

Feds to Gowanus polluters: Buck up

BY LAUREN GILL

It's time to pay the piper.

The Environmental Protection Agency will start issuing penalties to polluters who continue to stall the Gowanus Canal cleanup, said the man in charge of the cleanse at a May 23 monthly community advisory group meeting.

"I've worked for a long time with them and it's come to the point where we mean business," said Christos Tsiamis, the agency's project manager. "I've listed six or seven actions they need to do in a time frame. Any time they do not respond to that, they're in noncompliance, so then we go to the legal part and there are penalties that accrue."

A group of polluters including National Grid, Amarada Hess, and Honeywell refuse to follow the Feds' timeline for cleaning the noxious waterway and insist on repeating already completed studies to drag out the process,

Continued on page 10

Southern comfort food

Bay Ridgite's online grub forum celebrates old-school cuisine

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

A Bay Ridgite aims to get locals out of their homes and culinary comfort zones with an online forum devoted to exploring Southern Brooklyn cuisine.

The Facebook group started as just a casual space for friends to chat about local grub, but in a mere two months it has ballooned to a full-fledged foodie forum with 1,500 members who highlight eateries in oft-overlooked nabes. It has helped locals acquire a taste for trying new things, said the group's founder.

"South Brooklyn doesn't get as much coverage, and nothing makes me sadder than to walk down Third Avenue and see perfectly good restaurants with nobody in them," said Bay Ridgite Frank Tilelli. "I feel it's been a while since someone went out of their way to put Bay Ridge, South Brooklyn food on the map. And the group is a community thing. So this way things won't get lost in the sauce, so to speak."

Tilelli founded the Facebook group, "South Brooklyn Food and Drink," in March, inspired by the former chef of Bay Ridge steakhouse Chadwick's, who in 2013 won an episode of the Food Network's show "Chopped!"

"That was the first time in a long time that someone put South Brooklyn food out there," said Tilelli. "And especially now, Facebook is a lot of politics and people just being nasty to each other. So I said, 'I like culinary stuff, let me combine that to try and start something positive where people can have fun.'"

Locals post meal snaps with brief reviews of restaurants, nearby foodie news and events, how-to videos, and swap recipes for some ambitious eats, including London broil prepared with a coffee and spice rub,

Continued on page 3



CUISINE CONNOISSEUR: Foodie Frank Tilelli founded the "South Brooklyn Food and Drink" Facebook group to get people out of the house and into Bay Ridge and Southern Brooklyn restaurants including Casa Calamari.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Work on you putts

BY LAUREN GILL

It's a stroke of genius!

A new mini-golf course in Sunset Park will make you feel like Godzilla, towering over miniature models of the Brooklyn skyline as you pursue a perfect putt around the mini-greens. The Brooklyn-themed putt-putt palace in Industry

City sits behind an old tug boat that has been transformed into a seasonal bar and restaurant called the Wheelhouse, and the bar owner gave the miniscule monuments her tick of approval.

"They're pretty good renditions," said Angela

Continued on page 6



SHINY AND NEW: The Brooklyn Historical Society's new museum location in Dumbo.

Building history in Dumbo

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON

Take a new look at an old building!

The Brooklyn Historical Society has opened a second location on the Brooklyn waterfront with an exhibit of photos celebrating its new home. "Shifting Perspectives: Photographs

of Brooklyn's Waterfront," now on display at the Society's new exhibit space in Dumbo, features historic images of the building that houses the show, as well as a wide selection of the borough's seaside spots, said the president of the museum.

"We were hoping for an exhibition that represented the broad sweep of Brooklyn's waterfront locations and range of sensibilities from the perspective of different artists," said Deborah Schwartz.

The exhibit features 68
Continued on page 6

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HE'S A GRAD NOW: Sen. Bernie Sanders gives the commencement address for Brooklyn College at Barclays Center on May 30.
Brooklyn College / Marko Jokic

Sanders attacks Trump

Celebrates diversity at Brooklyn College commencement

BY JULIANNE CUBA
He's Bernin' up!

Brooklyn-born Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders denounced racism, sexism, and xenophobia during his address to graduates of Brooklyn College at the Barclays Center on May 30, and used the podium to unleash a thinly veiled attack on President Trump.

"If we are prepared to stand together, if we take on greed and selfishness, if we refuse to allow demagogues to divide us up, there is no end to what the great people of our nation can accomplish," said the James Madison High School alum, who didn't utter Trump's name. "You know, and I know, that these are tough times in our country, But looking out at the beautiful people in front of me, I have enormous confidence in the future of our country."

The Flatbush-native and former presidential hopeful, who attended Brooklyn College in 1959 but ended up graduating from the University of Chicago in 1964, made the comments before a profoundly diverse class of more than 4,100 — many of whom are immigrants or the children of immigrants from more than 143 countries, and who speak nearly 100 different languages. His address came during a time when the school has been rocked by anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic rhetoric,



MAZEL TOV!: The University honored Sen. Bernie Sanders with an honorary degree.
Brooklyn College / Marko Jokic

ric, caught in the middle of the complex Israeli-Palestinian conflict, fighting to ultimately become a "sanctuary campus" for undocumented students, and criticized surrounding the City University of New York's decision to invite Palestinian-American activist Linda Sarsour to speak at its upcoming commencement.

The self-proclaimed Democratic Socialist implored the graduating Bulldogs to stand up to hateful rhetoric, as someone whose own childhood was shaped by his family fleeing anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, he said.

"From that experience, what was indelibly stamped on me was the understanding that we must never allow demagogues to divide us up by race, by religion, by national origin, by gender or sexual orientation," said Sanders during his

speech. "Black, white, Latino, Asian American, Native American, Christian, Jew, Muslim, and every religion, straight or gay, male or female, we must stand together. This country belongs to all of us."

Sanders also addressed the country's shrinking middle class and the deepening pockets of the one percent — a favorite theme of his from the campaign trail, along which he also returned to his roots to stump outside his childhood home last April.

And Sanders offered the graduates one final message before they moved their tassels to the other side and threw their caps in the air — to not sit idly by, but to stand up and fight for what they believe in.

"So today, as you graduate Brooklyn College, my message to you is very simple. Think big, not small, and help us create the nation that we all know we can become," he said to loud cheers.

A handful of other politicians also addressed the crowd, including Sen. Chuck Schumer, Public Advocate Letitia James, Borough President Adams, and Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-Midwood), who is also a Brooklyn College alum.

The school awarded Sanders with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

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HE'S BACK IN BUSINESS

Feltman's of Coney Island returns to the People's Playground for summer

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

It's a taste of Coney Island history!

Feltman's of Coney Island has returned to the People's Playground, where the restaurant's founder invented the hot dog 150 years ago. Hot dog aficionados trekked from across the borough and the city to sink their teeth into a frank from Feltman's of Coney Island at the Surf Avenue restaurant's grand opening on May 29. And it easily beat Nathan's Famous for flavor, said one Feltman's fan.

"It had a lot more flavor than the normal Nathan's hot dog," said Bay Ridgite Carl DeSciura, who shelled out \$4.25 for a frank with sauerkraut and mustard. "It was just juicier, fatter. It has a nice flavor."

Made from uncured beef,

the 8-inch dog is seasoned with Feltman's original secret spice mix from 1867, and the succulent sausage even comes in a smaller, skinless version for kids — to eliminate the choking hazard of a casing.

But frankly, even some grown-ups devoured the red hots with such relish that they may have risked a choking hazard of their own.

"I kind of inhaled it. It was delicious," said Iris Bahr, who trekked to Coney for the first time from the distant isle of Manhattan just for a bite of the original hot dog. "I ate it so fast it's hard for me to recall what exactly it tasted like."

A century and a half ago, Coney Island vintles vendor Charles Feltman had the bright idea to wrap his sizzling sausage in a piece of bread so customers would



TOP DOG: (Above) Carl and Gina DeSciura sunk their teeth into a Feltman's of Coney Island dog at the Memorial Day grand opening of the business on Surf Avenue across from the Cyclone. (Right) Owner Michael Quinn aims to make Feltman's of Coney Island the go-to Coney dog spot.

Photos by Jon Farina

easily hold it and nosh as they strolled the Boardwalk, thus creating one of the most

iconic —and convenient — items of American cuisine.

In fact, it was Feltman who taught a young Nathan Handwerker everything he knew about franks and buns, but Feltman's hot dogs never got quite as famous as those of his protégé, and the original Feltman's restaurant closed in 1954.

Recently, a historian-turned-restaurateur, Michael Quinn, has revived Feltman's 1867 recipe and dedicated himself to returning the original red hot to the People's Playground.

"It's really great to bring the hot dog back to where it all started," said Quinn, who has another location in Manhattan. "I think sometimes you need to go back to square one — take the hot dog and bring it all



the way back to Charles Feltman. It tastes way different."

And the franks are healthy to boot, or as healthy as a hot dog can be, claims Quinn.

"It's a completely clean hot dog, no nitrates or fillers," said Quinn. "If there were a healthy hot dog it'd be Feltman's."

It has been a long haul, but this summer, Quinn's resurrected Feltman's of Coney Island replaces the shuttered Cyclone Cafe and White Castle at W. 10th Street and Surf Avenue, which is operated by Luna Park.

Besides slinging Feltman's classic red hots, Quinn does more than imitate, and offers diversified dogs that play off of Feltman's place in the rich history on Coney Island.

For example, Quinn offers the "Al Capone" — a hot dog smothered in Michael's of Brooklyn vodka sauce and sprinkled with shredded Parmesan cheese in honor of the budding Brooklyn gangster who used to stop by Feltman's for a frank before heading to work as a bouncer at Coney Island's Harvard Inn, long before seeking his fortune in Chicago.

Feltman's vs. Nathan's: The tale of the tape

| Feltman's of Coney Island | HOT DOG MAKER | Nathan's Famous |
|--|---------------|---|
| 1870 | FOUNDED | 1906 |
| Charles Feltman | FOUNDER | Nathan Handwerker |
| \$4.25 | COST | \$4.35 |
| Beef in a lamb casing | INGREDIENTS | Beef in a lamb casing |
| Feltman's secret "old-world, German-style" spice blend | EXTRA SPICES | A secret spice mix from Handwerker's wife's grandmother |
| 8 inches | LENGTH | 6-7 inches |
| Al Capone frequented the original Feltman's of Coney Island while working as a bouncer at Coney Island's Harvard Inn | FUN FACT | Franklin D. Roosevelt served Nathan's hot dogs to the King and Queen of England in 1939 |

FOODIE

Continued from page 1

a rack of hickory lamb, and *ebelskiver* — Danish pancakes.

It has become a space for locals to chew the fat on all things foodie in Southern Brooklyn and beyond. But Tilelli wasn't expecting it to ripen into a recipe book.

"The whole home-cook thing was a surprise because I really didn't expect people to do that as much as they're doing," said Tilelli.

"I'm kind of a home cook, but people started posting things and I said, 'Damn, I gotta up my game.' I'm proud of it."

Aside from getting the cre-

ative juices flowing, the trio who run the group hope people will venture out of the house and try a new restaurant, a new type of food, and just put a twist on whatever routine they've fallen into.

"It's a fun escape," said Bay Ridgite Vladimir Vizner, who helps Tilelli run the group along

with fellow Ridgite Bianca Papas.

"It's an interactive way for people to discuss local eateries and it's geared toward a Brooklyn crowd. It's a fun escape."

In the future, the trio of moderators hope to organize meet ups to tour Bay Ridge and explore other nabes' grub.



THE PIZZA KING: Frank Tilelli with his favorite food.

State Senate's rogue Dems trade barbs

BY JULIANNE CUBA

The state Senate Democrats who refuse to sit with their party are now fighting among themselves.

State Sen. Simcha Felder (D-Midwood) — who took home an award for being one of New York's top conservative pols and who has drawn ire from his colleagues for sitting across the aisle with the Republicans — penned a letter to the head of the breakaway Independent Democratic Conference on May 24 urging the group of eight to rejoin the True Blues.

Felder's letter was in response to IDC leader state Sen. Jeff Klein's (D-Bronx) own missive in which he asked all of the Senate Dems to sign a pledge — the Democratic Unity Pledge — to pass a package of seven bills boosting progressive causes, includ-

ing abortion rights, immigration, and transgender equality.

And it came one day after Dem Brian Benjamin cruised to victory to fill a vacant Senate seat in Harlem, giving the chamber's Democrats a numerical majority with 32 members. But both Felder and the eight rogue members of the IDC prevent that majority by siding with the Republicans — leaving the rump Democratic Minority Conference with only 23 members.

But it's unlikely the turnout faction will rejoin the party fold anytime soon. After coming under public scrutiny recently because several of its members controversially received stipends for committees they don't head, Klein would have a hard time convincing his members to give up

their privileged positions of power and perks without reaping any rewards, said a Democratic political consultant.

"The question becomes, why would Klein give up the power that he has, which is not insignificant, and the power of his conference, to help the Democrats, who have been trying to destroy him, get power?" said Hank Sheinkopf. "There's no incentive for Klein to take his members to join the Dems because they are going to be shunned and likely not get very much for doing it."

And Felder's ploy is all a big public play, too, to keep the spotlight off him, said Sheinkopf, knowing his fellow rogues won't rejoin the fold, he can safely maintain his seat with the Grand Old Party that more



RESIST: Zellnor Myrie holds up an anti-Independent Democratic Conference poster outside state Sen. Jesse Hamilton's Crown Heights office on May 24.
Photo by Caleb Caldwell

closely aligns with his conservative constituents in his largely Orthodox Jewish district.

"Felder is very conservative, a Democrat by party registration and by candidacy, and he caucuses with the Republicans because they are much more likely to be in tune with his constituents," he said. "And truthfully, because his constituency is much more

conservative, then people might remember if he were to vote on social issues along with the Dems, and he might get a primary for himself. It's an interesting phenomenon, his lips say 'yes, yes, yes,' but his eyes say 'no, no, no.'"

Felder told this paper back in March that it was the IDC who prevented a true Dem majority, not him — and he would be happy

to join his loyal Dem colleagues. But now, Felder is criticizing the IDC for giving eight votes to the Republicans, imploring them to rejoin the mainstream Dems, but won't commit to joining the conference himself.

Asked about his earlier statement, Felder's office only referred this paper back to his letter and said he would be "open to discussion." *Continued on page 10*



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Quidditch flies into Brooklyn

Bridge Park to host sport popularized by Harry Potter books

BY MATT JOHN

It's a battle of the broomsticks!

Major League Quidditch rivals the New York Titans and the Boston Knight Riders will descend on Brooklyn Bridge Park on June 10 for a three-match series of the high-flying game popularized by the Harry Potter children's books — but the winner of this face-off will be crowned without any player's feet leaving the ground.

Aspiring Quidditch stars may start out as wannabe wizards, but a league spokesman said it does not take long for them to tap athletic ability once they hit the field.

"People come to Quidditch for Harry Potter, but people stay for the sport and the athleticism," said Major League Quidditch's Jack McGovern. "It's a chance to be active and play a unique sport with all genders."

The coed sport is



HAVING A BALL: Major League Quidditch players will descend on Brooklyn Bridge Park on June 10, where the New York Titans will take on the Boston Knight Riders.

Photo composite by John Napoli with Associated Press photo

based off of a game that Potter and his fellow wizards play on brooms, which soar above the ground in the fictional series. But the mere muggles who compete in Major League Quid-

ditch, a game that combines elements of basketball, dodgeball, and rugby, do so on both feet, while holding a broom-like stick between their legs — a rule that makes the game more chal-

lenging, according to McGovern.

"We kind of think of it like a handicap, like in basketball where you have to dribble the ball or in hockey where you play on skates," he said. "In Quidditch, one hand has to be holding the broom and that makes it more difficult and fun."

Teams are comprised of seven players — one seeker, three chasers, two beaters, and one keeper — who rack up points as they battle to catch a golden snitch, which takes the form of a runner dressed in yellow with a velcro "tail" that must be snagged for a game to end.

Seekers chase the snitch while chasers try to throw balls into hoops guarded by keepers, and beaters hurl more balls at their opponents to slow their offense.

Each ball through a hoop earns a team 10 points and catching the snitch is worth 30, and the squad with the most points at the end wins.



KEEPING THE HISTORY: Brooklyn Historical Society Dumbo occupies the second floor of the Empire Stores industrial warehouse, which retains its original factory winch. Philip Greenberg

HISTORICAL

Continued from page 1

photographs taken over the last 150 years, including work by well-known photographers Harvey Stein and Bernice Abbott, alongside work by unknown artists from the past. The images not only provide a look into history, but they demonstrate how different artistic eyes can interpret the same locations, said Schwartz.

"Some of them are historical and some them are very contemporary — the photographers look at the waterfront in so many different ways," she said. "There are images that are almost abstract, and some images are iconic of these industrial areas. The show is very evocative and gives a sense of Coney Island, Newtown Creek, the Gowanus Canal, and any and everything that related to the Brooklyn waterfront."

Because its new building looks out over the water, the Society wanted the first exhibit in the space to reflect its setting.

"The entire focus of that space for us is really the Brooklyn waterfront and we're excited to be focusing on the history of the waterfront," said Schwartz.

And the huge, historic Empire Stores building is the perfect match for

a historical society, said Schwartz.

"It's a very fun and clean and industrial and with an almost modern feeling, even though we're sitting in what was the middle of 19th century warehouse building," she said. "The developers have done a beautiful job of retaining a lot of the original building so you really get a feel for what the original warehouse was like."

The Society has big plans to expand in its new space — the photo display will end in early September, to be followed by a multi-media exhibit focusing on the history of the Brooklyn waterfront, said Schwartz, and the museum is planning more interactive activities that appeal to children.

"In December, we'll have an interactive exhibit with objects, artifacts, documents, and also lots of digital components," she said. "There will even be lots of installations for children. Our education staff is working on programs for kids, like treasure hunts to get them to look at photos in this exhibit."

Brooklyn Historical Society Dumbo [55 Water St. between New Dock and Main streets in Dumbo, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynhistory.org/dumbo. Open Mon-Fri, noon-6 pm; Sat, Sun, 10 am-7 pm. \$10 suggested donation.

GOLF

Continued from page 1

Krevey, who also owns another popular bar on a boat, Manhattan hot spot the Frying Pan. "People in the summer are looking to get outdoors and just do something fun and casual — it's a hoot."

The nine-hole putt-putt park, tucked at the back of an Industry City courtyard, includes a mock-up of the Williamsburgh Sav-

ings Bank Tower, Coney Island's Wonder Wheel, the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, an iconic Brooklyn water tower, and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. One hole, featuring the Gowanus Canal, incorporates part of an old row boat found in the noxious waterway.

Players must purchase their putters at the nearby Helm Bar, a counter that also serves lobster and shrimp rolls, beer, wine and mixed drinks. The

Helm also rents ping-pong paddles, which can be used at a nearby "arena" — a colorful space housing rows of table tennis tables.

The Wheelhouse bar, near the entrance to the courtyard, operates out of a now land-locked tugboat that was retired in the late 1960s, and was most recently sitting empty on bucolic Staten Island.

The seasonal spots are part of a "Summer Spree" event happening at Industry City. Free and ticketed

events will take over Industry City courtyard 1/2 on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays all summer, starting June 7, though the line-up has not yet been announced.

Mini-golf at Industry City Courtyard 5/6 (Enter on Second Avenue between 34th and 35th streets in Sunset Park, www.icsummerspree.com). Open Mon-Thu, 11:30 am-8 pm; Fri-Sat, noon-9 pm; Sun, noon-6 pm. \$10 (\$5 kids).



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Party boat riles commuters at Sunset Park ferry pier

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

The city must find another place to dock a weekend party boat that unleashes a wave of rowdy revelers onto the same pier used by citywide ferries in Sunset Park, demand flustered commuters.

The Nautical Empress stops at the Brooklyn Army Terminal pier, disgorging hundreds of plastered partiers who trash the landings, clog the pier, and cause chaos as commuters try to board transit ferries on weekends. And the periodic storm surge of seafaring shenanigans could easily be avoided if the boozy boat were simply to dock at another part of the landing, said one commuter waiting for a boat to Manhattan.

"It's overwhelming," said Sunset Parker Hector Salazar. "It's just a lot of people trying to cram in out of this one place. There's so much pier here, why not use another part of it?"

Empire Cruises operates the Nautical Empress, which can carry up to 550 voyagers — dwarfing the max of 150 passengers on the city ferries — and is stocked with a bar and dance floor, making it an ideal candidate for private shindigs, according to the manager at Empire Cruises.

Now that the mercury is rising, the bookings are more frequent, and on weekends the pier can be completely overrun with post-booze-cruise revelers — some whom also host

their own afterparties in the parking lot, forcing ferry passengers to navigate a maze of makeshift dance floors strewn with empty liquor and beer bottles.

The Nautical Empress has been stopping at the Brooklyn Army Terminal for more than two years, but now that the citywide ferry dashes in and out of port as well, commuters and partiers are clashing.

The city launched the Rockaway ferry route, that shuttles Queens residents to Sunset Park then to Manhattan, on May 1. But the pier will be getting another boost in traffic with the launch of the Southern Brooklyn route this week, with a ferry shoving off

from Bay Ridge, then stopping at the terminal, and then heading on to Red Hook.

The swell of traffic could make waves for commuters, said one seafarer.

"It's confusing now, so when there are more boats around, I think it's going to get hectic," said Sunset Parker Lisa Noriega. "I'm all for people having a good time — looks like fun — just maybe they should dock on the other side of the pier where there's less room for confusion."

The city's Economic Development Corporation runs the pier where vessels can technically tie up anywhere along it, but at the moment there is only the one gangway for people to stream on and off of boats,



PARTY BOAT: The Nautical Empress cruises the harbor and docks at the Brooklyn Army Terminal on weekends where it hosts events and parties.

Community News Group / Caroline Spivack

according to a spokesman with the city agency.

A new gangway would require Dock NYC — which oversees the Nautical Empress at port and is run by the Economic Development Corporation — to invest in building a new platform at another part of the pier.

But that's a last resort for the city, which plans on adjusting ferry schedules to accommodate crowds at the pier if need be, said a spokesman with the Economic Develop-

ment Corporation.

In the meantime, at least freewheeling ferry-goers have chance to get down while they wait for weekend ferries.

"It feels like I'll be here for a while, so at least I can dance while I wait," said Bay Ridgite Kevin Chen, who was turned away from a Manhattan-bound ferry because it was full. "I feel like I'm at a seaside rave — definitely wasn't expecting this when I decided to take the ferry."

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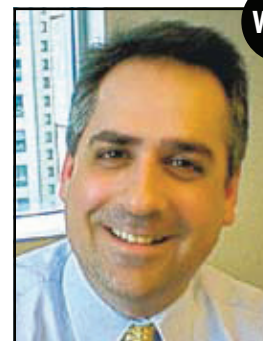
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Simple Procedure Improves Dry Eyes & Sagging Eyelids

Exclusive interview with Dr. Golio, Director of Craniofacial Surgery

If you have recurring infections on your eyelashes, dry eyes, feeling of dirt, debris, sand, odd bodies or watery eyes, you are not alone. A simple procedure performed under local anesthesia can help.

Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, "A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, parkinsons & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions."

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, "A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds."

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring

the position thereof. "It's like pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time," says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections.

Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation. This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

The same day of the surgery you can watch television, read a book, warm up your own food as well as wash your face permitting the stitches to get wet. In short, you will be able to fend for self the same day of procedure.

Private insurances and Medicare will cover the procedure when it's done to correct the excess flab, symptoms of tearing, recurrent infections or inversion of the eyelashes. This procedure should not be confused with under-eye bags that are considered a cosmetic concern and therefore is not covered by any insurance.

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SENATE

Continued from page 4

cussions at the appropriate time."

And the IDC's Democratic Unity Pledge, which puts pressure on the Senate Dems to pass the liberal legislation, is just cheap political theater to distract the leadership and the public from the faction's hypocrisy, said one constituent of fellow IDC member state Sen. Jesse Hamilton (D-Crown Heights), who joined dozens of others at a protest outside Hamilton's office on May 24.

"It's specious in that they are trying to put the other Dems on the line because they are saying not all Dems support it. They are deflecting," said Prospect Heights resident Judith Hertzberg. "The fact that the bills don't even get to the floor is because the GOP won't let them out of committee, so the notion of where do all the other Dems stand is a red herring. The roll can't even be called."

Sheinkopf said Klein's unity campaign is a sly ploy to prove his power and progressiveness to his fellow Dems.

"Klein's battle is not with the Republicans, it's with the Dems," said Sheinkopf. "Klein wants to prove he's more progressive than the members of



NASTY WOMEN: Martha Llanos, Judith Hertzberg, and Alicia Villarosa protested outside Hamilton's office. Photo by Caleb Caldwell

the Democratic conference, and that's the smart thing to do — that way no one can accuse him of being anything less than progressive."

A spokeswoman for the IDC refused to elaborate on whether the group would rejoin the party fold, but said its main priority is the package of seven bills, and that Felder has shown his true colors by refusing to sign the pledge himself.

"It's telling that Simcha Felder didn't sign the pledge. We now see where he stands on these seven crucial issues," said Candice Giove. "Thirty two is

not a magic number unless there are 32 Democrats who are ready to stand up and unite on policies that combat Donald Trump. Until we achieve unity and stand up for women, immigrants, and the most vulnerable New Yorkers, all talk about a majority is nothing more than meaningless rhetoric on the part of failed leadership. The Independent Democratic Conference has made its positions and its values clear. We are asking every other Senator to do the same. It's time to call the roll."

Felder's office refused to comment on which of the seven bills he would support, if any.

GOWANUS

Continued from page 1

according to Tsiamis, who first reported news of the delay at April's meeting. Now the cleanse, instead of finishing in 2022 as scheduled, likely will not be complete until at least the latter half of the decade — even if the polluters decide to cooperate.

"I can tell you right now it's not going to happen in 2022," he said.

Tsiamis told the room he hoped the contaminators would get their act together, but they still refuse to play ball. In one case, they wanted to use one general contractor for the work required in the Fourth Street Basin, despite the Feds' demand the job be di-

vided among several — and now the agency is tired of tapping its toes.

"We basically received a response to our comments saying they don't agree with us," said Tsiamis. "We have been very patient in that process. The patience stops here."

Tsiamis sent an e-mail to the polluters on May 19 to inform them they are on notice and will rack up penalties — which will be decided later — each time they refuse to cooperate.

"Please consider this to be an advance notice that any future failure to fully and timely comply with EPA's directives related to the dredging pilot may result in a formal determination of noncompliance," he said in the e-mail.

The polluters have yet to respond to Tsiamis's letter.

A spokeswoman for National Grid claims the utility company is doing what it can to push the process along, but is being held to a "more ambitious timeline" than typical Superfund cleanups.

The company received approval from the Public Service Commission — which oversees the state's utilities — in December to add a two percent surcharge to customers' monthly bills to pay for the cleanup. But the regulatory arm will review the increase before National Grid can implement it, to ensure the company is not wasting money on expenses unnecessary to the cleanup, according to a commission spokesman.

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