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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
INCLUDING DUMBO

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Forest City Ratner revealed new renderings of the public plaza in front of his Barclays Center, which includes a glass-walled subway entrance, foliage and enhanced bollards.

PLAZA SWEET

Ratner unveils new front for his Barclays Center

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The plaza at the entrance to the Barclays Center arena could accommodate the Brooklyn Flea, a farmers market similar in size to the one in Grand Army Plaza, or a movie night in Brooklyn Bridge Park, developer Bruce Ratner announced on Tuesday.

The plaza will also feature a subway entrance and exit and a sweeping view to the scoreboard hanging above center court. A canopy

Yards parking will cost residents
SEE PAGE 13

hanging over the entrance to the arena with a hole in the center—an oculus in architectural terms—will be wrapped with a video screen that angles to 117-feet-by-56-feet, big enough for a movie.
See PLAZA on page 13

But what about the rest of the Yards project?

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner will not build the \$4-billion mega-project unless the economy—and more specifically, the housing market—bounces back.

The developer admitted on Tuesday that all but one of the project's proposed 16 towers can "move forward because they are market dependent."

"If the [housing] market never comes back, we're all in trouble," the developer told reporters after unveiling new designs for the public plaza in front of his Barclays Center arena, a \$900-million sports complex under construction near the corner of Atlantic and Flat-

busch avenues.
That arena, plus one mixed-rent 400-unit tower on the south side of the complex, are apparently insulated from the market conditions that affect the rest of the project—the arena because Ratner has put together the money to build it, and the residential building because it is already being prepped to begin construction early next summer.

Then again, that tower is still not designed, Ratner said.
Ratner's less-than-rock-solid timeline for the full project contradicted his company's own press release, which promises "construction of a new residential building

See YARDS on page 13

SUPERFUND IT!

Newtown Creek latest federal cesspool in Brooklyn

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn now officially has two toxic bookends, thanks to a federal move to designate the Newtown Creek as a Superfund site—the first step in what could be a decade-long clean-up for which the city of New York is partly responsible.

The move, which Environmental Protection Agency officials announced on Monday, follows the agency's declaration of the Gowanus Canal as a similarly fetid waterway in March. The preliminary clean-up of Newtown Creek should begin next spring, said Environmental Protection Agency regional director Judith Enck.

"There's a range of toxic substances," Enck said, explaining why the feds are getting involved after more than a century of mostly unmitigated dumping into the 3.8-mile industrial waterway that forms Brooklyn's northern border with Queens.

Most of the toxins are in the form of pesticides, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds in the creek's contaminated sediment.

"Our action today will ensure that Newtown Creek will achieve a thor-



Cleaning our Waterways

ough clean-up," Enck added. "People understand that this is a heavily polluted waterway, but people still fish in the creek and consume the fish they catch and people also go kayaking in the creek."

EPA officials said that it could take longer—and cost more—to clean the creek than the Gowanus Canal, which is currently looking at a 10-year, \$300-to-\$500-million clean-up.

See CREEK on page 13

Meanwhile, at the Gowanus...

Tornado unleashed Biblical flood of raw sewage

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

This month's tornado uprooted trees, tore off the roofs of houses and also served up a stinky and B-movie-style reminder of why the Gowanus Canal is such an environmental disaster.

During the Sept. 16 deluge, a tidal wave of untreated raw sewage was unleashed upon the forsaken canal, a river of bile so rich in excrement that the waterway's



What is that brown tide in the Gowanus? It's raw sewage after the tornado earlier this month.

usual fluorescent blue was transformed into a deep chocolate brown in roughly 90 seconds.

According to the Department of Environmental Protection, the tornado dumped nearly half an inch of water in only 15 minutes—an especially high amount in such a short period of time—leading to a sewage overflow far worse than during normal rainstorms.

See CANAL on page 13

Love 'em and Lethem

'Bard of Boerum Hill' bails on beloved borough

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Take a good look at Jonathan Lethem—this will be the last time you see one of Brooklyn's most important authors as a resident of the borough.

Yes, earlier this summer, Lethem quietly took a teaching job in California.

So last Friday night's reading

by the once and former "Bard of Boerum Hill" at the powerhouse Arena in DUMBO was a bit of a funeral.

Fans at the reading were appalled, offended, betrayed. "Given this, it means there won't be any more books about New York," said Amanda Rater, who said she's read every one of the ink slinger's doorstoppers, including the current

novel, "Chronic City."

"I can't believe he'll actually be gone," she added. Much of Lethem's greatest fiction, especially "Fortress of Solitude," was inspired by his own life and times in the borough. But the scribe defended taking the job as head of a prestigious creative writing department at Pomona College because his heart is still where

it needs to be.

"You'd have to give me a restraining order to keep me out of Brooklyn," he said. He said they might include his marathon reading of "Chronic City" at BookCourt last year, when he read until 4 a.m. with 13 devoted fans. That said, Lethem seemed earnest in his promise to come back at some point. He even



touted the borough in an entrance interview at the Bay Area college, and hinted at new novels that document his life in the city.
"I keep running away and coming back again," Lethem said. "I think this time away will help, but you can never keep me fully away."

Whither Wally?

Our poll: Backman must lead Mets

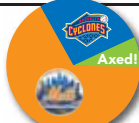
By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklynites have spoken, and they want the Cyclones skipper, Wally Backman, to pack his bags and head to Citi Field.

Fans have spoken: Make Wally Backman manager of the Mets!

In an online poll we conducted last week, 68 percent of voters said Backman should be promoted to run the Amazins, while only 27 percent said he should stay in Coney Island and lead the Cyclones to a championship—something the team was unable to accomplish this year.

So where does Backman think he'll be next year?
"I don't know what my future entails—it's a waiting game," said Backman, fresh off a fishing trip in the Pa-



See WALLY on page 13

He dropped the ring — but city workers found it

By Joe Anuta
The Brooklyn Paper

City workers saved the day for a Florida man who had fumbled his attempt to propose to his girlfriend on the fabled Brooklyn Bridge, dropping the engagement ring out of his sweaty hands and onto construction material below.

Last Friday, hours after we contacted the Department of Transportation about the baffling bobble, workers found the symbol of love and are preparing to reunite it with the happy couple.

"Are you serious?" fiancée



BAUBLE BOBBLE: The happy couple, Trey Turner and Kelsey Kramer, posed on the Brooklyn Bridge just before the fumble.

Kelsey Kramer said after we told her the good news. "I can't believe it, I'm so happy!"

This ring cycle certainly didn't look like it would have a storied ending last Wednesday night, when Turner and his would-be betrothed took a walk on the bridge, entering the span on the side near Kramer's Brooklyn Heights apartment.

As Turner took the first steps onto the boardwalk, he remembered looking down and think-



ing how horrible it would be if the ring, with its 6-karat stone, fell.

"The first thing I thought was that I should be really careful," he said.

When the lovebirds got to about 30 feet from the Brooklyn tower, Turner got down on one knee—but then immediately found himself scrounging around on two after he nervously dropped the ring.

"I was pulling the ring to propose, and it flipped out of my pocket," said Turner. "It flew in the air, hit the ground and started to roll. I was leaning down to grab it when it fell."

Turner added that both he and Kramer heard the ring hit a metal platform directly below them. "It was all enclosed," he said. "So I knew it was down there and not in the river."

After they peered through the cracks on the boardwalk, they contacted the Department of Transportation, which is overseeing the three-year bridge reconstruction, in hopes of recovering the ring.



Brooklyn Bridge repair worker Doug Reese saved the day.

City: Don't blame us for an opossum oppression

Agencies did not bring in the critters to cull rats

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper

Opossums oppressed southern Brooklyn continues to blame City Hall for an ill-conceived rat-eradication scheme—but the mayor and even the governor say the whole thing is a figment of a

varmint-obsessed population. What has become known as "Opossumgate" started three years ago, when a Sanitation official apparently told a packed room of Community Board 15 "town hall" meeting attendees that the city had "brought opossums in to take

care of the rat problem." That contention was repeated in March by Councilman Dominic Recchia, who told this newspaper about the supposed ecological intervention by the city, which allegedly transported the animals to the neighborhood to gobble up rats.



Opossums are running wild—but don't blame the city.



The Post repeated Recchia's tall tale last Sunday in a story that referred to the city's so-called "operation opossum" as a "misadventure that is now causing an opossum outbreak from Coney Island to Carroll Gardens."

Other 'true' legendary urban myths

The Brooklyn Paper

The city says it never unleashed opossums to curb southern Brooklyn's rat population. But who says facts have to get in the way of a good urban legend? Here are some of our other favorite local "myths."

• On March 22, 1940, a disgruntled transit worker jumped off the Williamsburgh Savings Bank Building and landed on several sides of beef being unloaded from a truck. The man was only slightly bruised. The meat was very tenderized.

• On Halloween, 1977, a Satan-worshipper from Queens stole a Bensonhurst cat for use in a bizarre ritual that involved dry ice. The cat clawed the man in the eyes, he stumbled, and in the confusion, fell in the vat of molten metal.
See LEGENDS on page 5

Sweet punch

Legend of the squared circle, Oscar de la Hoya, led a clinic for teenage boxers at Gleason's Gym in DUMBO on Tuesday. Don't worry, no photographers were harmed in the making of this snapshot.

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Another mosque-eradicate!

More protests at Sheepshead Bay Islamic center site

**By Alex Rush
The Brooklyn Paper**

More than 200 residents and Brooklyn Tea Party members and 100 supporters of a mosque and Muslim community center clashed in dueling rallies on Sunday at the site of the proposed cultural center in Sheepshead Bay.

In the latest flare-up over the Muslim American Society-sponsored project, Voorhies Avenue was again split down the middle, with anti-mosque demonstrators — and their anti-Muslim signs — set up on the north side of the two-way street while mosque supporters rallied on the south side of the block between E. 28th and E. 29th streets.

“Islam is welcome here,” one sign read.

“Don’t hate me because I don’t hate Muslims,” read another.

Most anti-mosque speakers were quick to defend themselves from the charge that racism or anti-Islam sentiment motivates their ongoing battle against the four-story proposal — but the signs they carried and the rhetoric they used told a different story.

“People from the mosque

will be praying in the street,” insisted Susan Gerber, a former public school teacher. “People living on the block will have to step over them.”

Brooklyn Tea Party founder John Press, who rallied against the so-called Ground Zero mosque last week, again raised the specter of foreign domination.

“The mosque is founded by a very scary organization and the Constitution does not guarantee the right of a foreign nation to build a mosque in our country,” Press said. It’s unclear if Press had merely forgotten the First Amendment, but one member of his protest group did recall the Constitution’s barrier on government suppression of religion — he just chose to ignore it.

“We don’t need to watch Sheepshead Bay get raped by people using the Constitution who are not even from this country,” said Andrew Cardenas, a 25-year-old neighborhood resident.

Nearby, a man who refused to give his name held a sign reading, “Hamas Kills, MAS gives them money. They have blood on their hands.” This isn’t the first time that the Bay People group



FLIPPED OUT: One opponent declined to give his last name, but his position on the mosque was clear.

has protested the mosque.

The group, which organized last year, also demonstrated at the Muslim American Society’s school supply give-away on Sept. 5 and held a rally in

June, which featured a bomb threat. No one has been able to show a connection between the Muslim American Society and terrorism.

Opponents have also argued that the mosque will bring too much traffic to a mostly residential neighborhood.

“People coming from outside of the community to protest are just causing trouble,” said Steve Peskin, who lives across the street from the planned mosque. “It is not their issue, it is a local issue that involved traffic and parking problems.”

But mosque supporters, organized by the non-denominational New York City Coalition to Stop Islamophobia, derided the anti-mosque speakers as anti-Muslim.

“These Brooklyn Tea Party and Bay People members are shocking,” said Frances Paula Mitchell, a Sheepshead Bay resident who participated in the pro-mosque demonstration. “This neighborhood should welcome everybody.”

Even claims that the faithful would be bowing toward Mecca on the streets was dismissed by supporters.

“We’ll have a building, so I don’t think we’ll be praying in the street anytime soon,” said mosque project manager Ibrahim Amse, who added that he expects construction to begin in about a month.

Cosmetic improvement

Boycott turns into ‘buycott’ for West Bank lotions

**By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper**

Controversy sells — and in Brooklyn Heights, it’s also good for the skin.

Local Jewish leaders and anti-Israel protesters faced off on Montague Street — again — on Tuesday, holding a raucous debate over whether West Bank-made lotions sold at Ricky’s cosmetics shop support Israel’s “illegal” occupation of the embattled region.

Not that there was any actual “debate,” of course, just shouting across the sidewalk, as those who called for a boycott of Israeli-manufactured Avaha cosmetics and purchasers of said products faced off for the second time in as many months.



SKIN DEEP: Ginger Berman turned the boycott into a buycott when she purchased Avaha bath salts.

In the end, the boycott supporters ended up actually promoting the Avaha products, as Heights residents flocked

to Ricky’s with their wallets open.

“I came in when I saw the flags — I think [the boycott-

ters] are absurd,” said Ginger Berman, who bought a tub of Avaha bath salts. “There are so many other big issues to protest, why this?”

The reason, say opponents from Brooklyn for Peace, is that Avaha products use mud from the Dead Sea and other minerals from the West Bank — resources that rightly belong to Palestinians.

Protesters say that the Geneva Conventions is on their side in this millennial Mideast conflict, but Raskin and his crew say that a 1995 agreement between Israel and the Palestinians granted control of a large part of West Bank land to Israel — including the part where Avaha products are made.

Protesters may have out-

numbered the supporters of the cosmetics company — including Rabbi Aaron Raskin of Congregation B’nei Avraham on Remsen Street in Brooklyn Heights, who has called the protests anti-Semitic.

Anti-Semitic, perhaps, but great for business. Ricky’s employees said that they sell out of Avaha products every time there is a protest — and there have been others in Manhattan, a neighboring city.

The timing of this week’s protest seemed designed to make a point, given that Israel’s 10-month moratorium on settlement-building in the West Bank expired on Sunday.

“This issue isn’t about Jews, it’s about justice for Palestinians whose minerals have been stolen,” said Felice Gelman at the rally. “We’ve asked Ricky’s to stop selling them, and they won’t.”

Given the soaring sales for Avaha products on Tuesday, the group may want to reconsider its boycott strategy.

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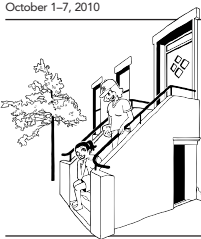
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THE SPOT

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



A state bill to close Radiac, a radioactive waste processing center on South First Street near the East River, has been vetoed.

Radiac glows

Governor's veto spares radioactive waste center

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

A dumping ground for radioactive waste will remain in Williamsburg — thanks to a veto from Gov. Paterson. The lame-duck leader trashed a bill that would have required Radiac, a private radioactive waste removal company, to relocate from a Kent Avenue location because it was within 1,500 feet of a school.

The bill had been sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint), but the governor said that the cure was worse than the disease in that a 1,500-foot rule could block many city hospitals and schools from disposing of their medical waste safely and efficiently.

Lentol disagreed. "It is our job to protect against the worse-case scenario," he said. "No one is trying to shut them down or hurt hospitals that rely on their services, we are simply asking them to move to where it is safe for everyone."

The company's hazardous waste facility, located between S. First and Grand streets since 1969, processes medical and radioactive waste from research hospitals, including Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the city's public schools' science laboratories, and even hazardous sites dumped on street corners following 311 complaints.

But the company has been in the crosshairs of parents of students at PS 84 on Berry Street, one block from the waste-processing site, and neighborhood activists. There have been no toxic leaks from the site, but the Department of Justice has called Radiac a terror target, and the state has cited the facility for three minor violations since 2000.

In the end, Paterson's decision won out, drawing praise from Radiac's attorney who called Lentol's bill "poorly drafted and poorly crafted."

"It was an effort to put a single company out of business that has a 40-year track record of no environmental incidents with outstanding service to schools, hospitals and agencies throughout the New York metropolitan area," said the lawyer, Thomas West.

DOWNTOWN



Steven Maynard has been accused of cutting branches off healthy trees in Prospect Heights and Park Slope. The good news is that he's being treated.

Unfit to stand

Branch breaker is mental

By Joe Anuta
The Brooklyn Paper

A weirdo who waged a one-man war against trees in Crown Heights and Prospect Heights was declared unfit for trial on Friday — and will spend up to a year in the madhouse before he'll be re-evaluated.

The ruling by Supreme Court Justice Patricia D'Mango means that arbo-assaultist Steven Maynard, who was arrested in July after a reign of terror that caused about \$200,000 in damage to street trees, will be transferred to a state psychiatric hospital this week, and will be held and treated for up to a year.

After that period, he'll be evaluated to determine whether he is mentally fit to stand trial, or needs additional treatment.

PARK SLOPE

Park Smart price hike?

City wants to raise meter costs in Park Slope

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope community leaders continue to slam the brakes on a scheme that would jack up the price of parking in the spot-challenged neighborhood by whopping 53 percent, and stretch the hours when those rates are in effect.

Last week, Community Board 6 tabled the two most contentious aspects of a plan to extend "Park Smart," a controversial city initiative that frees up parking spaces by making it pricier to park during peak hours, from noon to 4 pm.

The program, launched in May 2009, raised parking rates to \$1.50 an hour along Fifth Avenue between Sackett and Third streets, and Seventh Avenue between Lincoln Place and Sixth Street.

The city now wants to hike the price to \$2.25, and extend the "peak" hours until 9 pm.

But CB tabled both moves amid "some disagreement," said Tom Miskel, chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Parking in the neighborhoods long been an asphalt conundrum, but the Department of Transportation said that its pilot program has proven that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

And it is already bearing fruit — well, spaces.

"The current changes have alleviated the parking problem," insisted Jo-Ann Kalk, owner of Park Slope Copy Center, on Seventh Avenue between President and Carroll streets.

Kalk said she does not favor an extension of hours. "Most of the businesses here are closed by seven o'clock," she noted.

But what's good for one avenue might not be good for another.

Fifth Avenue restaurateur Irene Lo Re, who heads up

at avenue's business improvement district, said she favors the extended hours because of the area's booming nightlife.

"This keeps the spots rotating," Lo Re noted. "It benefits someone coming to dinner."

Business leaders are working with the city to craft a compromise.

"We don't want to extend the hours [beyond 7 pm], but we have an obligation to make sure that parking is turning over more quickly," said Mitch Sprick, president of the Park Slope Chamber of Commerce.

"We want more 'muni-meters' because that means [physically] more spots."

The agency said it plans to begin the program's expansion with the installation of new "m-arm bandits" next spring.

Raising meter prices might be a boon to the city, but merchants agree it will be a bust for shoppers and business owners.

"It's just a way for the city to make money," Kalk charged.

attempted to leave the scene, claiming she had nothing to do with the accident. But police officers dragged her back, and she was charged with driving on a suspended license, police said. No charges were filed against the bus driver.

Friends said Herron, a recent graduate of the Alberta College of Art & Design, was planning to return to her native Denver this week. She died on Saturday, hours before the Brooklyn vigil, said organizer James Caldwell, who is also president of the 77th Precinct Community Council.

Attendees videotaped the vigil so Herron's mother Wendy "could see the outpouring of support for her daughter," Caldwell explained.

Herron's ghost bike was the 28th to be placed in Brooklyn since the practice began only a few years ago.

CLINTON HILL

Bicyclists remember

Avid cyclist, killed by city bus, is mourned

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn has a new ghost bike.

Mourners installed the white-painted memorial one of a growing number of tributes to killed cyclists — at the corner of Atlantic and Washington avenues on Saturday to mark the spot where Jasmine Herron was crushed by a city bus on Sept. 11.

The 23-year-old Ditmas Park resident was remembered as an aspiring artist who often rode her bike from her apartment to Think Coffee in Manhattan where she worked as a barista.

Herron was rolling down Atlantic Avenue when a

driver opened her car door at just the wrong moment, knocking Herron into the path of a B45 bus.

Herron died at the scene, Crystal Francis, the driver,

BAY RIDGE

It is hog hell!

Cops ticket motorcycles

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The joyride is over for Bay Ridge motorcycleists who park on the sidewalks as cops vowed this week to crack down on the illegal but — until recently — rarely enforced offense.

Ridge Boulevard resident Charles Ball learned that the hard way last weekend, when he found his \$11 tickets stuck to his croch rocket parked on sidewalk near Ovington Avenue.

Ball recognizes that parking on the sidewalk is illegal, but he claimed that it's a long-time practice among motorcycleists — one that's gone unnoticed for good reason.

"I've been parking in the same place since June 2009, and have never received a ticket until now," Ball said. "But no motorcycleist wants to park on

the sidewalk. We park there because we can't afford a garage."

Plus, cars won't clip motorcycles on the sidewalk — a main complaint among Bay Ridge bikers — and thieves can't steal them as easily as they can when they are not chained to a tree or a light pole, he said.

But Ball's complaints we fall on deaf ears, according to neighborhood cops who are indeed revving up their efforts to get bikes and scooters off the sidewalks. Officers told us that they get a cartful of gripes about the boom in bikes at a recent community meeting, which prompted the crackdown.

"Not only is it illegal to park on the sidewalk, it's a quality of life issue," said Deputy Inspector Eric Rodriguez, commander of the 68th.

"[Bikers] arching them to fences, guard rails, light poles, and they're driving on the sidewalk too. We have a lot of elderly and kids in the neighborhood, and our pride is in keeping them safe."

Motorcyclists admit that up until this point Bay Ridge has been good to them, and they've tried to reciprocate.

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More thugs in Ft. Greene Park

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Four thugs robbed and beat a man in Fort Greene Park on Sept. 24, getting his phone and cash.

The victim told cops that he was sitting in the park near DeKalb Avenue at 2:30 pm when the group of brutes approached him swinging and kicking. The perp made off with the money and a BlackBerry, and left the victim with a battered and swollen face.

Knife attack
Some psycho slashed a man with a knife on Flatbush Avenue on Sept. 26.

The victim told police that he and a friend were arguing with a group of men near Atlantic Avenue at midnight when the thug pulled out a blade and slashed the victim in the neck and hand and then fled.

Gun-toting goon
A masked thug robbed a man at gunpoint on Carlton Avenue on Sept. 21.

The victim told cops that he was near DeKalb Avenue at 3:50 am when the jerk came up behind him and said, "Give me everything you got" and then flashed a gun. The victim handed over his iPhone and some cash.

Break bread
The creeps then grabbed the device — plus \$2 from the victim's pockets.

Car thefts
There were at least four vehicle thefts last week:

The 27-year-old victim told cops that he stepped away from his yellow Volvo near Van Brunt Street at 5 pm, but when he returned 20 minutes later, he saw his window smashed. Closer inspection revealed that his phone and \$3,000 were gone.

Bagman
Someone stole a woman's handbag from a Clinton Street stoop on Sept. 19.

The 28-year-old victim said she was speaking to a friend near Carroll Street at 6:20 pm, and when she returned, her bag was missing. The thief made off with an iPhone, wallet, and credit cards. — **Gary Busio**

POLICE BLOTTER

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78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Hospital pain
Some creep stole a man's wallet out of a bathroom in the Methodist Hospital on Sixth Street on Sept. 21.

The victim told cops that he was doing his business at the hospital, which is between Seventh and Eighth avenues, at 8 pm when he left the wallet in the can. He returned three hours later to find the wallet gone, and \$200 figuratively flushed down the toilet.

Silent snatch
A genteel goon stole a woman's wallet out of her purse on 14th Street on Sept. 24.

The victim told cops that she withdrew money at her bank, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at 11 am. When she got home almost 12 hours later, she noticed that her pocketbook was missing and several purchases had been made by the perp.

B-day bum
It's his party, but his dad will cry if he wants to alter some guest stole his wallet on Sept. 23.

The victim told cops that he hosted the birthday party inside his Fourth Street apartment — and the bill folder was still on hand when the festivities began at 11 am.

But two days later, the birthday boy found the wallet sitting in front of the apartment, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, with

the debit cards laid next to it. More than \$200 had already been charged to the cards.

Fast crimes
A perp stole a woman's wallet out of a classroom in JHS1 on Fifth Avenue on Sept. 23.

The victim told police that she left her wallet in an unlocked classroom in the school, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at 3 pm while she was working.

At 5:15 pm, she noticed that wallet, which contained \$40 and credit cards, was missing.

Car thefts
A thief stole a Toyota 4-Runner from Second Street on Sept. 23. The victim told cops that he left his off-road vehicle between Prospect Park West and Eighth Avenue at about 11 am and returned a half-hour later.

A high-roller robber stole a Lexus from its Sterling Place parking spot overnight on Sept. 23. The victim told police that he left the luxury car between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 5 pm, but it was gone when he returned at 6:30 the next morning.

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown
Macy's mayhem
A lightning-fast thief stole a woman's wallet off of a counter at the Fulton Street Macy's on Sept. 21.

The victim told cops that she was paying for her purchases at the Mac cosmetics counter in the store, which is between Hoyt Street and Gallatin Place, at 6:30 pm when the thief struck.

Theft foiled
Cops arrested a perp who attempted to steal a man's iPod at the Pacific Street subway station.

The victim told police that the train stopped at the station, which is on Fourth Avenue, at 3:30 pm. The perp grabbed the iPod right out of the victim's hand and then immediately returned it. His change of heart didn't save him from the law. Other passengers alerted a nearby cop who soon had the perp in cuffs.

Ring up robbery
A long-armed jerk reached around a cash register and stole a woman's wallet inside Brooklyn Fare, a Schermerhorn Street supermarket, on Sept. 23.

The victim told police that she left the register at 1:35 pm and noticed the missing wal-

let about 10 minutes later. The perp fled and later used both the credit and debit cards.

Metro mystery
A thief took a woman's pocketbook out of her unlocked office in the Metrotech complex on Sept. 21.

The victim told cops that she left her office, which is located between Willowby and Johnson streets, to get lunch at about 1:10 pm. Twenty minutes later, she noticed her wallet, containing \$80 and a camera, was missing.

Polytech-nicked
Some creep stole a backpack out of a man's locker at Polytech Institute on Jay Street on Sept. 24.

The victim told police that he secured the locker inside the college, which is between Willowby and Johnson streets, at 5 pm. Three hours later, he noticed the bag was missing along with his backpack, which contained credit cards, a laptop, and a cellphone.

Through glass
Some thug smashed the window of a car on Pacific Street overnight on Sept. 21 and took equipment.

The victim told cops that he parked near Third Avenue at 9 pm and returned at 7:30 the next morning to find broken glass and that his \$3,000 laptop, a power drill, and his car stereo were missing.

Car thefts
A thug stole a Buick Century from Wyckoff Street. The victim told police that she left the car near Hoyt Street at 6 pm on Sept. 21, and returned three days later to find it gone.

An advantageous villain stole a motorcycle on Livingston street while its owner was eating lunch at a nearby restaurant on Sept. 25. The victim left his wheels near Gallatin Place at 9:30 am, and when he returned an hour later, the bike was missing.

A perp stole a woman's Nissan Sentra from Jay Street overnight on Sept. 23. The victim told cops that she left the car at 10 pm, and returned at 7:30 pm the next day to find it gone. — **Joe Anuta**

90TH PRECINCT
Southside-Bushwick
Heyward rape
A thug allegedly raped a woman on Heyward Street on Sept. 25, while she was a passenger in his car.

The victim asked the perp for assistance at around 8:20 am, and he successfully lured her into the car, where he then

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Nine on one
A bunch of neo-no-wells attacked a 14-year-old girl outside her school on Underhill Avenue on Sept. 20, leaving their victim with a concussion.

The victim was exiting the school between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue at 3:20 pm when the nine teens — five girls and four boys ranging between 12 and 14 — jumped her.

The battered teen was removed to Woodhull Hospital in Williamsburg for treatment as cops rounded up and arrested the nine scrappers, charging them all with assault.

Bag swipe
A snake swiped a tote bag from a 32-year-old woman dining at a Bergen Street restaurant on Sept. 19.

The victim was eating in the restaurant's sidewalk cafe at 8:45 pm when the thief grabbed the bag as it hung off the woman's chair.

The tote bag contained the woman's purse, credit cards and iPhone when it was taken, police were told. — **Thomas Tracy**

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook
Buzz kill

Two men robbed a woman who was trying to buy marijuana from one of them on Baltic Street on Sept. 21.

An un-mellow thug told the 21-year-old victim to follow him inside a building near Hoyt Street at around 11:30 pm if she wanted to cop the cheeba.

She agreed, but once she was inside, was checked by an accomplice who demanded money. The duo made off with a phone and \$60. The victim told cops she initially thought that the pot dealer was just "a nice guy."

iPhone lPicked
Two men robbed a man on Dikeman Street on Sept. 23.

The 39-year-old victim was near Van Brunt Street at 12:30 am when the devilish duo descended upon him, pushing him to the ground and taking his iPhone, valued at \$600, and his wallet, which contained credit cards and \$250.

Uneasy sleep
Someone took a man's iPhone as he snoozed in his Prospect Street home on Sept. 23.

The 46-year-old victim was getting ready for bed in his home near Van Brunt Street, when he placed his fancy phone near his window at 3 am. When he awoke

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Our man with a plan on the van

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Waiting — for a dollar van — is the hardest part.

That's the learned Monday afternoon at Union and Columbia streets, a stop designated by the Taxi and Limousine Commission for inclusion in its controversial pilot program to use vans along the former B71 bus route.

After a disappointing experience last week in Kensington — we waited two hours in vans for a van — we weren't exactly bullish about our prospects in Carroll Gardens.

And at first, we were decidedly underwhelmed.

A half hour went by, and still no sight of the van service that would be connecting Carroll Gardens to Crown Heights, as the bus once did.

Then again, we got a chance to talk to former B71 riders such as David Geary and his two cute kids, Liam and Lella.

"I would take it if I had to go in that direction," he said, examining a newly installed sign alerting prospective riders about

the existence of the program.

But frankly, we were here for the van. There yellow calls beared past. An Access-A-Ride van pulled up, and driver Mario Sarazin unexpectedly offered us a lift.

"Where do you have to go?" he asked. "Flatbush Avenue?"

We declined. After all, the B71 is being operated by Brooklyn Van Lines, a company we featured when it was submitting a bid to the city for the right to operate on the route. Co-owners Sulaiman Haq and Devon Gordon wouldn't let us down.

Would they?

Fifteen more minutes passed.

Then, as breathtaking as a humpback whale leaping from the sea, it appeared: a great white van, turning onto Union Street.

It was Gordon. He'd been working the route since 6 a.m. Slow going. Only picked up about 12 passengers that day — hardly a van service to sustain the business.

But there was no quit in him, not yet at least.

"My perception is that it is going to get better," he said.

'Dollar' vans fail on Day 1

Few riders, long waits for service

By Gary Buiso
The Brooklyn Paper

Day one of dollar van service in Brownstone Brooklyn was a loss-lose proposition — for passenger and operator alike.

The Taxi and Limousine Commission's pilot program to add "group ride" service along the now-extinct B71 route sputtered through its Monday debut, as few people used the fledgling service, and those who did — this newspaper included — waited 45 minutes for a ride.

The experience on Monday suggested that the MTA was onto something when it eliminated the B71 earlier this year, citing budget cuts and low ridership. Only 1,080 customers rode that Columbia Street to Crown Heights line during the average weekday — and despite for service was just as sparse for van operator Devon Gordon.



Devon Gordon drives the new 'dollar van' on the old B71 route through Brownstone Brooklyn.

By 5 pm on his first day in business, only 12 people had used the new Brooklyn Van Lines service — hardly enough to make the operation sustainable.

But Gordon wasn't fazed — not yet at least.

"We are putting in the effort to make it work," he said. "We are assigned to the route and we want to provide a good safe service. Gradually, customers will know we're here."

This is the first time the vans are rumbling through Brownstone Brooklyn, heretofore commonplace along busier routes such as Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. The service, which costs \$2 per ride, is controversial in Brownstone Brooklyn, not only because "dollar vans" have a reputation for erratic driving, but also because the city program does not require the vans to stay on a set route or time table.

This newspaper was the only customer when Gordon's white, 14-person Chevrolet

Express pulled up at Columbia and Union streets. But the city insisted it was too early to doom the initiative.

"The challenge is to make sure that as many people as possible are aware of the service," said TLC Commissioner David Yassky, who said that his agency has assisted that cause by announcing the service on its much-watched website, printing and distributing many thousands of fliers and palm cards, making presentations at community forums, and enlisting the media to help spread the word.

"We hope the operators will be similarly active in their own efforts," he added.

For now, two vans operate along the B71 service area. No wonder former B71 riders are skeptical.

"I don't see how it's going to work with no set time schedule," said Kathy Carney. "The point of having mass transit is to have it on a schedule."

They lose — they win

Automotive HS finally gets to play at home

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The Pistons lost the game, but won the war.

After nearly seven years of playing home games on a rival school's field, Automotive HS's football team finally got a real home game, taking the McCarran Park field against undefeated Bayside HS on Saturday.

Though the Pistons suffered a narrow 21-20 loss, another victory moved closer to the team's grasp: playing football games at the city park across



The Automotive HS football team, the Pistons, were fired up before their team's first real home game in seven years.

the street from the school.

The Pistons have been playing their home games at the Grand Street Campus more than a mile away, but after a published story about the school's plight, the Public School Athletic League and the Parks Department reversed the decision and approved two genuine home games for Automotive HS on Sept. 25 and Nov. 6.

Coach Haz Khawaja had "one of the most hectic days I ever had," as he coordinated with teachers, volunteers and

police officers to line the field and erect barriers to make the field game-ready.

About 100 fans — students, teachers and neighborhood residents — gathered on the track field to watch the exciting game and cheer for the home team.

English teacher Mike Sully, who had previously trekked with the team to the Grand Street, said it was one of the best crowds for an Automotive game he had seen.

"People at the park just stopped and watched the game," said Sully. "Grand Street is intimidating. Here, everyone walks around the track and it's much more apart of the surroundings."

The team's players generously compared the crowd to an "NFL atmosphere" and that they "felt alive" playing so close to their own high school.

"I'm happy that we have a home," said senior Lance Penceal, who caught the Pistons' first touchdown. "Nobody else shares our home. It's just ours."

The team may have been sitting pretty in its new home, as the Pistons' defense gave up an early touchdown in the first quarter before quarterback Khawaja chose to go for a two-point conversion, but Bayside turned back the attempt.

It proved to be a turning point in the game, as Flores was intercepted twice in the fourth quarter.

But after the game, Khawaja wouldn't second-guess his decision.

"When you get a chance to win a game, I take that chance," said Khawaja. "We want to dictate the action."

Opossums vs. weasels!

Whether or not the city released opossums to cull southern Brooklyn's rat problem, one thing is certain: Weasels would have been a lot better. Here's how these two critters stack up in our first-ever mammal smackdown: — Gary Buiso

OPOSSUM	ANIMAL	WEASEL
Insects, worms, dead animals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and their eggs, crustaceans, berries, fruits, small mammals, and trash.	Diet	Mice, rats, voles, squirrels, chipmunks, shrews, moles, rabbits, birds, bird eggs, snakes, frogs, and insects.
Extremely non-aggressive. Would rather avoid confrontation and be left alone. Plays dead as a last resort, remaining comatose for up to four hours.	Disposition	Feisty. Legend has it that some weasels will kill without being hungry. Unafraid to fight a bear or a porcupine. Larger predators don't often mess with weasels twice.
Considered nature's sanitation engineers. Extremely resourceful.	Hunting style	A small, good fighter with cat-like quickness. Silent as a ninja, it approaches its prey and then bum rushes it.
Prehensile tail; immune to most snake venom; more resistant to rabies than most animals.	Secret weapons	Capable of subduing animals much larger than themselves, wrapping their slender body around prey and dispatching it with a vicious bite to the base of its skull.
The phrase "playing possum" comes from the creature's defense mechanism; subject of Australian children's book, "Possum Magic."	In popular culture	When looking at a cloud, Shakespeare's Hamlet and Polonius discuss whether it resembles a weasel or a whale. And of course, "pop goes the weasel."

OPOSSUMS

Continued from page 1

northeast."

The Department of Health echoed that sentiment, calling the concept preposterous. "The Health Department did not, does not, nor plans to release any opossums or any other wildlife to control the city's rat population," a spokeswoman said.

And even if it wanted to, the agency said, it is not allowed to simply truck wild animals wherever it wishes, because relocating non-domesticated fauna is regulated by the state Department of Environmental Conservation — and that agency has not written a license for such a relocation, said spokeswoman Thomas Panzone, who ferreted through 20 years of data looking for such a document.

But Recchia had no apologies.

"This is what the community board was told," he said. "How did the opossums get here then?"

Recchia recounted that 2007 town hall meeting, at which Sanitation officials told Sheepshead Bay and Manhattan Beach residents that the city did indeed bring in the munching marsupials to control the rodent population.

And yes, the minutes of that town hall meeting, kept by a member of Community Board 15, stated, "The Department of Sanitation said

that the city brought opossums in to take care of the rat problem."

But Sanitation spokeswoman Kathy Dawkins said she personally spoke to one of the officials at the meeting — Enforcement Director Todd Kaznitz — and told her this week that nothing of the kind was said at that meeting.

"It's not true," Dawkins said. "Sanitation has nothing to do with opossums."

But the conspiracy theories continue. Theresa Scavo, the chairwoman of CBS, suggested that the city is just playing 'possum, desperately hoping to hide its Mickey Mouse operation.

Opossums, after all, have become a public relations nightmare, she said.

"If you were them and now you had an opossum problem, would you own up to it?" Scavo asked. "I think it was an experiment that went bad."

Real or not, experts laughed like hyenas at the critter caper.

"Opossums are not effective rat predators," said Dr. Robert Voss, the director of mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History, a Manhattan institute.

"If they found a dying rat, they would probably eat it, but opossums don't move that fast and rats are very smart and very fast."

The very idea of dispatch-

ing an army of opossums to kill rats is "ridiculous," he added.

Opossums are generalists, eating everything from poisonous snakes to rotting trash. But biological control typically works only if the creature that's being introduced has a highly specialized diet, for example a wasp that attacks only a certain type of caterpillar.

In nature, generalists take prey that is the easiest to acquire, not the most difficult. And for opossums, Voss said, that means choosing garbage over a grizzled sewer rat.

The introduction of animals to control pests can have mixed results. Mongooses were introduced in the West Indies to control rats and snakes, but turned out to be quite destructive, wiping out a vast array of small mammals.

So which animal would be an effective Brooklyn exterminator?

"Probably something like a weasel," Voss said.



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LEGENDS...

Continued from page 1

of liquid nitrogen — spawning the phrase "cool cat."

The reason that there are no otters in the Gowanus Canal anymore is not because of the pollution but because of a pair of ravenous, genetically mutated humpback angler fish, who have devoured all the native muskies and have moved on to

ating the support structures of the Union Street and Carroll Street bridges.

On the anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Brooklyn, the statue of Minerva in Green-Wood Cemetery shed a single tear as the clock strikes midnight. Hundreds flock to the cemetery each year to see the miracle.

— Gary Buiso

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OUR OPINION

No Yards parking tax

Get this: After ignoring concerns about the parking and traffic that would result from the Atlantic Yards project, the city now wants residents of the low-rise neighborhoods around the Barclays Center arena to pay to help fix the problem.

Making a play for "Chutzpah of the Year" award, the City Council is discussing a bill that would require residents of Prospect Heights and Fort Greene to buy residential parking permits so that they — and not thousands of basketball fans — get to park on local streets.

Make no mistake: We definitely support the locals against the out-of-town fans. But there's a much-easier way to keep residential streets free of the noise, congestion and danger that comes from large numbers of cars heading to mega-events: don't allow cars.

Rather than making arena neighbors pay, the city and developer Bruce Rattner need to do everything they can to discourage driving to the Barclays Center, which sits atop one of the city's great-

There's an easier way to keep residential streets free of cars heading to arena events: don't allow cars.

est subway and railroad hubs.

Rattner took a small step in the right direction this week by unveiling a design for a public plaza in front of the arena with a nifty subway and Long Island Rail Road station that opens up in the center of a grand pedestrian zone practically at the arena's front door. Architecture and convenience like that will certainly encourage many arena-goers to ditch the car.

Unfortunately, the larger Atlantic Yards project calls for 3,670 parking spaces, mostly built under Rattner's proposed 16 buildings stretching from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues to Vanderbilt Avenue. Project documents have described that number of spaces as "sufficient to accommo-

date ... a portion of the demand from the proposed arena."

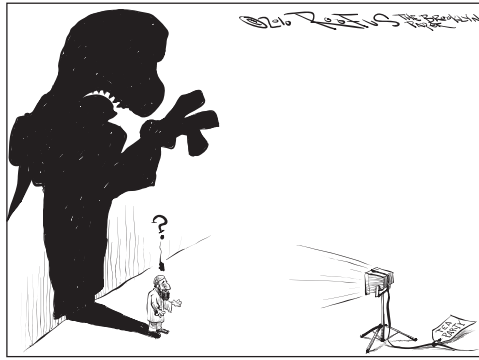
How about going further? How about ticket subsidies for fans who buy their ducats with a Metrocard? A good start. But how about going even further by not accommodating any arena-bound drivers by providing no parking at all?

The Barclays Center, after all, is unique — a 19,000-seat basketball arena being constructed in the heart of a neighborhood of three- and four-story townhouses. That unique setting, plus outstanding subway and train access, render the automobile obsolete.

And, of course, we have a selfish reason for wanting more riders rather than drivers heading to the Barclays Center: more subway, bus and train passengers mean more customers who will demand first-class service from the MTA — an agency that has shown a gleeful willingness to cut service to communities that don't defend their transit turf.

More transit service serves the neighborhood far better than underground parking spaces.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Reader has yet another reason to 'Veto Vito'

To the editor,

My husband and I were at the meeting of the Kings County Democratic County Committee, and we were appalled ("Vito: It's my party! Boss adds more hand-picked lackeys to Dem leadership," online, Sept. 23).

Chairman Jeff Feldman informed us that Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick) held more than 650 proxies, but the auditorium in which we sat had a capacity of about 300 and, therefore, even if we all voted in favor of a particular motion, it would be defeated — as every proposal was.

Were the rules read before voting to adopt them for this meeting?



Assemblyman Vito Lopez

Nay. Distribute and discuss the treasurer's report? Nay. Extend discussion of a question before voting on it? Nay. Meet more than once every two years? Nay. Vote by a show of hands? Nay.

Feldman only called for voice votes, and even when the "ayes" seemed deafening, he would say, "The nays have it." At one point he explained slightly: "The proxies vote nay."

There were a few "aye" victories, such as the one giving voting positions on the executive board to 11 people who were not even members of the county committee. After less than an hour, someone moved to adjourn the meeting. The nays had no chance. We

spilled out into the night, shell-shocked.

As the parent of two high schoolers, I have been to more than 100 Parent-Teacher Association meetings in four different schools. Every one of them was far more democratic than this meeting of Brooklyn's "Democratic" party. The root of the problem is the postcard, sent to all county committee members, allowing them to give their proxy for the meeting to Vito Lopez, and Vito Lopez only. There is no indication of who he is, what will be discussed at the meeting, or the ramifications of signing away one's vote.

If a county committee member is not going to attend a meeting, the default recipient of his or her proxy should be a district leader of the member's assembly district, not the county chair.

It's no mystery why so many Brooklyn party leaders have been convicted of corruption. Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. No one should have the amount of power that Vito Lopez has in the Brooklyn Democratic Party.

Mary-Powell Thomas, Boerum Hill

No backbone

To the editor,

Thank you for covering the Brooklyn Tea Party's rally ("Tea but no sympathy for mosque," online, Sept. 21). Too bad you showed little sympathy towards ordinary citizens gathering to bring attention to legitimate dangers facing our community and country.

"Lashing out against the Sheep-shead Bay mosque?" ... taking pot shots at the Ground Zero mosque? ... wrapping themselves in the flag? How about standing up against the insult posed by the proposed mosque, questioning its funding by groups with terrorist ties and defending our cherished American ideals against an encroaching threat of Shariah law?"

Too bad you chose to focus on the burka guy and quote a single sign, rather than the beseeched message of the nine speakers — repealing Obamacare, suicidal government spending and protecting our borders.

By the way, the flag that we wrapped ourselves in was haphazardly to be taken from Ground Zero and was proudly held up for the full three hours by a first

responder.

At least you came out, and we appreciate the coverage. Maybe next time you could send a less opinionated reporter.

Patricia Levine, Marine Park

'Disgraceful'

To the editor,

I read with great interest your article, "Horror house on 79th Street" (Sept. 7), since I am from Bay Ridge.

What I can't understand is the statement from local officials that because the owners do not have outstanding violations with the city they are not sure what can be done. How could the Landy family not have been charged with multiple violations for owning a building with an "unseen pile of soggy wood, a caved-in roof and standing water which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes?" Now, it is going to get "re-inspected," like it could have passed an inspection back in 2007.

I am very glad that Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) is making the sensible statement that the Landy family will be made aware of this disgraceful situation and will have no choice but

to fix the problems with this house, which has been an eyesore for years.

Carolyn Quadarella, Gettysburg, Pa.

For park's sake

To the editor,

I've been tracking the progress on the new Vanderbilt Playground ("More delays at playground," Sept. 14).

This playground was hailed by some as the Six Flags amusement park of Prospect Park South West when it first opened. It has taken as much time to build as the Empire State Building, but what we have seems no better than what we had.

There are less swings — I count only five. No sand box. No tire swing. If you're over the age of eight, you will find next to nothing to do here except climb on a rope labyrinth and run around in a new sprinkler. There was nothing wrong with the old one by the way. What a waste of money.

How about a playground for adolescents as well, not just toddlers with nannies?

Prospect Park also boasts the most fences erected in a 52-acre area, and this brings me to the rac-

coon problem that has befallen our neighborhoods. When I first started visiting Prospect Park 20 years ago, I could wander around freely through the woods, communing with nature, stand under the waterfall by the ballparks, take my kid fishing in the little ponds, play hide and seek in the woods, but I honestly can't remember coming across a single raccoon.

Then the Prospect Park Alliance decided to turn my beloved park into a game preserve. Fences with locks on them started popping up everywhere. Now, only the privileged few with keys have access to my paradise where raccoons are procreating at a rate not seen since the Dutch lived here.

This is Prospect Park, not Yellowstone park, and the fences need to go. The red-tailed hawks will still find enough pigeons to eat and perhaps we will have a few less raccoons, but I can assure you the natives won't be out there cutting down trees or hunting endangered species.

Let's put a stop to the cooking in the park, too. If the park is to become a national landmark, I'm tired of inhaling their fluid when I run.

Mike Mastrogiacomo, Park Slope

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Insert your marked ballot into the scanner to cast your vote.

Find out more about the new way to vote or try out the new voting system at a demonstration in your neighborhood. Visit us at www.vote.nyc.ny.us or call **866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3692)** TTY 212-487-5496.

General Election: Tuesday, November 2, 2010



0718 260-2500 *The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings* October 1-7, 2010

Comic godfather

Dean Haspiel, long-time comic mentor, gets his time to shine

By Chuck O'Donnell
for The Brooklyn Paper

A jackhammer cracks the road open, a car alarm blares and the F train brings a rumble of thunder from above every 10 minutes.

But Dean Haspiel can't be distracted from deadline. Bound to his drawing table inside a room barely larger than a dorm that he shares with four other comic book artists dubbed Deep2 Studios—Haspiel spends the afternoon pushing a 4H lead pencil across a two-ply Bristol board with vellum finish.

On this afternoon under the Fourth Avenue train trestle, the heralded graphic novelist is finishing "Street Code," a six-part web comic. The final installment, "Beef with Tomato," is a nod to Charles Bukowski's "Ham on Rye" in title and is an equal in emotional vulnerability.

Like much of Haspiel's body of work, "Street Code" is a collection of semi-autobiographical moments woven together with his pulpy poetry and told through an avatar. Bukowski had Henry Chinaski, Haspiel has Jack.

So whether Jack's crashing his bike in Carroll Gardens or getting run over in DUMBO, Haspiel is careful not to let the stories that make up "Street Code" take a wrong turn into reportage, exoticism, narcissism or traditional narrative tropes such as romance and the workplace.

"I'm my love letter to New York City," said Haspiel. "There's a New York City tourists know about, and there's a New York City the natives know about. I'm writing about what the natives know."

Naked honesty and Brooklyn as inspiration are two of the many recurring themes in the new book, "Graphic NYC Presents Dean



Drawn in: Dean Haspiel shows off his latest work from inside Deep2, a studio space he shares with other comic book artists in Gowanus. Somehow, the rumbling of the F train right outside the window isn't too much of a distraction.

Haspiel—The Early Years." Due out in mid-November, this 192-page retrospective is the brainchild of Bay Ridge's Christopher Irving, who waded through sketches, photos, diaries, early works and current books to arrive at the conclusion that Haspiel is "the Godfather" of the Brooklyn comics scene.

"Dean can take credit for mentoring dozens of cartoonists and writers here in the Brooklyn area, and is easily the most outspoken voice on the comics being done from Wil-

liamsburg to Carroll Gardens or Gowanus," said Irving. "But if you ever go to an event at Bergen Street [Comics] or to a local comic convention like King Con or the Museum of Comic and Cartoon's annual fest, Dean is like the eye of a hurricane, and a lot of people count on him for his input. Dean doesn't just put himself out there—he reaches out to others and makes things happen."

Indeed, beyond the walls of his con-

See HASPIEL on page 11

In his own words...

Dean Haspiel can talk as much as he draws. Here are some of his insights into his work, career and, of course, Brooklyn.

On Brooklyn:

"In Brooklyn, you can actually take the time or be given the space to figure who you are and what you want to do. It's not that it's slowed down here, but you can go to someone's backyard. That's nearly impossible in Manhattan, and if you can in Manhattan, you're only thinking about, 'I wonder how much they pay rent here.' ... People come to the great, big New York City, the Big Apple, but really it's Brooklyn where people come to town themselves. You get tagged a New Yorker when you're born there. That's what I say on the birth certificate. But I feel like you become a New Yorker when you come to Brooklyn."

On the Brooklyn comics scene:

"Wil Eisner, Jack Kirby, and the comics god-

fathers who broke their cherries in Brooklyn would be proud to see the industry thriving and expanding where water towers and fire escapes still exist and the streets are encroached with the blood and secrets of human trial and error, challenging our pencils, inks, and digital tools to cull and mail the universal truth."

On his web comic, "Street Code":

"I'm trying to make you feel as alienated as the protagonist—as alienated as I felt when I moved from Manhattan to Brooklyn. I thought I knew everything there so to know about New York City, Little did I know, I'm 30-years-old, I'm moving to Brooklyn. I feel like I'm old enough to know everything. And now I'm being hazed by neighborhoods and cultures that have been steeping there for 100 years or so. I felt like I was in a Ser-

gio Leone movie. I felt like this was the Wild West. Also, I felt like I was moving to the country. I heard quiet for the first time and it was loud."

On his autobiographical work:

"If you know me at all, you know I've written about stuff that has happened to me, you know that there's the slightest possibility that you might show up. ... I believe there are at least two versions to every story that involves two people. And there's three versions for three people and so forth. Your truth is truth. My version of what happened today is what happened today. I happen to have the tools to express them. I'm not saying you don't, but a lot of people don't go off and make a comic book about what happened. The don't write a film, the don't write a novel, they don't write a song. There are all these media we use to tell these stories. The slightest possibilities are there. What can I do? I can't stay away from it. I can try to be sensitive."

NIGHTLIFE

Crow about it

On the farm, cocks need room to roam. In Williamsburg, hipsters need room to drink—and now they have a whole lot more, in the form of the Old Rooster.

This new Polish beer hall on N. Fourth Street is surprisingly spacious, complete with stone archways, an expansive hand-made bar, and even a foliage-lined, 70-seat backyard. It's dark, it's full of booze, and it's all Brooklyn.

And there's a full gourmet menu nightly until 3 a.m. "I like everything on the menu—we've got food you can't find at any other bar," said bartender Alex Truitt, pointing out the filet mignon salad, sausages and roasted whole chicken. "Plus, the beer is good, and it's cheap."

There are 54 beer and margarita specials all the time, and the bar's 14 taps span the globe from Russia to Brooklyn. It's certainly a drinker's bar already—and managers are even considering a TV for football (boo-ah).

Clearly, there's a new dominant watering hole in Williamsburg.

Old Rooster (221 N. Fourth St. at Roebling Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1500). For info, visit www.oldroosterbar.com.

—Andy Campbell

DINING

Egg-cellent

Put down this newspaper and head right now to Five Leaves in Greenpoint for the best egg sandwich in the city. (Yes, we know that there's little better than the Gusten—the classic egg-and-corned-beef sandwich at Dizzy's in Park Slope—or the croque madame at Provence en Boite on Smith Street, but the sage-scrambled egg sandwich at the late Heath Ledger's old hangout is simply better.)

First, the chef starts with organic eggs, cooked a full minute shorter than most egg sandwiches, so they retain the scramble, eggy, runny texture that regular scrambled eggs should have. They're practically French, they're so good.

Then, the cook toasts in a nice sharp white cheddar. But the key to the whole sandwich is the sage. Now you know where we stand on herbs—who doesn't love rosemary on everything?—but sage turns eggs into a punch in the face.

It adds a smoky quality that even suggests bacon, which isn't even on the sandwich.

Five Leaves (18 Bedford Ave. at Nassau Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5345).

—Garth Kuntzman

THEATER

Tragic stuff

It took a very real tragedy to get a group of actors to confront a ruthless world.

In this case, the killing was of the brother of a member of the international troupe Needs company—a journalist whose slaying in Kosovo is the driving force behind "The Deer House," opening Oct. 5

at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"With his death, the war entered the company," said Jan Lauwers, the company's artistic director. "It provided the starting point for a play about a group of theater-makers who are increasingly faced with the harsh reality of the world."

The main story line, which takes place in a spare rehearsal space, is a trachee de vie of recent company experience. The other, set in a prehistoric fairy-tale Kosovo, focuses on deer breeders who face murder, anguish, and vengeance as a civil war closes in.

Underwear, rubber armbands, jumbo ears, group singing, bizarre primitive costumes, warped animal figures, and nude bodies are all abundant as the two tales intertwine.

"It's an ode to humanity," said Lauwers. "Wherever we live, we have one thing in common: we are survivors."

"The Deer House" at BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100), Oct. 5, 7, 9 at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$25-\$45. For info, visit www.bam.org.

—Adam Warner

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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY October 2	SUNDAY October 3	MONDAY October 4	WEDNESDAY October 6	THURSDAY October 7
<p>Beer men The main event may be in Germany, but you can get your Oktoberfest action at Kelo of Brooklyn's own brew, brat, and beat party this afternoon. Kelo, Heartland Brewery and Captain Lawrence Brewing Company will offer seasonally inspired ales, and there will also be music from Small Kraft Warning.</p> <p>1:55 pm, Oktoberfest Street Party at Kelo of Brooklyn 129 Waverly Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenues in Clinton Hill. (718) 398-2731. For info, visit www.keloo.com.</p>	<p>Chapin at bit Grammy winner Tom Chapin is bringing his special brand of family-friendly music to the Brooklyn Center for an afternoon of folk tunes that enchant not only his youngest listeners, but their parents, too. "It's fun to write, kid-friendly and adult-safe songs," said Chapin, who pivoted from folk to Dan Zanes territory after realizing that his kids could appreciate the Beatles, Eagles and Bob Marley. "They aren't interested in little ducky anymore."</p> <p>2 pm, Tom Chapin at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts (Campus Road and Hill) Midwood. (718) 951-4500. Tickets \$7.</p>	<p>Hey 'Fela!' The Great White Way finally has a Great Right Price — thanks to a concert version of the acclaimed musical "Fela!" in Brooklyn Bridge Park sponsored by our friends at St. Ann's Warehouse. "Fela!" tells the story of Fela Kuti, the inventor of afrobeat, a percussion-based style that he used to promote civil rights. It's politics you can dance to.</p> <p>6:30 pm, "Fela!" concert at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 (Old Fulton Street at Dumbo). (718) 254-8779. Free.</p>	<p>Hook eats It's not often you can feel good about yourself after a round of binge eating — but at the Taste of Red Hook fundraiser, you can stuff your gut in the name of charity. Stalwarts such as Hope and Anchor, Baked, The Good Fork, Daffone's and Home/Made Wine Bar will fill you, and Sixpoint will provide the brew.</p> <p>6-9 pm, Taste of Red Hook at Kidd Hellin Gallery (133 Inlay St. between Pioneer and Venus streets in Red Hook. (917) 860-1147. Tickets, \$100. For info, visit www.hicenter.org.</p>	<p>Voices carry Instruments? They don't need any stink! Instrumental The Brooklyn Public Library will host the Los Angeles-based a capella sextet Sonos — but don't expect your grandfather's barbershop lunkies your papa lones Bjork and Radiohead). On its records, Sonos reinvents pop friendly fare as the Jackson Five's "I Want You Back" with a moody, trip-hop rendition.</p> <p>7 pm, Sonos at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope. (718) 230-2171. Free. For info, visit www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org.</p>

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, OCT. 1

GREENPOINT FLEA MARKET: noon-8 pm. Greenpoint Reformed Church, 138 Union St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint. (718) 383-3941.

THEATER, T.S. ELIOT'S "MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL": 8:30 pm. Award-winning Alec Duffy helms this site-specific production. \$10 (suggested donation). 7:30 pm. St. Joseph's Church (856 Pacific St. between Vandewater and Underhill avenues in Prospect Heights). www.murderinthecathedral.com.

THEATER, "CIRCUS OF CIRCUS": George Orwell's classic, "Animal Farm," gets a bulesque adaptation. \$35-\$39. 8:30 pm. House of Yes (342 Major St. near Morgan Avenue in Bushwick). www.houseofyes.com.

THE FIFTH ESTATE GRAND OPENING: New bar and performance space opens. Free. 4 pm. The Fifth Estate 508 Fifth Ave. between 12th and 13th streets in Park Slope. (718) 540-0097. www.facebook.com/pageofthefifthestate.

OPERA: 7 pm. Barbes (176 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9177). www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

READING, MARCUS BOON: Author of "In Phases of Copying." 7 pm. Spoonbait & Sugarbuns, Booksellers (218 Bedford Ave. in Williamsburg. (718) 387-7322). www.spoonbaitbooks.com.

FIFTH AVENUE OKTOBERFEST: Sample participating bars and restaurants. 7-11 pm. park50festival.com.

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (College Humor) and Jason Saena (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. Cops (646 Grand Avenue between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint. (718) 967-0481). www.myspace.com/cos66.

THEATER, "PORTRAYED — THE UNRELIABLE BURDEN OF DECIDING WHAT TO DO BEFORE DYING": New play by James Holland. 8 pm. Invisible Dog (51 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Cobble Hill. (347) 981-4186). www.theinvisible.com.

THEATER, "JE SUIS DEAD": Farce performed by Fools Proof Theater Company. \$25-\$30. Irondale Center (955 Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene. (718) 488-9233). www.irondale.org.

NIGHTLIFE, NEW YORK BURLESQUE FESTIVAL: \$16 (\$12 in advance). 8 pm. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 443-6000). www.expensivemen.comedyfestival.com.

OPERA, "DON PASQUALE": \$10-\$8. Our Lady of Lebanon Church (113 Remsen St. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights. (347) 479-1724). www.themarthcardontheater.com.

KARAOKE: Free. Midtown Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org.

SAT, OCT. 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GREEN MARKET: Healthful, delicious products ranging from produce to seafood to honey. Free. 8 am-3 pm. Walgreens (940 Third Ave. at 9th Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 748-1673).

TOUR, HISTORIC AIRPLANES: Visit restored crafts. Free. 10 am-4 pm. Floyd Bennett Field Hangar 8 (Flatbush Avenue and Aviation Road in Marine Park. (718) 338-5986). webpage.dnrc.gov/people/dh/harfb.

HANDS-ON GREEN BLOCK PARTY: Dozens of DIY activities and workshops. Free. 10 am-6 pm. (Third Street between Hoyt and Bond streets in Carroll Gardens). greenhome.org/brooklyn.

MAZZONE PUMPKIN FEST: Bring the whole family for music, face-painting, and pony rides. Oh yeah, there's pumpkin-picking, too. 10 am-4 pm. Mazzone True Value (Court Street and Fourth Place in Carroll Gardens).

OKTOBERFEST: Featuring brews from Kelo of Brooklyn, Heartland Brewery, and Captain Lawrence Brewing.

SUN, OCT. 3

MON, OCT. 4

Committee: Monthly meeting. 6 pm. Long Island University (Dumbo and Flatbush avenues in Downtown. (718) 596-5410). www.brooklyn.liu.edu.

WED, OCT. 6

Community Board 2 Health Committee: Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Long Island University (Dumbo and Flatbush avenues in Downtown. (718) 596-5410). www.brooklyn.liu.edu.

Bay Ridge Town Hall: Representatives from various city agencies. Free. 7-9 pm. St. Patrick's School Auditorium (401 97th St. between Fourth Avenue and Ft. Hamilton Parkway in Bay Ridge. (718) 238-6044).

TUES, OCT. 5

Community Board 2 Economic Development and Job Creation

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@cnglobal.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR

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TUES, OCT. 5

Community Board 2 Economic Development and Job Creation

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@cnglobal.com.

ARTISAN MARKET: Shop for art and design at this sidewalk affair, adjacent to the Fort Greene GreenMarket. 9 am-3 pm. Artisan Market (Washington Street and Grand Avenue in Fort Greene. (718) 855-8715). www.artisanmarket.org.

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope. (212) 718-7900). www.parkslopefarmmarket.com.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope). www.parkslopefarmmarket.com.

GIANT TAG SALE: 9 am-5 pm. Cadman Towers Building (101 Clark St. between Henry Street and Cadman Street in Park Slope. (718) 230-2171).

See 9 DAYS on page 10

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From memory

'Bee Season' author Goldberg explores the stuff we forget

By Adam Warner for The Brooklyn Paper

When she was 10 years old, Myla Goldberg threw a pair of scissors at her friend. It wasn't her best moment.

It's moments like that that helped inspire the latest novel from Goldberg, who catapulted to literary fame 10 years ago with her debut, "Bee Season."

The "It" girl: Kensington resident Myla Goldberg, author of the acclaimed "Bee Season," reads from her latest book, "The False Friend," on Oct. 7 at Greenlight Books.



The "It" girl: Kensington resident Myla Goldberg, author of the acclaimed "Bee Season," reads from her latest book, "The False Friend," on Oct. 7 at Greenlight Books.

to go back to where you're from and face who you were." This isn't the first time Goldberg has put her memory in a time machine.

style I have now—I can be a full-time writer—is due entirely to the fact that my first book did extremely well. It's extremely gratifying."

BOOKS

Myla Goldberg reads from "The False Friend" at Book Court 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677, Oct. 7 at 7 pm. Free. For info, visit www.bookcourt.org.

Whitehead, Darin Strauss and Jonathan Lethem, "before he flew the coop."

of the blood, gore or clown. "We all used to be someone else in one way or another," said Goldberg. "It's a weird sort of feeling

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

At Dram in Williamsburg, they take their cocktails seriously.

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In fact, none of the drinks I tried were less than excellent.

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Dram: 177 S. Fourth St. between Roebing Street and Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-3726. Open daily, 4 pm-4 am. For info, visit drambar.com.

Cook like the pros

New cookbook lets you take advantage of Brooklyn's culinary renaissance

By Meredith Deliso

Ever since Ai Di La opened on a then-quiet corner of Park Slope's less-than-glamorous Fifth Avenue 12 years ago, Brooklyn's dining scene has never been the same.



The perfect marriage: In "The New Brooklyn Cookbook," Brendan Vaughan wrote and Melissa Vaughan cooked.



Turkell's good-enough-to-eat photographs, the cookbook highlights other Brooklyn trailblazers—cheesemakers, picklers, choco-laters and rooftop farmers who also make the food scene tick.

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*\$74.98/monthly rate includes a \$200 bill credit for 12 months after rebate, plus an additional \$5 with rebate and consent to email alerts. Free HD requires the CHOICE ULTIMATE package or higher, activation of HD Access and Auto Bill Pay. Whole-Home DVR service required for second receiver upgrade. Additional fees required. With 24-month agreement. **21 Automatic \$10 bundle bill credit for 12 months and 31 Voice/Internet and phone offer at \$50/line. ©2010 DIRECTV. All rights reserved. DIRECTV, the DIRECTV logo and the DIRECTV logo are trademarks of DIRECTV Group, Inc. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

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'Family' people

Slope directors' latest hits big screen

By Ethan Alter
for The Brooklyn Paper

Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck are back in familiar territory. The Park Slope-based filmmakers first gained national attention with their 2006 debut, "Half Nelson," a critically lauded film about a troubled public school teacher in Gowanus.

Following a detour to the baseball farms of the Dominican Republic in their sophomore effort, "Sugar," the married writer/directors return home with "It's Kind of a Funny Story," an adaptation in theaters now of the acclaimed young adult novel by Park Slope native Ned Vizzini. Inspired by the author's own brief stay at the adult psychiatric ward at Park Slope's Methodist Hospital, both the book and the

film tell the "funny story" of Craig Gilner, an overworked, stressed-out teen who checks himself into a mental hospital after flirting with thoughts of suicide.

In the film, the young British actor Keir Gilchrist plays Craig, with a supporting cast including such familiar New York faces as Jim Gaffigan, Adrian Martinez, and Brooklyn's own resident funnyman Zach Galifianakis as a gregarious-but-troubled older patient who takes the confused kid under his wing.

"The book had such a nice tone and a wonderful lead character," said Boden. "Ned did such a brilliant job getting into the head of a 16-year-old who was going through a lot of — but really wanted just in an open, earnest way. It reminded us of the spirit of those John Hughes movies we grew up on."



Funny people: Ryan Fleck (right) and Anna Boden on the set of their new movie, "It's Kind of a Funny Story," starring Keir Gilchrist (left) and filmed in part on the Brooklyn Bridge.

hectic inner monologue that plagues Craig," said Vizzini. "I'm thrilled that the film doesn't just name-check Brooklyn. It supports it by being shot here."

Specifically, the bulk of the movie was filmed late last year at the now-closed Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge, which gave the production access to an en-

tire unused floor.

"We got lucky with that location," said Fleck. "It's a visually interesting hospital — it doesn't feel claustrophobic, like a 'Cuckoo's Nest' kind of place. The production design team did a good job making it feel like a warm place for healing to occur."

Due to production constraints, a few scenes were

shot in other Brooklyn-area hospitals, most notably an emergency room sequence filmed in an active ER at the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

"We shot the scene overnight, but any moment someone could come through the door with an emergency and we'd have to stop shooting," said Boden.

Although the cameras never ventured outside Victory into the surrounding neighborhood, Fleck and Boden did become regulars at a few local spots, including the Japanese restaurant Fushimi, where they often grabbed lunch in between location scouting trips. And just before shooting began, the pair picked up a fanny pack camera and filmed Gilchrist riding his bike all over the borough, from Coney Island to the Brooklyn Bridge. That footage appears as part of a flashback sequence in which Craig recalls one of the last days he felt truly happy.

"We scripted which neighborhoods we wanted to visit and then went out and filmed the boys on their bikes," said Fleck, adding that they made sure to shoot the kids passing by several familiar landmarks, such as the Park Slope Good Coat. "We also got a mom with a stroller [in the frame], so that was a two-for-one shot."

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" at Cobble Hill Cinemas (265 Court St. near Borego Street, (718) 596-9113) and Pavilion Park Slope (188 Prospect Park West at 14th Street, (718) 369-0838) starting Oct. 8.

Saturday, Oct. 2
11 am-2 pm, Still Hip (263 Grand Ave. between Clinton Place and Lafayette Ave. in Clinton Hill, (718) 398-0008).

SILENT FILM, "GRANDMA'S BOY": Slapstick starring Harold Lloyd — plus live piano accompaniment. 1:30 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

LECTURE, ARTIST JUDY CHAGALL: Talks about her new book, "Frida Kahlo: Face to Face." 2 pm, Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Ave. in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000).

READING, WEEKEND STORIES FOR PRESCHOOLERS: 2 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

MON., OCT. 4
HEALTH, QUIT SMOKING: Free. 5-6 pm, New York Methodist Hospital (506 Sixth St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 790-5838).

MUSIC, "FELA" CONCERT: Music from the Broadway show. Free. 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Bridge Pier 1 (Old Fulton Pier at Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779, www.stameweehouse.org).

READING, "THE NEW BROOKLYN COOK BOOK": Authors and food. Free. 7 pm, PowerHouse Arena (J Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com).

TUES., OCT. 5
PERFORMANCE, MUSIC TO CHAMP: Recommended for ages four and up. 5:30-7 pm, Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (2200 Campus Rd. at Hillside Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500, www.brooklyncenter.org).

THEATER, "PORTRAYED — THE UNBEARABLE BURDEN OF DECIDING WHAT TO DO BEFORE DYING": 4 pm, Friday, Oct. 1.

MUSIC, STEPHANE WREMBEL: Musical Django repertoire along gypsy swing re-inventions of standards. 9 pm, Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com).

SALES AND MARKETS, BROOKLYN FLEA: About 100 vendors. 10 am-5 pm, Williamsburg Savings Bank (1 Hanson Pl. at Flatbush Avenue in Fort Greene, www.brooklynflea.com).

MAKERS MARKET: High-quality materials with an emphasis on design. 11 am-5 pm, Old American Can Factory (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 237-4335), www.projects.com/makersmarket.com.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm, See Saturday, Oct. 2.

FULTON FLEA: Free. 10:30 am-5 pm, Brooklyn Plaza Medical Center (650 Fulton St. between 5th and 6th, Fort Greene places in Fort Green, (917) 346-4489, www.fultonflea.com).

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-4 pm, See Saturday, Oct. 2.

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-5 pm, J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street in Park Slope).

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-4 pm, The Commons (388 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (917) 216-9756, www.foodshedmarket.com).

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9 DAYS...
Continued from page 8

Plaza West in Brooklyn Heights

ARTMART 11225: Find hand-drawn jewelry, knitwear, clothing, pottery and more at this community arts and crafts market. 10 am-5 pm, ArtMart 11225 Lincoln Road between Green and Flatbush avenues in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, www.plazawest.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm, Artists and Fleas 1206 Sixth St. between Bedford and 11th Streets in Williamsburg.

OTHER, WORKSHOP, ENLIVEN YOUR TOUR: Visit the Memorial Garden and Goddess Plaza with a solar art or two ponds and three solar powered waterfalls. \$10 suggested donation. 10 am-4 pm, 615 Green Community Garden (Sixth St. at 4th Street in Park Slope, (347) 254-0076, www.garden.org).

CHILE PEPPER FESTA: Featuring such hot stuff as peppers from the Caribbean to the Himalayas, recipes from New Orleans to Seoul, international music, and even mouth-watering cocktails. \$15. Noon-6 pm, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7200, www.bbgo.org).

TARGET'S FIRST SATURDAY: With music, art, lecture, film, author talk and dance party. 5-10 pm, Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Ave. in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000) www.brooklynmuseum.org.

SENIOR DOL: Legend-Doe Franklin emceeds the fourth annual contest for contestants 50 years and older. 5:10-8 pm, Zevonian HS (7700 Shore Rd. between 71st Street and Mac Kay Place in Bay Ridge, (917) 476-8751).

SUN., OCT. 3
PERFORMANCE, MUSIC TO CHAMP: Recommended for ages four and up. 5:30-7 pm, Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (2200 Campus Rd. at Hillside Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500, www.brooklyncenter.org).

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Coffee makes you fat?

New book trashes java for effect on our waistlines

By Alex Rush
for The Brooklyn Paper

In addition to Xanax and a shot of vodka with a Red Bull chaser, we need more than a few cups of coffee to get through the day. So when we heard about a book that said the caffeine in coffee makes us fat, it was like getting splashed in the face with a piping hot espresso. Are those love handles really caused by our Venti Pike Place Roast, rather than all the Heinekens and chicken wings we consumed while watching the Giants destroy the Panthers on Sunday? To find out, we had our writer Alex Rush check in with Eugene Wells, the Brighton Beach-based writer of "The Decaf Diet: Is Caffeine Making You Fat?" to find out.

Alex Rush: Who the hell are you to tell me that I need to stop drinking coffee or else I'll get fat? I need that coffee. Why are you trying to destroy my way of life?

Eugene Wells: I'm not saying you should stop drinking coffee, because I still drink it from time to time, too. I'm just pointing out that we should have it in moderation because there are a number of different ways that coffee and caffeine intake can contribute to a slower metabolism and overeating. For instance, caffeine consumption can increase your levels of cortisol, which are hormones released in response to stress. Stress and those hormones cause an increase in appetite, which of course causes overeating. Caffeine can also cause muscles to break down.



Eugene Wells says coffee is making you fat. He's trim as a rail, so he may be onto something.

AR: But you're a lawyer with no background in scientific research. Where are you getting your information from?
EW: I noticed that I gained a lot of weight really fast after drinking coffee regularly.

AR: Yeah, I noticed that the book had no

jacket picture.
EW: Nice once. Anyway, I have a lanky frame, yet I put on 35 pounds in six months, all in my belly. So I did some research and as it turned out, a lot of people had the same problem. And they were also making the connection between coffee and weight gain. In the book, I cite a ton of scientific studies to support this.

AR: But there are thousands of other studies showing that coffee has many health benefits beyond making journalists' copy zing. I've seen reports that coffee helps prevent cancer, Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease and even Alzheimer's. Wouldn't you gain a few pounds to keep your sanity and your liver?
EW: But those studies look at the compounds in caffeine-containing beverages in isolation. They don't really examine how coffee can negatively affect people who need to keep their cortisol and insulin levels down. And none of them really acknowledge the link between coffee and overeating, which is what I try to focus on. And there are other ways to prevent those illnesses, such as by eating healthy and exercising.

AR: Eating healthy and exercising? Are you a Communist? And besides, coffee has antioxidants. Aren't those good for me?
EW: Well, anti-oxidants are in a lot of other drinks, like herbal tea, and even in fruits and dairy products.
AR: Look, we're not getting anywhere with this. Bottom line: How can I continue to drink an obscene amount of coffee without putting on the pounds?
EW: Like I said, the main reason that people gain weight from coffee is because it increases the body's stress response, which leads to over-eating. So you should drink coffee when your level of stress is lower, like when you're not in a bad mood and when things aren't hectic at work.
AR: But I don't need coffee when I'm not in a bad mood or things aren't hectic.
EW: OK, fine. But you definitely shouldn't drink coffee along with a meal that's high in carbohydrates, which also causes an increase in glucose and insulin. Properly timed coffee-drinking can minimize caffeine's negative effects.
AR: So coffee for energy and coffee with a muffin are out?
EW: Yes, I'm afraid.
AR: We're done here.

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HASPIEL

Continued from page 7
verted warehouse in Gowanus, Haspiel has brought together comic book artists including Mike Cavallaro, Simon Fraser, Tim Hamilton and Joan Reilly, as well as two dozen or so creators through the online comics community Act+Vate. It's one-stop shopping for web comics of all shapes and sizes, including Haspiel's "Billy Dogma"—perhaps his signature work to date.

Billy, like Jack in "Street Code," is another avatar of Haspiel, who didn't fare too well when his ex-girlfriend, whom reunited with an old boyfriend. But Billy is torn out of the pages of a Jack Kirby comic and has the super strength to survive the literal hole in his heart.

Haspiel searches for this same kind of raw honesty when he collaborates. His artwork brought Harvey Pekar's "The Quitter" to life, and he created "The Alcoholic" with Boerum Hill's Jonathan Ames.

"I'm sort of like the screenwriter-director and Dean is the cinematographer," said

Ames, who took Haspiel and used him as a model for Zach Galifianakis's character in his TV show, "Bored to Death."

"I describe to him something I see in my mind's eye... and then he takes that image and reproduces it, but adds to it his own sensibility, creating something spectacular and familiar, while at the same time unexpected."

Collaboration is key in Haspiel's newest graphic novel, "Cuba: My Revolution," out this month from Vertigo. He works with the artist Verma Lockpez in detailing her experiences in Cuba during the 1959 revolution, from joining the militia as a medic to getting jailed and tortured by her own comrades to attempting to come to terms with her trials through art.

With "Cuba" out and his work on "Street Code" nearly done, what's next for Haspiel? "Not even the Godfather knows."

"I'm three weeks away from not having any work," said Haspiel. "You're only as good as your last page and we're all striving to create stuff that makes money while you sleep. That's the goal. The end."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

COMEDY NIGHT: 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 1.

THEATER, "PORTRAYED — THE UNBEARABLE BURDEN OF DECIDING WHAT TO DO BEFORE DYING": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 1.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN SOUL FESTIVAL: Featuring Barbara Lynn, Vernon Garrett, Don Gardner, Eli Paopao, and more. \$25 (\$20 in advance). \$40 for 2 day pass. 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510].

MUSIC, "PLAYTHINGS OF THE GODS — ESSENTIAL MYTHS": Opera presented by Vertical Player Records. 8 pm. Christ Church Cobble Hill [230 Clinton St. at Kane St. in Cobble Hill, (800) 638-3066, www.VPRopera.org].

MUSIC, SEX MOB: \$10. 9 pm. Jalepy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodluff Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 995-3214, www.jalepy.biz].

MUSIC, THE PRIDS: 10 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737, www.spikehill.com].

KARAOKE: See Friday, Oct. 8.

SAT, OCT. 9

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GREEN MARKET: 8 am-3 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB: 9 am. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

TOUR, HISTORIC AIRPLANES: 10 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

TOUR, BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Group offers an inside look at its 1881 building. Free. 2 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklynhistory.org].

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "CIRCUS OF CIRCUS": 8:30 pm. See Friday.

CORRECTION

An article in our on Sept. 10 issue ("Meat and greet"), wrongly suggested that celebrity chef Mario Batali would be appearing at a party being thrown by Heritage Foods. Though Batali is a loyal customer of Heritage, he was never scheduled to show up. We regret the error.

Oct. 1. **THEATER, "PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE":** 10 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

MUSIC, SHAKY'S RECORD FAIR: Free. 11 am-3 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510].

THEATER, "THE DEER HOUSE": 7:30 pm. See Tuesday, Oct. 5.

THEATER, "PORTRAYED — THE UNBEARABLE BURDEN OF DECIDING WHAT TO DO BEFORE DYING": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 1.

MUSIC, QUIET LIGHTS: 8 pm. Spike Hill Tavern [184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737, www.spikehill.com].

MUSIC, BROOKLYN SOUL FESTIVAL: Featuring Betty Harris, Harvey Scates, Renaldo Dornano, The Sweet Divines. \$25 (\$20 in advance, \$40 for 2 day pass). 8 pm. The Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510].

MUSIC, "PLAYTHINGS OF THE GODS — ESSENTIAL MYTHS": 8 pm. See Friday, Oct. 8.

MUSIC, JACK GRACE: Urban country. 10 pm. Barbes [315 North St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 945-9177, www.barbestbrooklyn.com].

SALES AND MARKETS, BROOKLYN FLEA: 10 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

ARTS AND MARKETS, PS 121 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: 9 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

OTHER

WORKSHOP, ADOPTION SENIORS: 10 am. See Saturday, Oct. 2.

BED-STUY ALIVE! A street fair on Fulton Street complete with music and food. Free. 10 am-5 pm. Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation [Fulton Avenue between Marcy and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford Stuyvesant, (718) 622-6611, www.bedstuyalive.org].

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7. Salmon Roll
8. Yellowtail Roll
9. Alaskan Roll
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10. Boston Roll
Lettuce, shrimp, mayonnaise, cucumber
11. Philadelphia Roll
Smoked salmon, cucumber, cream cheese
12. Eel Cucumber or Avocado Roll
13. East Roll
Shrimp omlette, cucumber, avocado, caviar
14. Tempura Roll
Fried shrimp or chicken, mayonnaise, cucumber, caviar
15. Classic Roll
Crawfish, omlette, mayonnaise, cucumber, caviar
16. Ginza Roll
Cooked salmon, onion, mayonnaise, caviar
17. Shitake & Cucumber
18. Spicy Tuna or Spicy Salmon Roll

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- Squid (ika)
- White Tuna (maguro)
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The carnival schedule was on page 2.



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BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

sexually assaulted her. The thug was arrested by police hours later with the help of two witnesses. The victim was treated at Bellevue hospital.

Car jacked

A brazen thief flashed a firearm at the driver of a car on Montrose Avenue on Sept. 25, stole his jewelry and then the car, too.

The thief stopped his victim who was waiting in her Nissan sedan at a red light at Humboldt Street and pointed his gun through the passenger-side window.

He got in and forced the woman to drive to Montrose Avenue while grabbing her necklace and bracelet.

After he helped himself to her jewelry, the thug told her to get out of the car and he drove away.

Meserole mug

A gunman mugged a man on Meserole Street on Sept. 25.

The perp approached his victim at 11:47 pm, and asked, "Do you know the time?" before flashing his gun, punching the victim and whispering, "Do you think this is a toy?"

The startled victim handed over his phone and \$10 and the perp fled down Humboldt Street.

Rock job ster

A perphers ank through the window of a McKibbin Street loft just after midnight on Sept. 26, striking its tenant in her back.

The perp launched the rock, which shattered the window and hit its tenant, before fleeing down Bushwick Avenue.

Music missing

A thief stole two guitars and a drum set — enough to form his own band — from a Volkswagen on Manhattan Avenue overnight on Sept. 23.

The driver parked her car near Powers Street on Sept. 23 at 3 pm and returned two days later to find all her instruments gone.

Transit robbery

A robber held up his victim on the stairs of the L-rimer Street J-train stop on Sept. 25, stealing \$100 and her Metrocard.

The thief stopped his victim as she was walking up the stairs to catch the train near Broadway at 5 pm, brandishing a knife and directing her, "Walk up the stairs and don't look back down."

She surrendered her purse and the thug fled on Broadway.

Berry burglary

A thief stole \$2,300 worth of electronics from a Berry Street apartment on Sept. 23.

The perp broke into the apartment near Broadway between 1:30 pm and 11:30 pm, helping himself to two computers, an iPod, a camera and two hard drives.

— Aaron Short

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside

Check yourself

Two cretins attacked a Viacom employee and stole more than \$10,000 in checks on Driggs Avenue on Sept. 23.

The woman had picked up her paychecks from the global entertainment company, and was walking near Humboldt Street at about 10:25 pm when

the two men approached her from behind.

One pulled her hair back and covered her eyes, while the other fumbled through her purse. When he found the checks, the first perp threw the woman to the ground and the two fled.

Brash slash

A knife-wielding thug attacked a man with a box cutter in an attempt to take his cash on Kent Avenue on Sept. 23.

The victim told cops that he was near N. Seventh Street at about 5:40 am when the jerk approached and said, "Give me the money."

Before the victim could react, his assailant pulled out the blade and slashed him on the left arm and hand, leaving the victim with a bloody arm and a full wallet.

Car jam

Two dunces were caught stealing electronics from a car that was parked on Diamond Street on Sept. 24.

The victim told cops that he approached his car, which was between Nassau and Driggs avenues, at about 5:15 pm to find the thug inside. Tragically, the two were able to escape with an iPod, a fancy satellite locator system, and sunglasses before the victim could confront them.

— Andy Campbell

68TH PRECINCT

Ridge-Dyker

Poseur perp

A robber fooled a senior citizen by pretending to be a plumber so that he could steal cash and jewelry from a 12th avenue home.

The elderly victim told cops that a 5-foot-4 white guy with brown hair came to his home, which is between 72nd and 72nd streets, and said he had to fix a water leak. The trusting older gentleman welcomed the perp, who left the house at around 3 pm with \$100, three rings and a watch.

Broke-in homes

At least four houses were broken into last week. Here are the frustrating details:

• A sick handit slipped through a first-floor window on Sixth Avenue to steal a laptop on Sept. 20. The victim told cops that she was napping in her home, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues, at around 1:30 pm when the perp entered and did his dirty deed.

• Some shady party guests stole \$6,800 from their host's 85th Street apartment overnight on Sept. 19. The victim told cops that she does not know who took the dough from her crib, which is between 10th and 11th avenues.

• A thief stole a cellphone, watch and radio from a Sixth Avenue apartment on Sept. 20. The victim told cops that he left his home, which is between 10th and 11th avenues, at around 7:15 am and returned at 8:30 pm to find his stuff swiped. Cops say that the perp entered through the front window.

• A video game-loving burglar stole an Xbox, games and a laptop from a 78th Street house on Sept. 20. The victim told cops that he was gone from 9:30 am to 9 pm, when he returned to the home near Seventh avenue to find the gear gone.

— Alex Rush

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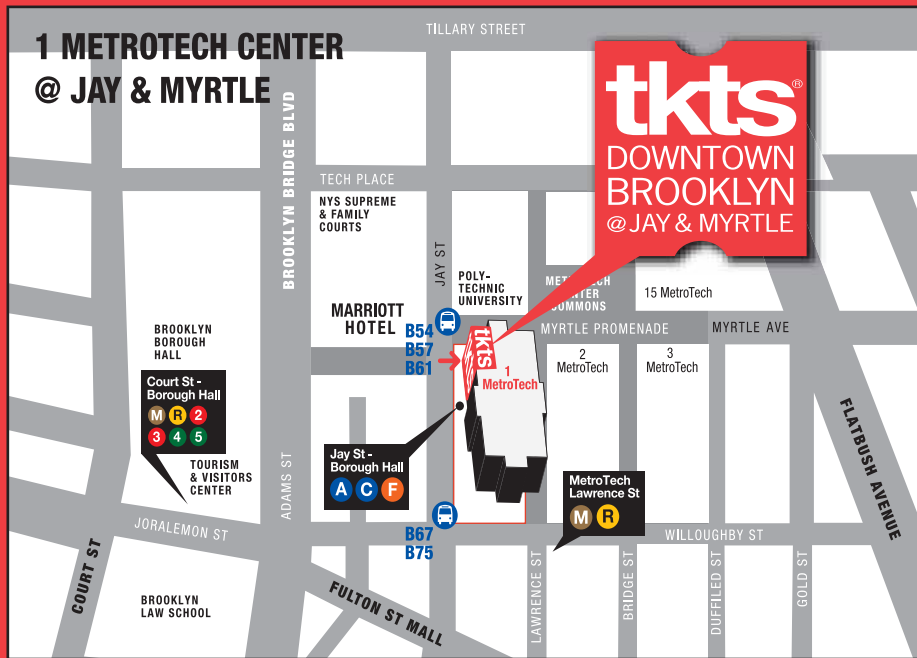
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