lovers outraged

ARENA IN NAME ONLY
Best Western capitulates on Barclays Center

It's hot out!

SUV kills Vespa mom

Superfund takes this 'toll'
Businesses protest, officials state it's all about money

Youth will be served
Larger pizza 10 years with its little kid

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
July
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DEEP DEFEND GOOSE MASSACRE
THEY HAD TO DIE
GOOSE MASSACRE

Vigil for the lost

Heights irked by film series
New location draws noise complaints

GET ON THE POLE
Strip club targeted, Russian crime stories

Shots after party
Three victims, one killed

DA eyes Vespa mom death

Bridge two far!
New bridge, also bridge

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
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MARTY'S CHAIN GANG
Bung's concert series adds inmates to cut costs

Grimaldi's saved
But location will not stay

WHAT TRASH?
Park officials give \$100,000 a free ride in B'klyn park, but creek flows on despite

Name the Nets
Russian owner to change name of Brooklyn-based basketball team

They'll bury him
Man using sophisticated 'Cancer' T-shirts

The 'Apple' of Downtown's eye

City declared 'no fly zone'

Tiny criminals
Burglars in Queens office

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
September
The Brooklyn Paper

TORNADO HITS BORO
National Weather Service confirms that last week's storm was a twister

FLAT TIRE!
Bike rider's tire goes flat on road

Van plan scam?
Dad's van on former BTV made car go anywhere

BUMP IN THE TRUNK
City of the Flatbush area

BIG MAN IN THE NEWS: VITO LOPEZ
'I have cancer'

Vito's charity shakeup
City took food — and ended the business

INSIDE: COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH!
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SURVEY SAYS
People's priorities, Prospect Park West bike lane is a hit

GIN FIZZ
The house mother does Brooklyn's good cause

TOWER TURMOIL
'Skyscraper District' plan assailed

RABIES!
Park visitors warned

Municipal Building on the market

Hate crime in W'burg

PLUG IT UP
Important overnight

Death from the sky

Runaway bride salvages wedding

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SNOW JOB!

Brooklyn vents its fury over city's lame blizzard response

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper

The winter of Brooklyn's discontent lingered into Wednesday as borough streets from Williamsburg to Sheepshead Bay remained unplowed more than 72 hours after the city's fifth-worst snowstorm dumped two feet of snow.

Residents went snow blind with rage at the city's abom-

inably glacial response to the blizzard of 2010 — still fuming even after Mayor Blyden's admission on Tuesday that "some things that we probably could've done better."

The mea culpa did little to warm 12th Street resident Corey Snyder, whose block



between Seventh and Eighth avenues remained unplowed by midday Wednesday. "It's just so lame," he said. "We've had deeper snowfall, but I've never seen the re-

sponse so slow."

Elevated subway tracks — common in borough, though virtually unheard of in Manhattan — were rendered impassable for nearly three days. Service to most train lines was finally restored by Wednesday afternoon, but most borough buses remain in park, making travel a chore or an impossibility. One B69 bus was frozen solid to Seventh Avenue in Park Slope on Sunday and was still there on Wednesday morning, its flashing sign reading, "Not in Service."

"This isn't the worst storm we've ever had, but it seems to be the worst response to any major storm in recent memory," said Councilman Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg).

Indeed, much of Brooklyn remained inaccessible by public or private transportation. Major arteries, such as Nassau Avenue in Greenpoint and Fourth Avenue in Park Slope, were impassable through Tuesday.

Beyond the inconvenience of it all, the storm itself caused some serious damage. The roof of a parking garage on Second Street in Park Slope collapsed, shutting down Fourth Avenue from Atlantic Avenue to Eighth Street on Monday. Wind and snow damaged the "bubble" covers at the Prospect Park Tennis Center, which put out an all-points-bulletin for volunteers to shovel off the snow so that games could resume.

But even three days after the storm began, Union Street looked more like Crested Butte than Cobble Hill, more Catamount than Carroll Gardens. Since the storm, 76th Precinct cops — not sanitation workers driving plows — were forced to put down their night sticks and picked up shovels to help dig out stranded residents.

"It's been crazy here," a police source said. Entire neighborhoods, such as Greenwood Heights, from 24th Street to the Prospect Expressway, were unplowed. But there was finally (some) joy in Muddville on Wednesday.

"I am happy my street was cleared, especially when we know that tonier neighborhoods, mostly in Manhattan were taken care of first," said Aaron Brashear, a Greenwood Heights activist.

But even when the plows finally showed up, they did a lousy job, Brashear observed — and documented on YouTube. "They showed up at 1:30 am, in a questionable manner that I would call as backward, ramming," he charged.

But at least the Green-



Following the ferocious storm, for most of the Monday, traffic in Brooklyn looked like the intersection of Fifth Avenue and 21st Street, where even a snowplow got stuck.



(At left) Chris Landis, a resident of unplowed 13th Street, was frustrated on Wednesday, and this B69 was still stuck at the corner of Ninth Street and Seventh Avenue.

wood Heights plow didn't run amok like a Sanitation tractor infamously did on Laramie Street on Monday, laying waste to three cars as it bulled its way clear of a snow trap. The disaster was captured on YouTube and watched by 1.5 million people by Wednesday.

The neglect harkened to 1969, when just 15 inches of snow unexpectedly fell on the city, yet paralyzed Queens, whose streets remained unplowed for days. Borough President Markowitz branded Brooklyn 2010 the Queens of

1969. "I would doubt the Upper East Side is like this. Or the Upper West Side for that matter," he said. "Something happened that we got behind the curve. And Brooklyn... took the brunt of it."

Sanitation Commission John Doherty insisted that the culprit was simply the storm's ferocity, though abandoned cars at a variety of intersections didn't help the clean-up effort. "We can't get through the streets," he said on Tuesday.

At the intersection of Fifth Avenue and 21st Street in the

South Slope, for example, a traffic jam of abandoned cars impounded a plow, rendering the vehicle impotent.

The agency said it assembled 365 salt spreaders, 1,700 plows and 2,000 workers to clean up the mess — but long-time Bloomberg critic state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Mill Basin) said it wasn't enough, calling the debacle a "colossal failure." And Bloomberg ally Councilwoman Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) called the city's response "unacceptable" and vowed to hold hearings on Jan. 10.

Until Wednesday, train service was suspended in much of southern Brooklyn, trapping the area in a snowy isolation. Transit spokeswoman Deirdre Parker said the storm scuttled the agency's pre-blizzard preparations, which included moving trains from outdoor yards to enclosed areas.

"It just overwhelmed our equipment," she said, as on the electrified rail stalled trains, some as long as seven hours. "We had snow blowers, but at some point during a blizzard, it just blows right back."

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Dead geese, dueling pols, bike wars, giant coffins and a genuine twister!

Continued from page 1

that it will not rename the Hoyt-Schermerhorn stop after Michael Jackson, but the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership pushes its plan to hang a mural of the late great pop star above the station entrance.

Jumpin' Jehovahs: The Jehovah Witnesses announce plans to leave Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO after 101 years for a compound in upstate New York, no doubt because they got tired of running into actor Paul Giamatti, who kept pestering them to see his movies. But their departure may bring about a gift for Brooklyn Bridge Park enthusiasts, as parks officials voted at year's end to consider using tax revenue from the former headquarters to help maintain the park.

March:

Yards groundbreaking: Developer Bruce Ratner, Gov. Paterson and future Gov. Jay-Z break ground at Atlantic Yards while about 100 counterprotesters mostly break Borough President Markowitz's chops. By year's end, the first set of steel pillars were up and Ratner was already making production deals.

It's a Tish-grace: Councilwoman Tish James (D-Fort Greene) files a lawsuit against an itinerant worker for walking into the back of his truck — and then drops it after we wrote about it (and after realizing that you can't sue a guy when you bump your knee into a parked car).

Meadows of shame: Reporter Stephen Brown stumbles upon a horrific scene of animal cruelty in Prospect Park, leading to a gripping mystery that we have already sold in Miramax as "The Butcher of Prospect Park," starring Alec Baldwin as The Butcher and Björk as a murdered goose. Brown's sighting was just the first of many throughout the year, a number of mysterious entrails, pools of blood and disposed carcasses were found by parkgoers in the same spot near the lake — most disturbingly two bags of animal parts and bones and a goat's head found within two days of each other in October.

Bridge bark: Brooklyn's most anticipated park in two decades, Brooklyn Bridge Park, finally opens but nobody still has any idea how to play it.

The glorious Pier 1 opened in March, followed by Pier 6 in June, which offered unparalleled views of the Manhattan skyline to the public as well as movie nights (it was thoroughly crowded during a screening of "The Big Lebowski"). But not everything went smoothly, when the city installed the metal orbs in the park that literally scared the children that played on them after heating up above 120 degrees.

April

Broad appeal: Malory Hagin, 21, screamed Miss Brooklyn, leading many Brooklynites to say, "There's a Miss Brooklyn pageant?"

McMahon stumbles: Ominous signs begin in Rep. Mike McMahon's (D-Bay Ridge) reelection campaign, as liberal pundits take over his opposition to President Obama's landmark health care reform bill.

Chip theater: Community Board 13 approves the potato chip amphitheater backed by Borough President Markowitz at Avenue L, but residents remain worried that they will constantly be disturbed by noise from American Idol also-rans such as Clay Aiken and the guy with the eye masera.

Freddy's closes: Beloved dive bar Freddy's is shut to make room for Bruce Ratner's basketball arena, but not before after an epic final party that left us wondering how the hell we ended up in the Greenpoint Hotel handoff to Norm Oden and New Jersey. Net forward Brock Lopez.

May

Color it Brooklyn beige: The city backed off a plan to repaint the Brooklyn Bridge "Queensborough Tan," blaming the mistake on a clerical error. Whoops! Double-whops, in fact, as historical records indicate that the iconic



Photo by Jeffery M. Kramer

span was originally Rawlins Red, though city officials disputed that, claiming that the 126-year-old landmark was originally painted in two shades of buff. Oh, OK?

Don't hold your breath: The city officials acknowledged what residents have noticed for months — regular street receptacle pickups along Brooklyn's commercial strips have been cut to twice a week, instead of five to seven days a week.

Claw foot: The underground lobster roll dealer, Dr. Claw, got spotted (illegally) selling his delicious treats in Greenpoint. Then he got threatened with arrest in August (but by year's end, we insiders still knew where to get our rednecked roll. Don't tell the cops!).

Smoked out: Bay Ridge's community board voted for a crackdown on hookah bars, whose sickly sweet smoke was allegedly pouring into nearby homes (whose were the lucky ones?). In response to the vote, we sent our intern to get high (and he did — legally).

Urban counterfeits: Two vendors at Park Avenue Urban Outfitters of stealing their haute line of jewelry. The resemblance is indeed uncanny — but the shocking revelation did little to undermine the clothing chain in the park that literally scared the children that played on them after heating up above 120 degrees.

June

Boardless Boardwalk: City officials confirmed a plan to replace sections of the historic Riegelmann Boardwalk with concrete. The rationale: It's cheaper to maintain. But locals cry, "We want a Boardwalk, not a sidewalk!"

Bike complain: The controversial Prospect Park West bike lane finally opened, and they started a war between cyclists and drivers that continues to this day. But despite Borough President Markowitz's hatred for the bike lane, the city says it's working (but try telling that to an old lady who lives on Prospect Park West).

Old Gray jerk: The New York Times threatened to sue the DUMBO shirt-printing business, Neighborhoods, for "illegally" selling a "trademarked" New York Herald Tribune logo on a T-shirt. That claim is still in dispute, but one thing's for sure — you just picked up the better community newspaper.

July

Frankly, we were disappointed: Weiner-gobbling churp Cheesnut won the annual Nana's Hot Dog Eating Contest, downing 54 hot dogs and buns compared to his record-breaking 68 HDB performance a year earlier. It was a far worse day for former champ Takeru Kobayashi, who was barred from the contest after



Photo by Jeffery M. Kramer

declaring his "free agency," then was later arrested when he rushed the stage as the competition came to an end. Though by August, Kobayashi had beaten the rap, setting the stage for one heck of a rematch (or remand). Today, the scorned Kobayashi can't even eat an entire pizza in two minutes, a symbol of his fall from greatness.

Goopside: The fedgagged hundreds of Prospect Park geese in the night, citing airplane safety. That's right — Beaky's dead. Target's dead. Every one of them, dead. Our subsequent bulletproof coverage, however, revealed that Prospect Park is actually outside the mandated safety zone, and that Mayor Bloomberg ordered the hit to avoid liability suits.

Hipster eviction: Cops busted a group of Clinton Hill artists, who fought for their right to party (to no avail). Damn those noise and illegal residency violations!

August

Con'certs: We discovered that Borough President Markowitz's concert series used Riders Island inmates in striped jumpsuits to set up and remove chairs in Aspie Levy Park. Markowitz said the free labor saved him money, but we were angry because the scheme got the song "Chain Gang" stuck in our heads all summer. "That's the sound of the men working on the chain (huah) gaang!"

Bike Crusader: An anonymously evil anti-bike vigilante told us he or she was gluing bike locks in Williamsburg, because the "Vuppies are running the whole damn city!" They are, but is Crazy Glue going to fix that?

Bedbug assault: The bedbugs continued their front on the Downtown justice system this month, hitting several big shot of bedbug scare — with adorable bedbug-sniffing dog photos!

Rest in pieces: The Department of Sanitation promised to remove the "Ghost Bikes," which memorialized dead bikers, in a plan to get rid of abandoned bikes on city streets. Later, the Ghost Bike team



Photo by Jeffery M. Kramer

made the city realize that, oh wait, people want these around.

September

Dust up: We uncovered — or created, depending on your viewpoint — controversy at a "historically insensitive" renaming contest for Bay Ridge's Dust Bowl, which was eventually renamed, "Quaker Parrot Park at the Dust Bowl."

Imperfect storm: Brooklyn was walloped by the storm of the decade, which the feds later confirmed was a tornado. Even President Obama got in on the action, declaring the borough a disaster zone, though that was small comfort to residents near the Gowanus Canal, which briefly turned into a river of human waste (and a YouTube sensation) during the storm.

Trolley conebake: The city said it would finally consider returning trolleys as a form of mass transit. Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan said experts are "Looking back to the future." No word on Tying cars just yet.

Ring ding: A Florida man was proposing to his girlfriend on the Brooklyn Bridge when he dropped the 6-carat diamond engagement ring onto scaffolding far below. Transportation workers recovered the ring, returning it to the happy, but stressed-out, couple.

October

Welcome to the club: Polluted Newtown Creek joined the Gowanus Canal as a Superfund site, proving true the age-old chestnut, "Polluted waterways come in pairs." The designation is the first step in a decade-long \$500-million clean up.

Supersize me: A Barneys' Coop opened on Atlantic Avenue, but our normal-sized gal reporter wasn't too impressed by being dubbed "too fat" for the fancy clothes that are clearly targeted to a select — and apparently gaunt — clientele.

Windy city: Red Hook could be home to the borough's first modern windmill, potentially transforming the neighborhood into a "New Holland." (Which sure beats the neighborhood's original name: "New Holland.")

Groovy pet ential: A community theater group in Park Slope revived the marijuana play "Reefer Madness," a spoof on the anti-weed propaganda films of the 1950s. We don't know about the play, but those Reese's peanut butter cups sold during intermission were amazing.

Silent beep: Borough Hall went silent — mercifully, some may say — for a week after Borough President Markowitz lost his voice after a throat operation. The prolaps pol regaled his prodigious pipes in no time.

Bad'love: A Park Slope bodega owner retained his Seventh Avenue store The Bad Wife — but he insisted that his dearly beloved is quite the opposite. "She's the queen," said Jim Lee. Local feminists were appalled.

November

Grimm day: Republican Michael Grimm bested one-and-done Democratic Rep. Mike McMahon to become Bay Ridge's next congressman. We welcomed Grimm — whose piercing blue eyes were the

talk of the office — with a warm editorial. He takes off just after the new year.

Fur Pete's sake: Brooklyn designers and artists teamed up to stage Nutria-palooza, a fashion show and wetlands benefit in Bushwick. The creatures are described as "an invasive pest" — just as Bay Ridge's beloved Quaker turnouts once were dubbed.

Thank you R.J. Reynolds: The tobacco giant must hate hipsters as much as everyone else they've launched a "Williamsburg" version of Camel cigarettes, a brand it says is not about hip, but rather, "breaking free."

Pizza to go: Manhattan burger shrine Shake Shack is coming to Downtown, and that means Tony's Famous Pizzeria — a quintessential greasy slice joint — will be getting the boot.

The descent: Greenpoint resident Philippa Kaye was passing Flatbush and Fifth when she encountered a hole in the sidewalk so huge she just had to climb in. The city fixed the chasm after we published our photo-filled "sinking leaping," "lowdown shame," "the hole truth," we could go on) story.

Smokin' warehouses: The St. Ann's Warehouse theater company was awarded the contract to renovate the vacant Tobacco Warehouse in Brooklyn Bridge Park, converting it into a \$15-million mixed-use performance hall and plaza.

Exxon gassed: The state reached a settlement with Exxon-Mobil, forcing the energy giant to shell out \$25 million for projects to improve the area near the Greenpoint spill, which it is liable. But critics say that the energy giant should pay more.

December

Green thief: Smartphones were shaken to the core when at least four women had their fancy iPhones stolen across three precincts by a thief on a bicycle — a chilling reminder of a crime wave cops thought they'd pitted last fall.

Bank on it: A low-rent hotel chain paid \$4.5 million for the iconic Williamsburg Savings Bank branch on a high-end lodge, restaurant or retail shopping center.

Tunnel vision: The Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel will be renamed for Brooklyn legend Hugh Carey the Park Slope congressman who as the governor is credited with rescuing New York from fiscal ruin. By comparison, a tunnel seems a bit shabby.

Parker's plight: A jury acquitted Sen. Kevin Parker of felony assault charges arising from a 2009 tussle with a New York Post photographer. The pugacious pol was found guilty of two misdemeanors, could be sent to the slammer for a year, but will — after all that — probably get to keep his office.

Two-wheeled fury: Borough President Markowitz remains so angry about the Prospect Park West bike lane that he sang his vitriol at a City Council hearing, a version of "My Favorite Things" called "The Borough of Lanes" that he later used in his annual tongue-in-cheek Christmas message.

He had the bike lane cooled down by Christmas, when he even refused a gift bike from cycling advocates.

The city moved forward with a plan to convert part of the Municipal Building in Downtown to a retail store or restaurant, and Borough President Markowitz hopes to attract an Apple store to the austere locale. Maybe he'll sing to Steve Jobs?

Gowanus made whole: After years of false starts, Whole Foods finally announced it will indeed open on its formerly toxic site at Third Avenue and Third Street.

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8TH PRECINCT

Ford Greene—Clinton Hill

The Atlantic Terminal Mall, home to best-known food court and Chuck E. Cheese, was the site of five larcenies around Christmas Eve.

Here are the details:

- A thief swiped a woman's wallet from her purse at the game-filled fast-food eatery at 2 p.m. on Dec. 18.
- A man stole a woman's wallet at the same woman's wallet that she briefly left on top of her baby stroller while she changed it at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 20.
- A thief picked up a woman's purse that she left on a bench at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 20, collecting about \$300.
- A thief snatched a woman's Coach bag off a shopping cart at 10:15 p.m. while the woman was shopping at Target on Dec. 22.
- A thief took a woman's bag right out of her Target shopping cart at 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 26, as she was trying to take advantage of some sale items.

CLINTON HILL

A thief tried to steal two

POLICE BLOTTER



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84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO—Boerum Hill—Downtown

Oh, what a night!

Something shot a laptop and camera down from the Blue Ban Pictures shop by Jay Street on Dec. 20. While the manager was in the worker said.

The thief claimed that he was only gone for a second when he went back inside the shop near Water Street about 9:20 p.m. on Dec. 20, only to find his car empty. He had security cameras captured the action, but cops still can't find the culprit.

Macy's theft

A quick-handed thief took a woman's bag when she was looking at Macy's on Dec. 22.

The woman told cops that she was watching a store clerk containing the bag at the Fulton Mall, which is near Lawrence Street, about at 11:50 p.m. When she looked away for an instant, her bag was gone, along with its contents.

Unfit

A jerk stole a man's wallet inside Planet Fitness on DuFresne Street on Dec. 22.

The victim said he felt his wallet on the treadmill all the frequent crime scene, which is near Fulton Street, at about 9:30 p.m. After waiting several minutes later, the wallet was

Columbia heist

After seeing friends fooling around at a party, a woman's bag right off her shoulder on Clark Street on Dec. 22.

The woman said that when she felt a tug on her shoulder, she turned around and saw a man who grabbed her expensive clothing worth \$120 and a cellphone, and fled.

— Andy Campbell

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook

Note name

A "hunchback" burglar stole a First Place lobby on Dec. 20.

A witness told cops he saw a man leaving the building, which is near Court Street, around 7:05 p.m., hunched over and carrying a shopping bag.

On or around 7:30 p.m., a neighbor said the hood, who had no identifiable bump akin to Quasimodo, made with his hands.

He said her parcel, valued at less than \$150.

Chinatown Apartment
On Dec. 21—the tenant walked into the apartment and ripped the clothes right off him.

The perp broke into the apartment near Willoughby Avenue at 1:40 pm and pocketed some jewelry and clothing, but he couldn't leave fast enough. The tenant returned, spotted the perp inside, and fought him until the thief gave up the goods.

Lafayette punch
Two perps robbed a man and punched him in the head on Dec. 19 on Lafayette Avenue.

The perps approached the man at 1:40 am—and demanded his phone—then one punched him for good measure.

Lafayette rob
A thief held up a woman on Lafayette Avenue on Dec. 24, taking her bag.

The ski-mask-wearing perp snatched his victim from behind near S. Oxford Street at 5:35 am, stating, "Don't move, shut the f— up." He grabbed her bag and shoved her in the flute.

Flute stolen
A thief broke into a car parked near S. Oxford Street and stole a silver-plated flute.

Earning fast
A perp stole a ritzings \$30,000 pair of earrings from a State Street shop on Dec. 20.

An employee told cops that the thief came into the beloved jewelry store, which is near Court Street, at about 3:30 pm and said, "I would like to look at those earrings," before she pulled out the diamond-studded bangles. When she did, he ripped them out of her hands and fled the store.

Ripped off
A phoneless crook snatched a woman's iPhone on an R train at DeKalb Avenue on Dec. 21.

The woman said that she was on the train, that she was stopped under the Lafayette Avenue station, at about 11:30 pm when the dude sitting next to her grabbed the expensive device and fled.

Bag boy
A fast perp grabbed a woman's handbag when she set it out outside the Maitland's on the Fulton Mall on Dec. 21.

The woman said that she'd just gotten out of a "stand" outside the shop, which is near Lawrence Street, at about 5:30 pm. The perp came running around

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Community Montserrat Church • Aaron Short

BIBLE BELTED!

Foes say Bklyn Diocese cooked the books at political Bed-Stuy church

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

A church official cooked the books to suggest that a politically active Bedford-Stuyvesant parish that Brooklyn Diocese officials wanted to close was financially unstable.

Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of the Brooklyn Diocese announced his decision to shutter Our Lady of Montserrat Church by the end of January and move its parishioners to All Saints Church because it "could not support [Montserrat] financially" after providing nearly \$400,000 in subsidies to the church over the past decade and forgiving \$1.7 million debt in 2000.

Church documents also claim that the Vernon Avenue church was \$23,171 in the red for the year.

But parishioners questioned those figures, claiming that the church's financial

report on Montserrat willfully inflated the church's expenses and did not consider at least two sources of income from the property.

"The numbers are highly inflated — there are some line items that don't exist," said parishioner Juan Ramos. "We don't have as much debt as they say we do, and we don't have all those services."

For example, the Diocese report has a \$11,203 budget line for clergy salaries. But Ramos said that a priest typi-

cally earns only \$25 for each of the four to seven masses per week. That would come to \$5,200-9,100 — but in most cases, the priest doesn't even take the stipend, leaving it in reserve.

Other reported costs for salaries and utilities raised eyebrows, particularly \$17,257 in salary for a secretary and an \$811 phone bill — since the church has neither of them.

"We haven't had a phone for over three years," said Ramos. "You can't reach

anybody at the church. Instead you have to call All Saints."

Another church leaders said that Montserrat collects about \$13,000 from a parking lot it owns on Vernon Street — income that was not reflected in the ledger. And none of the Passionist Order's support for the church's utilities was included either.

Parishioners expressed further puzzlement after All Saints' Father William Chacon announced at mass that about \$125,000 from an account held jointly by All Saints and Montserrat was used to renovate the All Saints rectory.

"He said he took money from an account from Montserrat," said parishioner Anita Dunbar. "He re-did the floors, cleaned up the rectory. It was a mess."

When asked for comment, Chacon referred all inquiries

to the Diocese. A spokesman with the Diocese said that the "inflammatory accusations" were made by a "small, but loud, group" that was "not being accurate."

"Each parish has to take a big responsibility of its financial future and the Diocese of Brooklyn can be there to help but it can't be there to help financially," said Diocese spokesman Shane Kavanaugh. "We can't be the payer of last resort."

The closure of the church, and the allegation of fiscal shenanigans to bolster the decision, plays out against a highly politicized backdrop.

Earlier this year, Montserrat pastor, Rev. Jim O'Shea, took controversial positions on issues of extreme importance to the church and to the local power boss, Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Brooklyn). O'Shea, for example, criticized the Lo-

pez-backed rezoning of the so-called Broadway Triangle, and also objected to a Lopez bill that would shield the Diocese from some pedophile priest lawsuits. Lopez and DiMarzio were allies on both initiatives — though Lopez has denied that he played any role in influencing DiMarzio to shutter Montserrat and muzzle O'Shea.

Dunbar thinks the Diocese should re-evaluate its decision to shut the chapel — which has served central Brooklyn for over 60 years. She has already found a volunteer to fix the building's boiler — for free — but DiMarzio, after meeting with a group of parishioners last Thursday, said his decision was final.

"At this point we'll try anything," said Dunbar. "We just want to save our church. That's all."

Mugged for iPhone on Varet

90TH PRECINCT
Southside-Bushwick

Three teenage perps stole a man's iPhone and wallet af-

ter confronting him at White Street on Dec. 26.

The perps approached the man near Varet Street at 2:50 pm, and one asked, "Do you know what time it is?"

Then they followed him, and one thief asked, "Give me your phone and your wallet."

The victim surrendered both, and the bad guys fled.

Grand burg
A thief bored a hole in the door of a Grand Street apartment on Dec. 24 and stole a computer and jewelry.

The tenant told cops that he left his apartment at 5:30 pm, but when he returned his apartment near Havemeyer Street at 10:30 pm the next day, he found his door damaged and his stuff stolen.

Gifts gone
A thief broke into a car loaded with Christmas gifts and, more important, Ad-derrall on Dec. 23, ruining someone's holiday.

The driver said that he parked on S. Fourth Street at 7:30 pm, but when he returned to the spot near Berry Street an hour later, he found the rear window was broken and his luggage, presents and pills were stolen.

Subaru stolen
A thief stole a car off Grand Street on Dec. 19.

The driver parked his car at 10 pm, but when he returned to the spot near Roebling Street 24 hours later, the car was missing.

POLICE BLOTTER
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Morgan train

Three perps prevented a straphanger from entering the Morgan Avenue subway station on Dec. 24 — and stole his phone instead.

The perps blocked the man from the subway at Harrison Place at 8:30 pm, and demanded either his phone or cash. He surrendered his phone and everything he had on Jackson Street on Dec. 21.

Hooper hijinx
A gunman struck a man with his pistol inside his Hooper Street building on Dec. 20, demanding \$600.

The perp followed his victim inside his home near S. Fifth Street, brandishing a firearm. He smashed his victim's head with the gun and demanded cash. When the victim said he didn't have any, the perp fled.

— Aaron Short

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Northside

iGame
A straphanger thief plucked an iPhone out of a woman's hands on the L train at Metropolitan Avenue stop on Dec. 21.

The woman told cops that she was enjoying a

video game on the device at about 7:15 pm when the perp grabbed it. But she wasn't giving up there — she struggled with the man before he pushed her to the floor and fled the train.

Metropolitan Avenue and Lorimer Street

Headlock
Three jerks were arrested for assaulting a man and stealing everything he had on Jackson Street on Dec. 21.

The victim said that he was near Manhattan Avenue at about 7 pm when the three approached. One thug put him in a headlock, while the others ran his pockets. The trio eventually made off with the victim's wallet, an iPod, headphones and a CD player — but cops later caught up and arrested them.

Feat of Crime
Some criminals broke into a Clay Street apartment and stole a huge TV off the wall on Dec. 21.

The tenant told cops that his girlfriend was in the home, which is near Manhattan Avenue, until 1 pm. Five hours later, he noticed that it, her wallet and her cash were gone.

Cash machine

A thief broke into a car on Humboldt Street on Dec. 21 and stole more than \$4,000 in cash and checks — somehow knowing that the money was hidden in the vehicle.

The victim told cops that he parked near Moultrie Street that morning. When he returned at about 4:05 pm, his window had been smashed in, and his cash-heavy bag — which was hidden under the seat — was gone.

Leonard loser
Some cretins broke into a Leonard Street apartment and took everything of value on Dec. 22.

The victim, who was away from the home near Calver Street for a day, said that he arrived at about 7 pm to find a broken front door and the place trashed. The perps had taken a computer, laptops, an iPhone, a PlayStation console and even a gold watch.

Bump 'n' run
A swindler pulled the off-

accidental shove-and-steal technique on a straphanger in the Bedford Avenue L station on Dec. 21.

The victim said she was bumped at the station, near N. Seventh Street, at about 2:30 am. She figured it out when she reached for her Metrocard and noticed that it, her wallet and her cash were gone.

— Andy Campbell

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Lutheran Medical Center, 150 55th Street, Brooklyn, NY will make available from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, uncompensated services to all eligible persons unable to pay who request those services. All hospital services of the medical center will be available on a first request basis to eligible persons until the medical center's annual compliance level is met. Eligibility for free care will be limited to persons whose family income is not more than double the current poverty income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We invite interested parties to comment on this allocation plan. This Notice is published in accordance with 42 CFR 124.504, Notice of Availability and Uncompensated Services and will be effective January 1, 2011.

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

The Atlantic Terminal Mall, home to both Target and Chuck E. Cheese, was the site of five larcenies around Christmas. Here are the details.

• A thief swiped a woman's wallet from her table at the game-filled fast-food eatery at 2 pm on Dec. 18.

• A thief took a woman's wallet that she briefly left on top of her baby stroller while she was shopping at 2:30 pm on Dec. 20.

• A thief picked up a woman's purse that she left on the floor at 2:30 pm on Dec. 20, collecting about \$300.

• A thief snatched a woman's Coach bag off a shopping cart at 10:15 pm while the woman was shopping at Target on Dec. 22.

• A thief took a woman's bag right out of her Target shopping cart at 2:15 pm on Dec. 26, as she was trying to take advantage of some post-Christmas sales.

Gym rat

Some meathead swiped

POLICE BLOTTER

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68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights

Bank robbery!

A gunman stole \$4,300 from the Ridgewood Savings Bank branch on Third Avenue on Dec. 23.

Cops say that the perp entered the bank, which is between 85th and 86th streets,

a wallet from a Fifth Avenue gym on Dec. 22 while its owner was lifting weights. The victim told cops that he was at the health club, which is between 14th and 15th streets, at around 3 pm.

He placed his wallet on a bench so that he could pump some iron for a few minutes, but when he returned for the wallet, which contained cards and cash, it was gone.

Bike theft

Some jerk gashed a bicycle on Seely Street overnight on Dec. 24.

The victim told cops that she left her bike outside of her home, which is between Prospect Park West and Eighth Avenue.

Sicko

A thief swiped a wallet from a patient at New York Methodist Hospital on Sixth Street overnight on Dec. 19.

Cops say that the victim was spending the night in the hospital, which is between Seventh and Eighth avenues, when someone crept into her room, rifled through her bag and nabbed her wallet that contained cards and cash.

It's at least the seventh such theft this year from suffering patients at the medical institution this year, a surprisingly frequent locale in our police blotter.

Mac took

Some tech geek stole an Apple MacBook pro from the Seventh Street Mac Support store on Dec. 20.

Cops say that the pricey laptop was locked to a table in the store, which is between Second and Third avenues, but it was taken sometime between 4 pm and 6 pm.

Goya grab

Someone stole a laptop, a navigation system and 16 bottles of booze from a Goya Foods truck parked in front of the Pathmark on 12th Street.

Cops say that their broke the rear passenger side window of the truck, which is along Second Avenue, around 12:30 pm to swipe the array of goods.

—Alex Rush

iPod scuffle

Some teenager snatched an iPod Touch from a woman on Third Avenue on Dec. 20.

The victim told cops that she was near 83rd Street at around 1:30 pm when the perp grabbed her Apple product and fled.

Car break-in

Some jerk broke into a car on 80th Street overnight on Dec. 23 to steal an iPod and clothes.

The victim said that she left her car between 12th and 13th avenues at around 10 pm. When she returned the next morning, her stuff was gone.

Ridge rob

Someone snatched a purse from a woman on Bay Ridge Avenue on Dec. 20.

The victim told cops that she was between 11th and 12th avenues at around 8 am when some dude came up behind her, grabbed her purse and ran off.

—Alex Rush

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings Dec. 31, 2010-Jan. 6, 2011

'Kings' for a day

Keep celebrating Christmas with a Rosca de Reyes

By Erica Sackin
for The Brooklyn Paper

For many children, the highlight of the Christmas season is Dec. 25, but in Brooklyn's Latino community, the real fun often starts on Jan. 6—Three Kings Day.

And on this celebration of the birth of Jesus, the highlight is a good Three Kings Day cake, also known as Rosca de Reyes, a ring-shaped bread topped with sweet dried fruit and pocked with hidden toys throughout.

Though recipes vary, all Roscas de Reyes are made from yeast, flour, eggs, butter, sugar, and an array of candied fruits (which can include figs, orange peel, and even candied and colored cakes). Depending on the size of the cake, anywhere from three toys to 15 can be placed inside, though for a little more money most bakers are happy to add extras.

"My favorite part is when you put the toys in," said Nicoforo Sosa of La Vilata Bakery in Williamsburg. "You try and make people guess: will the toy be in this piece or that piece?"

Sosa has been making the scrumptious sweet breads since the 1960s and now operates out of a tiny bakery on the corner of Grand Street and Bedford Avenue. Because the cakes are such a special tradition, the bakery only makes a few each year, selling them right before the actual holiday. This means a precarious guessing game—forecasting just how many cakes he'll need before cake production shoots into high gear about a week before the holiday.

Still the cakes themselves are worth it. "We may only sell a few," Sosa said, "but they're delicious."

Miguel Lopez, on the other hand, makes several thousand Roscas de Reyes each year at Don Pao Lopez Panaderia in Sunset Park, one of the oldest Mexican bakeries in Brooklyn.

The bakery toys its bread with tradi-



The ring: Raul Gonzales shows off his Rosca de Reyes — or king cake — at his Grand Morelos Bakery on Grand Street in Williamsburg.

DINING

La Vitala (171 Grand St. at Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 466-4761); Grand Morelos (727 Grand St. at Graham Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8441); **La Princesa** (94 Graham Ave. between Seigel and Moore streets in East Williamsburg, (718) 388-3399); **Don Pao Lopez Panaderia** (403 Fourth Ave. at 47th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 492-3443); **Las Conchitas Bakery** (4811 Fifth Ave. between 47th and 48th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 437-5513); **La Gran Via Bakery** (4516 Fifth Ave. between 45th and 46th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 853-8021).

tional figs and candied orange peel, as well as with candied cactus fruit dyed colorful reds and greens for the holiday. The secret ingredient, however, is orange flavoring. Though you can't taste the orange, you can taste its affect on the dough, signaling that what you are eating is in fact an authentic Rosca de Reyes.

"A lot of places sell Rosca de Reyes," said Lopez. "But they use a traditional sweet bread dough, not the dough for Rosca de Reyes. We do our best to make the right bread and keep that tradition alive."

Raul Gonzales, of Grand Morelos bakery on Grand Street in Williamsburg, is also helping to keep the tradition alive. He's been making Roscas for the past 14 years, and says that each year the bakery keeps fielding more and more orders for the kingly cake.

"We started out making about 20 to 30, then that became 80, and now we're making over 100," said Gonzales, who helps to make all the cakes by hand. "Believe me, it's a lot."

The bakery uses traditional dried fruits, as well as the less traditional peaches. Gonzales also uses lemon juice, and lets the dough sit and rise for a full 24 hours before baking, which helps to develop the flavor.

"You can't know how good a cake is until you buy and eat it," Gonzales says. "It's not how they look, it's how they taste."

ART

Tree of art

You don't get more Clinton Hill than Hadas Gallery.

The new space on Myrtle Avenue is founded by neighborhood fixtures and features work by local artists. Heck, the name is even Hebrew for Myrtle.

"I wanted to showcase art being made in the area," said Joshua Stulman, a recent Pratt University graduate recruited to curate the space by omnipresent rabbi and gallery founder Simcha Weinstein. "Brooklyn is very dense with artists. There's a great diversity and wealth of styles, mediums and approaches."

The inaugural show is dedicated to photography, specifically, the abstract work of Richard W. Golden, who finds inspiration in Prospect Park, the Botanic Garden, and Coney Island. A single shoot can result in hundreds of photos for a photographer, but Golden never takes more than six.

"I can't capture what I see in a half-dozen negatives, then shooting an entire roll probably won't either," says the artist. Depth/Surface/Time/Hadas Gallery (543 Myrtle Ave. between Steuben Street and Emerson Place in Clinton Hill, no phone), Jan. 2-31. Opening reception on Jan. 9 from 2-5 pm. For info, visit www.hadsgallery.com. —Meredith Deliso

THEATER

Classic Ibsen

The first must-see show of 2011 is the Abby Theatre's month-long production of Ibsen's "John Gabriel Borkman" at the BAM Harvey.

Beginning on Jan. 7, catch Alan Rickman (pictured), Fiona Shaw and Lindsay Duncan on one stage in the master's penultimate play. To open [the season] with a new Abbey production featuring Shaw alongside artists of the caliber of Alan Rickman and Lindsay Duncan is particularly gratifying," said BAM Executive Producer Joe Melillo.

Rickman's titular character is the original Gordon Gekko — a "greed is good" type sent to prison for embezzlement. Now down serving his sentence, he is destitute, disgraced and desperate for a comeback. So is his estranged wife, Gunhild (Shaw), who plots to restore the family's name.

Enter into this already unhappy scene Gunhild's twin sister, Ella (Duncan), Borkman's former lover. Her unannounced entrance triggers the devastating drama that, though written over 100 years ago, is all too timely.

"John Gabriel Borkman" at the BAM Harvey (651 Fulton St. between Rockwell and Ashland places in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), Jan. 7-Feb. 6. Tickets \$25-\$95. For info, visit www.bam.org. —Meredith Deliso

DINING

Mac attack

Kraft mac 'n' cheese is the greatest thing in the world — if you're 4-years-old. Thankfully, Greenpointers now have a delightful alternative to that safety-vest-colored main course.

Brooklyn Mac, a new take-out spot on Norman Avenue, offers deliciously decadent macaroni and cheese. Take the Red Hook plate (\$10.50) with bacon, Gouda, caramelized onions and breadcrumbs, it's easily the best thing we ate this week (though, truth be told, the competition was two-day-old pizza in the newsroom kitchen).

But don't take it from us, ask the Greenpointers. "It's really tasty and cheesy — not at all like the boxed powder stuff," said Lucy Cottrell, who checked out the newcomer on opening day last month. "I think it's a good thing for the neighborhood."

And not up for the band is Silent Barn on Jan. 8, an aptly DIY venue on the Bushwick Ridgewood border. "It's got bleachers. How can you go wrong with bleachers?" says Dyer.

Brooklyn Mac (77 Norman Ave. between Lorimer Street and Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 706-9622). —Andy Campbell

The DIY duo

They play their own way

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Buke and Gass are the quintessential DIY band.

The pair — Aaron Sanchez and Anne Dyer — does everything themselves, right down to making their own amps and instruments. That peculiar name even comes from their homemade toys — a modified six-string baritone ukelele, aka the buke, played by Dyer, and a guitar-bass hybrid (the gass, pronounced like base) played by Sanchez. And let us not forget the suburban that Dyer plays with, well,

MUSIC

Buke and Gass at Silent Barn (915 Wyckoff Ave. near Hancock Street in Bushwick), Jan. 8 at 8 pm. Tickets \$7. For info, visit www.bukeandgass.com.

you get the idea.

This instrumentation comes partly out of necessity — there is just the two of them, after all, and a gass produces more sound than your standard bass, and a guitar was a bit too heavy for Dyer, who gets wrist pain. It's also a fun project for the self-described

tinkers, a never-ending modification process for Sanchez especially, a former instrument maker for the Blue Man Group.

"We're always tweaking our sound," said Sanchez, who obsessively modifies his gass in ways that only he, or a similar music geek, would understand.

For now, though, that sound seems to be working just fine for the two. When they first met roughly 10 years ago, they immediately started making music together, first in the post-punk noise group Homind. When that disbanded, they went their separate ways — Dyer as a bike mechanic, Sanchez for the band Proton.

But reunited a couple years ago as Buke and Gass, they quickly drew attention for their folk-stomping sound. Dyer's supermelodic, hypnotic vocal lines, and, yes, those homemade instruments.

After hours of improvisation, the two put out their debut full-



Double the fun: Buke and Gass, a quirky Brooklyn two-piece, bring their acoustic, self-made sound to Silent Barn on Jan. 8.

length album, "Riposte," earlier this fall, recorded out of Dyer's Red Hook studio, Polyphonic Workshop. But their live show is something to behold, not so much for showmanship — effects pedals and foot percussion keep them seated for the duration of their set — but for their compelling synergy, described as a "weird fight club" by the band.

"We're similarly obsessive and anal," said Sanchez from his studio recently on how the two get along so well.

"Don't use that word," interjected Dyer.

"We're particular," Sanchez corrected.

Next up for the band is Silent Barn on Jan. 8, an aptly DIY venue on the Bushwick Ridgewood border.

"It's got bleachers. How can you go wrong with bleachers?" says Dyer.

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HERE TO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY January 1

Happy Brrr Year
There's no better way to greet the new year than a case of hypothermia. So why not join hundreds of members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club for their annual New Year's Day plunge into the icy Atlantic? Come on, it's not so bad. Some bathers have so much fun that the dress in diapers, wigs, full body paint or string bikinis (now that's just nuts!).

1 pm. Polar Bear Club swim (meet at the Boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue at Coney Island, 917) 533-3568. For info, visit www.polarbearclub.org.

THURSDAY January 6

Hero worship
We all know the story: Football star Pat Tillman turns down a big contract to join the Army after 9-11. Tillman is killed in Afghanistan. Tillman is mourned as a national hero. Now, you want the real story? Head to BAM for a screening of Amir Bar-Lev's documentary and stick around for a Q&A moderated by Morgan Spurlock. You'll see the Tillman tale in a new light.

7 pm. "The Tillman Story" with Q&A with Amir Bar-Lev. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, 718) 636-4000, www.bam.org. Tickets: \$12.

8 pm. Daniel Kitson at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, 718) 834-8794. Tickets \$35-\$60.

THURSDAY January 6

True Brit
British comedian Daniel Kitson's shows sell out shows faster than a Grizzly Bear concert in Williamsburg — and with good reason. Kitson is beloved for his theatrical storytelling that requires little in the way of props or setting, just the comedian's enthralling words. You must get tickets for the monthlong run of his new show, "The Interminable Suicide of Gregory Church," at St. Ann's Warehouse.

8 pm. Daniel Kitson at St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, 718) 834-8794. Tickets \$35-\$60.

FRIDAY January 7

It's no mirage
The pop quartet Super Mirage just released a debut LP, "Pretty Lies," a collection of high-energy, dance-ready indie-pop songs — but the live show includes burlesque dancers, costumes, backup singers, dancers, and a massive horn section. This is going to be one memorable gig from a great Bushwick-based band. And best of all — it's free!

11 pm. Super Mirage at Trash Bar (256 Grand St. near Roebuck Street in Williamsburg, 718) 599-1000. Free. For info, visit www.supermirage.com.

SATURDAY January 8

Patton-fed
Comedian, TV writer, and actor Patton Oswalt can now add memoirist to his resume. "Zombie Spaceship Wasteland" features essays inspired by Oswalt's eccentric relatives, Dungeons and Dragons, and the vampire trend. The title refers to Oswalt's theory that young boys' minds are drawn only to zombies, spaceships or wastelands (he was partial to the latter).

5 pm. Patton Oswalt at Waters (251 Driggs Ave. at Eckford Street in Greenpoint, 718) 387-0505. Tickets \$25, and include a copy of Oswalt's new book.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, DEC. 31

New Year's Eve
ALL DAY/NIGHT NEW YEAR'S PARTY: Bring the kids for a buffet dinner (with drinks), or stay until after midnight. \$40. 2 pm-1 am. Barrio (210 Seventh Ave. at Third Street in Park Slope, 718) 965-4000, www.barriobrooklyn.com.

DANCE, "NUTCRACKER ROUGE"
NEW YEAR'S PARTY: The Nutcracker gets a Baroque makeover. \$25. 8 pm. Company XIV (302 Bond St. at Union Street in Gowanus, 718) 218-9737, www.speakeasy.com.

MUSIC, "NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION WITH CLASS ACTRESS, PEEPBOLE, WARM GHOST AND PHONETAG" \$10. 8 pm. Spike Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, 718) 218-9737, www.speakeasy.com.

MUSIC, "NEW YEAR'S EVE SOUL SHOW": With Marva Whitney, Billy Prince and The Sweet Divines. \$30. 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, 718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse.com.

MUSIC, "HAPPY HOUSE NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION": \$15. 8 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 638-4400, www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH THE ROOTS: \$65. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl (61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, 718) 963-3369, www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, STEVEN DELOPOULOS AND JOHN PHILIPPOIS. Free. 8:30 pm. Schmitz Haus (219 Fifth Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge, 718) 636-5600, www.schmitzhaus.com.

MUSIC, NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY WITH MR. BROWNSTONE: A Guns and Roses tribute band, naturally. \$25. 8:30 pm. Rock Shop (249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, 718) 230-5740, www.therockshopnyc.com.

MUSIC, HAR MAR SUPERSTAR: The alter ego of Sean Matthew Tillman. \$30 at door, \$30 pm. Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, 718) 855-3388, www.littlefieldnyc.com.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION: Hot refreshments, entertainment and dazzling fireworks. Free. 11 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West, 718) 965-8991, www.nycgo2park.com.

PARTY, "PROCASTINATOR'S BALL": Annual low-priced New Year's party. 11 pm. Free Water Street Restaurant and Lounge (66 Water St. between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, 718) 625-9352, www.waterstreetrestaurant.com.

HEALTHY, NEW YEAR'S EVE FUN RUN: A 5K run. \$20 (includes hat, glow necktie, hot chocolate). 11:15 pm. Prospect Park (Enter at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, 718) 260-2500.

SAT, JAN. 1

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
POLAR BEAR CLUB SWIM: Meet the new year by jumping into the Atlantic Ocean. It's a Brooklyn tradition. 1 pm. Boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 533-3568.

CIVIC CALENDAR

TUES, JAN. 4
Community Board 2 Economic Development and Job Creation Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm. Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, 718) 596-5410.

WED, JAN. 5
Community Board 2 Health, Environment and Social Services. To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail: Calendar@cnglobal.com.

THURS, JAN. 6
NIA Community Services Network. Meet the staff and board of directors. 5-8 pm. Neighborhood Improvement Association (6614 11th Ave. between 46th and 47th streets in Dyker Heights, 718) 236-5266.

SUN, JAN. 2
DANCE, "NUTCRACKER ROUGE": 8 pm. See Friday, Dec. 31.

MON, JAN. 3
MUSIC, SCOTT REEVES JAZZ ORCHESTRA: Free. 9 and 10:30 pm. Lounge (837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 789-2762, www.theleaguemusic.com.

TUES, JAN. 4
SPORTS, THE SUGAR BOWL: Watch Ohio State vs. Arkansas on the big screen. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lycium (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, 718) 857-4816, www.brooklynlycium.com.

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Meat your maker

Plus all the other Brooklyn food gossip

There's a full menu of treats this week, so let's get cracking: **Secret meeting:** Grub Street reports that the Meat Hook, Williamsburg's celebrity butcher shop, has been secretly feeding a lucky few an all-you-can-eat Saturday brunch for \$50. The unofficial meal arrangement has no set menu, but instead can be ordered between four and 12 courses. The arrangement is reservation-only, and good luck getting one. The last time we checked the next

opening was in late May.

Rodents: Steven Rinella is from Brooklyn, but he's famous for catching squirrels and sparrows in the urban wild and painting them with fine wines. That skill earned him his own Travel Channel show that bows on Jan. 9—and this show isn't only about the exotic stuff. Sure, the first episode has him going after a Hawaiian wild octopus, but



Foodie-in-Chief
By Erica Sackin

Rinella is smart enough to give viewers a real treat: the delicacy of delicacies, New York City pigeons.

Brooklyn Flea flees: The Brooklyn Flea's Sunday location just got a whole lot Edgier. Though the venerable market will keep its Fort Greene location on Saturdays, it will make its Sunday

home at the yet-to-be-developed third Edge condominium in Williamsburg. **Spicing up Smith:** Just when you thought it was too chilly for chilies, Lost City reports that another Mexican joint is coming to town. The spot on the corner of Smith and Union streets that once housed Union Smith Cafe will reopen soon as contemporary Mexican restaurant, Diego. Here's hoping they'll be able to heat us out of this snow storm.

Out of Mode: Much lauded Williamsburg eatery Mode may have finally fallen out of fashion. Eater reports that the New York Commercial Real Estate Services has listed the location as for-sale on its website. What do we think might pop up? My vote is for another sushi restaurant, although some sources say it stick with its French/New American cuisine.

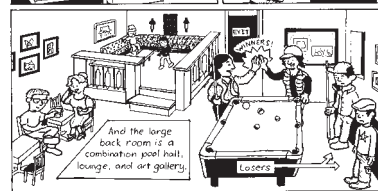
Greetings from Manhattan: You can make it there, but can you make it in Brooklyn? Our friends on Myrtle Avenue tell us that the owners of the popular Caribbean restaurant Negril are about to find out—they've signed the lease for a space near Myrtle Avenue and Clinton Hill. Let's hope this Manhattan-to-Brooklyn trend continues—we just might never have to take the subway to visit a restaurant again!

Cask in the sunlight: Hopefully, the construction fences surrounding at the corner of Myrtle and Clinton avenues in Fort Greene don't look too prohibiting, because they're masking a soon-to-be Prohibition-style bar and restaurant, another tip from our Myrtle Avenue pals. The spot will feature fine beer and wines as well as special cask ales. We hear they've stripped the place down to its bare bones, exposing the original wallpaper (which they'll hopefully clean before opening).

Do-goodies: Sustainable Flatbush, the organization tasked with making sure neighborhood residents have access to good and healthy food, is holding an all-day potluck on Jan. 16. Come for the delicious goodies, and who knows, if you stick around you just may end up doing some good.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy



The Emerson [561 Myrtle Ave. between Emerson Place and Classon Avenue in Clinton Hill, (347) 763-1310]. Open Sun–Thu, 5 pm–2 am; Fri–Sat, 5 pm–4 am. For info, visit www.theemersonbar.com.

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Gnocchi Casserole: With Serrano ham and Chanterelle mushrooms

MAIN COURSES, CHOICE OF
Chorizo-Crusted Atlantic Cod Filet: Blue corn grits with fontina cheese, asparagus, carrot and caper emulsion
Black Peppered Sirloin Steak: Creamed spinach and aromatic roasted potatoes, pepper corn sauce
Organic Chicken Tagine: Root vegetables and couscous with dates and preserved lemons
Grilled Vegetables Skewers: Aromatic quinoa and pesto sauce
Braised Duck Ragout and Pappardelle Pasta: Mint and fresh ricotta

DESSERT, CHOICE OF
Tapioca with Passion Fruit Puree and Coconut Ice Cream
Molten Chocolate Cake
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The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

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Let the kids grow up already

New Years is upon me, bringing thoughts of change and self-improvement. I am overwhelmed by suggestions to lose weight, be a better father or increase my happiness next year. The obstacles between me and my personal upgrade are formidable, things like chocolate chip cookies, and how far away the gym seems on a cold morning.

I certainly think my kids would benefit from some well-thought-out resolutions (keeping their rooms clean, getting to bed on time, doing their homework neatly come to my mind). But as teenagers, they're changing all the time, in spite of me and the other adults around them.

On Christmas, we were in the kitchen creating home-made pizzas. I went to take the knife from one of my kids, but she looked at me and said,



The Dad

By Scott Sager

"I'llow" clothes. She's 13 now, and "I'llow" is not her favorite color anymore — but you wouldn't know that from me, her mother and her grandmother. We still look at her as if she is old enough to actually do it.

I make it hard for my children to grow and evolve into their next phase of being. I resist their mutations. They become stuck in my head a certain way and I'm unable to see the evidence of their transforming identities. My younger daughter loved the color yellow when she was 3-years-old, maybe longer. Everything yellow — stuffed animals, food, paints, I found this wonderful and endearing. She called it "I'llow," which was so cute and made us all ask her if she wanted "I'llow" candy or

as justification for my opinion. Of course, she may have decided not to speak to me by then.

My mother opined, many years ago, that I'm secretive and refuse to express an opinion to her. I was a teenager so, of course, she was right. Now, I get frustrated speaking with her because she's never been able to see me differently. One evening, my family was in the kitchen and the phone rang. When I hung up, my wife asked who called. Both my daughters immediately said it was Grandma and they could tell because I don't talk to anyone else the same way. At 48, I feel like a teenager whenever I talk to my mother.

For my teenagers, today is one moment in their lives. My New Years resolution is to let them keep changing and growing and not to freeze them at a point in time forever, even if I say "I'llow" once in a while. It still makes me smile.

It's how family myths get created and formed into legends, becoming truer than the flesh and blood people in front of us.

This same daughter got labeled "indecisive" many years ago, a quality cemented into our family lore due to an unfortunate incident at a candy store in Saratoga Springs. She's stuck in my mind at that moment, unable to choose between fudge and ice cream, dissolving in tears under the pressure of picking, finally being dragged, empty handed, to the car.

Since that day she has made thousands of decisions, but any time she hesitates, I think, "She still can't handle making choices." And I know, years from now, I will introduce her to my chums in the nursing home as my indecisive child and begin to tell them this story



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