

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the Downtown News



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Brooklyn second baseman Armand Gaerlan scores in front of Yankees catcher P.J. Pillittere in the eighth inning of the Cyclones 10-7 Opening Night victory at Keyspan Park in Coney Island.

B'KLYN IDOLS

Clones beat Yanks, take opener



Brooklynite and former "American Idol" contestant Constantine Maroulis, left, who sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America" Monday night, with Pee-Wee (center) and a sheared Sandy the Seagull.

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

It was deja vu all over again. And again. And again. And again.

For the fifth time in their five-year history, the Brooklyn Cyclones took the season opener, this time with a 10-7 victory over the hated Staten Island Yankees.

In front of the largest crowd ever to make its way into Keyspan Park, Mookie Wilson's squad put on a show featuring timely hitting, aggressive base running and, minus three errors, some excellent glove work.

But it was Jesus Gamero's two-run homer off the left field scoreboard in the seventh, which put the Clones up 6-4, that garnered the biggest cheer of the night from the crowd of 9,303.

The Clones went to work on the base paths early when, in the

See **OPENER** on page 6

BROOKLYN'S BEST CYCLONES COVERAGE: PAGE 6

Ready for a close-up

Noted filmmaker focuses on Hynes, O'Hara

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

An award-winning documentary filmmaker, whose previous work includes exposes of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Enron, has his sights set on Brooklyn, in particular District Attorney Charles Hynes.

Following up this year's "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room," filmmaker Alex Gibney said that he had already amassed hours of footage for a documentary starring John Kennedy O'Hara, the Sunset Park man convicted of voter fraud six years ago.

The film, he said, intends to follow the former perennial political candidate as he struggles to reverse his conviction, which O'Hara maintains was ordered by Hynes as a favor to Park Slope Assemblyman James Brennan.

To Hynes and his allies, however, the as-yet-untitled documentary couldn't have come at a worse time: Gibney said that while a long shot, the documentary could be finished in time for release just before the Democratic primary in September, where Hynes for the first time in his 16 years as DA faces a crowded field of challengers.

"I think it's an important story with national implications," said Gibney, who is also following former Hynes challenger Sandra Koper, who last month pulled out of the race and instead will run for a civil court judgeship.

"The larger story is how do citizens make a difference, and how do governments get entrenched in ways that defy political stereotypes," said the filmmaker.

Although he has been filming O'Hara since January, Gibney said he was still unsure what direction the project would take. Fluent in both television and film, the New Jersey resident said that he hadn't decided if the documentary would be best suited for the big screen or, say, the Public Broadcasting System.

The Enron documentary, said Gibney, played in 1,200 theaters nationwide, to audiences who called the film "shocking."

See **MOVIE** on page 7



John O'Hara and his lawyer, Barry M. Fallick, are filmed by documentary cameraman outside Brooklyn Supreme Court Wednesday. Film will focus on O'Hara's conviction for voter fraud and subsequent battle to clear his name.

PAGE 9

Bluegrass legend Del McCoury to play Celebrate Brooklyn

TOP COURT OKS HOME SEIZURES

By Neil Sloane and Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that local governments may seize people's homes and businesses — even against their will — for private economic development.

The decision could pave the way for New York State to condemn private property under its eminent domain authority for use in developer Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards project in Prospect Heights, where nearly 13 acres of private property face condemnation.

More immediately, the 5-4 high court ruling represents a defeat for some New London, Conn., residents whose homes are slated for destruction to make room for an office complex. They argued that cities have no right to take their land except for projects with a clear public use, such as roads or schools, or to revitalize blighted areas.

The court affirmed the right of cities to

NOT JUST NETS THE NEW BROOKLYN

bulldoze residences for projects such as shopping malls and hotel complexes in order to generate tax revenue.

Local officials, not federal judges, know best in deciding whether a development project will benefit the community, justices said.

The Ratner plan includes a professional basketball arena that could also host concerts and other events, as well as four skyscrapers and 13 other high-rises on property stretching east from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues. Ratner proposes to create more than 7,000 units of housing as well as commercial and office space.

Both Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Gov. George Pataki support Ratner's project

and the city and state filed briefs in support of the City of New London's position affirming the right of eminent domain.

Some opponents of the Ratner project expressed shock at the high court's decision.

"It's as if the Supreme Court has ruled against the U.S. Constitution. I'm shocked," said Patti Hagan, a Prospect Heights resident who lives just outside the arena plan footprint and has for nearly two years organized opposition to the plan.

"Why isn't the Supreme Court holding the basic fundamental rights of people?" she said.

"Supposedly it's [to bring in] more taxes. See **EMINENT DOMAIN** on page 19



A visitor to the New York Puppet Library attempts to walk while carrying a "backpack puppet" at Grand Army Plaza. The New York Puppet Library is one of two national Puppet Free Lending Libraries that gives the public the chance to rent puppets for up to two weeks for community events, neighborhood parades, celebrations, demonstrations or other occasions.

Giant puppets on loan at GAP

By Mike Weissenstein
Associated Press

At the foot of a seven-story granite arch in the middle of a busy traffic circle, a scuffed yellow door opens once a week to a scene that's straight out of a children's storybook.

Draped over dull gray boxes of electrical equipment is a Mother Earth puppet with a face the size of a manhole cover. A dragon made of blue garbage bags snakes down a circular staircase.

They peer from alcoves and hang from the ceiling; floor after floor of enormous puppets,

from kid-size, grinning white carousel horses to a towering "Corporate Iceman" left over from a play about child labor and globalization.

These slightly worn veterans of years of parades and plays make up the collection of the New York Puppet Library, an unusual joint venture inside the landmark Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza.

The Puppeteers Cooperative, a self-described "loose affiliation of puppeteers," makes its creations available without charge for parties, performances and political demonstrations in exchange for rent-free real estate from the ceiling.

See **GAP** on page 17

TISH RIPS GIFF



By Jess Wisloski and Neil Sloane
The Brooklyn Papers

Letitia James is no fan of Gifford Miller.

And, the councilwoman said this week, she wants to make that point perfectly clear in light of mailings to Democrats in her district — paid for by taxpayers — that imply an alliance between the City Council speaker, who is running for mayor, and the Fort Greene-Prospect Heights legislator.

It's not so much that the mailings carry the air of impropriety — despite emanating from the City Council — but the fact that they are more than campaign literature for the Upper East Side councilman — although that, too, bothers James. No, in this case it is the implication that the councilwoman is an ally of someone who supports a project which she has risked her political career fighting — developer Bruce Ratner's pro-

See **TISH RIPS** on page 7



Letitia James

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Columbia Street loses 'General'

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

It will be easy for the merchants and residents of Columbia Street to remember Barry Jetter — he was the kind of guy who just wouldn't be ignored. Whether known as "Barry Nitemare," "The General," the "Mayor of Columbia Street," the "Chrome King" or "Jerry Garcia" (for his curly beard, glasses, beer-bellied build and blasting of the Grateful Dead out of his furniture shop) the man credited with helping spark the Columbia Street Waterfront District upsurge died suddenly on June 11.

The city medical examiner's office had not determined a cause of death by press time.

From his shop General Nitemare, just south of Degraw Street, Jetter, 54, sold vintage furniture and cultivated a communal feeling.

About 75 family, friends and shopkeepers in the area gathered Friday night, June 17, outside General Nitemare, 196 Columbia St., to memorialize Jetter.

The shop at 196 Columbia St. was known for having Jetter's wares spread out haphazardly on the sidewalk late into the night. He sold vintage, re-habbed furniture that he bought at estate auctions.

Consuelo Grushin, the owner of Main Street Ephemera, a paper goods and collectibles shop at 205 Columbia St., said that when she saw Jetter's shop, she decided to open her business in the neighborhood, too.

"He was the No. 1 pioneer of this street," Grushin said. "The whole neighborhood is crazy."

If the neighborhood was crazy, then it was following Jetter's lead.

"Send lawyers, guns and money, the se— has hit the fan!" read his business card, quoting a Warren Zevon song.

Outside General Nitemare, a shrine memorialized him



Neighbors gather for Barry Jetter memorial outside his General Nitemare vintage furniture store on June 17.

with original poetry, the lyrics to the Grateful Dead song "Truckin'," a bonsai tree and bottles of Manhattan Special, one of his "vices" along with Orangina. Photos were posted of him posing with his mini-pinscher, Tiny, perching atop a pickup truck stacked 12-feet high with furniture, and even riding an oversized antique tricycle.

Jim O'Mahony, 39, who worked next door to Jetter at City Beautiful Carpentry, said the most obvious difference will be the quiet.

"You're not going to hear him out here," he said. "He was like ... street performance out there sometimes. You'd see him out there all the time."

"He had a voice that was funny ... people like to do impressions of him because he had a very distinct, nasally, gravelly voice," said O'Mahony. "Sometimes he'd make fun of you and sometimes he'd just throw nonsense in, like free association. He was really one of those New York characters, you couldn't write something better than him."

O'Mahony noted that Jetter had been in a car accident in the winter.

"He seemed to be coming back from that," said O'Mahony.

with good grades, that he went to Brandeis University.

"He was very proud that he did well in the world where you are expected to be a certain thing, and he did it all his own way. I think his family really loved that about him too," she said.

"He would come in here and bring something remotely like a bar apparatus, like this horribly ornate crystal ashtray that we couldn't even have in the bar, or an eggbeater that's broken. A rusted hand citrus-squeezer," Franklin recalled.

"He was a big fan of short skirts and knee socks, they were popular with him," she added.

"He was in a lot of pain after the accident," said Franklin. "He had several surgeries, and his whole business was about going to auctions and bringing furniture back, so that was taken completely away from him."

"The Friday before he died it was the happiest I'd seen him in four or five months. He was being a pain in the ass, and really funny," she said.

"He liked to press your buttons," Franklin said.

"He was on a real upswing," she said. "But he was up and down, like all of us."



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Thief nabs cash from Monty sandwich shop

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A worker at a Montague Street sandwich shop was robbed at gunpoint on the evening of June 15.

A 22-year-old female employee of the shop, between Henry and Hicks streets, told police the robber entered the shop around 8:25 pm, posing as a customer.

When other patrons left, he pulled out a silver pistol and handed her a note that read: "Don't say a word. Open the register and empty it."

The victim, who told police she was alone at the counter while a co-worker did paperwork in an upstairs office, complied and the robber fled on foot with \$254.

She described the attacker as a black man, age unknown, about 5-foot-11 and 185 pounds, wearing a white baseball cap, white sneakers and a blue jacket.

Drive-up mug

A 41-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint on Pacific Street before dawn on June 12.

The victim, who was not injured, told police he was walking westbound toward Clinton Street at 3:45 am when the robber got out of the passenger seat of a black Lin-

POLICE BLOTTER

cash Town Car.
Brandishing what the victim said was a black semi-automatic pistol, the robber stopped him, demanding: "Give me your money."

The man said he turned over \$220, a Blackberry wireless device that he valued at \$400, and a \$150 cellular telephone.

The robber returned to the car, which fled west on Pacific Street.

No description of the driver was available.

No class
Thieves broke into the Brooklyn High School for the Arts during school hours June 17, making off with electronic equipment valued at nearly \$3,000, say police.

The principal of the Dean Street school, located between Third and Fourth avenues, told police an unknown number of burglars cut a chain on one gate and tampered with a window to gain entry to the school's cafeteria sometime between 1 pm and 4 pm.

After the thieves gathered the equipment — which included a \$100 DVD/VCR

player, a mixer used in recording music, valued at \$845, and speakers valued at \$1,000 — they left the school through an unlocked classroom door.

The school, with 545 students, reported three major crimes during 2003-2004, the most recent year for which data was available, according to the city's Department of Education. That is six times the average rate for schools of a similar size, statistics showed.

Officials at the school could not be reached for comment by press time.

Coffey clutch
A resident of Coffey Street in Red Hook returned from work on June 11 to find his home robbed of items totaling nearly \$4,000.

The 24-year-old victim, who lives between Ferris and Conover streets, told police he left for work at 1 pm and returned at 5:30 pm to find his second-floor apartment burglarized.

He told police someone must have climbed the fire escape, entered through an unlocked back window, and made off with the following: a laptop computer valued at \$2,500, an iPod valued at \$600, a \$350 Sony electronic organizer, a \$300 camera, a backpack and a checkbook.

Gunpoint mug
A 29-year-old woman heading home along Bergen Street was robbed at gunpoint just before midnight on June 14.

The woman, accompanied by a 26-year-old man, was near the corner of Hoyt Street at 11:45 pm when a man approached her and, pointing a gun, demanded: "Give me your [expletive] bag."

She turned over her purse, which she told police contained \$15, a driver's license, ATM card, law school identification, house keys and a cellular phone valued at \$100.

Hudson hawk
Hudson Avenue, between Front and Water streets in Vinegar Hill, was a bad place to park the night of June 18.

Two residents had their vehicles burglarized during attempted thefts that night.

Both victims told police they heard noises and saw a man, about 5-foot-9, near their cars.

A 32-year-old female victim told police on the morning of June 19 that her white, 1992 Volvo sedan suffered a broken window, a broken turn signal and jammed ignition.

A 53-year-old man reported similar damage to his maroon 1988 Jeep Cherokee on the same morning.

Baltic bandits
Two thieves, one riding a bicycle, mugged a young woman on Baltic Street just before 1 am on June 19.

The victim, 21, told police she was walking toward Third Avenue, with a 22-year-old female friend from Queens, when the robbers approached from behind. One produced a silver handgun and demanded: "Give me your purse."

The victim turned over her Louis Vuitton bag, which she said contained \$18, Visa credit and debit cards and her Social Security card.

The robbers, who fled toward Fourth Avenue.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 20th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS0412005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 507, grants me rights to Assume the name of: David Baskies. My present name is: Axl David Baskies. My present address is: 2384 - 41st Street, Brooklyn, New York 11204. My place of birth is: New York, New York. My date of birth is: August 25, 1980. DPZ

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number NS05912005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 507, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Patricia Danielle Ehrlich Alberts. My present name is: Patricia Danielle Ehrlich. My present address is: 180 Atlantic Street, Apt. 42, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is: Baltimore, New York. My date of birth is: March 13, 1975. DPZ

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Kiddie fight leads to adult knifings

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

An argument between two children at the Chuck E. Cheese restaurant in the Atlantic Terminal mall Saturday escalated into adult violence, leaving two men hospitalized with stab wounds, one a Good Samaritan who tried to stop the squabble.

Lindon Ramsey, 34, and Ali Parchment, 31, remained in stable condition at Kings County Hospital this week. Ramsey, a security guard who wants to be a police officer someday, was stabbed as he intervened in the June 18 melee that started as punches and kicks between two girls at the child-themed pizza place, according to published reports.

That escalated to a fight between their mothers, and then four men, police sources told the Daily News, noting that three of the men were beating up on one man when Ramsey stepped in. Ramsey was stabbed very deeply in his left side. A friend of Ramsey's, who also jumped in to break things up, was also stabbed.

Police were called to the restaurant in the mall, which is anchored by a Target store, at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, at 8:36 pm, on reports of a knife fight. They arrested Neron Banks, 26, of Canarsie, and were still pursuing two other suspects.

Police in the 88th Precinct have been watching the Atlantic Terminal mall and the attached Atlantic Center mall as hotspots for petty crimes like purse snatching and pick-

pocketing. But a spokesman for Forest City Ratner Companies, which owns both malls, said the stabbing was unusual.

"We were shocked and repulsed at this random act of violence," Bruce Bender, Forest City Ratner's executive vice president, said in a prepared statement. "This was the first incident of this nature," he said, since the Atlantic Terminal mall opened last July.

The mall employs off-duty police officers in plain clothes as well as uniformed security guards and uses video surveillance, Bender said in a statement.

"We will continue to work with our tenants to ensure our customers have a safe shopping experience," he said.

A spokesman for the Texas-based company that runs 500 Chuck E. Cheese restaurants nationwide said such violence is not the norm in their shops.

"Minor altercations are not uncommon, but something of this level is extremely rare," said Jon Rice, vice president of CEC Entertainment. The Downtown Brooklyn store, he said, is among the chain's busiest locations.

Police statistics show that violent crime has dropped across the city and within the 88th Precinct, which includes both downtown malls. But pickpockets and shoplifters have still plagued the shopping centers, police said, despite the presence of security guards, secure doors and other safety devices.

"We have a private security person on premises," Rice

noted, calling it an "extra measure" of safety the company deploys in some locations.

"He did what he could to get in between the individuals," Rice said of the security guard on duty at Chuck E. Cheese last Saturday, contradicting published reports that suggested the guard didn't immediately intervene. "I don't know what he could have done any differently," Rice added.

A spokesman for District

Attorney Charles Hynes said Banks was to be arraigned on June 21 on charges of assault, menacing and harassment. If convicted, he could face up to seven years in prison.

Ramsey, who holds two private security jobs — neither of which are at Chuck E. Cheese, where he had been enjoying an outing with his pregnant wife and two children — wants to be a police officer, reports said.

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 17th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05030205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Jonathan Matthew Adams. My present name is: Harlo Albert Williams. My present address is: 630 Ashford Street, #128, Brooklyn, New York 11207. My date of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: June 1, 1984. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 16th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05031205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to: Assume the name of Haroun Omar Aljaldi. My present name is: Haroun Aljal Aljaldi. My present address is: 205 18th Street, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11209. My place of birth is: Bala Mulla, Pakistan. My date of birth is: October 2, 1982. Assume the name of Saba Omar Aljaldi. My present address is: 251 18th Street, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11209. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: February 4, 2002. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 20th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05030205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Kean Rebecca Culberg. My present name is: Kean Rebecca Culberg. My present address is: 75 Henry Street, Apt. #130, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My date of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: December 28, 1966. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05030205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Daniela Maya Baroni. My present name is: Daniela Aneta Clarka. My present address is: 11 Pierdough 10th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11226. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: December 18, 1972. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 116573A for base, motor and/or trailer has been applied for by the undersigned to sell base, motor and/or trailer at retail at a restaurant under the license, Beverage Control Law at Westway LLC, 279 Grand Street, Brooklyn NY 11211 for on-going consumption. **PH26-20**

SUPREME COURT, COUNTY OF KINGS COUNTY, K218, Plaintiff against EDSEL N. KING II, aka EDSEL N. KING, GASTR BARRONDS, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered here by the undersigned on February 10, 2005, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Room 241, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on the 16th day of July, 2005, at 3:00 PM (precisely at 3:00 PM) the premises, including and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, SCORNING, a grant on the Northernly side of Thorne Street, distant 50 feet Eastward from the corner formed by the intersection of the Northernly side of Thorne Street and the Eastern side of Peter Avenue, being a plot 100 feet by 50 feet by 100 feet by 50 feet, said premises known as 121-123 THAMES STREET, BROOKLYN, NY. Approximately amount \$278,000.00 plus interest & costs. Payment will be paid subject to provisions of said judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 116465K, SOL, INDEDE, EDC, Reference: Silberman & Serfaty, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 247 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11217. (PH26) PAF6-7. **PH26-27**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05030205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Denise Carol Ponzetti. My present address is: 26 Moore Place, #50, Brooklyn, NY 11201, the date of my birth is April 27, 1963, the place of my birth is: Newark, New Jersey; my present name is: Denise Carol Samson. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 8th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05030205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Jeffrey Evelyn Albano. My present name is: Jeffrey Alan Albano. My present address is: 180 Audubon Street, #2, Brooklyn, New York 11205. My place of birth is: Seattle, Washington. My date of birth is: January 13, 1974. **PH26**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number N05034205, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Ebony Dawn Thomas. My present name is: Ebony Dawn Thomas. My present address is: 675 Lincoln Avenue, #14E, Brooklyn, New York 11208. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: October 25, 1979. **PH26**

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Ikea buys Hook store site

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

In a development that may seem anticlimactic to Red Hook residents, who have been rallying for and against a planned Ikea big-box store on the neighborhood's southern waterfront for more than a year, the Swedish home furnishings giant confirmed its purchase of the Erie Basin site.

sure to generate even more attention to Ikea's first New York City store, the multinational chain said last week that the Red Hook store would be its largest worldwide. Plans for a Red Hook Ikea passed nearly unanimously in the City Council last October.

Even in the face of steady opposition to the project from residents fearful of the quality-of-life and health impacts of bringing so much traffic through the neighborhood, as well as from preservationist groups who argued against the paving over of the 22-acre former New York Shipyard site and graving dock between Dwight and Columbia Streets along the Erie Basin, the plan passed city review largely on the promise of jobs to residents of the Red Hook Houses public housing complex, which account for more than 70 percent of the neighborhood's population and carry a near 20 percent unemployment rate among residents of working age.

Ikea purchased the property for \$31.25 million. "This is unquestionably an important milestone for all New York City residents," said Brian Ezratty, vice chairman of Eastern Consolidated, which represented the sellers, U.S. Dredging Corp.

"It means jobs for Brooklyn residents and a boon for Manhattan shoppers," he said, pointing out the distance New Yorkers must travel to get to Ikea's two closest stores in the New Jersey cities of Paramus and Elizabeth.

Kenneth Roth, president of Ikea's buying agent, Rodwood Real Estate, said of the purchase, "Ikea has been waiting for the opportunity to situate in one of New York City's boroughs for a long time."

Roth added: "We are very excited to play a significant role in the continuing gentrification of Red Hook, with the opening of the 24th American store, which will be Ikea's largest."

The U.S. Dredging Corp. had been acting as the contracted agents for demolition of a series of Civil War-era buildings on the site.

The company still faces up to \$86,400 in fines for violations issued by the city Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) after U.S. Dredging

was determined to have committed an illegal demolition of a warehouse on Beard Street riddled with asbestos.

Since the disturbance and possible release of asbestos in the surrounding area, Ikea's support in the community by job advocates and unemployed tenants of the Red Hook Houses, has waned to some degree.

At a recent hearing held by the state Department of Environmental Conservation to address

plans by the company to restore bulkheads, very few attendees voiced support for the plan.

And on May 26, a state Supreme Court judge heard arguments in a lawsuit brought against Ikea by Red Hook community groups that say the city illegally granted the company the right to rezone and build on the waterfront. According to the complaint filed in Manhattan civil court, the City Council and City Planning Commission

gave Ikea the nod based on "false information" the company provided them.

The suit seeks to void the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) used in the city's Uniform Land Use Review

Procedure, which required review by and hearings before the community board, borough president, City Planning Commission and City Council.

The civil suit was filed by groups of community organizations including the Coalition to Revitalize Our Waterfronts Now (CROWN), Groups Against Garbage Sites (GAGS) and the Red Hook Civic Association, and also includes individual area residents as plaintiffs.

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Honor for hero 78th cop



At ceremonies honoring Police Officer William Rivera are his partner, Officer Nelson Fernandez; sister, Evelyn; and mother, Aurelia Rivera. Rivera died last year from injuries sustained while he chased a suspect.

Patrol Borough Brooklyn South posthumously honored 78th Precinct Police Officer William Rivera as a 2004 Cop of the Year in a ceremony Tuesday outside the 67th Precinct in East Flatbush.

Rivera, 35, an officer with the Park Slope precinct for his entire career, died last November from a blood clot caused by line-of-duty injuries sustained after he fell from a rooftop in pursuit of a suspect.

On Oct. 2, 2004, Rivera, responding to a burglar alarm at a warehouse on Third Street, set off with his partner, Police Officer Nelson Fernandez, after a man they saw fleeing from the roof of the one-story building.

While Fernandez tried to block the suspect at an exit point, Rivera ran across the slick roof, but misjudged a step and fell 18 feet, shattering both legs and ankles, and injuring his back.

Rivera was taken to Lutheran Medical Center, and in the subsequent weeks had both legs operated on individually, as well as heel reconstruction. He was recovering at home when he suffered the fatal clot.

In 12 years at the 78th Precinct, Rivera made 260 arrests. It is also where he met his fiancée, Police Officer Rebecca Rodriguez.

The Brooklyn South Cop of the Year Award is named for the former Brooklyn South commanding officer, Assistant Chief Patrick D. Brennan, who died of cancer in June 1999, 10 months after retiring.

The Irish immigrant settled in Sunset Park and joined the NYPD in 1965, graduating John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1976 and holding several commands before being named assistant chief and commander of Brooklyn South in 1997.

Also honored posthumously on Tuesday were 67th Precinct detectives Robert L. Parker and Patrick H. Rafferty, who were shot and killed in East Flatbush last September when they attempted to arrest a suspect on a domestic violence complaint.

Sgt. Kevin J. Fitzgerald, of the 61st Precinct, was also named a 2004 Cop of the Year.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 16th day of June, 2005, bearing the Index Number 0000202005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, 605 COURT ST., Longwood Station, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants as rights to: To assume the name of the healthiest. My present name is Heather Tallia Swenson. My present address is 1011 Broadway Street, 42K, Brooklyn, New York 11203. My place of birth is Queens, New York. My date of birth is February 9, 1972. Assume the name of healthiest Ovi Swenson. My present name is healthiest Ovi Swenson. My present address is 1011 Broadway Street, 42K, Brooklyn, New York 11203. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is December 27, 2003. MDCS

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'I'll rob you later'

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A peeping-tom burglar robbed a Ninth Street apartment during on June 11 between noon and 4:30 pm, while its owner was out at work. The victim, 40, told police he believed the burglar opened the bedroom window of his apartment near Eighth Avenue and removed a \$4,000 laptop computer from his desk when he was away from the apartment for a few hours midday. According to the victim, a

POLICE BLOTTER

Hispanic male had 'poked his head through the bedroom window' at 7 am that very same day waking the victim from his sleep.

Stirring at the noise, the man told the victim when he opened his eyes, "Excuse me, I'm supposed to be in the next building. I work for 360 Degrees," he said, before ducking his head back out and moving on.

A canvass of the building found neither witnesses nor similar victims.

While they dined

A thief swiped a woman's briefcase — loaded with goodies — from her friend's van parked just outside a Sterling Place restaurant where they dined on June 10.

The victim told police that at 5 pm she and her co-worker, the owner of the vehicle, went out for drinks and dinner at the restaurant near Seventh Avenue.

He parked his Toyota van in front of the eatery and she inadvertently left her black

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Shop burgled

A burglar wiped out a Lincoln Place business overnight on June 10, making off with a laptop computer and cash.

The owner of the clothing shop, 29, told police that her small business near Seventh Avenue was robbed. She discovered the burglary when she found the security gate broken and the front door lock broken and unlocked at 10 am. Reported stolen was an \$800 laptop computer and \$200 in cash that was there when she closed at 7 pm the night before.

Mommy dearest

A woman assaulted her 12-year-old daughter with the broken handle of a vacuum cleaner and punched her in the head on June 5, according to police.

The girl called 911 at 11:45 am, and police responded to the apartment on 10th Street at Fourth Avenue.

The victim was found covered in bruises and with injuries on her legs and one knee, results of the beating her mother gave her with the vacuum handle and her fists, say police.

The woman, 51, also kicked her daughter in the neck, say police.

The girl told police her mother regularly abuses her, and threatens her by locking her in the house or throwing knives at her.

The victim showed a slashed pinky to police officers, which she said was the result of once such incident.

As of press time, no charges had been filed against the mother.

The Administration for Children's Services was notified. See **POLICE** on page 4

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DISCOUNT

POLICE BLOTTER...

Continued from page 3
fied, and the girl was sent to New York Methodist Hospital for treatment of the injuries.

Digital break-in
A burglar robbed a Sixth Avenue apartment of two high-end cameras on June 8, between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm, say police.

The victim, 27, was gone for four hours, but still she told police she thought the thief might have reached in through an open window in the front of the apartment, near First Street, and swiped the property.

According to the victim, by the time she returned home, a \$1,200 Nikon camera was missing, along with a \$200 pocket digital camera, despite the fact that iron gates covered the front window.

6th Ave. mug
A group of men physically assaulted and robbed a man June 9 on Sixth Avenue.

Police say the victim, 21, was walking between 10th and 11th streets at 3:30 am when a stranger approached

and demanded he "give it up." The victim told police he tried to run away from the man, who he soon noticed was joined by at least three other men, but the attacker grabbed his right arm and both he and the victim fell to the ground.

The mugger began punching him in the face, slamming the victim's forehead against the sidewalk while trying to break loose.

That's when a second man came up and held the victim to the ground by pressing his knee into his shoulder. The victim told police he couldn't see the second perpetrator, all he saw and felt was different hands and arms going through his pockets.

The strangers ran and the victim told police he saw the first attacker, who he described as a black male, about 6-foot-3, with close-cropped hair, wearing a blue baseball cap, bronze jewelry and a multicolored tank top, running alone up 10th Street.

The other assailant ran into

a green Mazda sedan, and two others ran down 10th Street, the victim said, telling police he wasn't sure who held him down.

Among the property stolen was a \$65 cellular phone, \$350 iPod, \$100 headphones, and a wallet containing \$40 and various credit cards.

Slim pickin's

A mugger robbed a woman of \$1 on June 8 at the corner of St. John's Place and Seventh Avenue as she headed westbound at 10:10 pm.


The victim told police she was headed towards Seventh Avenue from the side street when a man approached her asking for money.

"I don't have any," she replied.

But he grabbed her purse anyway and, emptying the pocketbook, took what little he found.


The man fled southbound on Seventh Avenue.

Among the things stolen was a business security badge and \$1.



It's a GIRL!

Brooklyn Papers Editor Neil Sloane and his wife Carolina announce the birth of their daughter



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The Play's the Thing

with Ed Shakespeare

Looking back after 50 years

IT WAS 3:45 PM ON Oct. 4, 1955, when the Dodgers' Johnny Podes threw the pitch that the Yankees' Elston Howard bounced to short. Pee Wee Reese caught the ball and threw to first base where Gil Hodges grabbed the low throw to give Brooklyn its first — and only — World Series championship.

Fifty seasons later, the Brooklyn Cyclones, with fan-favorite Moosekie Wilson at the helm, are attempting to repeat as the McNamara Division champs — and hopefully bring home a championship of their own.

Along the way, the Cyclones will celebrate the history of Brooklyn baseball. In front of the main entrance to Keyspan Park is the base of a statue that will commemorate a moment in May 1947 that Cyclones radio announcer Warner Fusselle has termed, "The most important event in the history of American sports."

Playing in his first season with the Dodgers after breaking the sport's color barrier, Jackie Robinson was the subject of racial slurs from fans and opposing players, and he had received several anonymous threats. During a game in Cincinnati, Kentucky-born Pee Wee Reese, the Dodgers' shortstop, went over to Robinson at second base and put his arm around him, showing the Reds, the Cincinnati fans, and the world, that this white Southerner was on Robinson's side.

A statue depicting Robinson and Reese at that moment is nearing completion and will be dedicated later in the season. It will stand at the entrance to the park.

While he's not the first African-American manager to manage a professional baseball team in Brooklyn (the Negro Leagues previously had an African-American manager here), shouts directed at Wilson during last Saturday's open practice had a familiar, friendly tone. They were like the loving of cattle, "Moo, Moo," and, getting closer to the sound, one heard "Moosekie, Moosekie," as the amiable Wilson, a member of the Mets' 1986 World Series winning team, approached the stands to sign autographs.

Perhaps some noted the social significance of Wilson making his first on-field public appearance as a Brooklyn manager, but apparently most did not. It was a beautiful afternoon, and the fans in attendance were looking forward to the approaching season, happy to have the Mets' former hustling lead-off man in charge at Keyspan Park. When people talked about race, it involved the Cyclones' chances in the up-coming New York-Penn League pennant race.

THE DEDICATION of the Robinson and Reese statue is not the only historical baseball event in Brooklyn this season. On July 23, Carl Erskine, a key starting pitcher on the 1955 Dodgers staff, will be representing those 1955 champions as he throws out the first pitch at the ballpark and sign copies of his new book, "What I Learned from Jackie Robinson."

And on Aug. 10, there are plans also for Game Seven World Series winner pitcher Johnny Podes to be in Brooklyn to celebrate the 1955 championship.

There is also a borough-wide 1955 World Series celebration planned for Oct. 4.

Wouldn't the 50th anniversary of the 1955 World Series be a fitting year for Brooklyn to win another crown? In the Cyclones' inaugural season of 2001, Brooklyn won the first game of a best-of-three series against the Williamsport Crosscutters for the New York-Penn League's championship. The Cyclones left on Sept. 10 for Brooklyn, needing to win one out of a possible two games at Brooklyn for the crown. We all know the tragedy of the next day, and the championship series was cancelled. Thus, the Cyclones and the Williamsport were declared co-champs.

This year's team returns second baseman Matt Fisher, first baseman Jake Bergerson, and outfielder Caleb Stewart, along with pitchers Jeff Landing and Edgar Alfonzo. The roster is in flux, draft choices are reporting, and other Cyclones veterans could join the fold. How do the fans feel about a championship season?

"I lived at Ebbs Field," said Coneys Island's Marty Bromberger, in only a slight exaggeration.

"I want these players to move up the ladder, and we're here to cheer them on, but if they do win the championship this year we're ready to give them what they deserve."

"To have the Cyclones, who brought baseball back to Brooklyn, win the championship on the 50th anniversary of when the Dodgers won the World Series would be baseball karma," added Stacy Bromberger, Marty's daughter.

"If the Cyclones win the championship at home, we'll celebrate right at the ballpark," said Danna Byrnes, of Bay Ridge. "And if they win it away, we'll be at that game and come right back with the team and celebrate it at Keyspan when they get back."

"Last year, on Jackie Robinson Day, Stacey Bennett stole home, reminding everyone of Jackie's steals of home. It was fate. This year, they'll have the Jackie Robinson statue. It's fate that we win."

It's the start of a new season with a vital connection to the Brooklyn Dodgers' past.

Championships in 1955 and 2005? Baseball karma? That's why they play the season. Play ball!

BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

new toppings for hot dog races

The Brooklyn Papers

This season's Nathan's Hot Dog Race will feature three additions to last year's line-up: Chili (a Chili dog), Franky (a plain dog), and, of course, Sauerkraut.

The six hot dogs will compete in a rotating lineup with each game's fourth inning competition being a ride, but it remains a famous landmark.

Warner Fusselle, legendary radio announcer for the Cyclones, has a terrific idea to put the jump to work for the Clones.

"Colored lights should be added to the Parachute Jump," said Fusselle. "One color if the Cyclones are ahead, a different color if they are losing. [Both colors if the game is tied.] A blinking color when the game is over."

Imagine the scene. People in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island and New Jersey can see the Parachute Jump. People sitting at home, relaxing on the beach, driving their cars, walking on sidewalks, sitting on ferries and flying in planes all look at the Parachute Jump.

"The Cyclones are winning," fans will say. "The color changed, the Clones are losing," observers will note.

"What do the lights mean?" "What do the lights mean?" as yet unformed viewer will wonder? The neophyte viewer will learn.

The lights will become a part of Brooklyn, and New York, culture.



Pedestal outside Keyspan Park marks the spot where a statue of Jackie Robinson and Pee Wee Reese will stand. The Parachute Jump can be seen in the background.

Is there a sponsor, or a mover and shaker out there, who can make this happen, who can quickly cut through the red tape and get some added lights on the Parachute Jump?

A great idea, a relatively simple execution. Who can make it happen?

— Shakespeare

Brooklyn boy
Brooklyn's own Joe Burke, a catcher, started his pro career with a game at Keyspan Park on Opening Night, but the Marine Park resident was playing for the Cyclones' opponents, the Staten Island Yankees.

That was fine for Burke, a long-time Yankee fan who was recently drafted in the 15th round.

Burke, a left-handed batter, played his high school baseball at St. Edmund's Prep, in Brooklyn, where he played virtually every position.

He played his college baseball at St. John's University, in Queens. Burke had a large contingent of family and friends on the hard base side of the ballpark on Opening Night. — Shakespeare

Suits me

Noticably missing from the advertisements along the outfield wall was one some considered a holdover from Ebbs Field.

Since the Cyclones' inaugural season in 2001, Garage Clothing had promised a suit to any player that hit their strategically-located billboard in left-center.

The company held up their end of the commitment twice in the Clones history — when infielder Jay Caliguri whacked a ball off it in 2001, and in 2004 when Derran Watts knocked one off it.

This year, the sign, which harks back to Abe Stark's heroics.

The Clones tucked on four mree runs in the eighth, putting the game out of reach of the Yanks, who capped the scoring in the ninth with a three-run homer by Patterson.

After giving up the home and allowing the tying run to come to the plate, Aristides Alimena settled down, getting Reggie Corona to ground to short to end the game.

And once again, the hometown crowd went home happy on Opening Night.

Cyclones notes:
On Wednesday, the Clones lost 5-2 to the Yankees before 6,485 at The Ballpark at St. George on Staten Island.

After falling behind 2-0 in the fourth inning, Brooklyn tied it up in the top of the fifth on a two-run single by shortstop John Malloy.

But that was all the Clones could muster, and the Yanks tallied three runs in the seventh off losing pitcher Edgar Alfonzo.

But that was all the Clones could muster, and the Yanks tallied three runs in the seventh off losing pitcher Edgar Alfonzo.

— Vince DiMiceli

OPENER...

Continued from page 1

first, after a walk to leadoff man Jonathan Malo and a single from Gamero put runners on first and third, Wilson ordered a double steal. Not knowing Malo was on his way home, Yankees catcher P.J. Pilittere threw to second, but the ball bounced passed shortstop Brett Gardner, and all runners were safe. Malo was credited with a steal of home on the play.

The Brooklynns added two more runs in the second, when Josh Peterson reached on an error and Tim Grogan doubled off the wall in right, putting runners at second and third. Yankee hurler Jim Conroy then struck out Rafael Arroyo, but did so with a wild pitch, allowing Conroy to advance to first and Peterson to score. Grogan then scored the old-fashioned way, on a hard single by Armand Gaerlan passed a diving Kyle Anson at third.

In the fourth, the Clones went up 4-0 when Arroyo,

who had walked and stolen second, scored on a single by Greg Gonzalez.

All the while, Cyclones starter Jeff Landing was putting up zeros, thanks much to the leather of his fielders.

A lead-off single in the second by the Yank Eduardo Larson was negated by a tailor-made short-to-second-to-first double play. That was followed by a diving catch by center fielder Gonzalez, who stole a single from Pilittere.

But Landing, who began the season with Hagerstown of the South Atlantic League, seemed to tire in the fifth. After retiring the first two batters (one on a diving stab by Gaerlan at second), he walked Eduardo Nunez, who later advanced to second on a wild pitch. Gardner then beat out an infield single, sending Nunez to third. James Cooper's single scored Nunez and sent Gardner to third before a wild pitch allowed Gardner to score.

Two walks then loaded the



Cyclones hurler Jeff Landing fires a strike.

bases, but was replaced in the seventh by Travis Hope, who coughed up the lead thanks to some shoddy fielding (two errors) behind him.

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Queens DA: Hynes aide is fraud-free

Says top Brooklyn prosecutor is allowed to vote from childhood home

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Despite living on Long Island, Brooklyn's No. 2 prosecutor is free to cast his ballot from the Queens home of his youth following an investigation into voter fraud that came to a close last week.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown ruled that Dino Amoroso did no wrong in registering to vote and voting from his parents' address in Queens, where he has been registered since a teenager. Brooklyn's first assistant district attorney came under fire in April after a challenger to his boss, Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes, filed a complaint alleging that the Lynbrook, L.I., homeowner was skirting election laws by voting from a non-primary residence.

The June 16 decision by Brown wraps up a two-month review sparked by Mark Peters, a former state prosecutor under Attorney General Eliot Spitzer who, along with four other candidates, is vying to unseat Hynes in a Democratic primary in September.

"We've concluded a review of the matter that was referred to us by Mark Peters and have found that there is no basis for the filing of criminal charges," said Patrick Clark, a spokesman for the Queens DA.

On Monday, Peters, a Park Slope resident, said that he respected the ruling, but remained vigilant of what he called Hynes' blind eye to-

ward internal corruption.

A separate investigation by Hynes foe John Kennedy O'Hara in early April revealed records indicating that one-third of Hynes' 98 assistant district attorneys had violated residency requirements by living outside of the city.

State law mandates that all city prosecutors live within the five boroughs, except for Manhattan prosecutors, whose office received an exemption from the state Legislature in 1962.

"Obviously, I have full faith in the Queens DA's office," said Peters. "But it's clearly important for District Attorney Hynes and his staff not only to avoid breaking the law, but to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. And the latter is something they've failed at time and time again."

While seemingly innocuous, the accusations surrounding Amoroso were taken seriously because of similar charges of voter fraud waged against O'Hara more than a decade ago. In a turn that many believe was, at best, unfounded and, at worst, an example of selective prosecution, the Sunset Park native was convicted, after three trials, of voting from a non-primary residence in 1999, seven years after being charged with registering from his girlfriend's home on 47th Street.

O'Hara, 43, a former Wall Street attorney, was initially convicted in 1997, but that decision was tossed out on appeal. Hynes tried him again in

1998, and that trial ended in a hung jury. A persistent Hynes won a conviction the following year.

As a result, O'Hara was disbarred and sentenced to 1,500 hours of community service, picking up trash along Shore Road in Bay Ridge.

Despite such troubles, however, O'Hara was nonchalant when told of Brown's decision on Monday.

"In the history of America, no prosecutor has ever prosecuted an-

other prosecutor," said O'Hara. "Prosecutors, it turns out, are above the law; they're allowed to break the law. It's called 'absolute immunity.'"

Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer contends that the two cases are significantly different. Amoroso, he said, resides with his wife and children in the Lynbrook home, yet co-owns with his brother his parents' abode in Queens, a dwelling, Schmetterer said, that Amoroso in-

tends to occupy in later years.

O'Hara, meanwhile, registered from an apartment in Sunset Park that prosecutors maintained was uninhabitable.

"As we maintained all along, first assistant DA Dino Amoroso committed no wrong-doing," said Schmetterer. "O'Hara was accused of voting from a sham address, where he didn't live and had no intention of living."

"Amoroso had never voted from anywhere else. He voted there since he was 18 years old and he had a financial interest in the home," Hynes spokesman said.

Asked about Peters' interest in Amoroso, Schmetterer added: "I think he's trying to throw any mud that he can. He certainly can't make an impression on voters with the issues."

Brown's decision, said James Landler, chief of the Queens Coun-

ty Integrity Bureau, was based on election laws stating that a person with more than one residence may choose one from which to vote.

"He has an ownership interest and familial ties to that residence," said Landler. "It's his family's home and he's voted continuously from that address since 1977, when he was 19 years of age. His parents still live there and he has expressed an intention to return to live there someday."

TISH RIPS...

Continued from page 1

posed Atlantic Yards.

"I have not endorsed Gifford Miller," James told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "I want that stated unequivocally, and will not be endorsing Gifford Miller unless he changes his position on the Atlantic Yards."

With his Atlantic Yards plan, Ratter proposes to build a basketball arena, at least four soaring skyscrapers that would be Brooklyn's tallest and 13 other high-rises extending east into Prospect Heights from the bustling intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

The plan, which in addition to creating a home for Ratter's New Jersey Nets NBA team would also create up to 7,300 apartments and office and commercial space, relies on government subsidies and the power of eminent domain seizure of private property, as well as the sale of air rights over Metropolitan Transportation Authority rail yards.

James, who has been the most vocal and active political opponent of that plan, is up for re-election to her second term this year. Her stance on the project, for which most other elected officials have either expressed support or remained mum, has put her out on a limb and alienated her from the head of the political party on whose line she was elected — the Working Families Party's Bethia Lewis.

Lewis, who leads the New York chapter of ACORN, a nationwide community organization that negotiated a housing deal with Ratter for the Atlantic Yards project, is a supporter of the development.

Miller, meanwhile, who is trailing, according to recent polls, in a primary race with former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields to challenge Republican mayor Michael Bloomberg this November, has come out in favor of the \$3.5-billion Atlantic Yards project. Brooklyn-Queens Rep. Anthony Weiner is also running.

The mailings feature slogans and

photographs of James and Miller together. That, the councilwoman believes, implies to her constituents that she supports Miller's candidacy.

The pamphlets, which were sent to registered Democrats in James's 35th Council District, bland, "Speaker Gifford Miller and Council Member Letitia James: Building a Better Future," on the cover, with two prominent photos of Miller, and one smaller, bespectacled shot of James, who seldom wears glasses.

"I assume that it was sent out to registered Democratic voters in my district," James said. "Obviously, they didn't check with me."

Inside, the booklet repeatedly credits "Speaker Miller" at the front of many bulleted items that were James-conceived initiatives from the past year. These include expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, adding funds to city scholarship programs, creating workforce development for immigrant communities and restoring funds for tenant legal services.

"Obviously, because he's the speaker of the City Council, anything that moves is subject to his approval, so he can take credit for this as well," said James. "But these are all my initiatives."

The Miller mailings, with wording that often pits the mayor against the bulleted initiatives, has led to concern that the 100,000 fliers, which were sent city-wide throughout the first two weeks of June, were little more than an 11th-hour attempt by the speaker to reach voters for his own campaign using council funds.

They have been scrutinized by the city's Campaign Finance Board as well as by the Fields campaign. Both offices sent letters to the city's Conflicts of Interest Board, representatives said.

"There should be an investigation into this waste of public money," said James, who added that she was not filling a complaint.

James said she was approached by the speaker's office for approval of the



Corn on Seventh Avenue
Erika Zelwian, 16, and Isabella Risius, 7, enjoy a bite of summer at Park Slope's annual Seventh Heaven street fair on Father's Day, last Sunday.

mailing on June 2, only two days before he held a press conference outside Brooklyn Borough Hall to announce his support of the Ratter project.

She said she didn't get to see the pamphlet, and only gave it a nod because she thought it was about the council.

"I had no idea what they were mailing; they said it would be something real generic," said James.

James said she would never have approved the mailing after Miller's Atlantic Yards endorsement.

Campaign Finance Board spokeswoman Tanya Dooni called Miller's

move a conflict of interest.

"It actually is a conflict that should be referred to the Conflicts of Interest Board on Mr. Miller's mailings," she told The Papers. "We're reviewing it as a conflict [internally]," she added.

A spokeswoman for the City Council asserted that the mailings were legitimate and standard practice for Miller, and that all the council members involved had approved them.

"James approved them," said council spokeswoman Letitia Theodore, who said the brochures were just regular council mailings.

"[Miller] regularly updates the community about what's going on and any developments on what's going on with the City Council," she added.

James complained that Miller had overstepped his bounds in doing the district-wide mailing and it was unlike any prior mailings that she had experienced.

"He's never done a joint mailing; he has an obligation to his constituents, not to mine," said James. "It's my responsibility to report to my constituents on the progress of the City Council and on legislative initiatives, and my responsibility alone."

MOVIE...

Continued from page 1

Well respected in the genre, Gibney has snatched an Emmy and the prestigious DuPont-Columbia Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism since founding his company, Jigsaw Productions, more than two decades ago. More recently, he took home awards from the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival for writing and producing the 2002 documentary, "The Trials of Henry Kissinger."

When told about the project, a spokesman for Hynes sighed and then said he had not been approached by Gibney.

"We know nothing about any documentary being filmed," the spokesman said. It would not be the first time Hynes reached a nationwide audience. In December, the national literary and opinion journal Harper's published a 7,500-word article detailing the case made by Hynes against O'Hara and alleging political motivation in the prosecution, which the DA's office undertook three times.

It was that report that turned Gibney on to the case.

O'Hara was in Brooklyn Supreme Court downtown this week on a motion to have his conviction overturned based on evidence that alleges Hynes' prosecution of him was politically motivated. He said of Gibney, "He's taken documentaries and made them into major motion picture events. He's turned them into real commercial successes. And that just may help in getting this thing overturned."

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We're also selling compost bins at the subsidized price of \$20, so you can make your own compost. The bins are made of recycled plastic.

Free compost and subsidized bins will be available – on a first-come, first-served basis – only to **NYC residents and NYC community groups** (proof of residency will be requested; sorry, no commercial landscapers or other businesses allowed).

Nonprofit and community organizations can arrive in trucks to collect large quantities of compost starting at 8:30am. The Department of Sanitation will have equipment on hand to load trucks with compost. To ensure that the compost is destined for nonprofits or community gardens, organizations must pre-register with the Urban Composting Project at Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

For more information, visit the New York City Compost Project website at www.nyccompost.org or call the Urban Composting Project at **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** at **(718) 623-7290**.

The compost comes from the NYC Department of Sanitation's leaf and Christmas tree composting operations. Now you can enjoy the benefits of this recycling program.

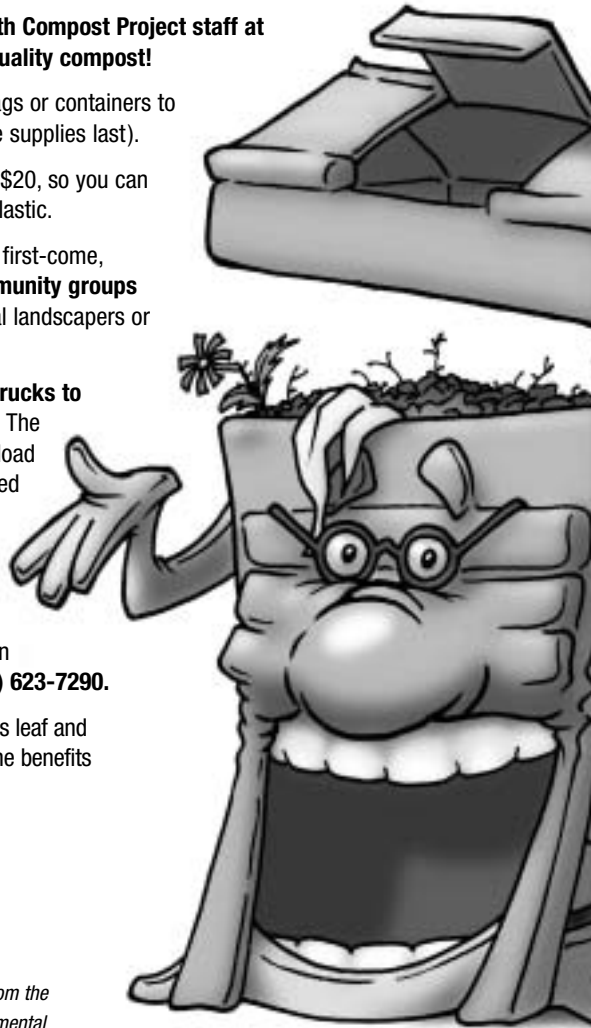
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SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 10am - 4pm

Location: Spring Creek Composting Facility in Brooklyn

(southeast corner of Flatlands Avenue and Fountain Avenue, across from the U.S. Postal Service facility and adjacent to the Department of Environmental Protection's water treatment plant)



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Department of Sanitation, John J. Doherty, Commissioner
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The NYC Department of Sanitation funds compost education projects at the City's Botanical Gardens.
www.nyccompost.org





(718) 834-9350

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 25, 2005

Del's good ole boys

Bluegrass legend McCoury and his sons set to play Celebrate Brooklyn

By Tina Aridas
for The Brooklyn Papers

The first time now-legendary Del McCoury played bluegrass music in New York City, back in 1962, he was playing banjo for Bill Monroe. It was not only McCoury's first time playing the city; it was also his first time playing music with the man who created the genre.

When asked about his opportunity to perform with Monroe, McCoury told GO Brooklyn by phone from his home near Nashville, "I was kind of lucky." But there was probably more talent than luck involved.

Here's how it happened:

On his way from Nashville to New York for a show, Monroe passed through Baltimore (a hotbed of bluegrass music at the time) to pick up a well-known guitar player named Jack Cooke. He also picked up Jack's buddy, young McCoury, to play banjo. Monroe must have liked his playing at the show, because afterwards, he offered McCoury a steady job in his band, Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys — the premier bluegrass band and the band that gave the genre its name.

When McCoury finally decided to go to Nashville and take Monroe up on the job offer, it turned out that what Monroe really needed was a guitar player and lead singer, so McCoury, who also played guitar, tried out.

Monroe hired him and McCoury was lead singer and guitarist for a year, before leaving to pursue other opportunities and, a short time later, to form his own bluegrass band.

Four decades later, as the 66-year-old (but he looks much younger) leader of his own award-winning bluegrass band (which includes his two sons, mandolin player, Ronnie, and banjo player, Rob, award-winners in their own right), McCoury plays a show at Celebrate Brooklyn, at the Prospect Park band shell, on Thursday, June 30.

A member of the Grand Ole Opry and winner of eight Entertainer of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association — plus individual awards for each of the group's members, the band is known for its instrumental and vocal virtuosity, as well as for their exciting stage shows.

The band gives flawless, exciting performances, which always seem fresh no matter how many times you've seen them at work. As tight as the band is, they are somehow relaxed at the same time. Maybe that's because McCoury always looks like he's having a great time — and he is. McCoury says that, partly because he enjoys connecting with his audience, and partly be-



Smokin' bluegrass: The Del McCoury Band will perform a rousing set of bluegrass following performances by Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez at Celebrate Brooklyn on Thursday, June 30.

cause they don't work from a strict set list.

They hit the stage not always knowing exactly which songs they'll play from their vast repertoire; they've recorded 15 albums including their latest, "The Company We Keep," which comes out on McCoury Music on July 12. And they're always willing to take requests from the audience — perhaps for McCoury's "best-somebody is." You can't win everybody, but you'll win some people. If they are like I was when I first heard bluegrass, you're going to get a percentage of those people — because it's exciting music.

There's lots of renewed interest in bluegrass music (even here in Brooklyn there are bluegrass jams and concerts springing up, it seems, weekly). McCoury's advice to fledgling bluegrass pickers is the same he gave to his sons: Listen to the masters — Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs and the other bluegrass greats of that generation.

When they were starting out, I told Ronnie to listen to the guy who invented bluegrass mandolin playing, and that's Bill Monroe," recalled McCoury. "And I told Rob to listen to Earl Scruggs. The genius of Earl's banjo playing is that he can think so far ahead. He never plays the same thing the same way twice. Monroe, [Earl] Flat and Scruggs, fiddle Chubby Wise [whose song is the classic lineup of

the Blue Grass Boys] — that was a once-in-a-lifetime combination of guys that got together to play music."

"My sons listened to southern rock when they were growing up," McCoury continues, "and I guess it comes out in their playing. And there are also younger bluegrass musicians at the time, and my boys listened to them, too. But they knew that Monroe and Scruggs — these old dudes were the ones that came up with this at the beginning — they set the standard. We're lucky they recorded on a major label" — and that those recordings are still readily available.

McCoury adds that the younger generation has an advantage that his generation didn't have. "We could listen to these musicians on the radio or on records, but if we wanted to see what they were doing, we had to go to a live performance, and you couldn't go right up to them and look at what their fingers were doing," said McCoury. "Back then, without instructional videos, we learned more slowly. But if you're determined to learn to play, you will."

Anybody who wants to see how determination can lead to perfection should make their way over to Celebrate Brooklyn this Thursday and watch a master at work.

Tina Aridas is co-curator of the Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor series at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture in Park Slope.

this is light, welcoming music perfect for a night at the band shell.

The Vancouver-based "supergroup" The New Pornographers also offer up a good time with catchy hooks and a friendly exchange of vocalists, including all-country solo artist Neko Case and Destroyer's Dun Bejar. Look out to hear something from their new album, "Twin Cinema," to be released in August.

Toronto's The Sadies mix genres with abandon. "Favourite Colours," their latest release, melds country and western with psychedelia, and their live performances usually pull a few more ideas into the mix.

If you haven't had enough of our neighbors to the north, Montreal's The Dears — whose frontman, Murray Lightburn, can sound remarkably like Morrissey — plays The Siren Music Festival in Coney Island July 16.

The triple bill is June 25 at 7:30 pm at the Prospect Park band shell. Enter the park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Admission is free, but a \$3 donation is suggested. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org. All performances are rain or shine. — Leah Mitch

MUSIC

Celebrate Brooklyn presents The Del McCoury Band on June 30 at 7:30 pm at the Prospect Park band shell. Enter the park at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Admission to all concerts is free, but a \$3 donation is suggested. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org. All performances are rain or shine.

the audience and also, according to McCoury, for the band.

The Del McCoury Band has taken bluegrass music to audiences that probably have never heard of Bill Monroe. The band has toured with such non-bluegrass acts as Pishin and Leftover Salmon, made a CD (and later toured) with Steve Earle, and has been part of the very popular Down From The Mountain tour, and even played (and were a hit with the audience) at Bonnaroo, the 80-act, multi-stage, genre-cra-

Blame Canada



It really wasn't that long ago that the Brooklyn music scene was all the rage. Scene-seers were scurrying across Bedford Avenue looking for the next Interpol or Yeah Yeah Yeahs. But as any hipster sighing over sprawling Williamsburg mess can tell you, the cutting edge is a fleeting thing.

Ever since Montreal's Arcade Fire exploded at last year's CMJ Music Marathon, good-natured Canada has replaced our insatiable borough in the fashionable music stakes. But to show there are no hard feelings, three Canadian bands, all riding highly lauded recent releases, have been invited to play Celebrate Brooklyn this Saturday. The show is part of a "Canada in New York" push by the Consul General of Canada that also includes concerts at Central Park Summer Stage and Joe's Pub in Manhattan.

Brooklyn, however, got the best lineup. Montreal-based Stars "Set Yourself on Fire" is one of this year's most enchanting albums. The warm, dreamy pop, with charmingly exchanged vocals from Amy Milan and Torquil Campbell, features songs of romantic longing set against high school reunions and awkward taxi rides. The mottored numbers of Stars (pictured) occasionally turn political (there's an anti-Bush rant), but on the whole,

this is light, welcoming music perfect for a night at the band shell.

The Vancouver-based "supergroup" The New Pornographers also offer up a good time with catchy hooks and a friendly exchange of vocalists, including all-country solo artist Neko Case and Destroyer's Dun Bejar. Look out to hear something from their new album, "Twin Cinema," to be released in August.

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THEATER

Ball's in play

Park Slope performer Paul Boocock and director Mary Catherine Burke unveil their second collaboration, "Boocock's House of Baseball" at the Flea Theater in Manhattan on June 30.

The hour-long one-man-show, "Boocock's House of Baseball," examines contemporary American politics through the world of baseball. Boocock's performance style incorporates stand-up, physical comedy and monologues as he tells the redemptive stories of Dorey Jeer, Reggie Jackson, Pete Rose, Jason Giambi, Darryl Strawberry and Doc Gooden — not to mention the family-swapping between Yankee pitchers Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich in the early '70s.

Burke and Boocock's first show together, "BOOCOOCK-VP," played to sold-out houses at The American Living Room Series at HERE last year. Boocock (pictured), formerly of the comedy duo Premium Bob, is the voice of Dr. Jesus Venture in the Cartoon Network's "Venture Brothers" and is a member of Elevator Repair Service.

Performances of "Boocock's House of Baseball" are Thursdays through Saturdays 9 pm, from June 30 through July 23, at The Flea Theater (41 White St. between Broadway and Church Street in Manhattan, (212) 352-3101). Tickets are \$15. For more information, visit Boocock's Web site at www.paulboocock.com. — Lisa J. Curtis

SHOPPING

Rebel knitters

To satiate the cravings of crafters in search of inspiration and shoppers who get weak in the knees at the sight of all things handmade, the Renegade Craft Fair will set up its tables in Williamsburg June 25-26.

As knitting, sewing and other traditionally women-dominated crafts have been embraced by a generation of young hipsters, it is high time that said creative types — and those who support them — can come together and steal ideas, make money and acquire accessories to further set themselves apart from the chain-store crowd.

Among the 150 vendors expected to set up booths is knit purveyor Mary Bakija, of Bay Ridge, who will be hawking the supremely useful and often hilarious-looking wares from her company Carry Boo (at booth 10).

Among the tempting must-haves for sale will be Bakija's "Pink Flamingo-on-no" (pictured), which she says is "one in a series of hand-knit, hand-felted, handsome animal pouches. Each pouch is unique, and opens its mouth to swallow whatever needs carrying, such as your cash, cell phone or iPod," explained Bakija. "Additionally, the tongue doubles as a snap-strap, so you can attach the pouch to a part of your bag, keeping it from sinking to the bottom." These pouches vary in price, from \$24 to \$28.

For more information about Bakija's products, which also include handily carrying cases for knitting needles and bananas, visit www.carryboo.com.

The Renegade Craft Fair takes place from 10:30 am to 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday at McGraw Park (Bedford Avenue at North 12th Street) in Williamsburg. For more information, visit the Web site at www.renegadecraft.com. — Lisa J. Curtis

BOOKS

'Reach' out

Auditor Ann Napolitano (pictured) will read from her novel, "Within Arm's Reach," at BookCourt in Cobble Hill on June 29 at 8 pm. Her book about three generations of an Irish-American family in New Jersey, inspired in part by Napolitano's own upbringing, will be published in paperback by Three Rivers Press on June 28.

Napolitano's "Within Arm's Reach" is the story of the unplanned pregnancy of a 29-year-old Gracie and its impact on her life, and those of her sister, mother, grandmother and others. Despite the serious subject matter — the pull-laden world of multigenerational dynamics — Napolitano has been applauded in the Library Journal for her "ample doses of humor and wit."

BookCourt is located at 163 Court St. at Dean Street in Cobble Hill. For more information, call (718) 875-3677. — Lisa J. Curtis

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BROOKLYN Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: COURT STREET

Fragole Ristorante

394 Court St. at First Place, (718) 522-7133, www.fragoleroy.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.50-\$12.95. At Fragole, chef Paulino Veronica cooks up a mix of northern and southern Italian cuisine. Still a favorite among diners at Fragole is the Fettuccine Bella Elena, homemade noodles with sweet sausage, tomato, cream and peas; the black linguini with shrimp and spicy tomato sauce; and the homemade lasagna. For dessert, try Fragole's blood orange tiramisu, a refreshing "kick-me-up" or the homemade cannoli stuffed with buffalo ricotta. The "special" lunch menu offered every day from noon to 4 p.m. will save you 20 percent off of the regular price, according to owner Andres Rodas. Backyard seating available. Fragole is open for lunch and dinner daily. Check Web site for daily specials. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Frankie's 457 Spuntino

457 Court St. at Lequer Street, (718) 403-0033 (Cash only) Entrees: (small plates) \$5-\$9; (large plates) \$7-\$12. "I'm making a spot while I was in Japan," Frank Falcinelli, who co-owns the restaurant with Frank Castrovano, told GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry. "And as I walked along Court Street, there it was." Having found their dream location, the two friends transformed an old bar with a turn-of-the-century blacksmith's stable in the back into an inviting space with a tin ceiling, mahogany bar, back garden and a view of the old "smithy's" shop. "Ah, you're making a 'spuntino' [Italian slang for casual place for a snack or a meal]," said Falcinelli's grandma, Ann Martucci, summing up the partners' concept: small plates of Italian cured meats, artisanal cheese, sandwiches made on Sullivan Street Bakery bread, a couple of sandwiches each day and wines "from Italy and beyond" by the glass and bottle, ranging from \$20-\$120. Open daily for lunch and dinner and on weekends for brunch, from 11 am to 5 p.m. Outdoor garden seating available.

Hill Diner

231 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 522-2220 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$12.95. In spirit, this Cobble Hill hangout is closer to the coffee shops of the past — unpretentious, friendly and inexpensive — than the greasy spoon or retrofitted diners of today. Chef-staffed Hill Diner serves traditional bacon and eggs alongside veggie-friendly fare like a grilled, marinated veggie sandwich with fresh cranberry sauces with fresh vegetables, avocado and arugula. Salads are numerous and topped with fresh, market produce. The chicken schnitzel and beef brisket should please carnivores. For dessert, try the vanilla mousse or the "malibu," baked from a traditional Israeli recipe. Owned by chef Rafi Hazazi's mother. Now that the warm weather is here, enjoy dining in Hill's outdoor garden. Delivery available. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 852-2015, www.marcopoloristorante.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$24. One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts valet parking, a formally dressed and knowledgeable wait-staff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Chirico, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes a array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, homemade pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and beef prepared by chef Bruno Milone. The dessert wagon offers pastries, cakes, tarts, fruit, sorbet and homemade gelato. Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your table, the fettuccine al vino rosso, or red wine fettuccine, is tossed in a Parmesan cheese wheel. For dessert, the strawberry lambic, made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated and then rolled into a crepe and topped with ice cream right before your eyes. Marco Polo is open daily for lunch and dinner.

Marquet Patisserie

221 Court St. at Warren Street, (718) 855-1289 (AmEx) Pastries: \$1.25-\$4. Cakes: \$18-\$22. Take your gourmet coffee and baked goods to one of these charming patisseries — both the Cobble Hill and Fort Greene locations are offshoots of husband-and-wife team Jean-Pierre Marquet and Lynne Guillou's Marquet, in Manhattan. Co-owner Celeste Difore says selections include everything from raspberry mousse for one to sandwiches (fresh mozzarella, roasted chicken, turkey breast), to name a few; larger tarts and cakes for the whole family. Their sister cafe is located in Fort Greene at 660 Union St. at South Portland Avenue, (718) 596-2018. Prices and hours may differ at Fort Greene and Manhattan locations. Open weekdays from 7 am to 8 pm and on weekends from 8 am to 7 pm.

Mezcal's

522 Court St. at Huntington Street, (718) 237-2230 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$15.95. Chef Moses Galindo specializes in fajitas — beef

★ = Full review available at **Brooklyn Papers.com**
Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC=MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

Neighborhood Dining Guide

Frankie's 457 Spuntino's plate of Italian cheeses served with walnuts.



Frankie's 457 Spuntino's plate of Italian cheeses served with walnuts.

or chicken with onions and peppers served sizzling on a platter with rice and beans. Another Mezza's favorite is "mole poblano," chicken breast cooked in a sauce with four different kinds of peppers, plantains and hints of chocolate, and spiced meat's also offers delicious desserts like vanilla fudge ice cream, which is ice cream covered with a cornmeal crust and then deep-fried. Of course, it wouldn't be a festa without all of those great Mexican drinks from Mezza's tequila bar including fresh lime juice margaritas. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner. They have another location, at 151 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street, (718) 483-6200.

P.J. Hanley's Tavern

449 Court St. at Fourth Place, (718) 534-8223 (DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$23.95. Step back in time and enjoy cocktails or a whole-house, mosaic-tiled floor and original tin ceilings and walls. Dine at the bar, in the spacious dining room, or at fresco in the outdoor beer garden. The menu offers hearty comfort food with terrific hamburgers and pork chops, plus daily fish, pasta, chicken and vegetarian specials. Available for private parties. Lunch is served Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Dinner is served Tuesday through Sunday starting at 5 p.m. Every Saturday night you can enjoy a complete prime rib dinner for \$15.95. On Wednesday, load up on carts for \$8.95 at pasta night and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine. Thursday nights, P.J. Hanley's offers a complete shrimp dinner for \$12.95 including soup or salad and dessert. Sunday brunch, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, is \$9.95 including your choice of a mimosa, screwdriver or Bloody Mary. Delivery available. Closed Mondays.

Queen

61 Court St. at Livingston Street, (718) 596-5955, www.queenrestaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$22. Now in its sixth year, Queen has a decor that matches the high standards set by its traditional, but not Italian menu. Just a hop and a skip from Borough Hall, Queen has a three-course, \$23.99 prix fixe lunch menu for the business crowd, offered until 6 p.m. everyday. Dinner features sumptuous fare, like homemade specialty ravioli that change weekly and seasonal dishes like chicken breast dusted with parmesan and a sauce of fresh peas, shallots and white wine. Other classic country dishes include foie gras and grilled lamb sausage with sauteed apples. Limited outdoor seating available in sidewalk cafe. In addition to serving dinner daily and weekend brunch, Queen serves lunch Tuesdays through Fridays.

Quercy

242 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 243-2151 (AmEx, DC, MC, V) Entrees: \$12-\$26. Cash is la vie. French food cooked by a real Frenchman in Cobble Hill Chef-owner Jean-Francois Frayse boasts that his cassoulet (meat and bean stew) is "one of the best in the city." Other classic country dishes include foie gras and green peppers, leaves of parsley and slices of not-so-great winter tomatoes — its only flaw. It sounds pedestrian, and it would have been, if the dressing wasn't so well-seasoned and vividly

Samurai Sam's

115 Court St. at State Street, (718) 643-9582 (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$3.99-\$9.99. Charles Randazzo's restaurant opened on April 19. Take a seat at this Brooklyn Heights Japanese-themed eatery and try one of Samurai Sam's specialties: the "yaki soba" (wok-stirred noodles and fresh grilled veggies) or teriyaki prawns (includes two skewers of grilled shrimp served on a bed of rice, plus a salad). Chicken, steak or vegetarian teriyaki bowls are served with green pepper, onion, cabbage and zucchini, in a fresh flour tortilla, and served with Samurai Sam's "famous" teriyaki sauce. Party trays are also available. Delivery available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Tuller Premium Food

199 Court St. at Bergen Street, (718) 222-9933, www.tullerfood.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Rotisserie chickens: \$4.99 per pound. Open since September 2001, owner Robert Tuller's market has a full kitchen that turns out prepared meals and salads as well as the deluxe ingredients you need to make your own delicious meals. Tuller's shelves are stocked with everything fresh — breads, Jacques Torres chocolates and specialty olive oils are just the tip of the iceberg. The array of gourmet foods also includes an inventory of 100 cheeses. Delivery available. Open on weekdays from 10 am to 8 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 7 pm and Sundays from 11 am to 6 pm.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@brooklynpapers.com.



At Pasham Turkish Restaurant in Bay Ridge stuffed grape leaves (left) and "ceviz" salad are appetizing openers, char-grilled baby lamb chops are served with grilled tomato and pepper, chopped onions, rice and salad; and for dessert, chef Ergul Ergin's ethereal "kazandibi" (Turkish flan).

Food fit for a sultan

Pasham brings a world of Turkish flavors to Ridge

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

I walked into Pasham, a Turkish restaurant in Bay Ridge, and knew that I'd been in the space before. It wasn't deja vu. About a year ago, I ran across Third Avenue in the rain to enter Jimmy's, a very good Italian restaurant that, unfortunately, didn't last long at this location. But for those who mourn the loss, take comfort in the fact that much of Jimmy's interior design remains in Pasham. The walls of the 3-month-old restaurant are the same soothing peach. Two fireplaces are ready to warm customers on a cold evening and the table linens are just as nicely appointed. Now a few rustic pieces of pottery hang on the walls.

Pasham's chef Ergul Ergin, former cook at Istanbul Restaurant in Sheepshead Bay, takes familiar Turkish dishes like hummus, baba ghanoush and even simple green salads, and renders them fresh and vibrant with a light hand.

The salad I refer to is the Pasham garden salad. There's more interesting fare to sample at Pasham than this unassuming bowl of greens, but you should order it anyway. It's nothing more than romaine lettuce cut into bite size pieces, small cubes of cucumbers, green peppers, leaves of parsley and slices of not-so-great winter tomatoes — its only flaw. It sounds pedestrian, and it would have been, if the dressing wasn't so well-seasoned and vividly

chunky texture. It was delicious spread on the warm house bread. The bland hummus didn't thrill me, but the "haydari" — a dip made of yogurt, so tart and rich I thought it was sour cream — did. The grilled entrees were just as impressive. Baby lamb chops tasted of the grill without masking the lamb's tangy taste. An entree of lamb kebabs featured big chunks of the tender meat that were redolent of garlic. The chicken kebabs were juicy inside and crusty on the outside with the heat of dried Turkish red peppers permeating each bite.

The only disappointment was the "adana" kebabs, a long, under-seasoned sausage-like piece of stuffed ground

lamb. A mound of rice sauteed in butter, which accompanied each meat entree, made a worthy partner.

At the moment, there's only one dessert offered but it's a good one. The "kazandibi," or Turkish flan, looked so mundane that when it was brought to the table, I thought, "Big deal." It's a beige square that resembles a layer of shingle dusted with cinnamon. There was nothing else — no berries, no squirtle of sauce or dollop of whipped cream — to dress up the plate.

After a taste, I realized that the choice not to embellish the dessert was correct. This dish that appeared to possess all the finesse of egg custard, was cool on the tongue and silky like a creme brulee. It floated in my mouth, leaving a hint of vanilla — then lemon

before disappearing. The texture was closer to a marshmallow than flan, yet not gooey.

After a meal with so many layers of spices, I welcomed the subtlety of the "kazandibi" dessert. On the Thursday evening I dined at Pasham, there were only a few tables occupied. At one table, sat a large Turkish family who visited after enjoying the food at a party catered by the restaurant. They ordered dish after dish, settling into a happy, chatting mood as the evening wore on.

"This is excellent Turkish food," said a man from that family.

I agree. It's sad to see a restaurant with great potential close before diners have a chance to discover it, so go soon. One finality at this address is enough.

DINING

Pasham Turkish Restaurant (7204 Third Ave. between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$10.95-\$21.95. The restaurant serves dinner daily and lunch on weekdays from 11 pm — midnight [?]. For reservations and more information, call (718) 567-8300.



At Pasham Turkish Restaurant in Bay Ridge stuffed grape leaves (left) and "ceviz" salad are appetizing openers, char-grilled baby lamb chops are served with grilled tomato and pepper, chopped onions, rice and salad; and for dessert, chef Ergul Ergin's ethereal "kazandibi" (Turkish flan).



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Pig out!

There are two reasons why 'N Out Barbecue in Brooklyn Heights opened in October: The first, according to co-owner Roderick Marino, is "love of the Q."

The other, he adds, "is family — ours [that is his and those of chef-owners Tomasz Surówka and John Taskinis] and everyone else's. We want to feed family good barbecue in an atmosphere where parents and their kids are comfortable."

'N Out Barbecue celebrates its name theme with "Rod's Carolina pulled pork," porcine for the owner, whose chef smokes the meat in a "Southern Pride smoker, capacity: 2000 pounds of meat." Two additional variations on the theme include pork spare ribs served with grilled corn (pictured) and roast suckling pig — a house specialty — with sweet potato fries.

Not interested in the other white meat? Nibble on smoked chicken and turkey; a burger so juicy that Marino claims you'll need five napkins to handle it; or a mean smoked brisket sandwich in the diner-style room with its stainless steel tables, Art Deco blue and green plastic chairs and lighting that resembles dancing flames.

Until October, when the restaurant's liquor license is expected, it's strictly BYOB — that's bring your own beer with this grub.

'N Out Barbecue (60 Henry St. at Orange Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$10.25-\$26. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For information, call (718) 522-5547.

— Tina Barry

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A Heckuva 'Hecuba'

At the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Vanessa Redgrave triumphs as the bereaved queen in search of justice

By **Paulanne Simmons**
for The Brooklyn Papers

With her starring role in the Royal Shakespeare Company's "Hecuba," Vanessa Redgrave began her debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on June 17. One can only regret that it took her so long to get to Brooklyn.

Redgrave's performance is powerful, nuanced, textured, passionate and reasoned. The Tony and Academy Award-winning actress' wild, white mane, anguished face and expressive hands all make the tragedy of this tortured mother and fallen queen as personal as the death of a neighbor's son and as contemporary as an article in today's newspapers. The relevancy for us as a modern audience given current events is, of course, exactly what poet-translator (and now director, after he took over the reins from Laurence Boswell) Tony Harrison had in mind when he translated Euripides' 2,500-year-old tragedy.

But Redgrave is not all fury. Her performance has a perfectly lucid quality. After all, Hecuba is only seeking justice — nothing more and nothing less. She is even capable of irony when she chides Odysseus that he is not listening to her. And there is more than a bit of cunning in the way she eventually plots her revenge.

Set in the aftermath of the Trojan War, "Hecuba" uses the story of the Trojan queen, now a slave of the Greeks, to portray the senseless brutality men are capable of enacting against one another.

First Hecuba loses her daughter, Polyxena, to the ghost of Achilles (who demands she be sacrificed). Then she discovers she has lost her son, Polydorus, to Polyestor, the King of Thrace. (The King of Thrace kills the young Polydorus, whom Hecuba entrusts him with, in order to rob him of his gold.)

Bitter and betrayed, Hecuba seeks vengeance where she can. After receiving assurances that he will not interfere with Agamemnon, king of Mycenae, she blinds Polyestor and kills his two sons.

Harrison says he decided to write a new version of "Hecuba" for the Royal Shakespeare Company because he knew Redgrave had agreed to play the title role. But one suspects the current situation in Iraq had more than a little to do with his decision.

The allusions are all over the place. The Greeks have formed a "coalition." Hecuba insists that "those in power shouldn't use it to do wrong" and asks whether "democracy demands a human sacrifice." The King of Thrace laments that he has been destroyed by "terrorists from Troy."

Fortunately, however, this production does not need to be propped up by



THEATER
The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of "Hecuba" plays June 25 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, and June 26 at 3 pm, at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$30, \$45, \$65 and \$85. For tickets and information call BAM Ticket Services at (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bam.org.

Wartime tragedy: Vanessa Redgrave and chorus in The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Euripides' "Hecuba," directed by Tony Harrison.

nified, noble and virtuous martyr who is a powerful illustration of what the messenger, Talthybius (Alan Dobie), means when he says to Hecuba, "You've got the best of children and the worst of fate."

Darrell D'Silva makes Polyestor tragic as well as evil in his blind rage at the loss of his sight and his children. In fact, in portraying Polyestor as a kind of distorted mirror image of Hecuba, D'Silva provides the link that makes "Hecuba" so chillingly effective.

When Euripides wrote "Hecuba," he was addressing an audience of victors and reminding them that victory is not always sweet, and it is certainly

not without guilt. No doubt this was not a lesson everyone was ready to hear.

Today, Redgrave and Harrison are attempting to revive this message for a nation that has not yet even tasted victory. It is a lesson that will be even harder for ambivalent and confused Americans.

Still, Euripides' wonderful poetry and Harrison's sensitive translation, coupled with this extraordinary presentation, make The Royal Shakespeare Company's "Hecuba" a must for anyone who, like this reviewer, believes that just about everything we need to know about morality (if not in the Bible) was elucidated by the Greeks.

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Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, JUNE 25

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

COMPOST GIVEBACKS: Department of Sanitation is giving compost away. Residents and community groups are invited to take part. 10 am to 4 pm. Spring Creek Composting Facility, Flatlands and Fountain avenues. (718) 623-7290. Free.

BOAT TOUR: Brooklyn Historical Society tours Brooklyn's working waterfront. \$20. Boat departs at 11:05 am from Fulton Ferry Landing. (212) 742-1969.

BED-STUY TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of Stuyvesant Heights area of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Tour includes visit to Fulton Art Fair. \$11. \$8 students and seniors. Noon to 2 pm. Meet at street level of the Bedford Avenue Station. (718) 768-8500.

PEDAL BOATING: Tour Prospect Park's freshwater lake by pedal boat. \$15 per hour. Noon to 5 pm. Enter the park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 267-8450.

MERMAID PARADE: 23rd annual parade features costumed marchers, antique cars. Boats and more. 2 pm. Registration at 10 am. 1238 Surf Ave. (718) 372-9159.

LIVING LOG: Urban Park Rangers offers a talk about the miniature ecosystem that exists on a single log. 1 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 291-3400. Free.

COBBLE HILL STROLL: Historic New York Tours hosts a walk through Cobble Hill. Tour includes a look at the Workingmen's Cottages, the Tower and Home Apartments, a cobble-stone street and the shops along Columbia Street. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet by statue of Columbus in front of the Supreme Court, corner of Montague and Court streets.

PERFORMANCE
MORAL VALUES FEST: The Brick Theater hosts performance festival for the morally questionable, morally perverse and morally bankrupt.

Today. "Eleven." \$10. 7 pm. 575 Metropolitan Ave. www.livetheater.com. (212) 868-4444.

BARBEMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Last program. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Vanessa Redgrave in the Royal Shakespeare Company production of Euripides' "Hecuba." \$30 to \$85. 2 pm and 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Summer performing arts festival presents a trio of indie rock bands from Canada. 8 pm. Prospect Park Bandshell, Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 852-7882. Free.

CONCERT: One World Symphony performs "Fidelio and Faust." \$30. \$20 students and seniors. Admission includes refreshments. 8 pm. St. Ann and the Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton streets. (718) 462-7270.

BLACK BOX: Gallery Players presents the eighth annual "Black Box New Play Festival." \$15. \$12 children under 12 and seniors. 7:30 pm. 199 14th St. www.galleryplayers.com. (718) 595-0547.

LATIN RHYTHMS: Kingsborough Community College hosts a concert of Latin music. 8 pm. 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 368-8000. Free.

CHILDREN
COLORS OF THE CARIBBEAN: NY Aquarium unveils its new exhibit, "Colors of the Reef," for a view of colorful corals and marine life found off the coast of Belize. Also, Caribbean music, arts and crafts, storytelling and more. \$11. \$7 children ages 2 to 12 and seniors. 11 am to 4 pm. West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 563-6184.

BLACK BOX: Gallery Players presents the eighth annual "Black Box New Play Festival." Today. "The Runaway Birthday." \$15. \$12 children under 12 and seniors. 3 pm and 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids to "Colors." 11 am and

2 pm. Also, Stories and East presents "River Ways." 4 pm. \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Story time: June is for June B. 11 am. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

RISE THE CAROUSEL: \$1 per ride. Noon to 5 pm. Prospect Park Children's Corner, Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 262-7189.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Around the World in 80 Days." \$8. \$7 children. 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. Reservations suggested. (718) 965-3591.

OTHER
WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: Brooklyn Executive Business Women's Association hosts its third annual event. Cathy Giuliani and Jennifer Luppopp explain how lobbying can impact a small business. \$45. \$30 am to noon. 1901 Emerson Ave. 8000 8688th Ave. (718) 625-7220. Free.

RENEGADE CRAFT FAIR: 10:30 am to 5 pm. McCareen Park, Bedford Avenue and North 12th Street. www.renegadecraftfair.com.

FASHION MARKET: Brooklyn Designers Showcase features emerging designers of handcrafted merchandise. 10:30 am to 3 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 763-7654.

PET ADOPTION: Animal Care and Control offer cats, dogs, kittens and puppies for adoption. 11 am to 4 pm. Christ Church, 73rd Street and Ridge Boulevard. (212) 788-4000.

GARDEN TALK: Floyd Bennett Gardens Association offers a talk on lasagna gardening. Grow flowers and vegetables while creating a loam bed. 2 pm. Floyd Bennett Field, Kings Highway at Flatbush Avenue. (718) 338-5799. Free.

BOOK SIGNING: Female rap artist MC



Afro-disiacs: As part of their "Afro-Punk Weekend," BAmCine-matek will screen Mel Stuart's 1973 film "Wattstax" July 2-4. The film features performances by Carla Thomas (pictured) as well as Isaac Hayes, Stax and other musicians at the famous 1972 concert.

Lyte reads from her book "Just My Take." 2 pm to 4 pm. Nabian Heritage Bed Shop, 1331 Fulton St. between New York and Nostrand. From 5 pm to 7 pm, she reads at Hudson Heritage Fort Greene. 560 Fulton St. between Rodwell and Flatbush. www.wolffcinematheque.com. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Darwin's Nightmare" (2004). \$10. \$7 students. \$5 members. 2 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Aberdeen Ironbirds. 6 pm. Koyasan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket

8:30 pm live music; 9 pm film. Rooftop, Old American Can Factory, 232 Third St. (877) 786-1912.

SUN, JUNE 26

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

NEWTOWN CREEK CRUISE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of this canalized creek. \$45. \$35 members. 9:30 am to noon. Meet at Fulton Ferry Landing, foot of Old Fulton Street, opposite the River Cafe. Reservations necessary. (718) 768-8500.

NOSTALGIA TRAIN: Ride a vintage train along O line from Manhattan to Coney Island. Three-hour layover at the beach. \$30. \$25 members. 10 am. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 694-1867.

COMMUNITY MARKET: Park Slope Farmers Market begins its summer season. Farmers and specialty food producers bring their wares including produce, pickles, breads, pastry. 11 am to 5 pm. 5th Avenue and Fourth Street at JJ Byrne Park. (718) 723-4837.

WILLIAMSBURG TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk through one of the newest bohemian neighborhoods. \$11. 99 members. \$8 seniors and students. Noon to 2 pm. Meet at street level of the Bedford Avenue Station. (718) 768-8500.

GREEN WOOD CEMETERY: Tour this historic cemetery. \$6. 1 pm. Meet at Ft. Hamilton Parkway Gate. (718) 768-7300.

BRIDGE WALK: Big Onion Tours hosts a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. \$15. \$12 seniors. \$10 students. 1 pm. Meet at Broome and Chambers Street. (212) 439-1090.

CONY ISLAND: Brooklyn Historical Society offers a tour around Coney

Island. Learn about city landmarks such as the Parachute Jump, the Cyclone and the Wonder Wheel. \$15. \$10 members. \$5 students and seniors. 2 pm. Meet in front of Nathan's Famous, Surf and Stillwell avenues. (718) 222-4111.

PERFORMANCE

GOSPEL MUSIC: Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour which includes a music performance and a tour of Downtown Brooklyn. \$25. 10 am to 1 pm. Meet at Marriott Hotel, Adams and Tillary streets. (718) 789-0430.

CIRCUS SUNDAY: Professional performers from around the globe. \$15. \$8 kids under 12. Noon, 2:30 pm and 5 pm. Waterfront Museum Barge, Conover Street at the water in Red Hook. (718) 624-4719.

MORAL VALUES FEST: The Brick Theater hosts a performance festival for the morally questionable, morally perverse and morally bankrupt. Today. "Sinistrality." 1 pm. Also, a comedy about slowness. "Absence of Magic." 7 pm. \$10. 575 Metropolitan Ave. www.brick-theater.com. (212) 968-4444.

BARBEMUSIC: Classical music concert features an all-Last program. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

READING: Park Slope Theater presents a staged reading of four short plays. 8 pm. \$20. Brooklyn Ave-Exchange, 421 Fifth Ave. (917) 447-7533. Free.

BANK "Hecuba": 3 pm. See Sat., June 25.

CHILDREN
PUPPETWORKS: 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Sat., June 25.
BLACK BOX: "The Runaway Birthday." 3 pm. See Sat., June 25.

OTHER
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Continued on page 13...

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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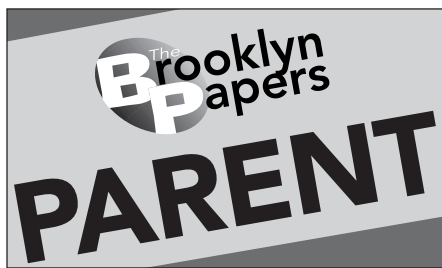
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Nutritious options are key to child diets

Q: I have two grandchildren, 4 and 6, whose eating habits are terrible. They do not eat any vegetables, salad or meat other than chicken tenders. They eat french fries, applesauce, yogurt, pancakes and crackers. Their father does not eat vegetables or salad. I think their mother, my daughter, has almost given up. I don't want their health ruined because of their poor diet.

— a grandfather

A: Believe it or not, children can learn to eat more than just chicken fingers. To get on the right track toward healthier eating habits, children must have access to tasty, healthy choices, says Linda Van Horn, a Northwestern University dietitian.



Two fun approaches: Grandpa could take his grandsons grocery shopping, if his daughter approved, and cook new recipes with them. A good place to start, Van Horn says, is the revised "American Heart Association Cookbook" (Ballantine Books, 2002).

Am Kane, a mother, agrees: "To get her children to eat healthy food, the mother is going to have to change her way of training them. I have six children, ages 6 to 17. They

have been eating spinach, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, beef, chicken, fish, eggs, milk and pasta from the time when they could eat solid food."

Go for tasty recipes and offer a new vegetable each week, Kane suggests. Have the kids taste one bite to begin with. Expect them to refuse at first, but keep trying, because it takes several rejections before children acquire a taste for a new food.

Early on, parents have the chance to set in motion a pattern of healthy eating that will follow their child into later life, says Dr. Allan Walker, MD, author of "Eat, Play, and Be Healthy" (McGraw-Hill, 2005). His new book is geared toward parents of babies to 8-year-olds. That pattern includes: exposing kids to a variety of healthy foods from the start, setting aside meal and snack times, and teaching children about food to help them get involved in their own nutrition.

Children between ages 2 and 5 are known for their reluctance to try new foods, but variety is important for two reasons, according to Walker. First, with a diet that includes lots of different foods, children are more likely to take in a complete range of vitamins and minerals and a balance of nutrients.

Second, when children are exposed to different foods, they're more likely to overcome their reluctance to try new flavors.

Fruits and vegetables need to be a major part of your child's diet. Tip: on your next trip to the grocery store, have children help select a rainbow of fruits and vegetables, one for each color, suggests Walker, director of the Division of Nutrition at Harvard Medical School.

Van Horn recently published a study she led that showed simple kid-friendly training in good nutrition for children and parents got 8- to 10-year-olds to eat healthier, although snacks, desserts and pizza still make up a third of the youngsters' diets. The study tracked the impact of childhood nutrition education on 595 children for three years.

A new government campaign called "We Can't

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Slope group rips Ratner plan

After taking on Commerce Bank, Atlantic Yards is next

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A civic group in Park Slope that began by successfully pressuring Commerce Bank into modifying the look of a new branch to fit in with the neighborhood, is now taking aim at developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards basketball arena and skyscraper project.

Park Slope Neighbors, which formed last October to bring together block associations and residents who felt estranged by other area organizations, made a splash when they convinced the bank to reduce the area allocated to a suburban drive-through design for a more Brownstone Brooklyn facade.

Last Sunday, at the annual Seventh Heaven street fair on Park Slope's Seventh Avenue, three members of the group gathered 450 new signatures of people opposing Atlantic Yards, a \$3.5 billion proposal by Ratner, which would stretch from Fourth Avenue and Pacific Street in Park Slope along Atlantic Avenue, bounded by Dean Street, and ending at Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights.

The concerned Slopers want elected officials to push for a greater public say in the development of the site.

"It's kind of interesting," said Jon Crow, a member of Park Slope Neighbors, who sat at the table between Berkeley and Union streets on Sunday afternoon. "All you really need to do is put out there what you're doing — which is petitioning against the arena project and people just come at you like a magnet."

"Either that or people just pass you by and don't know what you're talking about," said Crow. "It's really amazing that the council members say their constituents support this, when you're like, 'What are you talking about?'"

City Council members David Yassky and Bill DeBlasio, who both represent por-



Members of Park Slope Neighbors at the Seventh Heaven fair along Seventh Avenue Sunday, where they asked passersby to sign petitions against the Atlantic Yards project.

tions of Park Slope, are two of those who the petitions are addressed. Yassky has stated support for the Ratner project, with the caveat of more community input, and DeBlasio has voiced his support for the value the residential component, which may provide as many as 7,300 new units of housing.

Just as the petition against the bank's plan for a mammoth, glowing sign-adorned drive-through took elected officials by surprise after the deal was long sealed, the Atlantic Yards petition will be presented to elected officials, who members of the organization say have been resting on their laurels instead of reaching out to the community to explain their

stance on the arena. Simply worded, the statement signatories agree that the proposed development, "the largest real-estate development in Brooklyn in 25 years ... would have tremendous consequences for our neighborhoods."

"We're being asked to pay for it through hundreds of millions of dollars in public subsidies, yet we are being given no voice in how this project might take shape," the petition reads.

"We, your constituents, demand that you call for greater community input in the Atlantic rail yards development process," reads the petition. "As our elected representative, we expect you to work to 1)

protect neighborhood quality of life; 2) ensure competitive bidding for the MTA's rail yards; 3) explore alternative proposals, including the UNY plan and the siting of an arena in Coney Island."

Crow said the petition received "450 or 500 signatures this weekend," but during a street fair on Fifth Avenue a few weeks ago they collected as many as 650.

"Primarily, we're tabling,



Anyone willing to dodge the cars whizzing through the plaza between 11 am and 4 pm Saturdays can try on a puppet the size of Yoo Ming or take one home for two weeks — no ID required.

Formerly open by appointment only, the nearly windowless space has been drawing small but excited crowds since it opened to the public this year. Dozens have taken out puppets, mostly performers putting on a show. Others just come to look and play.

Eleven people clustered in a narrow room at the top of the arch on a recent Saturday to watch puppeteer Theresa Linnihan play Emily Dickinson in a shadow-puppet version of "The Belle of Amherst." Downstairs, volunteer puppeteer Anne Lipkin, a retired biochemist in sandals and baggy pants, helped 22-year-old Melanie Chopko into "Carpenter's arena," a "backpack puppet" in long black robes.

"It's certainly not restricted to people who know what they're doing," Lipkin said. Chopko staggered back and forth beneath the arch, waving the puppet's arms as people shopped at a farmer's market across the plaza. As she emerged from the puppet, the artist and teacher said she was elated.

"I think I'm going to try to come over every week, whenever I feel sad," Chopko said. The memorial arch was unveiled at the entrance to Prospect Park in 1892 as a tribute to the Union dead. An architectural historian Henry Grove Reed called it "the greatest triumphal arch of modern times" after Paris' Arc de Triomphe.

The American Legion used the arch to store medals and hold meetings until the 1960s or 1970s, when it fell vacant, said Tupper Thomas, park administrator and president of the Prospect Park Alliance. Two years ago The Puppeteers' Cooperative approached the alliance with a deal: space in exchange for three yearly performances in the 526-acre park.

"Here was this thing that nobody ever used at all," Thomas said. "There were these nice puppet people saying we'd like to donate our time and be part of parades." The puppeteers say they're pleased by their growing popularity.

"It seems to be taking off," Linnihan said. "Everyone who comes and discovers it is thrilled."

but we also e-mailed to our list of folks who have signed the Commerce Bank petition or are on our list serve," explained Eric McClure, a spokesman for the group.

"The majority are coming from tabling efforts," he said. Along with the two council members, the petition is addressed to Assembly members Joan Millman and James Brennan, state Sen. Carl Andrews and Borough President Marty Markowitz, the most

vocal political advocate of the plan. "It's been pretty clear to us that if the elected officials are working on these things, they have been completely behind closed doors, because it doesn't appear that anybody has been addressing this issues," said McClure.

"We don't really have a mechanism to make sure they are doing these things right now, but it seems pretty clear that nobody is."

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Atlantic Yards community deal due Monday

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

An agreement regarding hiring, job training, community facilities and housing, negotiated between developer Bruce Ratner and select community groups that support his Atlantic Yards development, will be announced Monday. The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

The so-called community benefits agreement, or CBA, promises initiatives for local job training and hiring, minority and women hiring, the creation of community facilities, and new standards for affordable housing tied to the project. Neighborhood groups criti-

cal of the plan were not invited to the CBA negotiations.

The notion of a CBA, a non-governmental agreement between a developer and community members related to a specific project, derives from the 2001 Staples Center CBA in Los Angeles.

Atlantic Yards opponents argue the CBA is merely a ploy by the developer to give the appearance of broad community support for his project.

Supporters, meanwhile, say it is the best thing any new development in the city has promised its surrounding community.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the first part of the agreement on May 19 — a commitment of city subsidies

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to finance an affordable housing scheme setting aside half of the originally proposed 4,500 residential units for low-, moderate- and middle-income renters. The rest would be market-rate and luxury units, largely studios and one-bedrooms.

Since that commitment, Ratner has proposed adding another 2,800 apartments but had not said whether those additional units fall under the "50-50" agreement.

Proponents of the Ratner plan, who have been in negotiations for the agreement for the past 10 months say the CBA goes far beyond housing. Supporters include members of BUILD (Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development), a local hiring advocacy group; tenant leaders from the Atlantic Terminal Houses and Wyckoff Houses public housing developments; ACORN (the Alliance of Community Organizations for

Reform Now); a member of the Downtown Brooklyn Advisory and Oversight Committee, which has worked on minority hiring and job training with respect to Downtown Brooklyn development projects over the past decade; and the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, an activist and minister with a church in Boerum Hill.

The negotiations have also included the chairpersons and district managers of community boards 2, 6 and 8, al-

though without the participation of the boards themselves.

Marie Louis, the first vice president of BUILD, explained to a reporter in May that the CBA would give preference to people living in the surrounding housing projects to the affordable units, and to jobs created by the development.

In addition, a project labor agreement component is expected to commit unions to a hiring policy that would include a certain ratio of entry-level apprentice hires, and a higher-than-normal female and minority ratio of hiring at the expense of accepting only union members.

Louis also touted the CBA for being the most meaningful

input the community would have on the project, which will be reviewed only at the state level in a process that neither requires nor solicits input or review by any local elected official or community board.

Employment opportunities for project managers, superintendents and estimators have already been posted on the BUILD Web site, www.buildbrooklyn.org.

Civic leaders join to fight Ratner

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Claiming that their elected officials have not represented their concerns, a broad-based group of activist, neighborhood, block and civic associations have come together to represent their own concerns about the Atlantic Yards project.

Incorporating leaders of the Boerum Hill Association, Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association, Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation, Park Slope Neighbors, Fort Greene Association, Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council and Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, the newly formed Council of Brooklyn Neighborhoods (CBN) is in the early stages of identifying the concerns of the communities neighboring the project as it moves through procedures specified in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

The CBN came to be after civic leaders and others who had been outwardly critical of developer Bruce Ratner's proposal were barred from closed-door meetings called by Borough President Markowitz to discuss the Atlantic Yards project.

An aide to Markowitz said at the time that the meetings — held Sept. 29 and March 4 — favored "neutral" organizations.

Daniel Goldstein, who lives in the footprint of the proposed development and is a member of Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn (DDDB), was one of those barred from the meetings, for being, as he called it, "a figurehead of the opposition."

He is now one of several leaders steering the agenda of CBN in creating an outline of the community's concerns with respect to the Atlantic Yards environmental review.

"DDDB wanted representation in any sort of [Environment-



Diva and the Beep

Nerma Vally, aka the Toolbelt Diva (center), was filming an episode of her Discovery Home Channel show at Casetta Vecchia on Smith Street (owner Marilyn D'Amato is at right) on June 22, when Borough President Markowitz strapped by to "surprise" her with a proclamation. D'Amato's pizzeria was open only eight days when a fire destroyed it. Two years later, they had repaired everything except the bar, which Vally came down to fix.

mental Impact Statement] group that would be forming," Goldstein explained. "The majority of those groups that had been invited [to Borough Hall] started meeting regularly and made demands on Borough Hall that any stakeholder groups interested had to be present at these meetings."

The coalition now includes members of 14 groups, he said, and they're all doing their best to prepare for the EIS.

"We haven't really gotten much help from Borough Hall to date," Goldstein added. "But it was Markowitz's own idea that brought the CBN together, said Greg Atkins, the

borough president's chief of staff.

"Marty held those meetings to bring in community leaders to develop a process," Atkins said. "One of things [that came out of the meetings] is that the communities which were coalescing, a lot of these people started meeting on

their own, which we saw as a positive outcome of these groups."

Although Markowitz turned down the CBN's request that he hire an expert to represent the community during the EIS proceedings, Atkins said Markowitz supported the idea in principle.

"The stakeholder group really wants to have this community-based plan to articulate concerns of the community in the EIS process, and to translate EIS stuff to the community. They're working out all that stuff," Atkins said.

"They asked our elected officials [for the funds]," he said. "I have no idea how successful they'll be."

"We don't have money to give out like that," Atkins added.

CBN member Bill Batson, who sits on Community Board 8, said the new group needs the help of an urban planner to prepare their scoping draft.

"People really can't have an even playing field with a major developer without technical assistance," he said. "We needed technical assistance and we were very fortunate to have the pro-bono services of Community Consulting Services."

That company, run in part by Brian Ketchum, a Brooklyn Heights-based urban planner, said his input helps codify the concerns of the community.

"Unless this community wants to go through the same thing they went through with the city in the Downtown Brooklyn Plan, they have to have their own process, their own financing and their own commitment to see that this is real," said Ketchum.

Gib Veconi, president of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council, had Ketchum explain the EIS process at a special meeting of his group on June 16.

Veconi is also working with CBN.

"What we're doing, we don't consider it to be proprietary or anything like that," he said. "We're just trying to get a start as quickly as possible to get these things identified."

Stue Wolfe, president of the Boerum Hill Association, said that although Markowitz was to be credited with bringing the groups together, they came together more over a common desire.

"We're working together because we feel we'll have more power that way," she said.

"There have been meetings with [Markowitz], but separately we have also been meeting, and the group has grown, because we felt that we did have many concerns that were not the borough president's concerns," she said. "It's the immediate surrounding area, and still growing. We want to be inclusive; we do not want to leave anybody out."

So far, the CBN has only devised a statement of conditions and they're working on a mission statement and a statement of principles.

"It's taken a long time," Wolfe said. "There's a lot of work going on behind the scenes."

Added Veconi, "Coalitions take some time to come together, but it's productive, and it's broad-based."

Other efforts by the community and elected officials include EIS scoping sessions by Community Boards 2, 6 and 8, all of which will be home to parts of the project, and the Brooklyn Borough Board, which includes the Brooklyn delegation of the City Council and the chairs of all 18 community boards borough-wide.

Drafts of the community boards' environmental concerns have been prepared among all three. CB2's draft was four pages long, CB6 prepared a 12-page outline, and CB8, with the help of a dedicated committee specifically formed to address the project, produced a 40-page document.

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Beep chief responds to 'taming' charges

To the editor:

Here you go again. Every time I speak to your reporter providing facts and background, my comments — which would provide some balance to year-to-year coverage — are conveniently edited out of the story.

Take for example, "Dumped by Beep, member is back," in which I spoke at length with Jess Wisolowski detailing the background on each person who claimed to be "Dumped by Beep," proving in each case that nobody was "dismissed for disagreeing" with the borough president. In fact, two of your examples were never "dumped," but were re-appointed despite opposition from community members, one was not re-appointed because the council member who appointed her lost her appointment due to resigning, and one was never a board member in the first place.

These are critical facts that would have allowed your readers to see for themselves that Ken Diamondstone's claims are a fabrication of the anti-arena spin machine.

All we ask for is balance. This way, Brooklynites who read The Brooklyn Paper get accurate information so they can make up their own mind regarding issues affecting their community.

Instead, The Brooklyn Paper is using its editorial privilege to dispense propaganda aimed at guiding opinion in favor of your own agenda. Where is the journalistic integrity in that?

—Gregory D. Atkins, Chief of Staff, Borough President Marty Markowitz

Editor's note: The Brooklyn Papers has apologized to Mr. Atkins for the omission of some of his comments, which were received after last week's deadline. The late solicitation and submission of his comments limited how many of them we could add to an already-completed article. That is why, in the interest of fairness and accuracy, we asked Mr. Atkins to submit the above letter for publication.

As to B2 member who lost her appointment due to resigning, reference to her did not appear in the article — it was cut to provide space for some Mr. Atkins' comments; therefore, any comment he might have specifically about that board member was no longer relevant to the article.

A primary concern of The Brooklyn Papers, always, is fairness and accuracy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ikea Red Hook needs further review

To the editor:

As a writer who reports on the Ikea-Red Hook controversy in her blog, BigCityBigBites.com, I know that Ikea cannot build proposed sub-subsized Red Hook store anytime soon, if ever.

Your June 18 report, "Ikea buys site for its Red Hook store," reflects Ikea's public relations happy face. [Editor's note: The referenced article was published last week in our Downtown zone editions only; it appears today in our other zones.]

In fact, not only pending litigation in the Supreme Court, but several applications, are obstacles to Ikea. The truth should also be an obstacle. Ikea's key claims, about jobs, are false.

Ikea-Red Hook demonstrates the city's eagerness to sacrifice the Red Hook neighborhood and disregard its neighborhood 97-A plan, which the City Council approved in 1996, so that the city can allow a developer to free play and maximize the city's own revenues from sales taxes.

This is the same pattern as in Greenpoint-Williamsburg, West Harlem and Prospect Heights.

It also demonstrates that if we allow the big box stores to come into the city without specific planning constraints on size and site, they will suburbanize New York City with gigantic stores and huge parking lots and suck the life out of our vital neighborhood shopping streets.

Ikea has shamelessly lied. In applying to re-zone the former Red Hook waterfront it stated before the City Planning Commission, misleadingly, that there is a 20 percent unemployment rate at Red Hook Houses, the local public housing project, which as of the 2000 Census had 7,728 residents.

I have examined the records of the Depart-

ment of City Planning, however, and in fact there were only 568 unemployed persons of working age in Red Hook Houses as of the 2000 Census, not 1456, as Ikea's arguments suggest.

If a private citizen, using public records, can discover that Ikea's claims are false, then the City Planning Commission also knows they are false, and the city is complicit in Ikea's lies.

Despite Ikea's gargantuan, inflammatory public relations efforts to turn the residents of Red Hook Houses into a pressure group, with letter writing, demonstrating and Ikea T-shirt wearing, in fact very few people in Red Hook Houses are unemployed, and the City Planning Commission must have known that.

Moreover, all development produces jobs. The Struver Bros. Eccles & Rouse proposal for the Red Hook waterfront, which, unlike Ikea, is respectful of the maritime context, would produce jobs.

And as I observed in my Brooklyn Papers op-ed in October, there are already hundreds of retail jobs available within walking distance of Red Hook Houses, at Home Depot and Lowe's.

Ikea-Red Hook, like the Greenpoint-Williamsburg re-zoning and Bruce Ratner's exploitation of Prospect Heights, is a massive effort by the city to turn our neighborhoods into "products" — Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff's term — and increase city tax revenues.

Ikea-Red Hook set a bad precedent for the treatment both of neighborhood plans and of big box stores. It is an automobile-dependent site and inconsistent with New York City's transit orientation.

Pushed through the City Council with false threats about jobs and as the plaintiffs in the Ikea-Red Hook litigation assert, by a misleading Environmental Impact Statement, Ikea-Red Hook will lead to suburban sprawl and weaken New York City's neighborhood shopping streets.

Such serious matters deserve more serious discussion than the city has given them.

—Mary Campbell Gallagher, J.D., Ph.D., Manhattan

EMINENT DOMAIN...

Continued from page 1
but in fact, every one of these developers get such enormous tax subsidies and tax exemptions on property taxes, that I'm not sure exactly how much of a benefit it is. At least for the first 25 years."

In his majority opinion, Justice John Paul Stevens wrote, "The city [New London, Conn.] has carefully formulated an economic development that it believes will provide appreciable benefits to the community, including — but by no means limited to — new jobs and increased tax revenues."

He was joined by Justice Anthony Kennedy, David H. Souter, Chief Justice Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas dissented.

At issue was the scope of the Fifth Amendment, which allows governments to take private property through eminent domain if the land is for "public use."

Susette Kelo and several other homeowners in a working-class neighborhood in New London filed suit after city officials announced plans to raze their homes for a riverfront hotel, health club and offices.

New London officials countered that the private development plans served a public purpose of boosting economic growth that outweighed the homeowners' property

rights, even if the area wasn't blighted.

"With today's ruling, the abuse of eminent domain will become more commonplace and unrestrained," Bert Gall, an attorney with the Institute for Justice, who represented Kelo and the other petitioners, told The Brooklyn Papers after the decision.

"The Supreme Court simply got the law wrong today and our Constitution, and the whole country, will suffer as a result of it," Gall said.

He noted that Justice O'Connor's statement of dissent in favor of the homeowners represented what he thought to be the gist of the problem with the outcome.

Gall quoted from page 12 of O'Connor's dissent, saying, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party, but the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate income and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms."

"As for the victims, the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more."

Prospect Heights has a similar sized population to New London — roughly 29,000. Forest City Ratner officials declined to comment on the ruling.

Daniel Goldstein, an organizer of the

anti-arena group Develop-Don't Destroy Brooklyn, vowed to continue fighting despite the ruling.

"Although we're unhappy with the court's decision, we believe it will create further anger, and be a rallying cry for citizens around this issue," said Goldstein.

"If eminent domain is used, we will litigate," he promised. "This decision in no way stops our fight, it just makes us stronger in our determination."

Borough President Marty Markowitz, a staunch supporter of Ratner's Atlantic Yards project and, in his years as a state senator, a vocal tenant rights advocate, said in a statement to The Papers: "This decision in no way continues to fight to ensure that tenants and owners impacted are treated with dignity and respect, and are more than justly compensated, as Atlantic Yards moves forward."

Gall said the closeness of the case was meaningful.

"The outcome of Supreme Court decisions is never predictable, and we're obviously disappointed that all it took was one more justice to step up and protect people's homes and businesses from the corrupt abuse of eminent domain," he said.

"All it took was one vote more."

— with Associated Press

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