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THE YEAR 2005 IN REVIEW

And the winner is...

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

This year, The Brooklyn Papers would like to honor the people, the businesses, and the neighborhoods that make our

pages so lively. So, without any further ado, here are the winners of "The Brooklyn Papers Awards" for 2005:

The "Win-win of the year" award: When Park Slope residents protested Commerico Bank's plan to drive through their neighborhood on Fifth Avenue, the bank actually changed its design to suit the community. Too bad all developers don't treat their neighborhoods the same way.

The "Revived" award: Last year, the life of the year this award is split between two big stories: The sale of the famed "Saturday Night Fever" dance floor from Bar Ridge's 2001 Odyssey nightclub and a reported rise in gas-siphoning.

What's next? The sale of Barkon pants? Exploding Ford Pintos? Tony Orlando and Dawn?

The "We have seen the future and it's dressed in velour" jogging suit award: In September, the first cruise ship docked at Red Hook's Pier 12, a portent of what city officials promise will be a wave of cruise ship migrations in Brooklyn.

The "California in the mountains" award: Mega-star Heath Ledger ("Brokeback Mountain") and girlfriend Michelle Williams (aka "Dawson's Creek hottie Michelle Williams") snubbed the red carpet at the Golden Globes and even Park Slope by buying an apartment on Douglass Street in Boerum Hill. The house is just a couple of blocks from the Gowanus Canal, where most of Brownstone Brooklyn's residents live. And when it rains... But hey, it beats the constant threat of earthquakes.

The "Mother Earth" award: For environmental stewardship, even in the face of great expense: The family-owned cruise ship Park Slope Food Co.-owned liner, which will buy its electrical power from a wind farm rather than from greenhouse-gas-emitting power plants. The move will cost the market \$15,700 more per year for electrical power. But if the price of organic fair-trade, shade-grown coffee goes up, the bets are off.

The "We have the smell of victory" award: If you're going to own your own limousine, you're going to fight for every penny. But the owners of F-line Bagels in Carroll Gardens had to do that while also fighting

the MTA. The transit agency sued the store, claiming its F-line logo infringed on the MTA's copyright. Our guess is that the MTA never sued out of jealousy because F-Line Bagels is actually much cleaner than the Smith 9th Street station across the street.

The "Last picture show" award: The residents of Bay Ridge deserve this binocular honor for watching the demise of three remaining movie theaters. Now if they want to watch a movie, they will need to, um, rent one.

The "Left at the altar" award: After the Bay Gables takes the moniker thanks to bridal Mecca Kleinfield's decision to relocate to Manhattan, Lake anyone gets married there!

The "Crime of the year" award: If you're watching movies made in a private booth, an adult booth, that is, it's probably not a good idea to take a picture of the pervert in the booth next to you. A 30-year-old man learned that the hard way when he angered his fellow adult booth mate when it came to taking his picture on his cellphone. The camera-shy customer fought back, stealing the camera and an iPod from the would-be pervert.

The "What rhymes with kidney?" award: Brooklyn Mayor Bloomberg. Ken Salazar pulled an entirely different set of heartstrings after we reported in February that he's in desperate need of a new kidney.

The "Merchant of the year" award: If you're going to own your own limousine, you're going to fight for every penny. But the owners of F-line Bagels in Carroll Gardens had to do that while also fighting



The Brooklyn Papers file photo

"Federer's Houses" struck every part of the borough.

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March of the politicians

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

In a city with 51 councilmembers, 13 congressional delegations, 63 members of the Assembly, 26 state Senators, a mayor, five borough presidents, five district attorneys and a public advocate (who does what, exactly?), it's not always so easy for a local pol to get noticed.

But then, oh boy, did our elected officials try! Here's how our favorite sons and daughters got their name in The Brooklyn Papers this year:

February

Who is Da Boss?: Borough President Markowitz opened the political season by having actor (and native Brooklynite) Tony Danza stand up (he was "the Star of the Borough") address. Given Danza's troubled history with TV ratings, it was unclear whether Markowitz was trying to ride on the star's coat-tails or visa-versa.

Oh, that smell: State Senator Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) funded over a Prospect Heights barbershop with \$1,000 to combat belching pronounced marijuana use. The book, "It's Just a Plant," focuses on a young girl who walks in her parents as they're sharing a joint. The experience sends her on a journey where she meets a farmer who grows his own weed. In the end, she grows too right for "fat man" status, which also grants her immunity if you can believe the marijuana opponents). Golden's outcry led to two major developments: 1) The book received enormous publicity that it might not have gotten and 2) Senate staffers no longer bothered to include Golden in their all-night bill-drafting and pot parties.

Premature Pressreleasation: Councilmember David Yassky is not reluctant to issue a press release, but the Brooklyn Heights Democrat pressed the "Seal of Confidentiality" (the release-to-the-public-for-the-NYPD) on his book. Yassky wanted to get well-deserved credit for encouraging local cops to step up enforcement of truck violations in Boerum Hill but his announcement tipped off the the.

Convenient excuse: Councilmember Vincent Gentile (R-Bay Ridge) got in the papers for all the wrong reasons after proposing that drivers be allowed to legally double-park in front of their homes. It was a store for a quick errand. It was hard to know which was louder: the screaming from the NYPD or the laughter from local Republicans hoping to exploit the gaffe at election time. The bill died, but Gentile survived.

May

Photo op of the year: In the "You can't make this stuff up" category, Borough President Markowitz was joined by Ms. Full-

uous concupiscence: "I've never even seen [this many] naked women," he said.

March
The naked are the damned: Who could have a problem with naked women? Well, state Sen. Marty Golden proved he was no fan of Howard Stern when he protested the Showtime series "Howard Stern's The World."

The show (which also appeared in bus shelters and subway billboards) depicted naked women smuggling. Golden said he objected to the supposed lewdness, based on his interview with The Papers, it might have been construed that he was simply overwhelmed by the conspicuousness of "I've never even seen [this many] naked women," he said.

April

All you need is love: Borough President Markowitz dived into a national controversy over gay marriage by coming out in support of same-sex unions — although he can't actually do that as a member of the city clerk referred to as gay marriage licenses to gay couples and courts said there's nothing wrong with that.

Any way they slice it: A Brooklyn Heights Democrat, a club, Brooklyn's Democrats for Change, lacked the conviction to even agree on the neighborhood's best pizza, naming Nino's and Peppino's as co-winners. Good thing they left toppings out of the debate or else they'd still be arguing.

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July

Lrg Ofc, Rlv Vu: The United Nations figured U.S. Andria Gazelle, for a walkathon as part of Brooklyn's "Lighten Up, Brooklyn" campaign. Despite his own weight-loss efforts, Markowitz again won the "Full-Figured NY Beauty" President pageant, again beating out Queens Beep Helen Marshall for the honors.

October

Pay the piper: Former Brooklyn Democ-

and destroy our way of life — young Arab fundamentalists." How controversial were Oddo's comments? Even the NYPD objected.

October

Party on: Borough President Markowitz (and Brooklyn Democratic Party boss) Clarence Norman (D-Crown Heights) was found guilty of violating election law and falsifying business records. Two months later, Norman was charged with a similar charge. The verdicts came as part of a wide-ranging investigation into whether Norman and his cronies sold judgeships. The crime wasn't that they sold judgeships, though, but that they charged retail! ***

Party on!: Borough President Markowitz — a proud Democrat — jumped off the Democratic bandwagon to support Republican Bloomberg for re-election. With Marty's help, the Republican mayor was re-elected by a historic margin over Fernando Ferrer. The mayor later repaid Markowitz for his endorsement by choosing Brooklyn as his home base during his campaign transition. The mayor even had breakfast with Markowitz's favorite joint, Junior's, but skipped the famous cheesecake in deference to Markowitz's diet.

July

One of his boys: The President's son, Barron, came to town to stump for Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge), one of the president's more reliable allies in Congress. Fossella got another boost later in the year when the federal base-closing panel spared Fort Hamilton from its axe. But even though Republican Mayor Bloomberg won the district by more than 3 to 1, Gentile pulled out a squeaker (well, a squeaker by today's standards), winning 55-45.

November

A come-from-behind win: City Councilmember Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) must have felt like he had a bull's-eye on his back, what with so many Republicans trying to unseat him. The neighborhood's GOP brain trust — state Sen. Marty Golden, Rep. Vito Fossella and Assemblymember Matthew J. Waltrip — all backed Pat Russo. But even though Republican Mayor Bloomberg won the district by more than 3 to 1, Gentile pulled out a squeaker (well, a squeaker by today's standards), winning 55-45.

August

Foot in mouth award: City Councilmember James Oddo (R-Bensonhurst) told reporters that the NYPD should use racial profiling against Arabs. "The reality is that there is a group of people who want to kill us

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August

Picture this: Developer Shaya Boymelgreen sold a building in the Atlantic Yards footprint to Ratner for \$44 million just eight days earlier. Boymelgreen paid \$20 million for it. That's not enough, even as the transit agency rejects a \$150-million bid from a rival developer.

Picture this: Ratner gives the New York Times a sneak peak at Frank Gehry's design for the proposed project. In reaction to the Vegas-style skyscrapers and NetLogo friezes (above) is so negative that he eventually orders his "starchitect" back to his drafting table.

September

Low "Standard": A Park Slope movie company turns down a chance to be profiled in Ratner's supposed community newspaper, "The Brooklyn Standard" (left) and thus publicly blasts the paper as "designed for the sole purpose of promoting [the project]. The film company need not have worried; the Brooklyn Standard published just two issues in '05."

Sealed with a kiss: Ratner gets a big wet one from his Beloved (above) after agreeing to set aside half of his new apartment units to low-, moderate- and middle-income renters. For good measure, Lewis also kissed Mayor Bloomberg. Photographic evidence makes it clear that the famed ladies man Bloomberg enjoyed the kiss more.

June

Seizing the day: The Supreme Court rules that cities are allowed to seize privately owned property on behalf of private developers — a broad expansion of the notion of eminent domain. The cheering from Forest City Ratner

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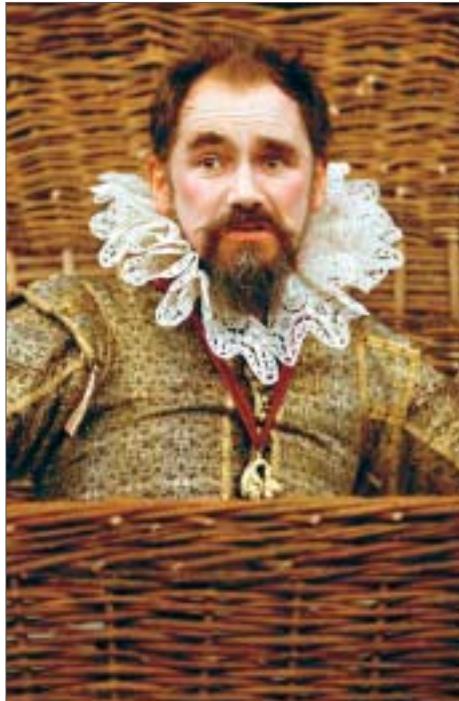
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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

December 31, 2005



Not so sexy

Globe Theatre's 'Measure for Measure' is light on lusty ladies, generous with the comic vigor

By Drew Pisarra
for The Brooklyn Papers

In outward show at least, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre production of "Measure for Measure" — which opens Sunday, Jan. 1 at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO — belies an ultra-traditional approach.

Jennifer Tiramus's stately costumes are ornamented with ruff collars, lacey cuffs and delicate caps. Claire van Kampen's country-musical arrangements are played on 16th-century instruments like hammer dulcimers, bagpipes and recorders. Many of the all-male cast members are powdered to within an inch of their lives.

Yet on closer examination, the seemingly staid and stodgy London's lauded touring production ends up infinitely more Victorian than Elizabethan as director Mark Rydman has instructed his primary cross-dressing actors to play the lead female characters as sexually repressed.

Dressed in corsets that stress their flat chests (as well as seat), semi-transparent gauze and shirt-clad femininity, wills and weaknesses by exhibiting a highly pronounced reserve that suggests their brains as well as their bodies have been restrained by the most stringent morality. Edward Hogg's Isabella is all purity and grace; while Michael Brown's Mariana has a royal stiffness that's firm without being steely.

Since neither performer camps or vamps outside the quietly quivering voices and highly contained movements meant to convey courtly femininity, these roles never

register as either real women or comic mockeries. They're well-behaved geldings in girlish gear — a strange conceit when you consider the script's narrative thrust is not if hormonal.

Shakespeare's plot with one novitiate, Isabella, finding her world upended when, on the eve of renouncing all earthly pleasures for convent life, she's called upon to argue for her brother's release from prison. (He's been sentenced to die.) The crime? Premarital intercourse with a righteous judge, Angelo, acting as surrogate for the exiled Duke, invites her to trade her virginity for her brother's freedom. She agrees, but with the help of the Duke, who's disguised as a friar, she sets up her persecutor to sleep with his own former fiancee, Mariana, who's been pining for him for five years.

To strip these principal players of all carnal desire is to turn what is usually an coyly conceived war of philosophies. Any sexual tension, longing, or carnal sexual affair, like Beatrice and Angier's just-hatched affair with Hogg's Isabella, is challenging her religious code. Mariana isn't moonstruck by her former betrothed. She's seeking her rightful husband, with Freudian overtones set squarely on the back of her head.

Power, however — even as rape is held in abeyance — And is the central conflict between Angelo and Isabella is desexualized, a secondary element comes to the fore. The Duke (played with comic brio by Rydman himself) shifts from a benign puppetmaster to an insecure protagonist whose makeshift machinations are impromptu ex-

pressions of his own fears and desires. Taking his cue from the line "I love the people but not like to stoke my eyes," Rylance's Duke is a self-conscious, if well-meaning, man who's emotionally stunted, middle-aged man with those hurt feelings and those lapses into silence reflect a discomfort with the emotional and sexual realms. A sub-subplot concerning a self-aggrandizing courtier named Lucio (Colin Hurnley) who slanders the Duke when the latter's incognito, and slanders her ego when the Duke reappears, emerges as a subplot that provides a narrative arc that reflects the development of the Duke's self-confidence, a development that runs parallel to his evolving love for Isabella.

The success of this "Measure for Measure" is that it's a major one at that is how the Duke's final proposal of marriage to the Mariana is a proposal that had merely consigned the text to prologue play stages no longer come out of nowhere. Instead, his proposal (which goes unanswered) comes across as the natural expression of a man who has finally gotten in touch with his feelings. You'd never wish that the actions which inspired him were as richly conceived.

As Mariana says, "They say the best men

are molded out of faults; And, for the most,

become much more the better/For being a little bad." The same could be said of Shakespeare revivals.

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ART

Celeb portraits

For glimpses of the private and public lives of New York City celebrities, "Celebrity Moments" — the work of Daily News Photographer Richard Corkery — promises a gallery full of 30 atypical color and black-and-white portraits.

Curtis (above) the exhibit — on display at the Brooklyn Center for the Arts at Long Island University, beginning Thursday — features shots that Corkery has snapped for the tabloid over the last 25 years. Among the celebs that Curtis has displayed are those of presidents (Ronald Reagan backstage at the "Will Rogers Follies"), musicians (Madonna, above), actors (Johnny Depp, sharing a cigarette with a woman in a bikini) and many more. "Celebrity Moments" is on display from Jan. 4-27 at the Humanities Building Gallery in Long Island University, at the junction of Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm and weekends from 11 am to 5 pm. For information, call (718) 488-1198. — Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Dive 'Bar'

Galapagos Art Space launches its new theater series, "Evolve," on Jan. 6 with Clay McLeod Chapman's "Bar Flies." Curated by Artistic Director Travis Chamberlain, the series will feature a different show each month.

Chapman's "Bar Flies" stars the playwright — plus actors Karl Allen, Hannah Cheek, Dave Gammie and Sean Twomey — settled amongst the patrons in Galapagos' back room. The show begins at 8 pm and ends at 11 pm, with the actors will mix with music from the band.

Chapman (pictured) is perhaps best known as the creator of the "Pumpkin Pie Show," which has been playing in New York and around the world for the past eight years. He is also author of "Miss Cup" (1998).

Future "Evolve" series pieces will include new works from Rachel Shakert (February); Kyle Jarow with performance artists Desiree Burch, Michael Cyril Creighton and Brian Mullin (April); and monologist Mike Daisey (May).

"Bar Flies" performances are Jan. 6, 13 and 27 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Galapagos is located at 70 North Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg. For information, call (718) 782-2188 or visit the Web site at www.galapagosartspace.com. — Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Variety show

If you're a musician — or music lover — who wishes there was more live footage of bands performing on television than the musical guest featured on "Saturday Night Live," look no further than Lee Chabowski's "What Goes On! Show." The Cobble Hill resident's new DVD features surprisingly slick footage of 10 diverse New York acts — with six from Brooklyn — all uncut, with just enough camera angles to keep it interesting.

The bands are introduced via video film on location around the city. (One features a woman hanging out her laundry; another, a person waiting on a subway platform.) In addition to writing, directing and producing the "What Goes On! Show," Chabowski also fronts the rock band, New Delhi Mon-

key Man, which is featured on the DVD, too. Chabowski told GO Brooklyn he and wife Margaret Pine Chabowski are working on volume II of the Ed Sullivan-inspired musical-variety show.

"This is an ongoing project for us," Chabowski said of his directorial debut. "We are constantly looking for new bands." Bands wishing to submit materials can e-mail whatgoeson@whatgoeson.com.

"The What Goes On! Show" (\$29.95) can be purchased through the www.whatgoesonshow.com Web site or rented at local stores: Video Free Brooklyn (244 Smith St. at DeGraw and Douglass streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-6130) and Reel Life South (1111 Eighth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-9775). — Lisa J. Curtis

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Keep it simple

Anthony's no-fuss decor and service puts focus on top shelf pizza, ragu & more

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Sal Buglione wanted a pizza place that would make his father, Anthony, proud. His dream was to drive his dad to the eatery, point to the "Anthony's" sign, and say, "This is for you."

His father died three years before Buglione could make the dream a reality, but he's making it real life: Sal and his brother Frank, great grandpa and his clan gather in the dining room on Sunday evenings to enjoy his mother, Lima's, magnificent ragu.

Open since November, Anthony's is doing a few things right. On a recent Sunday evening, the restaurant on Park Slope was full and a group waited patiently at the door. They come for the warmth of the Buglione family members, who welcome every customer with genuine delight. The patrons visit for the light, vibrant and sometimes Italian dishes comprised of fresh, local ingredients. (Frank makes the mozzarella.) And they line up for the brick-oven pizza.

And, oh what pies. The man shoveling out some of the best pizza in Park Slope is "pizzaiolo" Bart Agozzino who earned his pizzeria chops at the Triton in Naples. Agozzino's father, Alfredo, built Anthony's gas-fired brick oven.

The combination of the pie-man and that oven make for an ethereal pizza. It's not too big—about 10 inches—and sold whole, this isn't a slice joint. The crust is just right, thin enough to be crisp, yet it's baked, which adds a delectable hint of salt to the dough. It emerges from the oven crisp, slightly chewy yet delicate, with smoky char-spots along its bottom.



Let them eat pie: (right) Anthony's owner Sal Buglione serves a white pie and margherita pizza. (Above) The restaurant's interior features exposed brick walls and a brick oven.

Any old sauce and cheese would be helped immensely by such an abundant, rich, meaty ragu. Just enough milky, creamy mozzarella is applied so it doesn't weigh down the works. Each pie is strewn with slivers of fresh basil. It's delectable right down to the bubbly, briny collar of crust.

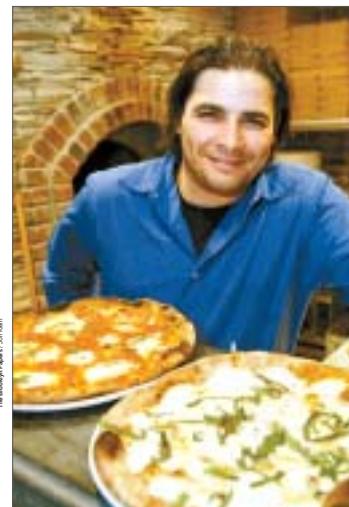
If you crave a white pie, Anthony's is the place to indulge that yen. A bit of fresh mozzarella and cotta cheese tops the mozzarella for a simple look, yet richly flavored treat.

A table of regulars who come on Sunday for Lima's ragu, each planned a meal around the dish, not the rest of their table. After tasting it, I could understand their affection. Ragu is a traditional Italian sauce made on Sundays and usually served as a late afternoon family meal. There's a variety of dif-

ferent meats that cook slowly in the tomato sauce (Lima's recipe includes meatballs, ribs, and chicken), until they absorb the sweetness of the tomatoes and the meat becomes fall-off-the-bone tender. The "braciole" (beef rolled around a savory filling) is rich and garlicky; the spareribs moist; but the meatballs are too bread-y.

Instead of a waiter standing over your dish and grating fresh Parmesan, a waitress plunks down a fork. It's all part of Anthony's "not fancy, just great food" experience.

It's not just the food; its simple attitude applies to the restaurant's decor as well. Buglione (a co-owner of the Nick's pizza chain in Queens) and his partners in this venture—brother Frank Buglione, Joe Bosco and Louie Pagano—did a gut renovation on the former restaurant's exterior and added an outdoor garden area. Inside, they bricked the walls, lined the room with wooden tables, placed a small bar in the front and installed the brick oven in the rear. Frosted white chandeliers



This Brooklyn Paper photo by John Doherty

add a soft glow to the room; a huge glass wall that faces Seventh Avenue adds drama. As far as decoration goes, there isn't much, but it hardly matters; with an ambience as cheerful as Anthony's, accessories are irrelevant.

If you stick to the pizza and uncomplicated dishes like the ravioli, light, not too cheesy eggplant Parmigiana, or terrific tender, garlicky baked ziti, it's hard to go wrong. However, I would skip the slightly overcooked scallops, paired with a mix of sliced carrots, asparagus and onions. Compared to the rest of the meal, they were just okay.

One dish that packed a wallop of flavor was the scallop. Pieces of breast meat were flattened slightly and layered with an eggplant scallop. Before crowning the meat, the vegetable is baked with a thin layer of Parmesan and topped with a

spoonful of winey, caramelized onions that add sweetness.

Anthony's serves two house-made desserts that, like the rest of the menu, are terrific. The tiramisu is done right. Cannoli can be a boring, leaden dessert with a soggy shell and too sweet, ricotta cheese filling. Here, the shell is so thin, it's nearly transparent and crackling crisp. Its filling is creamy, lightly sweetened and studded with pine nuts. The chocolate cake is another perennial that has been on menus far too long. Again, at Anthony's, it's surprisingly good: the airy layers of cake soaked with espresso and mascarpone cheese are rich and pudding-like without being heavy.

For those there will be a "cheap but good," list of international wines, Buglione says.

Anthony may not have seen his sons' dream come true, but he'd be proud of the place that bears his name.

—Tina Barry



This Brooklyn Paper photo by John Doherty

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—Tina Barry

OUR OPINION

New Year's wishes

We don't make resolutions because they're cliché, they're didactic, and let's face it, they're too difficult to actually accomplish anyway.

Instead, we'd like to offer these New Year wishes for all our readers' hopes of a full-filled life:

Here's hoping your F-train doesn't go express without explanation or your R-train doesn't run in two segments when you're just trying to get home to Bay Ridge after midnight.

Here's hoping Brooklyn developers start hiring better architects so the newly upzoned Fourth Avenue doesn't become 40 blocks of "Fedders Houses."

Here's hoping you aren't stuck at the turnstiles behind an 80-year-old granny who's

getting her bag searched by a cop because her number came up at random.

Here's hoping we don't get a really big snowstorm this winter; there's hoping we actually do get one.

Here's hoping the Brooklyn Public Library can expand its hours so that branches can be open every morning, when they are of most

use to parents of pre-school-aged children.

Here's hoping the Cyclones win it all this season — and that the Mets don't trade away all the best players for aging slugs of a team.

Here's hoping that Domenico DeMarco of DiFara Pizzeria in Midwood keeps churning out his ethereal pies — one at a time — for decades to come.

And finally, here's hoping you — and all of our readers — have a great year.

ALL DRAWN OUT

© Alan Romig

TO THE EDITOR

You're right: Roger Green is REALLY corrupt

To the editor:

Your recent editorial about Assemblymember Roger Green ("No votes for a thief," Dec. 17) omitted one relevant part of Green's troubling record.

You noted that after his conviction on larceny charges, Green was re-elected, a re-election that "speaks more to the power of incumbency and the lack of turnout than the scandal itself."

As a local activist, I say the Democratic bench does have its own all-stars. In fact, I supported challenger Hakeem Jeffries, a talented attorney untouched by scandal. His strong campaign in 2003 and 2004 illustrate the weakness of the 25-year incumbent's support within the community.

More important, Green abused the "power of incumbency" in a repellent way that undermined basic democratic principles and endangered his own district friends so that Jeffries' home would be just one block outside the 57th AD — essentially barring Jeffries from run-

ning after the Assemblyman's conviction in 2004.

This cynical backroom maneuver says far more about Green's fundamental corruption than does his actual conviction.

Diane Oratowski, Prospect Heights

Nets train fears

To the editor:

The headline, "MTA strands fans; No new trains after Nets games" (Dec. 17), may be a false alarm — or a justifiable call to arms. We know now unless the MTA makes its transit demands in model openly available to the public, the Atlantic Yards along with the other 30 million square feet of development already approved for the Downtown Brooklyn area.

Preliminary modeling shows the chokepoint is not on trains heading downtown, but on the express rush (as crowded as they are). The greater strain is on westbound trains coming into Downtown Brooklyn, which currently handle 15 percent

more passengers than trains entering Manhattan. Inbound riders from Brooklyn will double as Downtown destinations increase over the next 20 years.

The MTA board that chose Forest City Ratner's lower bid to develop Atlantic Yards with more than twice the density and resulting traffic and transit burden. The same political forces behind that deal insist demands in model openly communicated for a pittole like South African mine workers are: There are millions of people who would like to provide sufficient service to ensure that Atlantic Yards doesn't undermine the growth of all Downtown Brooklyn and erode quality of life.

Carolyn S. Konstant, Cobble Hill
The writer is the board member of Cobble Hill Community Consulting Services, a local transportation analysis firm.

Penny foolish

To the editor:

Your recent editorial correctly highlighted the MTA's readiness to

squander the value of its real estate when not optimal yields ("No angels in strike," Dec. 24). In addition, the "holiday gift" to transit users in the form of subway and bus fare bonanzas is an extremely poor investment, particularly when a union contract must be renegotiated. One wonders about the common sense that should prevail.

Former parks commissioner Henry Stern has pointed out in his New York Civic e-newsletter that the transit personnel working under contract are not even minimally compensated for a pittole like South African mine workers are: There are millions of people who would like to provide sufficient service to ensure that Atlantic Yards doesn't undermine the growth of all Downtown Brooklyn and erode quality of life.

Carolyn S. Konstant, Cobble Hill
The writer is the board member of Cobble Hill Community Consulting Services, a local transportation analysis firm.

What's in Vin think?

To the editor:

Ever since Democratic Party Chairman Howie Dean firmly reinserted his busy foot into

the war in Iraq is not winnable, I've waited to see exactly how many members of his own party would actually have the guts to toss aside partisan politics and denounce his position.

Fortunately, many have. For the head of a national party to make such patently false assertions — particularly when so many of our fellow Americans are serving in harm's way precisely to defend his right to be an ass — is unacceptable.

That is why I am wondering where Brooklyn City Councilman Vincent Gentile has been on this matter.

The silence coming from his office is disconcerting. Surely, Mr. Gentile has an opinion on the chairman of his own party, who said that "the idea that we're going to win this war is ... just plain wrong."

It is encouraging to see only active military installation in New York City, and the VA Hospital, are both in Mr. Gentile's district.

There are many serviceman and

women who deserve some sort of response from Mr. Gentile regarding his party chairman's outlandish remarks.

They deserve to hear Mr. Gentile admonish in no uncertain terms, Howard Dean and his defeatist rhetoric.

Yet Mr. Gentile chooses to send a profoundly negative message to our military personal, both active and retired, by saying nothing.

Indeed, military families — and indeed all families — in Mr. Gentile's district are entitled to know whether he is a soldier. Does he demonstrably anti-military folder. Does Mr. Gentile realize how many Brooklynites are right now serving in the armed forces?

What say you, Mr. Gentile? Brooklyn is waiting.

Andrew Roman, Gerritsen Beach

Editor's note: The writer is secretary of the Brooklyn Young Republican Club. The Brooklyn Papers offered Gentile a chance to respond, but the Councilmember declined.

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SATURDAY - Jan 31

Menorah one-upsmanship strikes B'klyn

ONLY IN BROOKLYN could the borough's "largest public menorah" actually be three feet shorter than another menorah a few miles away. And only in Brooklyn could the taller menorah still be as "Brooklyn's official menorah" — even though the menorah is no "official" religious anything, thanks to the First Amendment.

And only in Brooklyn would the Brooklyn President split his time between the two menorahs, just so no one gets offended.

Yes, folks, Brooklyn's annual "Menorah War" has heated up again, pitting a Jewish congregation in Park Slope against a rival in Brooklyn Heights, amid the backdrop of a Hanukkah celebration that commemorates an ancient miracle.

The only miracle will be if everyone is still speaking Yiddish after the dust settles.

In this corner, stretching out at 22 feet, is "Brooklyn's largest public menorah," installed for 20 years in Grand Army Plaza by Rabbi Shimon Hecht of Chabad of Park Slope and Prospect Heights.

In the far corner, stretching the tape at 25 feet, is "Brooklyn's official meno-

rah," which has stood for a decade or so in front of the town hall of Clinton Hill, across from the neighborhood's Synagogue B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights.

Oh, and to make matters more interesting, Raskin's menorah is named after Jacob Stogryn, the rabbi whose son is Shimon Hecht; Raskin is Jacob J. Hecht's grandson, making him Shimon Hecht's nephew. (Paging Dr. Freud!)

This is the most-heated uncle/nephew competition since Tim and Tom Clancy if you take the tops for triflin'.

"We're the official menorah," said Raskin's associate, Rabbi Simcha Weinstein. "We're the menorah that Marty Markowitz uses in official photos. Perhaps 'official' isn't the right word, but it's more official than they are."

For his part, Hecht merely mumbled that his menorah

| PARK SLOPE MENORAH | | TALE OF THE TAPE | | BROOKLYN HEIGHTS MENORAH | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Rabbi Shimon Hecht | ORGANIZER | Rabbi Aaron Raskin | | | |
| Park Slope/Prospect Heights | BASE OF OPERATIONS | Brooklyn Heights | | | |
| 22 feet | SIZE CLAIM | 25 feet | | | |
| 20 | YEARS ON DISPLAY | 10 | | | |
| "Brooklyn's largest public menorah" | BILLED AS | "Brooklyn's official menorah" | | | |
| Tish James | STAR POWER | Marty Markowitz and Turkey's consul general | | | |
| 150 | ATTENDEES | 200 | | | |
| Kids get a free Hanukkah toy | EXTRAS | Latke-eating contest featuring top athletes from the International Federation of Competitive eating; hip-hopping Hasidim | | | |
| Fair: Genuine potato taste, but a bit cold | LATKE QUALITY | Poor: Warm, but spongy. | | | |
| "I haven't seen this many double-parked minivans since the Prospect Park soccer league championship." | OVERHEARD COMMENT | "I haven't seen this many men dancing together since they legalized same-sex marriage in San Francisco!" | | | |

has been here longer. The battle bursts into the open when you actually attend two menorah-lighting ceremonies, as this latke-eating columnist did Tuesday.

The Brooklyn Heights menorah is lit first — and what a scene! Jewish men danced the hora. Children passed out potato pancakes.

And in an effort to attract a younger crowd, Raskin (once famously photographed atop a Harley-Davidson chopper, even though he does not ride) even held the menorah lighting contest, featuring athletes from the International Federation of Competitive Eating.

And for star power, Raskin can't be beat. On Tuesday night, Brooklyn Mayor Marty Markowitz was there, but the Consul General of Turkey, who became the first Muslim leader to light a Brooklyn menorah.

Raskin even gave a nifty speech that used the Hamakibah as a metaphor for Mankind's obligation to light up the world.

I'm not much of a religious man — the only time I pray is when I've got money riding on something — but it was quite a show.

I rushed over to Grand Army Plaza, where I found a

smaller menorah and a smaller crowd. Rabbi Hecht was there, and so was City Councilmember Tish James. So much for star power.

Hecht's shikkerz who assists both groups gave me an independent assessment.

"The menorah downtown is bigger, but this is a much better scene," he said.

"You should see it when Schindler is here. The people go wild."

The senator's magnetism notwithstanding, I found that hard to believe.

I call Markowitz for some wisdom of Solomon, but the senator seems to be neutral in the Battle of the Brooklyn Menorahs.

But then, Markowitz rushed to a ceremony at yet another menorah, this one at the southwestern corner of Prospect Park in Windsor Terrace.

It was installed by Rabbi Shmuel Butman, who's also responsible for the menorah on Fifth Avenue and Central Park South in Manhattan — the one that bills itself as the "world's largest."

"You gotta get down here!"

Markowitz said. "This thing is 31-feet tall. Rabbi Butman affirms that it's the second largest menorah in the world. Happy Hanukkah."

Oy, vey, here we go again.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

What'd you say?

The Brooklyn Papers

How do you say "veto" in Korean?

It's a fair question, given that Mayor Bloomberg is poised to crumple up the City Council's so-called "Education Equity Act," which would require schools to translate virtually all documents into the nine languages most-widely spoken by local public school students.

The bill, which passed last week by a barely veto-proof 35-11 vote, was pushed by Councilmember David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights).

"Translation services for parents are essential in New York City," Yassky said. "How can a parent be involved in their [sic] classroom when they [sic] can't understand what the teacher is saying?"

According to Yassky, 43 percent of public schools students (which amounts to half-a-million kids) speak a language at home other than English.

The bill was noticeably vague on how much money it would take to translate all documents into more than a half-dozen languages — a point seized upon by the Department of Education.

A DOE spokeswoman estimated that it would cost "tens of millions of dollars" to translate every document going from every school to every non-English-speaking parent.

The spokeperson, Kelly Devers, said the DOE will spend \$1.2 million to make sure a principal can get a translator on the job at any time.

And, Devers added, the Yassky bill is beside the point because the City Council does not have jurisdiction over education matters; the state government does.

It's not the first time the mayor and Yassky have tangled. Bloomberg last month vetoed a Yassky measure that denied landmark status to a Williamsburg warehouse. In that case, the Council overrode the mayor.

Stay tuned.

— Kuntzman

'Donut Man' dead

Associated Press

Brooklyn-born Michael Vale, best known for portraying sleepy-eyed Fred the Baker in Dunkin' Donuts commercials, has died at age 83.

Vale died last week of complications from diabetes, son-in-law Rick Reil said.

As dad to Fred, who uttered the trademark line, "Time to make the doughnuts," ran for 15 years until Vale retired in 1997. During his run, Vale said in a statement that his character became a beloved New Yorker that promoted tolerance and touched millions with his sense of humor and humble nature.

Vale was born in Brooklyn and studied acting at the Dramatic Workshop in New York City with classmates Tony Curtis, Bea Gazzara and Rod Steiger.

A veteran of the Broadway stage, film and television, Vale appeared in more than 1,000 commercials. His movie roles included a jewelry salesman in "Marathon Man." He also appeared in "Guerrilla Girl," a 1983 movie starring Helmut Dantine, and "A Haif of Rain" (1957).

Getting it right...

In our transit strike coverage last week, we misattributed a comment by a spokeswoman for Borough President Markowitz to a spokesman for the transit authority. Lots of Brooklynites accepted the Boro's offer of a free cup of coffee and use of the Borough Hall restroom during the strike.

The spokeswoman's comments were limited to the coffee consumption, but due to an editing error, our article implied that she was also talking about the constituents' use of toilet facilities. The Brooklyn Papers regrets the implication that the Borough President's office is chintzy with bathroom tissue.



2 heads 'a' buttin'

The Brooklyn Papers

Opponents of Bruce Ratner's arena-residential-commercial mega-development at the Atlantic Yards were crying "foul" this week after the master builder moved forward with demolition work on six buildings within the project's footprint.

Ratner gave the New York Times an exclusive walking tour of the buildings earlier this month, and his spokesman told the Paper of Wreck-ord that the buildings were in imminent danger of collapse and, therefore, must be demolished.

Not so fast, cried City Councilmember Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights), who demanded that Ratner let her bring in an outside expert.

James contends that Ratner is legally allowed to tear down the buildings only if they are an immediate threat to public safety.

"We want to know what they are trying to hide by letting us in," said James (left).



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She's now asking the city Department of Buildings to refuse to issue still-needed demolition permits. But the point may be moot: Ratner's spokesman said the engineer's report has already been provided to "the relevant agencies," who have been convinced that the buildings are, indeed, falling apart.

James and other lawmakers "were invited to tour the structures with the licensed engineer who wrote the reports, but they said no."

DePlasco also pointed out that if the buildings were to collapse and injure someone, everyone would again be screaming for the head of Bruce Ratner (right).

— Gersh Kuntzman

B'klyn Navy Yard has a new captain

The Brooklyn Papers

The corporation that runs the Brooklyn Navy Yard has a new president. And here's why you should care:

The new leader, Park Speaker Andrew Kimball, told The Brooklyn Papers that the Yard is about to move on a construction boom to expand operations at the once-storied ship-building center.

Currently, more than 4,500 people call the Brooklyn Navy Yard their office — but with vacant land on the Yard's east end and a plan to renovate and dilapidated buildings on the Yard's western side ready to be torn down, Kimball's mandate is to bring in as many employees as will fit within the 3.6 acre campus.

"We're bursting at the seams," Kimball said. "We have no room to grow right now."

Kimball said his goal would be to add 10,000 square feet of residential and manufacturing space to the existing 3.6 million square feet.

In addition to new construction, Kimball will oversee the demolition of the historic buildings on the western side, which will be torn down to make room for a supermarket on the Yard's western side.

With its extensive experience,

enце in the government and non-profit sectors, Andrew Kimball is the perfect fit to lead the Brooklyn Navy Yard forward," Hizzoner said in a statement.

"Andrew understands the importance of the industrial sector to the economic health of the city, and I am confident that he will build on the success of the Navy Yard and achieve over the next four years [and] create hundreds of new jobs and open up more commercial and industrial space."

At the peak during World War II, 70,000 sailors worked through the Navy Yard's gates every day. Now, there are 225 businesses, employing 4,500 people.

Sweet! It's made from these. So are pre-fabricated houses.

But the Yard's location will be its greatest selling point for future growth. Situated between the East River and the Williamsburg Bridge, the Yard is a good position to house small manufacturers — furniture makers, print shops and the like — that will soon be pushed out of those neighborhoods by residential development, Kimball said.

"There is such demand," he said. "And it will only grow." — Kuntzman

But when the victim's sister arrived at 1 pm the next day, she discovered the door of the apartment ajar. When she returned on Dec. 19, she discovered \$1,500 missing from her bedroom dresser, police said.

The security supervisor told her that the key was still at the desk when he clocked out at midnight on Dec. 17.

Buildings records show someone had taken the coded card-key to get into her

apartment three times on the morning of Dec. 17: at 1:39 am, 1:54 am and 7 am, police said.

A video camera in the lobby captured the guard on the way out shift leaving his post at the desk — against the building's rules — and taking the elevator upstairs.

Police want to question the doorman, but he has disappeared, cops said.

— Lilo H. Stainton

Doorman steals from bldg

The Brooklyn Papers

Police suspect the 53-year-old midnight doorman of a luxury building on State Street used a card-key to steal \$1,500 before dawn on Dec. 17.

The 30-year-old victim left her spare card with security guards at her building, near Court Street, at 4 pm on Dec. 16, police said. Her sister planned to visit while she was out of town.

But when the victim's sister arrived at 1 pm the next day, she discovered the door of the apartment ajar. When she returned on Dec. 19, she discovered \$1,500 missing from her bedroom dresser, police said.

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— Lilo H. Stainton

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Rabbi Aaron Raskin

Shabbos Minyan

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— Lilo H. Stainton



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