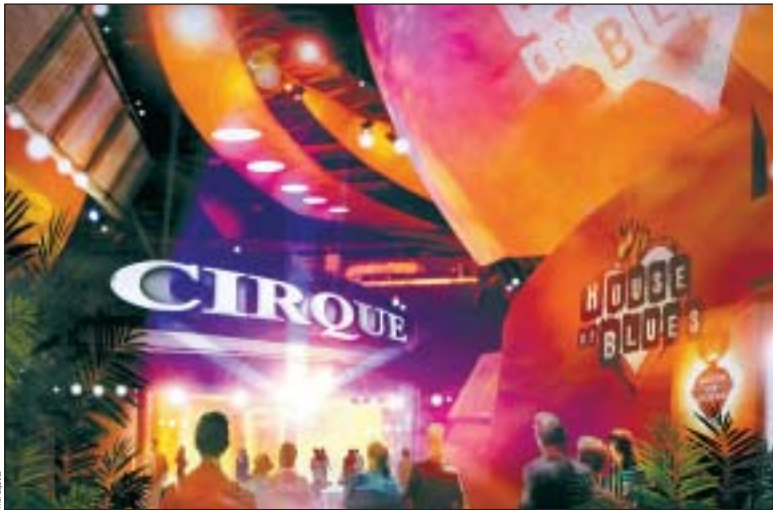


# The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper



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The Equities

## VEGAS BY THE SEA

### Developer shows new vision of Coney



The Equities

Two artist renderings of an indoor mall envisioned by developer Joseph Sitt, of Thor Equities, for construction along the Coney Island boardwalk. The plan could transform Coney Island into a year-round destination.

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Over the next few weeks, the city Department of Parks and Recreation will decide who gets to operate Brooklyn's favorite rickety ride — the Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster.

But while the Cyclone is obviously an icon of Coney Island, it may soon become a remnant of its past.

Joseph Sitt, owner of Thor Equities, the development company that operates the Gallery at Fulton Mall in Downtown Brooklyn and owns over 12 acres of seaside property in the faded amusement mecca, has visions of a glitzy boardwalk entertainment strip that looks more Vegas than Astorland.

In digital renderings sent to The Brooklyn Papers this week, a Nike-sponsored climbing wall takes up one region of a sweeping indoor amusement zone. A fiber-glass elephant gleams upon a double-tiered carousel.

The House of Blues plays ground-floor anchor to another

glitzy, indoor-entertainment zone, much like the national chain does at its boardwalk location on the

See **CONEY** on page 12

## MAKE IT SMALLER

### Marty downsizes his support for Ratner

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz has urged that developer Bruce Ratner downsize his Atlantic Yards mega-development, a project vigorously supported by Markowitz since 2003.

"We do have to scale down this project," Markowitz said during a debate Monday among Markowitz and three challengers seeking his job in the November election.

"There is no question, in terms of the project, in terms of the housing, and in terms of the buildings, it is time for all of us to join together to work cooperatively and downscale the project and to make it more reflective of the needs and aspirations of those of the environment it's in."

His comments came after two of Markowitz's rivals voiced their opposition to the way in which Ratner's bid to erect skyscrapers, high-rise housing and a sports arena was being handled.

Markowitz is the Democratic Party nominee. He did not face a challenge in the September primary.

The debate, sponsored by the Fort Greene Association, was held at Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, a few blocks from the Atlantic Yards site.

Green Party candidate Gloria Matterna, said she didn't approve of threatening

homeowners with the use of eminent domain for private gain. Reform Party and Libertarian Party candidate Gary Popkin charged collusion between elected officials and private-party interests in the project.

Attorney Theodore Alatas, running on the Republican and Conservative ballots, supports the project.

"A wave of applause followed Markowitz's call for the downscaling. The borough president has long been an outspoken advocate of bringing a pro-pros team to Brooklyn and his not faltered in his support for Ratner's larger project, would be built east of the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues.

"I was as surprised as probably everybody in the room; I don't think I'd ever heard those words uttered by him," said Fort Greene Association Chairman Phillip Kellogg following Markowitz's comments. "I'm not sure how much credibility it has at this point in the process."

"I'd be very curious to know what specifics he has in mind, if he's going to follow through, and what demands he's going to make as borough president at this point in the process," Kellogg said.

Markowitz declined to elaborate on his statement when asked to do so by The Brooklyn Papers immediately after the debate.

"Here's what I'm saying: I'm calling on

See **SMALLER** on page 5

## Slope ice cream shop owner guilty in terror funding

By Michael Weissenstein  
Associated Press

A Yemeni immigrant was found guilty Wednesday of illegally funneling \$21.9 million overseas through an ice cream shop that he owned in Park Slope.

Abad Elfigeh, 50, was convicted of transmitting money around the world without a license from a dozen bank accounts linked to the tiny storefront he operated on Fifth Avenue near 11th Street. Prosecutors said his business was used by a Yemeni cleric convicted earlier this year of a scheme to fund al-Qaeda and the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Elfigeh was not charged, however, with any terrorism-related crime.

After less than a day of deliberations, the jury convicted Elfigeh of conspiring to run an illegal money-transmitting business, running an illegal money business and structuring bank deposits to avoid reporting laws.

Elfigeh, who could face 15 years in prison, looked stricken but did not move or speak as the verdict was read.

Prosecutors portrayed Elfigeh as the mastermind of a complicated arrangement of "feeder accounts" and international transfers designed to hide the massive out-

See **TERROR** on page 12

## Beep: Take me to Doctor!

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Gentlemen, get off your tushes.

So said a jubilant Borough President Marty Markowitz at a Borough Hall event celebrating the Sept. 26 start of his annual men's health campaign titled, "Take Your Man to the Doctor Week — He'll Live to Love You Longer."



### COMING PAPER HOLIDAY...

The Brooklyn Papers will publish a "double-week" issue next week (Oct. 1) and will not publish a new edition Oct. 8. Our offices will be closed Tuesday, Oct. 4 and Thursday, Oct. 13 for the Jewish New Year and Yom Kippur. The deadline to advertise in the "double-week" issue is Tuesday, Sept. 27.

"Women generally know how to take care of themselves better than men," said Markowitz, imploring Y chromosome compatriots to "let your women take you to a doctor."

A Markowitz initiative to provide free or reduced-cost screenings and health advice to Brooklyn men, the campaign includes eight days of public sessions where men with or without health insurance can stop by one of 29 participating Brooklyn hospitals for screenings and medical services including hearing tests, memory tests and smoking cessation classes.

Last year, more than 200 men were screened at Kings County

Hospital Center during the seven-day program.

From Monday, Sept. 26, through Sunday, Oct. 2, hospitals and medical facilities throughout Brooklyn will offer a wide range of screenings for conditions including asthma, diabetes, prostate cancer and HIV/AIDS, among others.

"If you have an insurance card bring that, if not, if you go to your regular hospital they should have your information," said Duane Chandler, assistant for hospitals at Kings County Hospital Center.

As two men passing through Borough Hall plaza pulled on ei-

See **DOCTOR** on page 12



Borough President Marty Markowitz and wife, Jamie, at Borough Hall on Monday.

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# Ridge VA hospital cash in jeopardy

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

The war is on between Brooklyn vets and the Department of Veterans Affairs. In a public hearing Monday, military and elected officials, including Mayor Michael Bloomberg, blasted proposals to shutter or downsize the Veterans Administration Hospital at 800 Poly Place near Seventh Avenue in Bay Ridge and transfer service to other VA hospitals in Manhattan and Queens.

Yet, even after a local advisory panel filed recommendations Monday night that the federal government keep open hospitals in both Brooklyn and Manhattan, vets worry that the final decision won't be made by those on the front lines of VA care.

"The government has tasked a bean-counting company to come up with a means of closing New York facilities," said Allan Bortnick, a Korean War veteran who receives regular treatment for stress-related diabetes and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Bay Ridge hospital.

"The only good thing about their report was that they printed the lies large enough for me to read," the 75-year-old added.

Bortnick was one of about 200 veterans who came to the public hearing in opposition to any hospital closures, some of whom arrived on a private bus chartered for vets by Rep. Vito Fossella, whose district includes the Bay Ridge VA Hospital. Fossella is against any cutbacks to the facility.

The proposals discussed Monday originated in a study of "modernizing" strategies commissioned by the Office of Veterans Affairs and released Monday by Price Waterhouse and Coopers, an accounting and consulting firm hired by the federal government to guide the creation of a

business plan for the cash-strapped agency.

Options described in the 48-page study include closing the inpatient facilities in Brooklyn but retaining its ambulatory care center, moving all medical and surgical facilities to Manhattan, and dedicating the Brooklyn site to psychiatric and behavioral health amenities.

In one of the options recommended by the hospital staffers and veterans' representatives on the local advisory panel, general and clinical services would remain at both the Manhattan and Brooklyn facilities with renovations done at both sites.

In another local favorite, the hospitals would stay put with new outpatient clinics built in Queens and at Borough Hall or near Broadway Junction in Canarsie.

"The options recommended are not options that call for closure of either Brooklyn or Manhattan [hospitals]," said John Mazzulla, staff assistant to the director at the New York VA Harbor Healthcare System, the local network that manages the region's VA hospitals and outpatient clinics.

"Now we are waiting for the Secretary [of Veterans Affairs in Washington] to review the work of the panel and those of Price Waterhouse Coopers, if they differ."

In February, the Veterans Administration will begin to consolidate services based upon the recommendations gathered from Price Waterhouse and the local panels.

In the meantime, Community Board 10 encourages its members to write in their support of the

Bay Ridge facility to the VA in Washington. Information can be found on the VA Web site at [www.va.gov/cares](http://www.va.gov/cares).

According to VA spokesman Terry Jemison, in Washington, the restructuring won't mean a loss of services or resources.

"We are expecting to continue the current slope or curve, which is treating more and more patients each year," he said.

Still, politicians in New York worry that a consolidation of facilities would mean complications ranging from a loss of revenue-building partnerships with area universities to disruptions in the care received by patients.

"Losing either the Manhattan or Brooklyn VA hospital would inevitably increase the number of veterans seeking care at the city's public hospitals. This would put even greater demands on a system that already serves roughly one out of every six New Yorkers," testified Mayor Bloomberg.

The Bay Ridge hospital

serves about 16,500 veterans living in Brooklyn for a total of 187,316 visits per year. About 1,400 employees work full-time within the hospital's 12 buildings.

Across its 17-acre campus, the hospital holds 147 patient beds, an ambulatory care center, residential facilities for substance abusers and an emergency medicine facility as well as 17,000 square feet of vacant space and a few buildings in disrepair that, according to the study, would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$36 million to repair.

There has been no thought yet as to what kind of tenant would take over the space if the hospital were to leave Bay Ridge.

"We really, really hope that it does not happen. For right now, the focus is on keeping the hospital," said Greg Hanlon, a spokesman for Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile.

Fossella and Rep. Jerrold Nadler and Fossella both testified against any Brooklyn closures at Monday's hearing.

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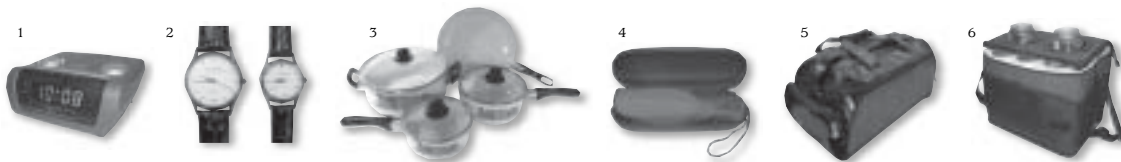
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# Rats invade Bay Ridge from Shore Rd seawall

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

The rats are moving east in Bay Ridge.

Repair of the seawall that runs along Shore Parkway has let loose a flurry of vermin and left Shore Road residents to contend with a migration of the fleet-footed pests.

In a typewritten letter posted on a window near the mailboxes at the Shore Road House Cooperative, at 7119 Shore Road, an anonymous resident warned neighbors: "The work being done on the seawall has caused the park across the street to be flooded with displaced rats. Sooner or later, they will come into our building."

"People up the block are complaining that they see



Residents are complaining that a repair to the crumbling seawall along Shore Road Park has caused an infestation of rats into the surrounding area.

[rats] all over," the letter reads before ending in a command that neighbors use the city's 311 hotline and "demand they rectify the problem immediately before it gets completely out of control."

After a complaint from Community Board 10, the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene placed rat poison at 27 locations along Shore Parkway.

The poison was laid Sept. 16, three days before the letter was posted at 7119 Shore Road.

If trouble persists, "follow-up baiting may also be planned," said Eric Riley, a spokesman for the Health Department.

Pest-killing doses of a deadly anticoagulant was also last week put down rat holes in Cadman Plaza Park near Borough Hall in Downtown Brooklyn. Signs posted there warn to watch children at play and keep dogs on leash.

If rat poison is swallowed, call a poison control center immediately, the signs warn.

In Fiscal Year 2005, the city fielded 31,600 rat-related complaints, a 40 percent increase from the previous year. While the increase in pest-busting complaints is partially attributed to the rise of the 311 hotline, the year's record-breaking number of construction projects also factors into the vermin's visibility.

## North Fork is robbed of \$7G in Bensonhurst

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

Police are searching for a man who stole nearly \$7,000 from an 86th Street bank by threatening the teller with a simulated bomb.

The robbers arrived at the North Fork branch near Bay 29th Street around 4:45 pm on Sept. 15, police said. The man passed the teller a note demanding money and showed her a package he claimed was a bomb.

The teller passed over \$6,910 and the robber fled on foot. Police released few details about the suspect.

### Laundry hit

The clerk at a laundry on New Utrecht Avenue was brutally beaten by a teenager girl who wanted to use the shop's non-functioning restroom, police said. But the absent-minded thing may have left detectives a critical clue.

The victimized clerk told po-

### 68/62 PRECINCTS

lice it was 1:30 am on Sept. 16 when the young woman first appeared in the 24-hour laundry and dry cleaning business at 71st Street. At first she asked for a cup.

The teenager returned a few minutes later, asking to use the bathroom, the victim told police. When the clerk told the young lady it was out of order she became enraged, knocking the victim to the ground and punching and kicking her in the stomach and face, police said. The attacker then whipped out a cell phone and broke the clerk's nose with it.

The young thing fled the laundry but she returned moments later, the victim said, after realizing she had left behind her cell phone. The young woman snatched a phone from the counter and disappeared again. In her haste, the suspect took

the victim's phone and left behind her own. Police recovered the item and took it as evidence. A detailed description of the teenager was not available.

### Triple hit

A trio of thugs snatched valuables — including an iPod — from a man walking on Fifth Avenue in the early morning darkness of Sept. 14, police said.

The victim, 22, told police he was heading to his 83rd Street home at 2:50 am. The man said he was on Fifth Avenue at 83rd Street, half a block from his building, when three strangers approached.

When one man snatched his iPod, the victim tried to take it back, according to police. But another thug grabbed him around the neck and the third punched him in the face. The thieves also took his cell phone and snatched \$400 from his pocket before they fled on 83rd Street, where they jumped into a waiting vehicle and disappeared, the victim told police.

### Colors targeted

A teenager walking on Bay Parkway was stabbed in broad daylight Sept. 14 by a pair of young thugs who objected to his clothes, police said.

The victim, 15, told police it was 2:45 pm, when the two strangers approached him on Bay Parkway near West 11th Street. One man said, "You have too many colors on," and pulled a knife, stabbing him in the chest and back, police said.

### Busts his glass

A thief snatched a pair of power tools from a 79th Street garage on Sept. 11, breaking in through a window that had just been replaced that day, police said.

The victim, 66, told police he has just installed new glass in the window of his garage, near 12th Avenue on 79th Street, when, sometime between 3 am and 5 am, a robber busted through his handwork and stole a Dewalt cordless drill, worth \$80, and a circular saw valued at \$70, police said.

### Some friend!

A woman suffered multiple facial cuts when an acquaintance threw a bottle into the open window of her car, police said.

The victim, 21, told police it was 3 pm on Sept. 13 when she was attacked by a 22-year-old white man named "Joey," who she considered a friend. She was sitting in the car, parked on 82nd Street and 18th Avenue, when the man tossed the glass bottle through the driver's-side window, police said.

### Garage robbed

A Fourth Avenue auto repair shop lost more than \$4,000 to burglars who forced open a garage gate while the business was closed for the weekend, police said.

A worker at the shop, between 67th and 68th streets, told police it was locked up for the weekend at 3:30 pm on Sept. 10. When workers returned on Monday, Sept. 12, at 8:30 am, they discovered a metal gate had been forced open and the cash — totaling \$4,025 — was gone.

### Slashed

The owner of a Bay Parkway shop was wounded when an angry customer pulled a knife on the afternoon of Sept. 12, police said.

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# Gentile gets on MTA's case

By Ajia Grozdanic  
and Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Rest assured, south Brooklyn: at least 37 cents have already gone towards fixing up the N subway line.

Councilman Vincent Gentile received a letter from MTA President Lawrence Reuter outlining improvements the agency has decided to adopt for the express train that runs between Astoria, Queens and Coney Island.

Responding to a letter Gentile wrote Reuter in July asking for service and station improvements in his district, the MTA boss announced the placement of new managers at the busiest N stations during rush hours and a plan to monitor for cleanliness and defects in N cars, as well as with its public address system, notorious for its barely audible mumbles.

Reuter also vowed to begin supplementing N service with W and M trains during delays. Gentile began his correspondence with the MTA after a report released by the Straphangers Campaign, a transit rider advocacy group, ranked southwest Brooklyn's subway lines among the system's worst with the N as the most performing subway line for the second year running and the M, R and D scoring only marginally better. The scores are based on a percentage of the \$2 subway fare the line is deemed as being worth.

"We Brooklynites pay large sums of money both to take taxes, and do not receive equal public transportation service in return," the councilman wrote, pointing out that despite the \$9 toll on the Verazano-Narrows Bridge, the



Councilman Vincent Gentile, at the New Utrecht Avenue D, M and N subway station on Sept. 7, says the MTA is not taking care of stations in southern Brooklyn.

buses and trains in the area are under-funded and poorly run. Responding to complaints he heard from riders in his district, Gentile in his letter requested that the MTA make major improvements to its service on weekends in Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge on the grounds that his 43rd district has the highest number of elderly residents per capita, who, due to the lack of handicapped accessible subway stations, rely on the X-27 and X-28 express bus lines.

Not surprisingly, the high-dollar request was conspicuously absent from Reuter's response. Gentile remained encouraged

this week about the changes thus far promised.

"As such, we are proud of the progress that we've made, but we feel that there is much more to be done to improve public transportation in our district," said a Gentile spokesman. As MTA plans stand, it is possible that express service may be eliminated in the next round of service cuts.

At a press conference sponsored by Gentile and transportation advocates at the New Utrecht Avenue subway station at 62nd Street a few weeks ago, the councilman condemned the state of public transportation in

the region.

"At some point, the picture becomes pretty clear that we're being overlooked by the Transportation Authority," Gentile said, adding that the press conference

could have been held at any of the subway stations in his district. "Six out of seven trains that serve southern Brooklyn were in the lower half of the ranking," he said, noting the Straphangers Campaign's subway rating system.

Straphangers coordinator Nysa Pranger said that the MTA might not be aware of the conditions of particular train lines or stations, because they look at the overall data without following what she called a byline format.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the MTA doesn't know [about station and train conditions in southwest Brooklyn], because that's not how they look at the data."

The reason Straphangers does their report on a line-by-line basis, she said, is because most people identify with the subway line they use to commute and the MTA needs to become aware of individual conditions of each line.

"We realize that there are resource constraints, but there needs to be a minimum standard of decency for stations," said William Henderson, associate director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, who also spoke at the Gentile subway-side press conference.

"You have to serve everybody," he added.

## BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

Police checked with neighbors and interviewed the priest at a church next door. But security cameras mounted on the church did not show any activity at the grocery, police said.

The missing items included \$1,300; nearly two dozen Merro-Cards, valued at \$500 together; 45 pre-paid phone cards, worth \$300 together; and a Palm Pilot electronic organizer, valued at \$400, according to police.

### Drug violence

Police arrested a man who used a crack pipe to brutally beat and stab a woman in a Shore Parkway motel.

The suspect, 25, was apprehended at 9 a.m. on Sept. 16, on felony assault charges. Police said he used a metal object and a glass crack pipe to beat the woman, 23, leaving her with various wounds and possibly disfigurement to her face and body.

The attack took place earlier that morning, at a motel near Bay 37th Street on Shore Parkway, police said.

### Stabbed for \$1

Two people walking to a store on 65th Street were viciously attacked the night of Sept. 12 by a pair of knife-wielding teenage muggers, police said.

One victim, 33, told police it was around 10:25 p.m. when the two strangers appeared. The man said he and a companion were near 24th Avenue, on 65th Street, when the strangers surrounded them. The teens demanded money, pulled a knife and attacked the victim told police. Both victims were beaten. The 33-year-old was stabbed in the left arm and ribcage. The other victim, whose age and sex were not available, was stabbed in the back five times.

The attackers fled with \$1.

### \$50 mug

A man lost \$5,000 and his necklace to a thief who held a knife to his throat after dark on Sept. 15, police said.

The victim, 22, told police it was 9 p.m. that night when two strangers approached him as he walked on West Ninth Street near Avenue S. One man pulled a knife and held it to his throat, while the other snatched his chain and rifled his pockets, removing the cash, police said.

### Slash man

A man was attacked by four strangers who slashed his back and leg, but didn't rob him, police said.

The victim, 25, told police it was 4 a.m. on Sept. 16 when the four strangers approached him on New Utrecht Avenue at 70th Street demanding money.

One man pulled a knife and cut him on the left side of his lower back and his thigh, police said. But the four thugs fled without stealing anything from the victim.

### Student target

A youngster was robbed of his book bag and cell phone by a trio of thugs who punched him in the face, police said.

The victim, 12, said he was coming home from school at 3 p.m. on Sept. 16 when he was attacked. He was walking on West Eighth Street near Avenue S, when the three strangers approached. One punched him in the face, while another thug snatched his property, police said.

The young victim could only provide limited details about his attackers.

### Bike bandit

A woman lost a pocketbook full of cash to a robber who rode past her on a bicycle during the afternoon of Sept. 17, police said.

The victim, 56, told police she was on West 10th Street and Avenue P a few minutes before 5

p.m., returning from a friend's home nearby, when a young man approached her on a bike, snatched the bag from her arm and fled in an unknown direction. The woman told police her purse had contained credit cards, ATM cards and \$3,500 in cash.

### Stogie snatch

Robbers snatched cash, electronics and nearly two dozen cigars from a synagogue on Benson Avenue, police said.

Officials at the Jewish house of worship, near Bay 28th Street, said the facility was secure when they left for the night on Sept. 14. The next day, they discovered the doorknobs were missing from two offices and tin foil had been jammed into the latch of a third office, possibly to keep the door open, police said.

The missing items included \$500, various electronics and more than 20 cigars, police said.



## BCAT Program Guide - What's on Brooklyn Community Access Television

### Ready New York:

#### How New York Would Handle an Emergency Situation

by J.M. Rivera

It's been a tough year, weather wise. First came last summer's hurricane in Grenada; then the tsunami in South Asia on the day after Christmas; followed by January floods in Guyana; and now the devastating storm surge in New Orleans. And through it all, Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) has been there, assisting local organizations with appeals for monetary donations and goods as well as providing information vital to the Brooklyn community.

This week, BCAT will present a special edition of *Reporter Roundtable* featuring Commissioner Joseph Bruno of the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM); Michael Lee, director of OEM's Watch Command; and Scott Graham, chief response officer for the American Red Cross. The three joined BCAT Moderator Toni Williams to discuss New York City's level of preparedness in the case of an emergency. "This edition of *Reporter Roundtable* is another example of how BCAT programming provides viewers with information that can enrich and, in this case, save their lives," said BCAT Executive Producer Greg Sutton.

While NYC will probably never see the likes of a category 5 hurricane, because of the densely-populated and highly-developed coastal areas, a category 1 hurricane with sustained winds of between 74 and 95 miles per hour could cause severe damage. These powerful winds can topple trees, flatten homes, and turn loose objects in deadly projectiles. In addition, storm surge - huge domes of seawater pushed forward by the oncoming storm - is among the hurricane's most hazardous features. In a major hurricane, storm surge could reach more than 30 feet in some parts of New York City, leaving residents of Coney Island, Brighton Beach, and Sheepshead Bay most vulnerable.

"We make plans in New York City based on all kinds of hazards," noted OEM's Michael Lee. "In this country, after September 11, a lot of focus may have turned towards security and terrorism-related issues, but that doesn't mean that the natural hazards we face went away. New York City has continued to work with partner agencies on such natural hazards - including snow storms and blizzards; heat waves; and coastal storms."

Most notably, New York City's OEM has developed an emergency preparedness program called *Ready New York*. The agency offers several free publica-

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(l. to r.) Scott Graham, American Red Cross; Michael Lee and Commissioner Joseph Bruno, NYC Office of Emergency Management; BCAT Moderator Toni Williams.

tions to assist New Yorkers prepare for emergencies of all kinds.

In addition, they have been taking part in National Preparedness Month, a nationwide effort co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, and schools.

OEM, in partnership with many corporate and community partners, will host a number of events throughout September to promote the *Ready New York* preparedness message around the city to encourage New Yorkers to develop a disaster plan, assemble an emergency supply kit, put together a Go Bag, and learn more about local hazards.

"It's no longer good enough for people to say they know they should be prepared," remarked Scott Graham of the American Red Cross. Graham had just returned from Alabama, where he was stationed from August 30 to September 6, and was responsible for overseeing the response of resident Alabama chapters and all of the volunteers coming from across the country. "The most important thing you should have is a plan."

That plan should outline what your household would do in case of an emergency, natural or otherwise. Where would you go? How will you find each other? Who will you contact?

Should you need to evacuate, the city recommends staying with friends or family who live outside the evacuation zones, if possible. For those who have no alternative shelter, the city has identified evacuation shelters throughout the five boroughs. Evacuees would first need to report to evacuation reception centers, easily reached by car or public transportation. Once at the reception center, they will be assigned to an evacuation shelter and transported there by bus or van.

The next step is to put together a "Go Bag" for each member of your

household: a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation, pre-packed in a backpack or small suitcase with wheels. Ideally, this should include copies of your important documents - insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photos IDs, etc. - packed in a waterproof bag or container; an extra set of car and house keys; cash; bottled water and non-perishable food; a battery-operated or wind-up radio and flashlight; medication for at least one week and a list of your medications; a first aid kit; comfortable shoes; light-weight rain gear; a mylar blanket; child care supplies; and, of course, a copy of your emergency plan. (The American Red Cross sells full-outfitted kits.)

Those who live in safer areas are encouraged to keep an emergency supply kit on-hand at home.

Commissioner Bruno is encouraged by a recent Marist poll that indicated that 50% of New Yorkers currently have a plan, a Go Bag, or supplies at home. His goal is now to reach the other 50%.

For a free copy of "Ready New York: A Household Preparedness Guide" or "Hurricanes and New York City," or to find out the location of your nearest reception center, call 311 or download PDF versions of their publications by visiting the NYC Office of Emergency Management's website at [www.nyc.gov/emcops](http://www.nyc.gov/emcops).

This episode of BCAT's *Reporter Roundtable* premieres on BCAT on Saturday, September 24 at 9pm, and will be repeated, through October 14, on Mondays at 10:30am; Wednesdays at 10:30am and 6:30pm; Thursdays noon and 8pm; and Saturdays at 9pm on Time Warner Cable channel 56, Cablevision channel 69, and streaming live online at [www.bcat.tv/bcat](http://www.bcat.tv/bcat).

FIND THIS WEEK'S COMPLETE BCAT PROGRAM GUIDE ON FOLLOWING PAGE

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

September 24, 2005

# Lured by history

'Squid & the Whale' recalls director's Slope memories, circa 1986

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**R**eturning to the neighborhood where he grew up to make "The Squid and the Whale," his most personal movie to date, Park Slope native Noah Baumbach says he not only relived powerful childhood emotions, but also uncovered valuable clues regarding the direction he wants to take his work.

"In a way, 'The Squid and the Whale' feels like my first film," the 35-year-old filmmaker told GO Brooklyn. "It technically is my third film, but it feels like the first one. From the script stage, all the way to making the movie, I kind of feel like I discovered the kind of writer-director that I am and want to be."

Best-known for his 1997 relationship comedy, "Mr. Jealousy," featuring Annabella Sciorra and Eric Stoltz, the Midwood High School and Vassar graduate made his debut with the 1995 ensemble comedy "Kicking and Screaming" and most recently co-wrote the script for last year's quirky sea adventure, "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," with that movie's director, Wes Anderson.

Starring Laura Linney, Jeff Daniels, William Baldwin and Anna Paquin, Baumbach's latest film is based on his own experiences as one of two brothers caught in the throes of their parents' divorce in 1986 Park Slope. A hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival, the film garnered screenwriting and directing awards for its young auteur.

Just as his first film, "Kicking and Screaming," was included in the New York Film Festival in 1995, "The Squid and the Whale" will be screened as part of this year's festival on Sept. 26 and Sept. 28. The film opens in New York City on Oct. 5.

"It was great to see the film get laughs and then the audience get quiet at certain points," Baumbach said of watching "The Squid and the Whale" with various festival crowds. "It also played, I thought, similarly each screening, which was nice. Positively, but, also, it wasn't like there were strange laughs in places I didn't expect them."

The filmmaker went on to credit his comfort level with the material for allowing him to create a funny, poignant fiction that rings true with audiences.

"I think I was able very much to write from a very personal place without a filter," noted the son of film critics Georgia Brown and Jonathan Baumbach. "Without worrying about what people would think — like, 'Is this commercial?' — stuff that screenwriters can distract themselves with. Because I was drawing on very personal experience, I was



## CINEMA

"The Squid and the Whale," directed by Noah Baumbach, opens in New York City on Oct. 5 following its screenings at the New York Film Festival on Sept. 26 and Sept. 28 at 9 pm at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, 65th Street and Broadway in Manhattan. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. A discussion with the filmmaker and reception will take place Oct. 2 at 7 pm at the Stanley H. Kaplan penthouse in Lincoln Center's Rose building. Tickets are \$20. For more information, call (212) 875-5050 or visit [www.filmilinc.com](http://www.filmilinc.com).

able to write more clearly and more effectively than I have before. The script is very fictionalized, as well, but I felt like [that at]

**Knockout:** Jesse Eisenberg (top) and Owen Kline (bottom) in Noah Baumbach's new film "The Squid and the Whale."

every stage, there is what you have in your head and what ends up on the screen and, for me, this is the closest the two have ever been."

Baumbach said that in an effort to keep things authentic while shooting the film, he dressed Daniels in his father's clothes and decorated the sets with some of his mother's books and furniture.

"It's not like I wanted it to be like, 'That's my daddy! That's my mommy!'" the filmmaker assured with a laugh. "By having an emotional connection to these things, it just put me more into the head space of the material and I think it just fuels me in a way."

Although the movie is often hilarious, it does focus on one of the most painful trials in Baumbach's life, not surprisingly making it one of the most emotional writing processes the filmmaker has ever experienced.

"I found myself getting angry or anxious writing certain scenes," he confided. "I had a much more visceral response. I think by the time it gets cast and you're shooting it [that goes away]. Occasionally, I would have like a Prozac jolt to my childhood, like, 'God, this really does feel like my living room.'"

"We were shooting in Park Slope, where I grew up, but at that point, for me, once you're

directing the film you have so many things on your mind, you don't really have time to get too emotional about anything. I think in the editing stage, certain scenes as you're putting them together, I kind of connected back to the mindset of when I was writing."

"It's a loaded thing. It's very much inspired by my childhood, so I was obviously getting stuff out. I'd lived with this story for 20 years before I started writing it," he continued. "So, to get it down on paper and actually make it into a movie that works at all was a big deal, but then at the same time, I think I also was discovering that even if this movie was about cops or science fiction, I was also just discovering on even a technical and visceral level the kind of filmmaker that I always knew I could be, but I don't think I quite ever tapped into."

Baumbach's still not quite sure how "The Squid and the Whale" fits into the history of films made and set in Brooklyn.

"For me, it was more about telling this story and the Brooklyn that I knew, so it wasn't like I was thinking, 'Boy, I'm going to show Brooklyn in a way no one's seen before,'" he said. "But, I was pleased when I heard people tell me they think it's a great Brooklyn movie. So, it's nice to know I'd backed into that somehow."

**"Because I was drawing on my personal experience, I was able to write more clearly and more effectively than I have before."**

—filmmaker  
Noah Baumbach



On the set: Baumbach (right) directs actress Laura Linney in the movie, which is based on his childhood memories of growing up in Park Slope.

## DINING



## Antic 'Crawl'

Why walk along this Sunday's Atlantic Antic street fair when you can crawl?

The "Sixpoint Craft Ales Atlantic Pubcrawl" will take place during the annual Atlantic Avenue Festival on Sept. 25, from noon until 6 pm between Hicks Street and Third Avenue. The new Red Hook brewery produced its first keg last February.

The beer crawl will be anchored by the Brazen Head bar (south side between Court Street and Boerum Place), which will exclusively pour three Sixpoint beers. A total of nine different Sixpoint beers — including the Sweet Action golden ale, Brownstone Ale, Belgian IPA, Righteous Rye, Diesel Stout, Bengali Tiger IPA — will be poured along the crawl. Other crawl venues are Magnetic Field (north side of Atlantic Avenue between Hicks and Henry streets), Floyd (north side of the avenue between Henry and Clinton streets), Last Exit (south side between Henry and Clinton streets), Waterfront Ale House (north side between Henry and Clinton streets), Atlantic ChipShop (north side of the avenue between Henry and Clinton streets) and Hank's Saloon (north side between Nevins Street and Third Avenue).

The brewers will stop by each location and visitors will get a punch card so that if they visit each establishment and have a pint of Sixpoint Craft Ale, they get a free Sixpoint when they return to any participating establishment during the month of October.

The Sixpoint Craft Ales brewery is at 40 Van Dyke St., next to the Liberty Heights Tap Room. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.sixpointcraftales.com](http://www.sixpointcraftales.com). For more information on the Atlantic Antic, call (718) 875-8993 or visit the Web site [www.atlanticcave.org](http://www.atlanticcave.org).

## CINEMA



## Soldiers' story

Unlike a documentary about an historical event dusty with age, 36-year-old Bushwick filmmaker Garrett Scott's "Operation: Dreamland" was shot as the events unfolded.

Along with co-director Ian Olds, Scott trekked to Iraq in August 2003 to film American soldiers' experiences during the occupation of Fallujah.

Scott and Olds ate, drank and slept with a platoon for six weeks.

They bunked at a bungalow in the former Baathist resort called "Dreamland" with a group of U.S. Army airborne infantrymen, documenting the young men's full range of emotions: their heroic acts, boredom, doubt, vanity and camaraderie.

Traveling without an interpreter, the filmmakers didn't even know what Arabic-speaking Iraqis were saying into their camera until they returned to the United States to have the footage translated for subtitles. Scott told GO Brooklyn in an interview Tuesday.

And those subtitles chillingly predict the carnage to come.

The directors went on night missions, when the soldiers broke into and searched Iraqi homes while the round-up family members huddled together in the darkness. The footage, which Scott said was shot through a night-vision telescope taped to a consumer-grade camera, colors the events with an especially eerie, surreal glow.

"It was really disturbing going in there," recalled Scott, who said he and Olds were concerned about the ethics of filming the families. "We knew we were adding to these people's humiliation — quite clearly by sticking a camera in their faces. The lieutenant would say, 'Go easy with the camera, they have enough to deal with,' and I'd say, 'Alright.'"

Still, Scott knew he had to use the footage in order to give a complete picture of the soldiers' experience. "I hoped we could use it without making it look like a 'Cops' episode," he said.

"Operation: Dreamland" is not a series of dry, talking head interviews. Scott and Olds' footage puts the viewer in the thick of the action, conveying the soldiers' fear and trepidation when bullets and shells are exploding, the tears over a fellow soldier's burning body, and the laughter among friends. The filmmakers' balanced, human portrait of these soldiers leaves it up to the viewer to decide whether their sacrifices could ever produce peace — or just more bloodshed.

Filmmakers Scott and Olds will be available for Q&As at 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, on Saturday, Sept. 24, and at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm, on Sept. 25 at Cinema Village, 22 E. 12th St. in Manhattan. For admission prices and additional screenings, call Cinema Village at (212) 924-3363.

—Lisa J. Curtis

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# BROOKLYN

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

### This week: DEKALB AVENUE

#### Bristens Cafe

525 DeKalb Ave. at Bedford Avenue, (718) 935-0218, (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$9.  
Opened in January 2005, this comfortable, unassuming diner, according to owner-chef Carlen Haughton, aims to "feed the neighborhood and offer my favorite meal — breakfast — all day." Sit beside the floor-to-ceiling front window as you dine on breakfast favorites like french toast, pancakes, huevos rancheros or grits with melted cheddar cheese. Salads and sandwiches are available, too, as is a selection of wine and beer. Bristens offers wireless internet, and live music accompanies your meal one Saturday and every Sunday of each month. Open daily from 10 am to 4 pm.

#### ICI

246 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue, (718) 789-2778, www.istateat.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$20.   
Laurent and Catherine Sallard's self-proclaimed "modern Brooklyn bistro" serves up French cuisine with primarily organic ingredients. Devour your meal in their 40-seat dining room on the ground floor of a brownstone or the rear garden, weather permitting. To start, indulge in the wilted dandelion salad with bacon, anchovy cream and poached egg or the pan-roasted codfilet flavoured with lime and cilantro. Entrees include "garganelli" (ribbed, ridged squares of pasta made of flour, water and Parmesan) with roasted, spiced eggplant; hanger steak with pan-roasted potatoes and green beans with pesto sauce; and skate with brown butter, lemon and cauliflower. For dessert, try the honey yogurt panna cotta or the chocolate cake with creme fraiche gelato. Open Tuesday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch and dinner. A special brunch menu is also offered from 10 am to 4 pm on weekends. Closed Mondays.

#### I-Shebeen Madiba

195 DeKalb Ave. at Carlton Avenue, (718) 855-9190, www.i-shebeen.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$20.   
Stepping into Madiba is like bursting into the Kaskas. Flowery interior canopies, wooden bar and pillow-topped benches transport you to a fantastic getaway. Madiba has a South African menu with exotic dishes and a state-of-the-art wine list. Chef-owner Mark Hegenen's unique South African recipes include the Ouders' samosas (lightly curved vegetables in a pastry triangle served with mango arctic), "spicy pickled mango," "potje braai" (a slow-cooked stew served in a three-legged cast-iron pot), and chicken capriccio with marinated sweet peppers. Desserts include the Kipdrift brandy tart and Jenny's malva pudding (a classic South African dessert served with custard sauce and vanilla ice cream). Terrace seats available, weather permitting. Open daily.

#### June

229 DeKalb Ave. at Clermont Avenue, (718) 222-1510 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$12.   
Owner Charles McElroy's newly refurbished menu offers new American cuisine, served up by executive chef Kristian Kallaf by way of a variety of grilled meats and seafood, salads and vegetables. The menu categories dishes by source. From the land, try the balsamic orange pork tenderloin, accompanied by rosemary white beans. From the sea, there's grilled Atlantic salmon, served with a soy kaffir lime glaze, vegetables mango salsa and jasmine rice. From the earth, try the roasted vegetable strudel, with Swiss chard, shiitake mushrooms, carrots, red pepper coulis and pesto. Open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays.

#### Lou Lou

222 DeKalb Ave. at Clermont Avenue, (718) 246-0633 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$18.   
Lou Lou has a cozy French countryside atmosphere with rustic tables, exposed brick walls and a lovely garden. A signature dish from chef William Snell's French menu is his seafood bouillabaisse in a coconut cury broth. Other seafood specialties include the pan-seared rainbow trout served while in a fresh langoustine sauce or the monkfish served with roasted tomato creme fraiche sauce and Yukon gold potatoes.

★ = Full review available at

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Abbreviation Key: AmEx=American Express, DC=Discover, MC=MasterCard, Visa=Visa Card



The theotail stew at I-Shebeen Madiba.

toes. A three-course, \$19 fix five menu is offered Monday through Thursday. On 26th Thursdays get two entrees for the price of one, and Mondays are cottage fee free. Open for lunch and brunch on the weekends from 11 am to 3:30 pm.

#### Mo-Bay Restaurant

112 DeKalb Ave. at Ashland Place, (718) 246-2800, www.mobayrestaurant.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.75-\$18.75.   
If Caribbean, soul and vegetarian food are what you fancy, then Mo-Bay restaurant is the place to be. Mo-Bay's beach hut interior, fresh-cut flowers and reggae music give the place a cool, island vibe. Owner Sheron Barnes' popular dishes include the curried coconut salmon, brown-steamed chicken and oxtail stew. For vegetarians, there's the brown-steamed "veggie" chicken, curried "veggie" chicken, barbecued "veggie" chicken and "veggie" salmon (made from soy protein). The dessert menu offers Mo-Bay's famous "rummy rum cake," vanilla cake soaked in three types of rum and served warm with vanilla ice cream — a slice of heaven. Daily lunch and special. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner, and Sundays from 3 pm to 10 pm.

#### Ruthie's

96 DeKalb Ave. at Ashland Place, (718) 246-5189 (Cash only) Entrees: \$6-\$16.   
This tiny soul food joint only seats about 20, but its cuisine is hefty enough to feed big appetites — and relatively inexpensive. Boasting a clientele of both new converts and "customers that have been with us since the very beginning," the owner's daughter Yanya West, this eight-year-old business serves up reliable "southern American cuisine" like fried chicken with "special seasoning," turkey wings smothered in fresh gravy, baked salmon marinated in garlic and butter, and oxtails. A variety of cakes and pies complete the meal. Open Monday through Saturday from noon to 11 pm. Closed Sundays. Delivery available.

#### Sugarhill Supper Club

615 DeKalb Ave. at Nostrand Avenue, (718) 797-1227, (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees \$8.95-\$24.95.   
Sugarhill Supper Club has been serving up Continental Southern cuisine and Cajun food since 1993. If you're hungry late on a weekend night, it's open 24 hours on Fridays and Saturdays. With a nightclub downstairs and three full bars, things are kept lively. Manager Aleksha Freeman recommends the popular crab cakes. Live entertainment performs four nights a week. Open Mondays and Thursdays from 8 am to 10:30 pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8 am to 7 pm, and continuously from Friday at 8 am until Sunday at 7 pm.

#### Two Steps Down

240 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue, (718) 399-2020, (MC, Visa) Entrees \$11.95-\$25.95.   
Opened in 1969, owner Yvette Mayo's exquisite seafood restaurant may very well be why other fine restaurants have flocked to Fort Greene. This cozy, bi-level eatery can seat up to 75, between the ground floor and the upstairs. Inside, you'll find decorated brick walls adorned with lots of art and a renovated upstairs lounge with a full bar and fireplace. And the food! The Louisiana gumbo's roux base contains mussels, clams, shrimp, scallops and oysters along with corn and okra, and it is served with yellow rice and a garden salad. The blackened medallion is spiced and seared salmon, catfish and tuna, topped with a black bean and corn salsa. Meateaters can try the steak stuffed with snapper. Sweet endings include sweet potato cake with cinnamon gelato, and the "Signature Dessert" according to manager Renee May, is the bread pudding with bourbon sauce. Happy hour with martinis specials every Thursday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Open Thursday through Sunday for dinner, and from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm for Sunday brunch. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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 it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com](mailto:Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com).



## Good & Loud

### Bay Ridge's Dish restaurant is the place for miso soup, yellowtail and earplugs

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Entering the Japanese-French fusion restaurant Dish, in Bay Ridge, I was struck by two things: the beauty of the place and the intensity of the music.

Visually, the wide corridor of the space, lined with a row of tables and illuminated with serene, recessed lighting, invites diners to relax. It's a setting in which to be left alone with one's quiet thoughts while sipping sake and consume sushi, or gather with friends and chat companionably.

However all that is rendered impossible when the music is piped into the room at a deafening volume. I've complained about the level of sound in

categories in this column before, and I'm aware that my opinion may sound like a rant. But, I have to ask Michael Izzo and Henry Arana, the owners of these high-decibel digs: can't a restaurant just have it? Do you think diners will run screaming from your place, complaining that the atmosphere isn't hip enough, if the music serves as background ambience and the food takes center stage?

Behind Dish is a garden that, had I been wearing earplugs, could be described as tranquil. Its two rows of canals face a cascading wall of water that ends in an elegant, rectangular pool. But again, a throbbing instrumental piped from speakers over the waterfall repeated itself in a nightmarish loop. (The

waiter was accommodating when I asked that the sound be turned down.)

If you want to avoid an aneurysm, don't pair the music with the lava lamp-green apple martini — a toxic mix of apple vodka, apple schnapps and melon liqueur that smells like gasoline and tastes like navel from Chernobyl. A delicately flavored, golden-colored mango martini is a better choice. Before diving into the Bible-weight menu, we traded the apple concoction for an equally lurid but easier to swallow "Saketime." Made with sake and gin, it was another drink that glowed — this time with an un-

earthly sapphire haze.

Our waiter Calvin, who has been with the restaurant since its opening in December, is a fan of chef

Jack Woo and his Japanese fusion cooking. (Before we cooked for the Sushi Den in Colorado and Migita Sushi in Brooklyn Heights.) He steered us away from standard sushi, sashimi and tempura — "Tempura is tempura where you have to eat it," said Calvin — to more exotic dishes that showcased the chef's experimental nature.

Of the four appetizers he suggested, three were enjoyable (if excessively rich, a flaw that cropped up several times during dinner); one didn't work at all.

A pile of crunchy, tiny fried shrimp were mixed with spicy, peppery mayonnaise. They made great eating if you kept your intake down to five or six; more than that would be like spooning up an entire soufflé.



Trickle down effect: At Dish, chef Jack Woo's "Crazy Avocado" appetizer (above left) features spicy tuna topped with avocado and flying-fish roe ("tobiko"). This Bay Ridge restaurant also offers the option of dining in its lush garden which features a stone waterfall.

Another dish I appreciated for its salty sweetness was the retro throwback of huge sea scallops wrapped in bacon and served on skewers — a launio favorite circa 1965. It's a clever idea: the bacon crisps while it's on the grill and helps protect the fish from drying out over the heat. Like the shrimp, it's not a dish you'd want if you craved something light and clean-tasting.

And Appenzler? No.

I wouldn't use the word "crazy" to describe my reaction to the "Crazy Avocado," but I liked it well enough. Tuna beads of salty red caviar saved little rolls of raw, velvety salmon, covered in creamy slices of ripe avocado, from being chipped.

The one blooper: Buttery slices of yellowtail in a delicate soy marinade scattered with rings of hot jalapeno peppers; the heat obscured the delicate sweetness of the fish. Without the fiery distraction, the dish was perfection.

We didn't leave behind a single drop of our miso soup. Miso is as ubiquitous in Japanese restaurants as the iceberg lettuce salad is to their American counterparts, so you'd imagine it would be a no-brainer for a kitchen to master. Not so. I've tasted countless over-salted, too thick versions and sipped just as many that were as thin and tasteless as gruel.

Woo's, with its pronounced, nutty barley flavor and silken cubes of tofu, was as soothing as a bowl of mother's chicken noodle soup.

To bad that winner was followed by a flop. Dish's rectangles of rib-eye steak, which is a forgiving cut due to its high fat content, should have sautéed up nice and tender, but instead this version arrived stringy and inedibly tough. The red wine sauce (here's the French touch) was reduced to a mineral rich meatiness — certainly worthy of carefully cooked beef.

We fared better with "chicken yakhi udon" an only, yet appealing, platter of pan-fried noodles mixed with slices of moist chicken breast and a garden-full of crisply sautéed peppers and greens.

Woo doesn't skimp on the dessert round-up: a choice of five ice creams in flavors such as green tea and red bean; chocolate mousse; pineapple cheesecake; the bybee and passion fruit mousse; and tiramisu.

Someone at another table tried the fried ice cream ball jazzed up with a side of shooting flames. Blazing fried ice cream? There's something Mel Brooks would appreciate.

Dish reminds me of "The Nanny" actor Fran Drescher. She's gorgeous to look at and, and even enjoyable to watch for short periods — but that voice!

time and products for the evening.

While diners graze on small plates of international delicacies, they'll be serenaded by a string quartet of local musicians. Authors Tony DiNo, of the "Re-nascence Guide to Wine & Food Pairing"; Carlo DeVito of "East Coast Wineries: A Complete Guide From Maine to Virginia"; and Keith Young of "Cooking with the Firehouse Chef," will be on hand to autograph copies of their books.

"When you have a wonderful school like Sacred Hearts, whose teachers have done such a great job educating so many of Brooklyn's students, you just have to try to help them out," said Chirico. "I hope it gets a huge turnout."

"New York Wineries & Dines in Brooklyn" will be held at Sacred Hearts/St. Stephen School (135 Summit St., at Hicks Street) on Sept. 28, from 7 pm to 10 pm. Tickets can be reserved for \$50 by calling (800) 442-5959 or pay \$65 at the door. For more information, call (718) 625-2267.

— Tina Barry

## Dining for dollars

On Wednesday, the Brooklyn Restaurant Association and the New York Wine and Grape Foundation will present "New York Wines & Dines in Brooklyn," an evening of wine and food-tasting at the Sacred Hearts/St. Stephen Catholic school in Carroll Gardens.

As of this date, eight members of the Brooklyn Restaurant Association, including DUMBO's River Cafe and Bay Ridge's Pearl Room and Panamonte Bakery Cafe will be participating.

Great food needs great wine, so Anthony Road Wine Cellars, Redell Cellars and Caselli di Borgnese, just a few of the 15 participating New York State wineries associated with the foundation, will be on hand to offer tips from their latest bottles.

Proceeds from the tasting will benefit the Sacred Hearts/St. Stephen School, which has been in operation in Carroll Gardens since 1866. In February, the pre-

kindergarten through eighth grade institution was deemed one of 26 struggling schools in the city in need of help. It could no longer be supported by the

Brooklyn Diocese. Parents of students, church parishioners and concerned neighbors banded together and wrote a creative business plan that persuaded Bishop of Brooklyn Nicholas Dimario to grant a reprieve. Now the school needs contributions to keep its doors open.

The event is the brainchild of Joe Chirico (pictured), owner of Marco Polo Ristorante on Court Street. He wouldn't divulge the dishes he'll serve, Francesco Issingio, plans on serving that night, but Chirico said, "The food and wine will be great. No one will leave unhappy."

"In Carroll Gardens we all stick together. So when I heard that the school needed money, I knew I had to do something to help them."

Chirico, president of the Brooklyn Restaurant Association, convinced several of the association's members, and those of the foundation, to donate their

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# Celebrate!

The Jewish New Year 5766

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Yom Kippur	Oct. 12-13
Sukkot	Oct. 17-24
Simchat Torah	Oct. 25-26

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### Rosh Hashana

<b>Monday, October 3</b>	<b>8:15pm</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 4</b>	
Family Service	9:15am
Adult Service	10:30am
<b>Wednesday, October 5</b>	
Second Day	10am
Tashlich in Prospect Park	3:00pm

### Yom Kippur

<b>Wednesday, October 12</b>	<b>8:15pm</b>
Kol Nidre Service	
<b>Thursday, October 13</b>	
Family Service	9:15am
Adult Service	10:30am
Yizkor Service	4:30pm
Neilah Service	5:30pm



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**2ND DAY ROSH HASHANAH:** Wednesday, October 5 at 9:30am  
**KOL NIDRE:** Wednesday, October 12 at 6:30pm  
**YOM KIPPUR:** Thursday, October 13 at 9:30am  
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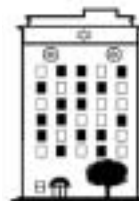
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## CONEY...

Continued from page 1

ground floor of the Showboat Casino in Atlantic City or at Barefoot Landing on Myrtle Beach in South Carolina.

In describing his vision for the amusement complex to a New York magazine reporter, Sitt also talked about a 100-foot-tall water slide in an indoor water park and reported that he is currently in talks with movie theater companies Loews and UA/Regal.

So far, Sitt's vision has generated enthusiasm, albeit that of the guarded and slightly ambivalent breed, among those whose properties would be affected.

"I have spoken with Sitt and other interested developers and I am sure they know that no matter the grandeur of their designs they will have to retain the feeling — I don't know how to describe it — that will allow it to blend to Coney Island as it is now," said Horace Bullard, a Coney Island property owner and founder of the Kansas Fried Chicken chain, who at one time planned to rebuild Coney's historic Steeplechase Park.

"I've read a lot of things, but I guess I am like a lot of people — I'll wait and see what happens," said Cyclone roller coaster manager Mark Blumenfeld, an employee of Astroland for the past 24 years.

Bullard sold the former Washington Baths on West 21st Street and Surf Avenue, where Sitt plans a condo development, but still owns a vacant, 4-acre tract where a roller coaster once stood. He agrees with Sitt that all-season attractions like the climbing wall or a giant indoor water slide would keep true to the resort's pleasure-zone heritage and of course, make Coney Island a year-round draw for the city.

"It is an exciting plan, as I am sure many that will be proposed will be," he told The Brooklyn Papers.

While Sitt did not offer comment on his company's plans or wishes for the Astroland property, he has made no promises to the current operators.

Adding tension to the Cyclone negotiations, a misaligned piece of track on the 85-foot-tall, wood-and-steel roller coaster sent four riders to the hospital with whiplash two weeks ago, an accident attributed by the Astroland operators to old age. The famous ride was shut down during the Labor Day weekend as a result of the accident.

The low-tech attraction, which is 78 years old, is owned by the Parks Department and, as stipulated by law, bid out every 10 years. Two weeks ago, the city closed its bidding period.

The bidding yielded proposals from a number of interested parties — the number of bids and their content are under wraps until the city makes its decision — a parks spokesperson said.

Aside from Astroland's owner, the Albert family which currently operates the roller coaster, none of the bidders have publicly come forward.

Blumenfeld said he had not heard of rival bidders.

"We are getting ready for next year," he said. "At this time, there is no indication we are not going to be here."

Yet, as change waits, as sure as the scent of a Nathan's hot dog, over the boardwalk there are questions about who will take over area leaves.

"Landlords are only giving one-year extensions on leases now," said Dick Zgurn, president of Coney Island USA, the non-profit community arts organization that organizes the annual Mermaid Parade on the boardwalk and Surf Avenue.

This November, the 10-year lease Zgurn holds on Coney Island USA's current Surf Avenue location will expire and he wants to move to a derelict bank building at Surf Avenue and West 12th Street that was recently bought up by Thor Equities.

Coney Island USA has already sent a letter of intent to Sitt and is now awaiting a response.

"He appreciates what we do," said Zgurn. "He hasn't said, yes, but he hasn't said, no."

## DOCTOR...

Continued from page 1

gars and another munched a pretzel half the size of his skull, Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham, a registered nurse, rattled off some grim statistics.

A man is three times more likely than a woman to die of AIDS, almost twice as likely to die from heart disease and nearly 30 percent more likely to die of some form of preventable cancer, she noted.

Still, the figures did not appear to shock some men in the audience, who seemed all too happy to rationalize their healthcare complacency.

"Sometimes you ignore what's going on with your body until it's too late," said Jay Serrano, 58, of Midwood. "My wife takes herself to the doctor as soon as she feels something. [Men] wait until it's too late," he said with a smile.

"It's hard to get to the doctor," said John Gill, 25, of East New York, who stumbled upon the press conference on his way to the subway.

"Even with this, it's good to get the information out, but you still get the run-around. I got to go to Woodhull [Medical Center] for a screening one day, Coney Island [Hospital] the next day. I guarantee I'll go and they'll say no screening today, or you need this paper, or there are too many people so come back another day." Gill lamented, pointing to a "Take Your Man to the Doctor" schedule he had marked in pen with reminders of a half-dozen screenings he hoped to have done at various clinics and hospitals over the next week.

For a schedule of screenings, log on to the borough president's Web site at [www.brooklyn-use.org](http://www.brooklyn-use.org) or call (718) 802-3875.

## TERROR...

Continued from page 1

flow of cash from his ice cream store.

Defense attorneys called Elfege a pillar of Brooklyn's Yemeni immigrant community who broke no law because he ran a nonprofit community service rather than a money-making business that required a license.

The money that went overseas came from hardworking immigrants looking to buy homes, purchase business equipment and support their families, the lawyers told the jury. Elfege first came to the attention of FBI anti-terrorist agents as they investigated Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hassan Al-Moayad, whom they eventually accused of funneling money from the United States to al-Qaeda and Hamas. Al-Moayad was convicted of supporting and conspiring to support terrorism and sentenced to 75 years in prison in July.

Witnesses at al-Moayad's trial said he kept Elfege's number in his phone book and called Elfege someone he trusted to transfer money from the United States to Yemen.

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# Citizens have their say over 'park' plan

By Jess Wisloski  
The Brooklyn Papers

A mix of complaints and praise were showered upon the planners of Brooklyn Bridge Park Monday night in the only public hearing scheduled on the effect the development would have on the surrounding area.

Members of the Empire State Development Corporation and Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC) patiently listened to four hours of public testimony.

And they got an earful. While much of the earlier testimony, which seemed to have no time limit, was given by elected officials — who repeated their message of both urgency and revision (see story at right) — and leaders from related organizations or city agencies, as the night wore on the voices of the public became increasingly prevalent, if time constrained.

The purpose of the hearing, held in the Dibner Auditorium of Polytechnic University, at 6 Metrotech Center in Downtown Brooklyn, was to review the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that was presented for community review in July.

The deadline for written public comment to be submitted to the BBPDC is 5 p.m. on Oct. 19. It can be submitted to: BBPDC, 33rd floor, 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Testimony began at 5 p.m. with very positive reviews of the project, and included representatives from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey — which owns most of the pier property to be ceded to the state for the development, of Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Dan Doctoroff — the Prospect Park Alliance and the state

## Pols OK waterfront 'park'...but Seek to shrink size of towers, apartments

By Jess Wisloski  
and Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Papers

Local elected officials seemed this week to want to have their cake and eat it, too, when it comes to plans for Brooklyn Bridge Park.

At a press conference at Borough Hall just hours before a public hearing on a study of the park's impacts, six of the area's elected officials joined to call for both approval of the plan's draft environmental statement, and for changes to the plan itself.

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), which was released in July, pertains to a revised plan, announced in December, for a waterfront development running from Jay Street to Atlantic Avenue. The plan calls for a dependence on high-rise luxury housing to pay the annual maintenance of the open space and recreational areas in the 1.3-mile development.

And despite their call for scaling back the high-rises, among other changes to the plan, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Councilman David Yassky, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Borough President Marty Markowitz, state Sen. Martin Connor, Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Assemblywoman Joan Millman and Rep. Nydia Velázquez, all shared one distinctive message: Let



Local elected officials urge that development of the Brooklyn Heights waterfront move forward. At Borough Hall Monday (from left): Councilman David Yassky, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Borough President Marty Markowitz, state Sen. Martin Connor, Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Assemblywoman Joan Millman.

there be park!

None of their proposed changes, they said, would have any impact or render invalid the DEIS.

"First, we need to move forward and build the park with all possible speed, then we must listen to com-

munity members and fix the plan's defects," said DeBlasio, whose district includes Carroll Gardens and Park Slope.

Yassky, whose Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO district borders most of the park, additionally

spoke about the need to trim some of the park's anticipated annual expenses to lessen the reliance on income generated for the park, which is charged with being self-sustainable.

"We should maximize revenue

from existing buildings onsite," he said after the Borough Hall press conference, and pointed to existing buildings that surround the park as potentially contributing to the park's expenses.

Among the approaches addressed in a joint press release were the following: provide interim park improvements and access near the southern end of the park; reduce the height of the residential buildings near Pier 6 to 20 stories or less (currently, a 30-story tower is proposed there); preserve the Con Edison site, near the northern end of the park, as green space (currently, a condo high-rise is proposed there); develop residential projects elsewhere in DUMBO or gleam funds from existing buildings; provide more indoor and outdoor recreation; develop a middle school for Region 8; and consider using the Purchase Building (an art-deco industrial space underneath the Brooklyn Bridge now slated for demolition) as part of the park.

Other suggestions by the officials included developing a ferry terminal at a "more inviting park entrance" at Atlantic Avenue that would feature ancillary commercial activity; improving access to the northern end of the park in Vinegar Hill; and enhancing pedestrian access to Old Fulton

Street, where walkers battle two-way traffic entering and exiting the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

While some of the elected officials were adamant about moving ahead with the project, such as Connor — who said, "We can't slow down the process. We need to get the EIS approved and move forward" — others seemed hesitant to offer such unconditional support.

Yassky, who later provided an alternative financing plan that includes cutting the private security, relying instead on police, and expanding the financial burden to existing buildings near the park, said he would favor more exploration in financing, but realized time was precious.

"We have the market conditions for a housing deal now," Yassky told reporters. "We don't want to miss the market."

But Judi Francis, an opponent of the current park plans, who lives on Willow Place, just a block from the proposed construction of new high-rises, likened the move by the elected officials to lip service.

"At the 11th hour they come up with a pally few crumbs to throw at the community in order to get the earth-moving equipment onto the site," she said.

"They haven't heard us. And it's very disappointing."

historic preservation office. But as the meeting reached its midway point, at 7 p.m.,

with 100 speakers left on the list, critical views emerged on many of the specifics of the environmental impact study, and its omissions.

Speakers mentioned oversized buildings, including a 30-story luxury condo tower planned at Pier 6 and a 16-story tower in DUMBO, as being out of scale, and the park's major entrances, at Atlantic Avenue and Old Fulton Street, as being obstructed by buildings.

But other issues, such as a proposed greenway bicycle path along the waterfront, view planes and the role a marina would play in revenue generation also came up as did the absence of diagrams and financial analyses in the DEIS.

Howard Gutlieb, a member of the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, said, "We think this is a wonderful park, and has the opportunity to be the jewel but we did not see the Brooklyn Greenway in the environmental impact statement."

He noted that the bike path was planned to connect Greenpoint and Williamsburg with the south and central areas of Brooklyn.

Chris Bastian, who owns a home on Sidney Place in Brooklyn Heights, said that a proposed boat marina was all but ignored in the draft EIS. He rectified information from a state agency's Web site about what the EIS was supposed to contain.

"The purpose of an environmental impact statement is to give policy makers a comprehensive review of the impacts of their proposed actions and to assist them in making an informed decision on how to proceed and to defend that decision," said Bastian.

"Agencies must establish a clear and supportable record of the agency's decision making. In that regard I believe that this [DEIS] is deficient in providing a clearly supportable record of the [development corporation's] controversial proposal to create residential and hotel space," he said, also pointing out the addition of a 185-slip marina for sail boats and motor boats, with a visitor's center and off-season boat storage that he

said was not discussed during the scoping sessions in 2001.

"Nowhere in the EIS can I find any reference to any potential revenue that's being created by this," said Bastian who pointed out, "My wife and I own a car. We use it for recreational purposes. For us it's a luxury. We pay to keep it in storage. We do not expect somebody to provide parking spaces for us."

"I don't know if the revenue generated by the marina would significantly reduce or even eliminate the proposed need for the proposed commercial or residential development. However, with the information provided from the DEIS, it appears you don't know either."

A large portion of the audience of about 300 applauded Bastian loudly.

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George James, an analyst with the Environmental Simulation Center, an offshoot of the New School for Social Research that seeks to apply state-of-the-art technology to community-specific planning, something he said was sorely missing in the DEIS.

"The applicant cannot merely assert that their action does not cause an impact, as they do in the [draft] EIS, but rather must present evidence supporting its claims," said James.

"For an action of this size, applicants typically perform visual simulations as a way of demonstrating impact, and most lead agencies write such requirements into the scoping document. This DEIS is notable for its lack of such simulations."

Oks Pearsall, a preservationist and member of the Brooklyn Heights Association, pointed out that the 110-foot-tall hotel at the base of Old Fulton Street would obscure views of the arch and cable-work of the Brooklyn Bridge from Brooklyn Heights.

"Please remember, there are views, and then there are views. This is one of the world's classics. Let's not nibble at it," said Pearsall.

Judi Francis, a member of the Willowtown Association in Brooklyn Heights, and petitioner of a lawsuit against the development corporation, testified that the agency was being deceptive in its representation of the park in the document.

"The mayor and governor agreed to the creation of a 67-acre, 1.3-mile-long Brooklyn Bridge Park in 2002," she pointed out, saying the same park was promised as 70 acres in 2003, 80 acres in 2004, and "it didn't stop growing until last month, when the DEIS set it at 85 acres."

Meanwhile, she said, the actual park's outline hadn't changed, except to include more water.

"This is a flawed number count," she said, saying that by counting only land uses, 32 percent of the park's footprint would go to commercial uses. The development corporation's figures include areas of space that is undeveloped.

"I want you to know this is the scale of the surrounding buildings," she said, holding up 11 paper folded width-wise three times.

She set it next to one of the models of the highest condos to show its small size in comparison.



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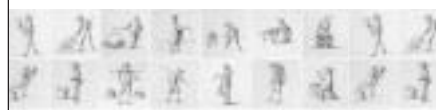
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# Parking for 'park' housing poses a dilemma

To the editor:

The luxury apartment towers introduced into the Brooklyn Bridge Park (BBP) plan to generate financing for its annual maintenance are, in fact, the principal barrier to the park's self-sustainability.

The main reason is that residential parking will consume parking needed for commercial revenue generators. Rather than serving park users, residential parking facilities trips away from and back to the park, adding nothing to the life of the park itself.

For the BBP, the sense of remoteness that is part of the allure of the waterfront is reinforced by the barrier of the Brooklyn-Queens Express-

way, limited entry points, and the distance to subways. Thus it is predictable that buyers of the 1,210 million-dollar condos in BBP will expect to have easy access to a parking place they can count on.

The BBP DEIS unrealistically assumes that only two-thirds (or 808) of the affluent households in this relatively remote location will need parking.

The 2005 Park Plan provides 96 percent of them with 772 parking spaces in the residential towers at the south end of the park. Since these will not satisfy the inevitable demand for at least one secure parking space for each housing unit, condo owners will make deals to reserve public

spaces, or, in any case, will occupy them first.

The damage of resident parking to the park's purpose and viability is evident in the DEIS estimates of the peak parking demand on a Sunday afternoon. It assumes resident spaces account for 555, more than a third, of the peak demand of 1,522 spaces. That assumes 70 percent of 802 resident parking spaces are occupied. If, more realistically, all 1,210 condo owners park onsite, the 70 percent parking demand by residents in the Sunday peak is 831 spaces.

This pushes up the parking shortfall from the 339 spaces reported in the DEIS to 615 drivers who would have to find parking elsewhere and walk back to the park.

The parking deficit would actually be much greater than 615 spaces because auto use to stores, restaurants, a hotel and to the park itself at this relatively remote site will likely be more than the 20 percent to 30 percent of trips that is assumed in the DEIS. In addition to depriving commercial activities of adequate spaces, residential parking skews the

distribution of parking to the upland of piers 5 and 6, further handicapping the viability of the commercial trip-generating activities that are concentrated around Pier 1.

Without adequate convenient parking, the businesses on which the park depends for activity as well as revenues will

become white elephants. Reducing the number of condos won't do much because all of the commercial trip-generating activities that are concentrated around Pier 1.

The erosion of public parking by the inevitable parking demands of luxury housing un-

dermines the park's sustainability and moves our once world-class park another step closer to becoming Trump City.

There should simply be no housing in the park at all.

—Carolyn Konheim, Community Consulting Services Inc.

**Forget Ratner, go after Boymelgreen**

To the editor:

Your coverage of Bruce Ratner is very biased and one-sided. The tone of your writing about anything to do with the Arena is tart and negative. I guess this is your form of journalism. The developer you need to be concerned with is

Boymelgreen.

Have you checked out the latest snap-together building in DUMBO (Beacon Tower)? The architecture and building design is horrible. They destroyed 57 Front St., and besides Starbucks, the Front-Main streets building is a disgrace.

They don't seem to finish buildings. I look out my window every night at a pre-d-together mess on top of 42 Main St. that is an eyesore. I called them and got no results; in fact, they responded very rudely.

I am very concerned if these folks ever get their hands on the Empire Stores, they will probably move in Wal-Mart.

—Tracy Tucker, DUMBO

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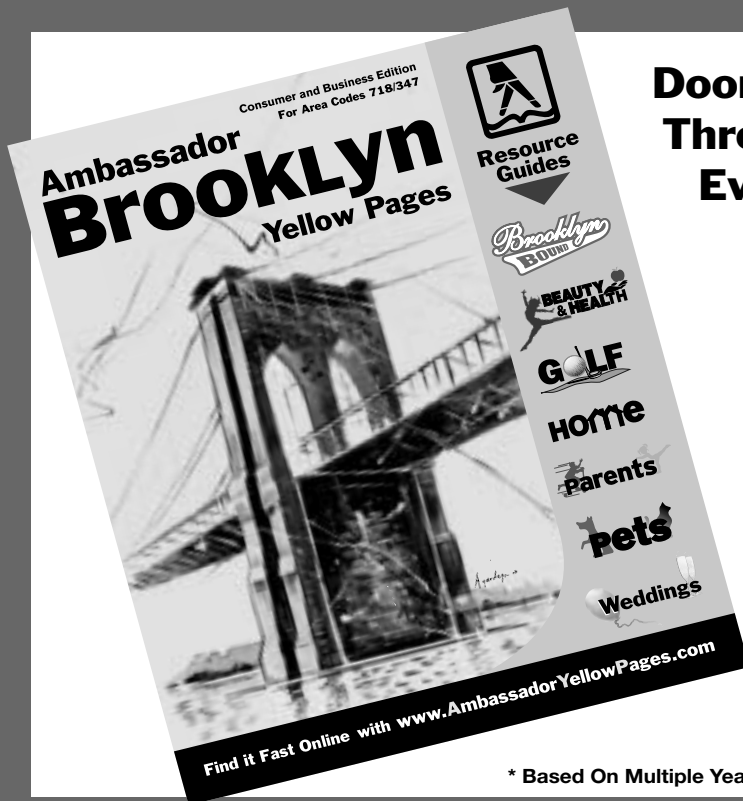
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## The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

## Helping kids cope with disasters

Tips on what to expect from Hurricane Katrina's youngest evacuees and how to help them cope:

No matter what's going on in the world around them, children need ways to release their energy with some adult direction. Time to jump, run and play. And permission to cry or be angry or laugh.

After a bus trip from Texas to Charlotte, N.C., one 4-year-old boy ran non-stop inside the Charlotte Coliseum in North Carolina, wearing Clifford the Big Red Dog slippers. When he wasn't crawling up railings, he was yelling and almost running into walls, a Charlotte reporter noticed as she was looking for stories to tell. His mother, 24, who had evacuated from New Orleans before the storm, apologized for her son's behavior. It was fueled by attention deficit disorder, she said, and concerns over the whereabouts of his father.

With his pregnant mother, the boy packed his unruffled energy off to his next temporary home — his aunt's house. The aunt has a lot of love, but not much money or room.

"Kids are resilient, but I know some will be profoundly affected," says Paul Tisdale, superintendent of Biloxi, Miss., public schools.

When school resumes, he expects teachers to address the ordeal. "I think it's in the nature of a good teacher to say, 'Let's

## Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

talk about it.' A good teacher is a good nurturer," says Tisdale, an educator for 30 years.

Tisdale, a native of Biloxi, remembers coming through Hurricane Camille in 1969. He was 16. "The interesting part was talking to pals — where are you staying, what happened to you? After a week it was old news."

Tisdale is a believer in structure for kids, even in a disaster, even if it's just taking out the trash. He believes children should have a routine and a level of normalcy — it teaches accountability and responsibility. A chance to talk, a routine, expectations — all these are what children need, parents and mental health professionals find.

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder says most disaster survivors, in-

cluding children and rescue workers, experience common stress reactions that can last for weeks or longer:

- Emotional reactions: shock, fear, grief, anger, sadness and feeling helpless.
- Cognitive reactions: confusion, indecisiveness, worry, trouble concentrating.
- Physical reactions: tension, fatigue, edginess, insomnia, aches or pain, racing heartbeat, nausea, change in appetite.
- Interpersonal reactions: distrust, conflict, withdrawal, work or school problems, irritability, loss of intimacy, feeling abandoned.

Psychologists also have found that children pick up on fear and anxiety like sponges, and will take it in and act it out. Kids do not need to be shielded from all of adult sadness, mental health professionals have found, but will fare better if they do not witness their parents totally falling apart.

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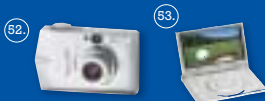
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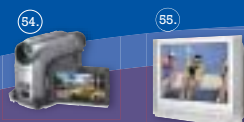
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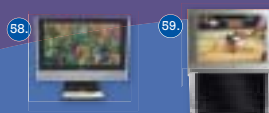
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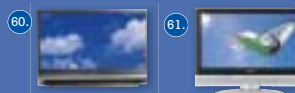
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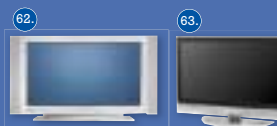
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