

The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper

A Brooklyn Paper Publication
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Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc, 55 Washington St, Suite 624, Brooklyn NY 11201. Phone 718-834-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 2004 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 18 pages • Vol. 27, No. 27 BRZ • Saturday, July 10, 2004 • FREE

VICTORY FOR BILLY

'Billy's Law' awaits Pataki's signature

By Jotham Sederstrom
 The Brooklyn Papers

A Bay Ridge father and son claimed a legal victory this week after elected officials announced the passage of a state law that would ensure thorough investigations of out-of-state mental health facilities.

"Billy's Law," which will take effect following expected approval by Gov. George Pataki next month, is named after Billy Albanese, a 32-year-old Bay Ridge man who was abused at unlicensed facilities in New Jersey while still a child. Since learning of the abuse, which included threats of torture and physical violence, his father, Vito Albanese, has risen to become a leader in the crusade to regulate such facilities.



Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Vito and Billy Albanese and Councilman Vincent Gentile at the announcement of the Legislature's passage of "Billy's Law."

At a July 1 press conference outside City Hall Vito Albanese said, "New York State has taken a giant step forward in protecting our most voiceless and vulnerable citizens. New York should be very proud in doing God's work on the passage of Billy's Law."

State Sen. Marty Golden, who sponsored the Senate version of the bill, said that more than 1,000 young New Yorkers with mental disabilities are currently sent to neighboring states to be treated, in large part due to a lack of state funds. Until now, parents or legal guardians in New York had no way of knowing if those facilities were fully licensed or even if its employees had been charged with abuse.

"It's a high-priority bill because they don't want to hear about no more horror stories

that come out of these facilities," said Vito Albanese.

Under the new law, whose Assembly version was sponsored by Assemblywoman Joan Millman, each facility will be subject to an inspection by the state Department of Education. The home would need approval from its own state as well as New York before being granted a license. It would then be inspected once every three years and would be re-evaluated if allegations of abuse were reported.

"Vito should not have had to go to our offices day after day," said Golden. "But today is the happiest I've ever seen him."

Billy Albanese's experience with institutional abuse began nearly 20 years ago following a failed bid to hang himself that resulted in a traumatic brain injury.

See **BILLY'S LAW** on page 4



Barrels of fun

Barrels of beer, that is. Miss Rheingold 2004 Dani Marco raises a keg of Rheingold Beer above her head at Greenpoint Beer Works in Clinton Hill Wednesday to celebrate the brewer's first Brooklyn batch in almost 30 years.

Gentile wants to protect your plates

By Jotham Sederstrom
 The Brooklyn Papers

It could be the most inconsequential accessory on your car since suction-cup Garfield, but a Bay Ridge councilman is charging that an obscure law banning

license plate frames is being used by overzealous traffic agents to reap pricey summanes.

Councilman Vincent Gentile introduced an amendment to the city administrative code on July 7 that would allow drivers to display the metal or plastic

frames as long as they don't obstruct identifying information, like the plate number itself. Commonly, he said, the frames cover no more than the "Empire State" slogan on the bottom edge of the plate.

"We had two or three individuals that were tagged by the traffic enforcement

officers who were walking through the community and hitting parked cars," said Gentile, who introduced the bill on June 7. "This is just another episode in the continuing saga of harassing New Yorkers with ticket books."

See **PLATES** on page 2



The agony of victory!

America's champion gurgitator, Sonya Thomas, shoves in last bite as Takeru "The Tsunami" Kobayashi downs his world-record 53rd hot dog during Nathan's contest in Coney Island on Sunday.

Slope GOPer eyes Bloomie

By Deborah Kolben
 The Brooklyn Papers

He may be half his age and with pockets not nearly as deep, but Park Slope Steve Shaw believes he can defeat Mayor Michael Bloomberg in next year's primary.

The Republican investment banker has officially launched his mayoral campaign with a Web site and is taking the incumbent to task over taxes.

But while he accuses Bloomberg of "not being a real Repub-

lican," Shaw hardly appears to be one himself.

The 29-year-old banker is a registered member of the Grand Old Party but he is also a card-carrying member of the Park Slope Food Co-op, where he works his mandatory 2.5 hours every month.

Just recently Shaw was stocking organic vegetables when somebody stopped and asked him about his "Steve Shaw for Mayor" button.

"That's me," he explained to a

See **MAYOR** on page 7

'Cruise ships a ploy'

Nadler: No guarantee liners will come to Brooklyn

By Deborah Kolben
 and Neil Sloane
 The Brooklyn Papers

The mayor is using a promise of cruise ships coming to the Red Hook piers as a ploy to squeeze out the borough's last working container port, a Brooklyn congressman charged this week.

In a conversation with The Brooklyn Papers in the newspaper's DUMBO offices, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, whose district includes Piers 6-12 — roughly between At-

EXCLUSIVE

lantic Avenue in Cobble Hill and Pioneer Street in Red Hook — accused city officials of Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration of being disingenuous in negotiations with both the public and the current operators of the piers over the future use of the waterfront.

Despite touting Piers 10-12 as a cruise ship port, the Bloomberg administration, Nadler charges, does not have a written commitment from the

cruise industry to come to Brooklyn.

"When they started saying they wanted to use [the piers] for cruise lines, we were a little suspicious because they don't have an agreement with cruise lines to use it," said Nadler.

"I'm very concerned with what's going on with the Economic Development Corporation," he said, referring to the agency, largely controlled by the mayor, that will determine the uses of those piers.

"They had a fixed plan to get rid of container operations before they

had any thought of bringing the cruise lines here and I don't know why," the congressman said.

A mayoral spokeswoman acknowledged this week that there is no written commitment from the cruise lines to dock in Brooklyn, but said they have a verbal agreement to use the Brooklyn dock as a spillover when the Manhattan docks are full.

"Both cruise lines have verbally committed to using Brooklyn to handle the overflow of ships when the passenger ship terminal on the West Side of Manhattan reaches ca-

pacity," said Bloomberg spokeswoman Jennifer Falk.

Falk added that the cruise lines would not have entered into an agreement with the city without a commitment to build a Brooklyn dock.

"Nobody has an exclusive agreement, but the cruise lines are committed to coming to Pier 12," said EDC spokesman Michael Sherman.

Asked for copies of the letters-of-intent signed between the Carnival and Norwegian cruise lines and the city on April 19, when the mayor an-

See **CRUISES** on page 7



THIS WEEKEND

Coming to America

By Lisa J. Curtis
 GO Brooklyn Editor

The patriotic spirit of July Fourth continues Saturday, July 10, at 8 pm, with "Ellis Island: The Dream of America," a multimedia program featuring the Brooklyn Philharmonic performing live at the Prospect Park Bandshell against a backdrop of projected images from the Ellis Island Archive.

"Peter Boyer is the composer and conductor and mastermind behind this whole combination of text, music and image," said Theodore Wiprad, director of operations, education and community engagement for the Brooklyn Philharmonic. "And this program is very much in the Brooklyn Philharmonic's tradition of bringing inspiring new work to the people of Brooklyn." Boyer will make his New York City conducting debut at this performance.

"It's a slide show of Ellis Island and immigrants coming through Ellis Island, which accompanies narration taken from oral histories of seven immigrants," said Wiprad. One of the concert's narrators, Barry Bostwick, played a New York mayor on the sitcom "Spin City" for six years (he's still beloved by many for his performance as Brad in the cult classic "Rocky Horror Picture Show"). Joining Bostwick will be Barbara Barrie ("One Potato, Two Potatoes" (1962), "Breaking Away" (1979)) who replaces previously announced actress Blair Brown.

"Ellis Island: The Dream of America," is part of the Celebrate Brooklyn performing arts series at the bandshell, Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Suggested admission is \$3. For more information about Celebrate Brooklyn, call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

Mom's cry: Make street safer for kids

By Jotham Sederstrom
 The Brooklyn Papers

The mother of a 4-year-old boy who was run over and killed by a truck as he and his sister crossed Hamilton Avenue spoke out this week against the traffic she says is overrunning Red Hook.

Sherry Laney, whose son Travis Bussey was killed while crossing Hamilton Avenue at Court Street on June 25, told The Brooklyn Papers that safety measures need to be implemented at the intersection and other streets before another life is lost.

"Hamilton Avenue needs crossing guards," said Laney. "There's too many kids from the buildings playing out there and it's too dangerous for the kids. The intersection is too confusing."

Department of Transportation officials said this week that any new safety measures would take up to two months before being put in place. Tom Cocchi, a spokesman for the agency, said that an intersection control unit began studying the area following the tragedy.

See **HAMILTON** on page 15

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Cat fishing on 4th Avenue

By Greg Mango
for The Brooklyn Papers

It all started when Ellen Buie's cat, Tarzan, went missing last Friday.

Tarzan, who weighs about 10 pounds, is light gray with a white nose, mouth and chest. Buie posted flyers on the surrounding street corners asking if anyone had seen her cat, and someone told her about two cats below the ventilation grates for the Fourth Avenue subway line near 81st Street.

Sure enough, when she looked there, she saw two hefty cats prowling the concrete surface below, one black and one gray. It appeared they were trapped down there.

As an avid animal lover, Buie contributes to the North Shore Animal League as well as the Guild for the Blind (for the guide dogs). Yet several phone calls to animal rescue and the ASPCA failed to get a response.

After much frustration at being bounced around from one city agency to another, Buie, along with two friends, John and Bob, decided to undertake the rescue operation themselves.

On Wednesday, with crowbars, rope and a few cans of cat food, they set out to free the cats. They pried the grate loose and lowered a basket full of the cat food to the bot-



Ellen Buie (left), who lost her cat has on July 1, found two strays living in this subway ventilation shaft. On July 6, Ladder 149 firefighters entered the subway grate at Fourth Avenue and 81st Street, after several failed attempts to lure up the cats (above right).

tom. The cats came running. The cats, however, were smart enough to keep their back legs on the ground while their front paws were on the basket platform to get to the food.

Consequently, every time Bob pulled up on the ropes, the

cats jumped off the basket. The rescue team hadn't realized how difficult cat fishing really is. In fact, John, with his admitted fear of heights, had extra difficulty looking over the edge of the hole, which was between 10 and 15 feet deep. A good friend to Buie, he is.

Meanwhile, a small crowd had gathered and someone had called the Fire Department. Firefighters said they were on the way. But the call had come in as a "missing manhole cover," also drawing the attention of police, who arrived on the scene and immediately asked who had removed the grating.

Buie plainly copped to the crime and even offered to be arrested if necessary. The officers didn't take her up on the offer; instead they smiled and shook their heads in disbelief at the scenario.

While waiting for the fire-

fighters and their ladders, the makeshift team tried yet a second time to ensure the cats but this time they scurried off into the adjacent subway tunnel. Moments later, Fire Department Ladder 149 appeared on the scene with rescue equipment.

Having the proper tools to open a stairway nearby, several firemen ventured below to scout out the area. They were unable to find the cats but did find a dish with cat food in it and, of all things, a makeshift bed.

Apparently, a homeless person was living down there and feeding and caring for the cats. That's when the rescue effort ended.

It was decided that since the cats were being cared for, there was no need to displace them.

So, the grate was replaced. Buie escaped a trip to the precinct and the firemen headed back to the firehouse.

With the help of a friend, Buie found her lost cat on Friday, providing a happy ending to this strange tale.

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PLATES...

Continued from page 1

The push to reverse the obscure city and state laws was first mentioned by Gentile at a town hall meeting in Bensonhurst, in which irate residents claimed their neighborhood was being disproportionately targeted for parking tickets by traffic enforcement agents. Gentile said that since that May 27 meeting, which was attended by more than 300 residents, he has been contacted by three people who claim to have been ticketed for their license plate frames.

Lost Franco, a math teacher at PS 104, on Fifth Avenue at 91st Street, was among those who contacted Gentile after being ticketed for her front license frame, but not the back.

The incident, which she said took her by complete surprise, happened on Dec. 3 after she legally parked her car on 92nd Street between Third and Fourth avenues. When she returned later in the day, she saw the summons for \$65.

"The reason [for the enforcement] is to keep plates readable and legible," said Joseph Picchi, a spokesman for the state Department of Motor Vehicles. "When you have those frames, it makes the whole plate much smaller."

According to Picchi, fines range from \$25 to \$200. By comparison, parking tickets reach \$115. Gentile said that officials with the Department of Transportation had contended at a transportation committee meeting last week that when the plate is partially obstructed, police have a harder time reading identification numbers. Nonetheless, a spokesman for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association said the issue is of little significance when compared to ongoing contract negotiations and about 90 other pieces of legislation up for debate that could affect the law enforcement community.

"It's not an issue on our radar right now," said Al O'Leary, a spokesman for the Patrolman's Benevolent Association. "We have so many other critical issues. We'll let management sort this one out."

The black metal frame on the rear of Franco's car obscured a small portion of the "Empire State" slogan, but no identifying information. She said the frame, which reads "Wappingers Falls," was already in place when she bought the vehicle from a dealer in upstate New York.

"I couldn't believe it. I had a fit. Even now, I see people driving around with these frames, but only I got [a ticket]," said Franco, who said she has since removed the license frames as a precaution, even though, she maintains, they didn't obstruct the identifying information.

The summons was dropped several months ago, she said, after contacting Gentile, who snapped a photo of the license and sent it to the Parking Violations Bureau of the Department of Transportation. She received a letter from the Department of Finance a few weeks later telling her the ticket had been dismissed.

Gentile also introduced a resolution in April calling on state legislature in Albany to amend the administrative code.

The state law differs only slightly in that cars in motion can be ticketed while the city law targets parked cars. Gentile's legislation in City Council would make it so that parked cars could no longer be targeted.

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Slashed by brothers in Hurst

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A couple of bad-news brothers with a propensity to slice up their victims brutalized a 25-year-old man on July 4 as he and friends were walking through Bensonhurst, police said.

Police say the buddies were strolling along around midnight when they passed in front of the brothers' home on 19th Avenue at 76th Street. The caustic siblings confronted the group and an argument ensued.

Then one of the brothers snatched the man's cell phone.

When the brothers revealed box-cutters, most of the buddies backed off. Nonetheless, the brothers grabbed one of the men, threw him to the ground and began slashing his torso and the back of his neck, leaving gaping cuts.

The two brothers, ages 27 and 31, were arrested shortly after the attack. They were charged with two counts of assault, two counts of menacing, petit larceny, harassment and criminal possession of a

62/68 BLOTTER

weapon, according to a criminal complaint filed by the Kings County District Attorney's office.

The victim was treated at Lutheran Medical Center.

Too drunk

A Bay Ridge man was so drunk last Thursday that he didn't immediately notice when a sneak thief delicately removed his wallet by slicing

the fabric of his back pants pocket.

But if the 52-year-old man didn't notice his wallet, containing \$80, missing at first, he certainly became suspicious after his attacker threw him to the ground and ran away.

Police say that the man was not seriously injured, although he was too intoxicated to provide a description of the crook.

The incident happened at 10:50 pm on July 1 in front of the man's home on Ovington Avenue between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Student mug

A Fort Hamilton High School student was viciously knocked to the ground and stripped of his wallet.

Cops say that the student was walking near 13th Avenue and 70th Street at 6:20 pm on July 2 when a thug pushed him from behind. Before the teenager had a chance to fall to the ground, the man punched him on the back of the head. While he lay there, the suspect removed his wallet, containing \$17, from his pants and ran south toward 71st Street.

The student did not provide police with a description of his attacker. Besides cash, the man fled with a Fort Hamilton HS identification card and a Medicaid card.

Hell on wheels

A bicycling bandit manhandled a woman after she rejected his demand for \$5.

Police say the pedaling perv rode by the woman as she stood on 82nd Street at 15th Avenue shortly after 2 am on July 5. When she refused to give the man money, or the time of day, the goon squeezed her breast, an unwise action that drew screams from the 18-year-old victim.

The call for help prompted the lascivious loser to cover the woman's mouth, but when she fought back he threw her to the ground. Upon hearing the commotion, an older cousin came to her rescue and chased the sleaze-ball east on 82nd Street and then south on 15th Avenue before losing

sight of him.

Police described the attacker as a male Hispanic, about 20 years old, 5-foot-4 and 140 pounds.

Con senior

A pair of malicious motorists offered last 58-year-old Bay Ridge man a ride home but instead stole his cash and a stack of business cards.

Police say that the victim was waiting for a bus on Third Avenue at 86th Street around 10:20 pm on June 28 when the pair pulled up to the curb to offer him a ride.

The trusting senior citizen squeezed into the car between the two crooks and didn't think anything of it when one of the men reached across to open the window, say police. It was only after he got out of the car that he noticed his wallet missing, which included \$48 and the business cards.

Gang beating

Two Hispanic men were brutally attacked for no apparent reason by a group of white men who gangued up on them in Bensonhurst last weekend.

The late-night July 3 beating happened as the men were walking near the corner of 18th Avenue and 85th Street sometime around 2:30 am.

Police say a group of men jumped out of a black Ford SUV as the men were walking and took turns beating them with glass bottles.

The men, both in their teens, suffered deep gashes around their mouths, according to police. They were treated at Lutheran Medical Center.

Police were not investigating the incident as a bias crime.

Elite burglar

A fashion-forward felon broke into a car in Bay Ridge and stole several thousand dollars worth of high-end accouterments.

Police say that when the driver returned to the corner of Seventh Avenue and 92nd Street, where she had parked her car earlier on June 29, she discovered her passenger-side window had been smashed out. The incident happened at 11:30 am.

Police say the crook was able to dig into the trunk before escaping with five Prada pockets. See **BLOTTER** on page 15

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2004 Schedule

June 29th	Alive N Kickin (Hit - Tighter n Tighter)	79th St & Shore Road
June 30th	Beacon Court (60's-90's Party Band)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
July 6th	Head over Heels (Bay Ridge Party Band)	79th St & Shore Road
July 7th	Emanon (50's-90's Favorites)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
July 13th	Carl Thomas (Sinatra/Darin)	Dyker Park - 14th Ave
July 14th	The Excellents (Hit - Coney Island Baby)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
July 20th	Frankie Marra & Jack Whitman	79th St & Shore Road
July 21st	Linda Ipanema & Dixiecats (Dixieland)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
July 22nd	Cover to Cover (oldies, Disco, Dance)	Gravesend - Ave U & Van Sicklen
July 27th	Eclipse (Top 40, Classic Disco)	79th St & Shore Road
July 28th	Risky Business (oldies 50's-70's)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
Aug 3rd	Beatnick (Classic Rock, Dance)	Dyker Park - 14th Ave
Aug 4th	Head over Heels (Party, Party, Party)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
Aug 5th	Emanon (50's-90's Favorites)	Gravesend - Ave U & Van Sicklen
Aug 10th	Anonymous (Top 40 Soul, Motown)	79th St & Shore Road
Aug 11th	East Coast (Long Island Favorite Band)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
Aug 17th	Risky Business (oldies 50's-70's)	79th St & Shore Road
Aug 18th	The Performer/Heritage Night	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
Aug 19th	Anonymous (R&B, Soul, Disco, Motown)	Gravesend - Ave U & Van Sicklen
Aug 24th	Brooklyn Keys (oldies 50's)	Dyker Park - 14th Ave
Aug 25th	Nyrehawks (Soul, R&B)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave
Aug 31st	Family Day (Karaoke, Magic, Contest, etc.)	Lief Ericson - F.H. Plow & 68th St
Sept 1st	Family Day (Karaoke, Magic, Contest, etc.)	Marine Park - Fillmore Ave

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Cops drop bid to adopt 'vestibule tot'

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

The police sergeant who recovered a stranded infant in the vestibule of a Bay Ridge apartment building has decided not to pursue a custody petition she and her husband filed in April.

The couple, who in court documents are referred to only as Mr. and Mrs. Smith, said through their attorney that they are confident that the foster family chosen to raise the 5-month-old girl will be loving and dedicated parents.

Earlier this week, it came to light that the Staten Island couple's petition had been rejected because they hadn't completed a certification process to become foster parents, according to a spokeswoman for the Administration for Children's Services (ACS).

But the couple's attorney, Charles Spinardi, warned that there was no assurance that the infant would be removed from foster care anytime soon, nor that her foster family would indeed gain custody. Because of the complicated nature of adoption, it could take up to six months before the child is removed from foster care to an adoptive family.

"The ACS's spin is that the child is in a caring, loving foster home," said Spinardi. "But the real truth is that we have no guarantee that the child won't be put through several more foster homes before being adopted."

As a precaution, Spinardi said he would file a notice of appeal with Brooklyn Family Court by the end of the month in case his clients decide to pursue custody again.

The heart-tugging story began on the first floor of an apartment building at 55 80th St. around 1 a.m. on Feb. 24. Richard Maratea, a 29-year-old loan officer who lives in the building, was returning home from dinner with friends in Marine Park earlier that evening when he made the discovery.

But it was only after he heard a series of muffled cries in the vestibule that Maratea discovered the child, curly mane of hair protruding from what he



Richard Maratea poses at the spot in hallway of 553 80th St. where he found the abandoned baby in this photo taken in February.

described as a gift bag. Had he not made the discovery when he did, the days-old infant would have surely died either from pneumonia or suffocation because of a blanket that had been draped over her entire body and head.

"I had rolled over the paper bag to make sure the baby could breathe," Maratea said at the time. "And then I held the bag in my arms. But I didn't want to physically touch her. The child was so small, I didn't even want to

touch her."

Maratea said that the infant's big brown eyes were hypnotizing, a feeling that was echoed by the police officer and her husband earlier this week. The couple, who are both police sergeants in Brooklyn, have three children of their own, all in elementary school.

The wife responded within 10 minutes to a 911 call by Maratea that evening. She drove the baby girl to Lutheran Medical Center and stayed close by for a while longer before leaving the infant with hospital staff. She visited every day over the next week until ACS took custody of the baby.

"It wasn't their intention to become foster parents," said Spinardi, who believes that the infant's current foster parents have adopted before. "This was pretty much an isolated incident. It was fortunate, just something that occurred, and the judge doesn't find that to be a compelling argument."

Shortly after the baby was abandoned, the sergeant applied for foster care certification. When that stalled, she filed her custody petition. Earlier this week, Judge Nora Freeman sent down her decision, ruling that the Smiths did not have standing to file for custody.

"The Smith's qualifications to adopt Baby Doe may be superior to those of the foster parents, who are described as pre-adoptive," Freeman wrote in her decision. "The Smiths may have a higher income, a larger home in a better neighborhood, higher education and exemplary parenting abilities.... But it is impractical to suggest that whenever ACS assumes custody of a foundling it should invite 'any persons with exemplary qualifications' to submit applications to adopt the child."

"Persons interested in becoming foster parents or adoptive parents have the opportunity to do so," the judge continued. "It appears the Smiths did not have such a desire until 'that fateful day,' as Mrs. Smith described it in her May 14 affidavit."

Freeman added that neither fate nor luck should be a factor in gaining child custody.

BILLY'S LAW AWAITS PATAKI...



Billy Albanese at City Hall with his dad, Vito, who fought for the law that bears his son's name.

Continued from page 1

A year later, in December 1998, Albanese filed a lawsuit against Bancroft Inc., the city Board of Education and the state Department of Education, charging they had allowed his son to attend the program even though they had knowledge that it was unlicensed.

Andrew Friedman, a lawyer for Albanese, said that the suit was settled last year with Bancroft and the city paying undisclosed sums of money. Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile, who attended the July 1 press conference alongside Golden, Millman and Billy and Vito Albanese, was the first to draft a version of Billy's Law, when he was state senator. Albanese, he said, came to him in 2000 and he asked Millman to sponsor the Assembly version of the bill.

"They said he was a danger to himself and others, which is contrary to what he's all

about," said Vito Albanese.

After a series of drafts, Golden and Millman came up with one, which passed both houses of the Legislature last month, that allows for the state Office of Mental Retardation and Development Disabilities and the Office of Children and Family Services to weigh in on the facilities.

"It was a long, hard battle

— three years," said Vito Albanese. "This year's bill is 50 percent stronger than last year's and I'm glad that one didn't pass."

"I want to go national with this bill," added Albanese, who

hopes to speak with U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) about his initiative later this year. "I don't believe any child in any state has the law on their side right now. Maybe we can settle this once and for all."

Anti-Gowanus Expressway faction battles on

Generation 3 wants it torn down

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

At its conception 60 years ago, it was ferociously opposed. Its expansion two decades later was met with similar disapproval, this time from a second generation.

And while both battles to stave off separate portions of the Gowanus Expressway were defeated, a third generation of activists say their fight to tear down the crumbling el-



Activists want the traffic-packed and decrepit Gowanus Expressway replaced with a tunnel.

evated roadway once and for all may be the most determined, in part because of familial ties.

To be sure, a small handful conspiring to replace the overburdened, pollution-producing expressway with a five-mile tunnel say their itch for change was first scratched by mothers, fathers and immediate relatives who faced earlier rounds of development.

Several involved said they were on the frontlines when the first pillars of the corridor were erected nearly 60 years ago.

"Let's put it this way, so far nobody has listened," said Morty Smith, 71, who was only 10 when workers began converting the Third Avenue elevated train line into the

Gowanus Expressway. "But this new endeavor, with the tunnel, that would be a proper way to handle the traffic. We didn't have the engineering skills to build the tunnel at the time, but we do now."

Smith admits he's only a foot soldier in the battle to build an underground thoroughfare through much of western Brooklyn. But like a cadre of others whose ties to the project reach back half a century, he intends to take seriously an upcoming meeting with the state Department of Transportation, expected to be scheduled for either later this year or early next year.

The Gowanus Community Stakeholder's Group, the organization charged with spark-

ing the movement, held its 10th public meeting last month, at Borough Hall. Robert Cassara, a vice chair of the group, said the task now is to finish a final report and submit what data they've accumulated over the past decade to DOT.

Among the decisions still to be made is exactly what route the tunnel would follow. Cassara said that while there are at least 13 options laid out by DOT, the stakeholders group prefers an alternative that's being called the New Harbor Re-alignment.

Mainly coursing under the harbor, rather than under city streets, the tunnel would wind its way into Red Hook and Carroll Gardens without dividing neighborhoods, which op-

ponents say the Gowanus has done.

"There may have been one or two naysayers in that whole room, but most people want to see this happen," said Cassara of the town hall meeting, in which several dozen people voiced their concerns before the group begins discussing final decisions.

"This is definitely a crucial time right now," he added.

Brian Kassenbrock, a newly appointed member of Community Board 10, is another Bay Ridge with blood ties to the project. His father, Walter, and uncle, Vincent, played powerful roles in creating the Save Bay Ridge Committee, a group formed in 1955 to fight

See **GOWANUS** on page 7

Joan Snow, boro prez mom-in-law

The Brooklyn Papers

Joan Snow, mother-in-law of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, died on July 7. The family said the cause of death was cancer.

Snow, whose daughter Jamie married Markowitz in 1999, also leaves behind a son, Jeremy Snow, and his wife, Lisa, and grandchildren, Chloe, William and Andrew.

She lost her husband, the late Dr. Jules Snow, less than a month ago.

Snow was an accomplished artist known for her custom painted furniture and illustrations. She was a lifelong resident of Manhattan Beach, and a graduate of Lincoln High School. She graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Fine Arts.

She was also an active member of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El of Manhattan Beach and of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The funeral service was held Friday, July 9, at the Parkside Memorial Chapel on Flatbush Avenue between Avenue U and Avenue V, opposite the Kings Plaza Shopping Center.

In lieu of flowers or food, the family asks that donations be made to the Maimonides Cancer Center in care of the President's Office, Maimonides Medical Center, 4802 10th Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11219.

Alfred Longo, WWII hero pilot from Brooklyn, 84

The Brooklyn Papers

A Brooklyn-born World War II flying ace who survived being shot down over Nazi Germany died last month at the age of 84.

Alfred A. Longo died June 2 at the Pine Knoll Nursing Center in Lexington, Mass.

Longo, who graduated Grover Cleveland High School, in Queens, was born to the late Vincenzo and Agatina (Romano) Longo in a private house on Park Avenue in Fort Greene, according to his nephew Vic Cantone, the Brooklyn Papers political cartoonist.

The Army and Air Corps veteran received citations for his valor as a leader of the famed 365th Hell Hawk group during World War II, but it was as a lieutenant in 1945 that his bravery was put to the ultimate test. The P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber pilot, then 25, was shot down by a Luftwaffe plane near Leipzig, Germany.

He was attacking rail lines when the Messerschmitt plane pounded shells into his left wing, damaging his controls and jamming the landing gear. He overcame those obstacles and brought the plane to a landing on its belly in a field. Longo ran for cover in a nearby wooded area just before the plane exploded and burned. He did not find out how narrowly he escaped death until days later.

Making his way toward the American lines he appropriated a bicycle from a German girl, riding it until a tire blew out, then "borrowed" another. Deciding that the going was too slow, he walked on foot around a town until he came upon a boy riding a bike.

"He was traveling in my direction, so I put him on the seat behind me and he held on to my waist while I pedaled off in a standing position," the pilot reported in a communication to his former wife, Gloria, that was printed by the Brooklyn Eagle on June 3, 1945.

"We came to one town and I pedaled like mad right through the place and the boy shouted in German as we passed, but I figured no snipers would dare take a shot for fear of hitting the lad," he wrote. "We passed through a second town in the same manner and half a mile beyond I saw a column of Sherman tanks and other American vehicles."

It was a Ranger battalion that Longo came upon and for the next three days he manned a 50-caliber machine gun, on one occasion rounding up 30 German prisoners. He remained with the outfit as it advanced through the two villages through which he had bicycled and back to the spot where the burned wreckage of his plane lay.

Honorably discharged from the Army Air Corps as a first lieutenant, Longo flew for Pan Am out of Miami before being reactivated during the Korean war and flying for the Strategic Air Command from Colorado.

After the war, Longo went back to school and earned a New York State teacher's license, teaching high school in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. Shortly after, he returned to flying for Pan Am, piloting transatlantic flights out of JFK, and then later in Berlin and Munich before returning to the states, settling in New Jersey and flying out of JFK again. He flew for Pan Am for 32 years.

Longo is survived by his former wife, Gloria (Ambrocy) Longo; three sons, Vincent, Frank and Anthony; two daughters, Tina Ryan and Shoshanna Lichtenstein; two sisters, Carmella Masfield and Mary Cantone; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

He was the husband of the late Jean (Antonelli) Longo.

The family held a private funeral service. Those who wish can make contributions in Longo's memory to the American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701.

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NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

James calls for inco arena report



Councilwoman Letitia James at anti-arena rally last month.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

With competing studies alternately painting a picture of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards basketball arena and high-rise project as a major boon to city coffers and a \$500 million drain of taxpayer money, Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James is calling for the city to conduct its own study of the plan.

On Friday, James, a vocal opponent of the Atlantic Yards plan, delivered letters to both Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Council Speaker Gifford Miller, asking that they initiate an Independent Budget Office study of the \$2.5 billion development.

"Such a study was conducted for the proposed West Side Stadium — do the people of Brooklyn deserve less?" James wrote to Miller.

The city's Independent Budget Office (IBO) conducted an analysis of the proposed Jets football stadium earlier this month after the Bloomberg administration was criticized for relying on a report by Ernst & Young that was commissioned by the team.

While Gov. George Pataki, Bloomberg and Borough President Marty Markowitz have all pledged their support for Atlantic Yards, nobody knows how much public money Ratner is seeking.

In a City Council public hearing in May, a Forest City Ratner executive said he expected the amount to be in the "hundreds of millions."

Andrew Alper, president of the city's Economic Development Corporation, praised the project, saying the "benefits far outweigh the costs," although he could not say what the costs would be.

And in a study commissioned by Ratner, economist Andrew Zimbalist estimated the cost to taxpayers at \$449

million, although overall he projected a net gain from Atlantic Yards.

But a study of Atlantic Yards released last week that was conducted by Columbia University researcher Gustav Peebles and urban planner Jung Kim revealed a \$500 million net loss from the project.

"I support Council member James' call for the Independent Budget Office to analyze this project," Kim said in a release Friday. "An IBO study would be a key element of a comprehensive review process that should also include ULURP, a detailed assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts, an objective appraisal of the rail yard's value, and an evaluation of alternative development schemes."

Ratner, whose purchase of the New Jersey Nets for \$300 million is expected to be ratified by the NBA this month, wants to bring an arena at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues. Gehry would also design office towers — including the bor-

ough's tallest building — and apartment buildings on the 21-acre site stretching east into Prospect Heights. Those would include 4,500 apartments and more than 2 million square feet of office and commercial space.

Ratner is asking the state to condemn more than two square blocks of private property.

In the letter she sent to the mayor, James called for city oversight of one of the largest developments in Brooklyn's history.

"Because this project requests hun-

Darkness looms for church
St. Boniface will be shadowed by D'town skyscrapers

By Kristen Saloomey
for The Brooklyn Papers

Sunday is clearly no day of rest for the Rev. Mark Lane, pastor of St. Boniface Church on the corner of Duffield and Willoughby streets.

These days, caring for his flock includes being an advocate for them, as Downtown Brooklyn stands on the brink of changes that will directly affect his neighborhood, his church and the lives of his parishioners.

The church and rectory sit, literally, in the shadow of Brooklyn's massive downtown redevelopment plans. Those plans call for the construction of 4.5 million square feet of office space, 1 million square feet of retail, 1,000 units of housing and 2,500 parking spaces.

In the parlor of St. Boniface's rectory, Lane pulls open the shutter to one of two, 8-foot-tall windows. A patch of sunlight falls on the inland wood floor.

Right across Willoughby Street, where a bagel store and a check-cashing business now

stand, the city has passed zoning changes that will allow the replacement of the existing storefronts with a 20-story office tower. A couple of blocks down, at the corner of Willoughby Street and Flatbush Avenue, plans call for a 40-story tower.

All this beautiful sunlight will be gone," Lane says with a sigh. He fears the 150-year-old Roman Catholic parish will be dwarfed in a dark canyon of office towers.

The redevelopment plan also calls for taking by eminent domain seven acres of private property, including 130 residential units and 100 businesses. Several of the homes and businesses belong to St. Boniface parishioners. The law says that owners must receive fair-market value for their property, but Lane worries about what will happen to those who won't.

Parishioner Zaida Robinson, for example, rents an apartment at 406 Albee Square. Her mother lives nearby. Both their homes are slated for demolition. In addition to caring for her mother, Robinson baby-sits her grandson. Her daughter, a single

mother without a car, lives with in walking distance.

Michael Burke, director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, which helped devise the Downtown Plan, says programs are in place to help relocate residents. He says the Downtown Plan includes new subsidized housing units, and people displaced by development who qualify will be given top priority by the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

"The plan will only enhance the quality of life for everyone downtown," Burke says. "They have been taken into account."

Lane wants guarantees, however, that all four generations of Robinson's family will be adequately re-housed.

"The city has to make sure developers have some responsibility," he says. "Not just promises, they have to be written down."

Lane has attended community board meetings and, in March, he hosted developers and city officials at his church, but he's yet to receive any promises in writing.

The pastor believes it is his duty to stand up to what he sees

as a Goliath consisting of big-time developers and city officials intent on turning Downtown Brooklyn into Midtown Manhattan.

"When you're that big it's hard to see the little people underneath," he says. "That's the job of the community board and people like me."

Community Board 2 failed to act on the Downtown Plan as it passed through the city's land use review process; the borough president and City Council voted to pass the plan, which the mayor is expected to sign.

Lane says he is not against development, per se. He praised the massive Metrotech complex right around the corner.

When he and his Order of Oratorian Fathers took over the church building 14 years ago, he said, it was dark and crumbling, and attendance at mass was almost non-existent.

Lane says it was unsafe to walk the streets at night. He had to be hospitalized after one mugging. Another priest was held up twice, once at gunpoint.

Since then, the church and the neighborhood have under-

gone major renovations. Metrotech brings an estimated 25,000 workers downtown every day. The parish estimates more than 100 people attend daily mass, and more than 800 people attend services on the weekend.

But Lane worries Downtown Brooklyn will become what he calls a "corporate ghetto," lacking the diversity he feels is the neighborhood's greatest asset.

"You don't want soulless, heartless redevelopment," Lane says. He points to the ground-level shops of the Metrotech office complex, which are closed on Sundays, when the plaza is mostly empty except for security guards and the occasional dog walker.

Outside, he points to four row houses that sit between the church and Metrotech. Community groups, worried about losing the character of the neighborhood, demanded the old structures be preserved when Metrotech was built in the mid-1980s.

The developer of that project, Bruce Ratner, saved them, but they now sit empty and largely unused. Both Davidson, a spokeswoman for Ratner's Forest City Ratner Companies, declined to comment.

Inside his church, the pews are filling up and the sunlight is shining through the stained-glass windows, bathing the congregation in a warm glow. The choir, which Lane calls "the best in Brooklyn," is assembling in red robes by the front door.

Before Lane takes his place on the altar, he refers to a luminous window depicting Jesus surrounded by children and asks, "Isn't that worth preserving?"

They're all invited
CBs call on Nets point men Ratner, Kalikow and Gargano to meet over arena plan

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner will not have to put his Atlantic Yards arena, office tower and housing development plan through the city's public review process.

But the three Brooklyn community boards most affected by the sweeping plan are calling on the real estate developer and the heads of the two state agencies he depends on to build it to sit down with residents to discuss the plan.

In a letter sent out this week, Community Boards 2, 6 and 8 — each of which has a piece of the 21-acre development in Prospect Heights — are calling on Forest City Ratner, the Empire State Development Corporation, the likely lead agency on the project, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, from which Ratner must purchase air rights over the Long Island Rail Road storage yards, to present the project

at a public meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22.

The community boards invited both MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow and ESDC chief Charles Gargano.

Until now, the community boards have largely steered clear of issuing an opinion on the \$2.5 billion project, which includes 17 residential and commercial professional basketball arenas to house Ratner's New Jersey Nets.

"We are trying to disseminate information on the topic in April, but not put out what Ratner said to figure out how the community boards might fit in terms of a planning perspective," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6, which includes Park Slope, Red Hook, Carroll Gardens and a one block portion of the Atlantic Yards site.

To build the arena Ratner must either purchase directly or have the state condemn 11 acres of privately owned land.

The rest of the 21-acre project, which en-

compasses six blocks in Prospect Heights stretching east from the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, would be built over MTA-owned land.

In addition to the arena, Ratner is seeking to build 4,500 units of housing and four soaring office towers, including one at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues that would be the tallest building in the borough.

The community boards first tried to organize the meeting in April, but put it off when Ratner said he needed more time to complete his plans. Contacted this week, Deborah Wetzel, a spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corporation, said it was too early to reply to the invitation.

"It's too premature, there's no formal agreement yet," said Wetzel. "Negotiations are still ongoing and we don't have a final deal yet."

An MTA spokesman also said he did not know if the agency would send a representative.

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CRUISES...

Continued from page 1

announced that the city had reached a deal to keep the two cruise lines in New York City; the agency was not able to comply by press time.

The city felt pressured to act after the Caribbean packed up and moved to Bayonne, N.J.

Officials of both Carnival and Norwegian agreed to pay at least \$200 million in port charges through 2017, and the city agreed to kick in the initial \$150 million, to cover the cost of construction and renovations.

Carnival had been eyeing Pier 7, just south of Atlantic Avenue, for its newest ship, the Queen Mary II, the world's largest luxury liner. But EDC officials determined Pier 7 would not work for such large ships because of a reef off of Governor's Island.

"Pier 7 had some navigational problems so we're now looking at Pier 12," EDC spokeswoman Janet Patterson said last April. Gary Lewis, a spokesman for the New York Cruise Alliance, which represents Carnival, said there is a "commitment to go to Brooklyn," but did not know if that commitment was in the form of a written agreement.

Meanwhile, American Stevedoring, which operates a container port out of all but one of those piers, employing hundreds of longshoremen, has been in heated negotiations with the city for a lease extension. The company's lease

expired in April as the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the city Economic Development Corporation paid a consulting firm roughly \$500,000 to study the best future uses for those piers.

Now, according to sources close to the negotiations, if a new, three-year lease is worked out for American Stevedoring, the city will insist the company's operations be paired down to piers 8, 9 and 10. The shipping company currently operates on Piers 7-12.

In late May, an American Stevedoring was said to be close to an agreement for a three-year lease of Piers 7-10, the Associated Press was led to review the records of an otherwise obscure tax fraud case involving a business associate of American Stevedoring owner Sabato "Sal" Catucci.

At the May 10 sentencing of Joseph Perez, U.S. Attorney Paul Weinstein told a judge that investigators had evidence establishing that Catucci and his brother, Ronald were "Gambino associates who do business primarily out of Brooklyn."

Catucci's fixture on the waterfront for decades, who has never been charged with a crime, vehemently denied the accusation. He told The Brooklyn Papers he believed someone alerted the Associated Press to the presence of Weinstein's allegations in the court record, prompting their review.

"This was done for political

reasons," Catucci told The Papers. "The article states Jerry Nadler in the beginning and Jerry Nadler in the end. I think they're trying to derail the negotiations."

Nadler had been campaigning publicly and privately for a longer extension of Catucci's lease, arguing that it would strengthen the Brooklyn economy. Preserving the shipping operation would also bolster the lawmaker's bid to have a \$7 billion rail freight tunnel built to connect Brooklyn to Staten Island or New Jersey.

Meanwhile, EDC officials scrambled to explain why a nearly \$500,000 study of the best uses for Piers 6-12, commissioned by EDC and the Port Authority, was not going to be released to the public. After pressure from The Brooklyn Papers, an EDC official related and agreed to release the study but called it "outdated."

"The [Piers 6-12] study was initially designed to come up with a preordained conclusion to get rid of all working waterfront uses," Nadler charged this week.

The EDC wants Pier 12 to be a cruise ship dock and has its eye on Pier 10 as an additional berth down the line but officials say they also need Pier 11 to move traffic through to the cruise lines.

Nadler says the agency has other intentions.

"[Deputy Mayor for Economic Development] Daniel Doctoroff made it very clear to me that you could not continue operations on Pier 11, and they insisted on that because they need it for the cruise lines."

"We said, 'What if you don't

need it for cruise?' and he said, 'Oh, but you do,'" Nadler said, recounting a conversation with Doctoroff.

"So we talked to the cruise lines and they said, 'We can share.' And then I talked to Doctoroff and he said, 'I don't care what they say, we need it.'"

"That's not negotiable," Nadler recalled Doctoroff saying.

Lewi declined to comment on whether Carnival could share Pier 11 with American Stevedoring.

"EDC is not being totally honest with the community or my office with what they're doing," charged Nadler. "It's clear to me that for Pier 11 there is another motive."

The congressman then cited the planned conversion of a former maritime warehouse near Pier 11 into luxury condominiums as a possible reason.

Just across the street from the pier, at 160 Inland St., developer Bruce Fedderman's Industry City Associates plans to convert a building, six-story warehouse built in 1913 as the New York Dock Company into a 153-unit condo with two floors.

"I suspect the real opposition from EDC to continue with operations at Pier 11 is because they want nice site lines from the city development there," said Nadler, who along with Community Board 6 opposes the \$50 million conversion.

Despite that opposition, which normally carries significant weight, the city's Board of Standards and Appeals approved the conversion last January.

In Heights, Yassky is 'trash man'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Next time you stop to toss a piece of trash, you should thank Councilman David Yassky.

Or at least that's what a new set of enclosed garbage cans set up across Brooklyn Heights would have you think.

Two weeks ago, the Department of Sanitation placed 81 new, green garbage cans throughout Yassky's district.

And it's hard to miss just how behind the push for the cans.

"Sponsored by City Council Member David Yassky," the cans read in large letters around the rim and at three locations near the base.

The name recognition even

shocked co-op member who said Shaw was probably the only registered Republican out of all 10,800 members.

That reaction comes as no surprise. Shaw lives in a neighborhood dominated by liberal politics where a Green Party candidate running on an anti-war platform recently campaigned for City Council on a bicycle rickshaw.

And then there's his wife.

"I disagree with him on every level," said Nicole Shaw, his college sweetheart and amiable bride of two years. A self-described liberal Democrat, Nicole says she always knew her hubby had political aspirations.

She just didn't expect him to pursue them so soon.

"I totally support him but my viewpoints are very different," she said. "So I just can't go around collecting signatures or anything."

And that's too bad, because Shaw will need all the help he can get.

So far, all his energy has been focused on bulking up on the issues and fundraising.

Shaw wakes up just after 6 am each day, and spends an hour focused on the campaign before heading off to work at TD Securities, the investment-banking arm of the Toronto-Dominion Bank, where he puts in between 60 and 80 hours a week.

Weekends are devoted to the campaign.

Wary at first, he says his friends and family are now coming around, which is good since he plans to hit them all up for donations.

He has hired a Washington, D.C.-based public relations firm and says many people have contacted him after noticing his www.steveshawformayor.com Web site.

Asked about political experience, Shaw confesses to having none before noting that he was president of his old co-op board on the Upper West Side for three years.

It may seem practical to seek a lower office first, but the plucky Sloper says he's ready to jump right in.

Bloomberg jumped from financier to mayor and Arnold Schwarzenegger went from action hero to governor.

"Just because they're rich and famous doesn't make them more

qualified," said Shaw.

Maybe not, but it does make their campaigns a whole lot easier.

"Since he doesn't come from politics, unless he won the Mega Millions lottery he's not likely to have the resources needed to mount the kind of campaign necessary," said political consultant Gerry O'Brien.

Shaw plans to file with the Campaign Finance Board later this month, but until then refuses to reveal the contents of his coffers.

He needs 7,500 signatures to secure a spot on the ballot.

Shaw's still not sure exactly who will carry his petitions (only that his wife will not) and he still hasn't quite worked out his game plan for reaching out to local Republican clubs, although he is a member of the Young Republicans.

Asked about supporting Shaw, Hy Singer, chairman of the Kings County Republican Party said, "I don't even know the guy ... If he wants to run for mayor it's a free country, my best wishes to him, but I don't know anything about him."

Sitting in the garden of his two-bedroom brownstone apartment just off Prospect Park West, wearing a button-down blue shirt and a pair of gray slacks, Shaw balks when a reporter intimates this is not a winnable race.

"I totally disagree," says the Pennsylvania native, whose grandfather once held office in the Keystone State—as a Democrat, that is.

In fact, Shaw hails from a family of staunch Democrats in Allentown, Pa.

Did he switch parties just for the race?

Shaw says that is not the case and explains that he was a registered independent for years before moving to the Republican Party a few years back.

"It's the party my beliefs aligned with the most," he said.

As a student at Penn State University, where he majored in economics and commercial recreation and tourism, Shaw says he was not involved in politics. Immediately after graduation he moved to New York and started working for Bear, Stearns & Co. Last year he decided to run for mayor.

And as mayor, the Sloper vows to cut taxes.

"Money is more powerful in the hands of the people rather than the government," he said.

Over the past year, Shaw has been reading up on education, fiscal policy and city history.

He can tick off an array of statistics ranging from how much money the city spends on each student (\$12,000) to the number of subway stations in New York City (468).

Asked about what comes next in the campaign Shaw says, "I'm just focused on getting my name out."



A new garbage pail on Henry Street between Poplar and Clark streets with Councilman David Yassky's name on it.

people from small stores put their trash in there. By 3 o'clock it's full, I have to clean it myself," said Contreras, who was working behind the bar on Wednesday afternoon.

Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association, wondered what would happen to the cans when Yassky left office.

But when she learned his name was affixed to the cans on a sticker and could easily be removed, she said she had no problem with it being there.

"The main point is that those trash baskets are abused—they are not used exclusively for pedestrian litter," said Stanton, who added that many complaints come in about the cans overflowing.

As for the new cans, she said the hole on top is large enough that people are still tossing in their household or commercial garbage.

"But they are more attractive, bigger and hold more," she said.

Asked what Yassky intended to do about the overflow problem in his cans, Thies said, "There are already laws that prevent people from putting their household garbage into public receptacles, so better enforcement of these laws may be necessary, but it's much better to have the cans in the street."

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GOWANUS...

Continued from page 5
city planning chief Robert Moses' intentions to expand the expressway to Seventh Avenue.

"This is a public works program that I could really like," said Kassenbrock, who feared only that the tunnel would be built without tearing down the expressway. "This is something I think my family could really like. I think it's marvelous."

Each week, several hundred members of the Save Bay Ridge Committee met at St. Ephrem's Church, at 935 Bay Ridge Parkway, to discuss strategies, said Smith, who attended most of those sessions between 1955 and 1957. Smith, who has lived in Bay Ridge his entire life, said that many of his friends and neighbors were displaced after that project was approved and completed following the opening of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in 1964.

"These are the same people who were fighting Robert Moses tooth and nail," Councilman Vincent Gentile said of the current crop of Gowanus Fighters. Gentile has been involved with the tunnel proposal since 1986, when he was president of the Bay Ridge Community Council.

"My goodness," he said, "this could mean, for all of us, that we might be able to undo some of the damage [Moses] did in the



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 10, 2004



Rallying thighs

Fitness instructor puts Slope civilians through boot camp

By Drew Pissara
for The Brooklyn Papers

If you've ever entered the Grand Army Plaza end of Prospect Park at the crack of dawn, you may have asked yourself: Who are those 20 red-shirts shouting out reps of jumping jacks in unison and crawling in the mud under a tarp?

The answer: Members of Boot Camp Fitness Brooklyn N.Y., the brainchild of personal trainer Darren Taylor. Spring, summer and fall, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, this early morning, outdoor exercise program lets civilians experience a workout regimen shaped by Taylor's four years in the U.S. Army while simultaneously enjoying the splendors of the sprawling green space. Accordingly, participants do everything from cross-country runs incorporating the steps behind the Quaker cemetery to strength-building lunges in the rolling fields of the Long Meadow.

Throughout, Taylor stresses the three D's of discipline, determination and dedication. "My drill sergeant used to plug that constantly," the former Army private says with a laugh. A genial motivator, Taylor doesn't bark out commands like a crew-cut corporal in need of anger management. To the contrary, the "Shut

Up And Run" decals on the back of each matching jersey are tongue-in-cheek.

"We're not big, buff guys," he says of himself and his assistant, Jeffrey Sidnez; instead, their shared philosophy is more can-do than must-do. "If you can get up at 6 in the morning for this, even if it's raining," Taylor states, "then there's nothing you can't accomplish."

In keeping with Taylor's focus on empowerment, self-motivation is at the heart of his cohort Sidnez's own transformation from homemaker to health nut. A self-taught trainer accredited by both the American Council on Exercise and the East Coast Alliance, Sidnez understands first-hand the effort required to lose weight. Personally, he's dropped from 275 pounds to 190.

Now, he hopes his message of self-care and wellness "reaches at least a million people." With projects like last year's Lighten Up Brooklyn, Borough President Marty Markowitz's weight loss drive for which Taylor was the official personal trainer, the two may be on their way.

Taylor quips of his program, "It's like the 'get yourself up' of coffee through exercise," with adrenaline replacing the caffeine. Leaving the dumbbells, treadmills and pulley machines behind at the gym, Taylor and



Sneak-er attack: (Above left) Fitness instructor Darren Taylor puts his recruits through an early morning workout in Prospect Park on July 7. (Above) Boot Camp Fitness recruit Patti Bufalano performs the crunches.

Sanchez put intensity in their workouts with quickly named routines like "Chase the rabbit" and "Front, back and roll." The former involves getting down on all fours and then running in place with your hands on the ground; the latter consists of dropping to the ground for a push-up, flipping onto your back for a sit-up, then high-stepping in place.

Boot Camp's equipment-free techniques have amassed their share of successful weight reduction testimonials — Cassandra Metz of Prospect Heights was able to shed 12 pounds postpartum — but most current boot campers extol benefits that extend beyond the T-shirt and knapsack you get in the beginning, the fat buried and the muscles built during six weeks, and the dog-tag and certificate awarded at the end.

Banking on its ability to attract repeat customers (which consistently total 50 percent during any given session), the three-year-old program will add a second location come August in Fort Greene Park. That location, with its "Rocky"-like three-tiered staircases near the Prison Ship Martyr's Monument, promises its own unique set of physical challenges.

Part four guide, part trainer, Taylor counts community builder among his duties as well. Drawing soldier on his time as a truck-driving soldier in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Taylor aims to foster a team spirit for group exercise that's patterned on the camaraderie formed by a cohesive military platoon.

"You have a battle buddy. You learn to look out for the person next to you," Bufalano echoes the sentiment more simply. "You really bond with people who you're with three times a week, and you know are serious about their health."

FESTIVAL

French fest

Francophiles all over Brooklyn will celebrate Bastille Day on July 11. The anniversary of the storming of Paris' infamous prison will be commemorated on Smith Street, from Bergen to Pacific streets, with a grand petanque (bowling) tournament, antique French car display, guillotine and French bar games.

Outdoor seating and live music performed by the 11-piece Baby Blue Orchids Orchestra will be provided by Jacques and Georges Forgois of Bar Tabac. Other Smith Street restaurants will also provide all fresco seating and bands. Bastille Day on Smith Street events will take place from noon to 8 pm. For more information, call the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation at (718) 852-0528.

In Bay Ridge, Jean-Jacques and Leslie Benat of Providence en Boite will celebrate Bastille Day from 10:30 am to midnight with live music, buffet, raffles, balloons and more. The restaurant is located at 8303 Third Ave. at 83rd Street. For more information, call (718) 759-1515 or visit the Web site at www.providenceenboite.com. — Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Park concert

On Tuesday, July 13, the New York Philharmonic will pitch a tent in Prospect Park's Long Meadow for a memorable concert that will kick off the organization's 40th summer of free "Concerts in the Parks." Under the baton of conductor David Robertson, the Philharmonic will perform Charles Ives' Variations on "America," Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto (featuring violinist Leonidas Kavakos) and John Adams' Harmonielehre. The free concert begins at 8 pm and will be followed by fireworks. For updates, call (212) 875-5709 or visit www.newyork-philharmonic.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

CINEMA

Heavy metal

Cineastes, take note. Buster Keaton's "The General" (pictured) screens at the Prospect Park Bandshell as part of the Celebrate Brooklyn festival on July 15 at 7:30 pm. One of the last major films of the silent era, Keaton's 1927 farcical adventure-romance concerns a Civil War-era train conductor who first pursues, then flees, enemy troops via locomotive.

While the hero's allegiance to the Confederacy strikes a disquietingly anachronistic chord today, the stone-faced engineer's trademark deadpan, stunt-level slapstick and well-timed double takes continually sidetrack viewers from political concerns.

Giving this particular revival added steam will be a live original soundtrack created and performed by the celebrated Alloy Orchestra. Comprised of Roger Miller (synthesizer), Ken Winkler (clarinet) and Terry Donahue (accordion, banjo and saw), this beat trio has built its reputation on inventive new scores for classic movies.

Unique instrumentation — which can include Winkler and Donahue using hula hoops, truck springs and other pieces of junk metal for percussive purposes — has informed the ensemble's previous, astute musical accompaniments for Fritz Lang's "Metropolis," Eisenstein's "Strike" and, most relevantly, nearly a dozen film shorts in which Keaton costarred with Fatty Arbuckle.

Proceeding the film will be a concert by Invert, a string quartet that features two cellists — instead of two violinists — thereby attaining a sometimes brooding sound. Fittingly for this program, Invert credits movie composer Fritz Katz ("Liar Ship of Horrors") and Bernard Herrmann ("Psycho") among its myriad influences.

The bandshell is located in Prospect Park. Enter at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street. Admission is free, but a \$3 donation is requested. For more information call (718) 855-7882 ext. 45 or visit www.celebratebrooklyn.org. — Drew Pissara

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'Dream' come true

Boomerang Theatre's al fresco 'Midsummer Night's Dream' is a must-see

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

The 16th century meets the 1960s, Elizabethan England meets the Bronx and Shakespeare meets "Grease" in Boomerang Theatre's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," presented free in New York City's parks through July 25.

In this delightfully original production, directed by the ultra-talented Philip Emmott, the Duke (Jack Halpin) is a successful CEO, and the lovers — Hernia (Jennifer Curfman), Lysander (WT McCrae), Helena (Linda Ignazi) and Demetrius (Joe MacDougall) — are prep-school kids dressed in loafers, sweaters, flared skirts, neckerchiefs and anklets.

Obenon, king of the faeries (Peter Mori), is a tough gang leader whose woman, Titania (Sara Thigpen), is a madame surrounded by sexy girls of easy virtue. His lieutenant, Puck (Vinnie Penna), is a streetwise tough who talks like James Cagney but seems about as bright as one of the Three Stooges.

The Mechanicals, known in this program as "working class folk," are a motley assortment of bumbling workers who have been brought into the

20th century. Thus Starveling, the tailor, is an orthodox Jew who wears a yarmulke and Flute looks like a short order cook who badly needs to change his once-white apron and T-shirt.

Lighthearted and canny, this production is blessed with a fabulous cast, smart costumes, pitch-perfect direction and the great outdoors — all collaborating to create a vitality and effectiveness far beyond that achieved in more traditional versions of "Midsummer."

Emmott makes the most effective use of space, virtually turning a whole section of the park into his stage as the actors prance over the green and through the trees or sit alongside the audience to watch the Mechanicals' antics as they declaim "Pyramus and Thisby."

With no need for set design, Emmott has relied on his costume designer, Carolyn Pollister, to create time, mood and character. This she has done with great imagination and humor. Puck wears his wings over bowling shirts and Thisby is ravishing in a long black wig, a grass skirt and metal pasties over a hairy chest.

But it is the exceptional acting that really makes this production outstanding. There are the usual heroes here. Penna is unforgettable as Puck with his



Nature's bounty: Titania and Bottom, of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," take a break in the forest.

swagger, snorts and world-weary effort to stay in his master's good graces. Ignazi is wonderful and goofy as the long-legged and gawky maiden Helena victimized by misguided lovers. And Ron Sanborn makes Bottom eloquent, whether he is a pampered ass or a blundering thespian.

But in this production, even some of the minor characters make their mark — most particularly the excellent Kathleen Brown who plays Philostrate, the duke's master of revels.

Of all Shakespeare's comedies, it seems "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is mounted most frequently. Indeed one can expect a new version to blossom every spring — indoors or outdoors, traditional or tweaked for a modern au-

dience or a director's whim.

It's not hard to understand why so many companies want to take a stab at this work. In the first place, it's filled with humor that never goes stale. But no less important is the poetry that informs its dialogue and the air of enchantment that envelops lovers, faeries and fools.

What's more, this humor is so simple and endlessly fresh that it can be interpreted and re-interpreted and never lose the flavor of the Bard.

But every once in a while, a company, like Boomerang, comes up with something really special. Even if you've seen "A Midsummer Night's Dream" more times than you'd care to remember, this is one you won't want to miss.



See BIFF's best

On June 13, the jury of the seventh annual Brooklyn International Film Festival announced its 2004 winners. Out of 1,618 entries from 74 countries, 113 films were selected and shown in the competition, which ran from June 4 to June 13 at the Brooklyn Museum in Prospect Heights.

Kimi Takesue (pictured above right being congratulated by festival organizer Marco Ursino) wrote and directed the film "Summer of the Serpent" and received the festival's most prestigious Grand Chameleon Award as well as the Spirit Award for a short film. Richard Beenan (above center) co-produced "Summer of the Serpent" and also had his own three-minute experimental film in the fest.

Simon Robson (pictured far left) received the award for Best Animation for his production and direction of "What Barry Says."

For a complete list of the 2004 BIFF winners as well as information on the eighth annual festival, visit www.brooklynfilmfestival.org.

On July 11 at 8 pm, BIFF will present a selection of winners from the 2004 festival at the Micro Museum, 123 Smith St. between Dean and Pacific streets, in Boerum Hill. Admission is \$5. Film lineup includes: "Summer of the Serpent," "What Barry Says," "The Dud" (Best Short), "We Have Decided not to Die" (Best Experimental), and "Take it Back" (Audience Award - Short).

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JAY FARRAR
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MARTHA WAINWRIGHT
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Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: BAY RIDGE

Banana Leaf

6814 Fourth Ave. at 68th Street, (718) 238-5531 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.95-\$20.95. * Banana Leaf chef and owner, Peter How, formerly of Manhattan's Jean-Georges and Mercer Kitchen, serves up a medley of Malaysian, Indian and Thai fusion dishes at this intimate Bay Ridge bistro. GO Brooklyn dining critic Tina Barry described How's cooking as "vibrant, light and clean, and at other times, rich and complex."

Try the soft-shell crab and mango salad or the plump, pan-seared scallops dressed in red, pickled ginger. A dish called "Nasi Lemak," jasmine rice cooked in coconut milk and served with cubes of curried chicken and anchovies that are fried with onions and lime, provides an array of pungent flavors. For dessert, try the sesame cream buns, a unique twist on the French croissant, served with house-made strawberry ice cream and caramelized bananas. Open daily.

Barracuda Seafood Restaurant & Bar

7026 Third Ave. at 70th Street, (718) 833-3759 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$22. * Owners Rudy Alexander, Nabel Garcia and Elena Trochchenko celebrated this restaurant's grand re-opening in November. In January, they introduced their new chef, Terrence Watkins, to the neighborhood. The new menu is dominated by American seafood favorites. Try the sesame-crusted salmon served with baby bok choy or the pan-seared white trout with sweet potatoes and spinach. For lunch, burgers, steaks, chicken burgers and roasted chicken are also on the menu. The restaurant recently finished renovations and has a new 110-seat dining room. Brunch is available Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m. Free valet parking Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Open daily.

Bay Ridge Sushi

6819 Third Ave. at 68th Street, (718) 491-0662 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7.95-\$17.95. Step into Bay Ridge Sushi and you're in another world — the hustle and bustle of the busy neighborhood give way with each step inside. The engaging sushi chefs will carve up your favorites, including tuna, salmon, yellowtail, scallops, fluke, mackerel, flying fish, rose crab stick and many more.

Of course, Bay Ridge Sushi hasn't forgotten all of the other Japanese treats and neither will you as you select from their colorful menu. There are many hand rolls, like the shrimp tempura roll and the smoked salmon roll. Or try the tempura shrimp sauce, or the seafood tempura with lobster. Just make sure to leave room for the tempura green tea ice cream! Open daily.

Casa Calamari Pizza & Pasta

8602 Third Ave. at 86th Street, (718) 921-1900 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.50-\$28.95. Boasting a large sidewalk cafe, Casa Calamari is a fun, family-style restaurant that makes the most of its corner windows and open kitchen. In addition to appetizer faves like Buffalo wings and eggplant rollatini, you'll find pastas, grills, Italian specialties and plenty of seafood choices. The delicate seafood sampler (\$30) includes a half-pound lobster, two chervil clams, two little neck clams, four oysters and a quarter pound of jumbo shrimp. Golden fried calamari can also be ordered with fried shrimp. Or go for the broccoli, rare, cheese and parmesan-sauce platter. Lunch specials available Monday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Open daily.

Cebu

8801 Third Ave. at 88th Street, (718) 492-5095 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$12-\$24. * Cebu offers a laid-back bar scene with live dining. The menu is "continental infusion" with a diverse selection of salads, seafood dishes and thin-crust pizzas. Dishes range from roast duckling to steak au poivre and seafood paella. The New Zealand rack of lamb with mashed potatoes and sautéed mixed vegetables is delightful as is the baked Chilean sea bass with roasted potatoes and wild mushroom beurre blanc sauce. Also, try the homemade red or white sangria. Brunch is available Saturday and Sunday, from noon to 3 p.m. Diner is served daily until 3 a.m.

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn
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Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card



Barracuda bartender Trisha Jaworsky pours a fresh-fruit apple martini.

Hunter's Steak & Ale House

9480 Fourth Ave. at 94th Street, (718) 238-8899 (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$13.95-\$31.95. This is a classic steakhouse with a couple of twists and garnishes, mahogany and hunter-green interior, and the Horse and Jockey Club (featuring OTB racing feeds and betting).

On to the eat: flat iron with red wine mushroom sauce is heavenly and served with vegetable and potato. Chef Robert Cangello also offers porthouse, T-bone and New York sirloin steaks. Baked half-chicken and broiled salmon round out the menu. Enjoy karaoke on Wednesday and Friday nights. A \$16.95 prix fixe menu is available Thursday through Sunday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., and includes soup, salad and choice of entree with coffee and dessert. Reservations are suggested. Valet parking Thursday through Sunday. Open daily.

Pazzo

10007 Fourth Ave. at 100th Street, (718) 238-4747 (AmEx, Visa, MC) Entrees: \$12-\$38. * This restaurant is ornately decorated with arches of artificial flowers, neon signs, neon signs, and elegant curtains and drapes. Pazzo, which means "crazy" in Italian, offers a variety of wines and martinis, as well as mouth-watering long list of appetizers. Chef Theo Hernandez prepares old-world Italian favorites with contemporary accents. Some of the highlights among the entrees include roasted rack of lamb, blackened mahi-mahi and grilled jumbo shrimp with risotto. Pazzo also offers live entertainment Tuesday and Friday nights. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Open daily.

Pearl Room

6201 Third Ave. at 62nd Street, (718) 833-6666 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$17-\$32. * This elegantly appointed, six-year-old restaurant offers American cuisine with an emphasis on fresh seafood. Chef Anthony Ronald's sesame swordfish, fresh lobster and crab cakes are popular dishes. But Pearl Room also serves flat iron, shell steaks, chicken and veal dishes, salads and pastas. The cantaloupe-infused vanilla ice cream ball — fried in banana bread — is a must-try delight. Open daily.

Peppino's Brick Oven Pizza

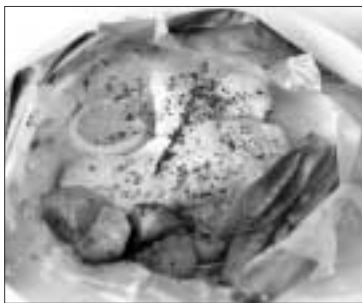
7708 Third Ave. at 77th Street, (718) 833-3364 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Pizzas: \$7-\$13. Not your ordinary pizza, these thin-crust pies are made with only the best ingredients — fresh basil, fresh mozzarella and olive oil. Customers can choose from up to 20 toppings including sausage, pepperoni, salami and anchovies. Peppino's Brick Oven Pizza also offers salads and gourmet rolls stuffed with sausages, portobello mushrooms, oven-roasted peppers and mozzarella, or any number of other fillings. Desserts are traditional favorites — Mississippi mud cake, New York cheesecake and tartufo, a round ball of ice cream covered in a chocolate shell. Lunch specials available Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open daily.

St. Michel Restaurant

7512 Third Ave. at Bay Ridge Parkway, (718) 748-4411 (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15-\$28. A delightful, tapestry-covered chairs and an antique bar allow diners at this cozy bistro to experience French cuisine Parisian style. Celebrating its 18th anniversary, St. Michel's menu offers an array of new dishes, including the steak with black pepper, salmon served over mustard risotto, and half-roasted duck stewed in orange sauce.

Chef and owner Joseph Carvo recommends the bistro's signature dish: rack of lamb encrusted in Dijon-mustard and hazelnut crumbles and served with thyme-flavored jus. Top the meal off with the fondant au chocolat, a warm chocolate cake with creamy cream that Carvo describes as being one of the best treats in Bay Ridge.

Live music is offered Friday and Saturday evenings. A prix fixe dinner menu, which includes a salad, entree and combination dessert platter, is offered Tuesday through Fridays for \$19.99. Closed Mondays.



Big fish

Multinational menu at Aqua leaves diners drowning in boatloads of fresh seafood

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

Push through the glass doors of Aqua, the three-month-old seafood restaurant on Smith Street, and the cooling effect of the room's decor begins to set in. A moment later you'll adjust to the damp, deliciously cool air conditioning that feels like a mist of sea spray on the skin.

Seconds after settling into a seat, you realize that the room has more color than you originally thought. It takes only a minute or two to notice a design touch that must have given the interior decorator heart palpitations. You see, whoever chose the pale, dusty green wall colors, the wooden ceiling motifs that elegantly reference waves and boat beams, and modern overhead lights that resemble delicate stars, couldn't possibly be the person who hung print-after-garishly-colored-

— village-by-the-seaside-print around the room. The art, I use the word loosely, does for this clean, modern space what a gold lame bustier does for an Amami suit.

In a funny way, a similar misstep appears in the restaurant's concept. Aqua's owners, Giuseppe Salivetti and Salvo Sciala, operate Savio, a popular Italian restaurant nearby. They knew that after Smith Street Kitchen closed, no high-end seafood restaurant has opened on the street to take its

multinational influences," a description that is reflected in her menu. Those global influences, and a tendency towards, in Ber's words, "bounty on the plate," can overwhelm her dishes.

The *amalgam*, a seafood sampler on the appetizer list, is a lesson in excess. Piled on a long, rectangular white plate is a little bit of this and that. There are mussels sprinkled with capers; *esce-vide* of squid ("es" because its cooked briefly, the "cuvide" means the fish finishes "cooking" in line juice); a very smoky house-cured piece of salmon filet; raw tuna dressed with olive oil and lemon; a "miso" Spanish-style red pepper sauce with too much paprika; tobiko caviar; a couple of undercooked pieces of potato and too

many olives.

Few of the elements were especially toothsome, nor did they complement one another. And while I applaud Ber's generosity, less on that plate, at least visually, would be more.

She fares better with mussels in a vibrant, intensely garlicky broth. The mollusks were perfectly cooked and layered around the bowl in an open-mouthed spiral. Thick slices of toasted Portuguese bread scattered with raw garlic soaked up the light broth.

Ber's Corsican bouillabaisse could be renamed "Death by Fish," but eating it wouldn't be a bad way to go.

It's a beautiful bowl piled high with mostly shellfish. There's a whole, delicately sweet crayfish, three huge shrimp, several plump mussels and a large fish fillet, sauced with a bit of garlicky, paprika-heavy broth. Clementines perfume the sauce and add a pleasant sweet-tart quality to the dish. The size of the serving is overkill, but it's meant to be shared — one bite of that little crayfish tail per person.

The Sunam salmon was less successful. The big, meaty salmon filet poached in lemon, lime, chili and coconut was almost bitter when I first

place. They were right about a sophisticated fish eatery, if only the owners opened a place with a simple, focused menu. Instead, they've ransacked the globe and developed a mostly seafood menu.

Start with the two pages of appetizers. First, I have to ask why a small restaurant would burden its three-person kitchen with 11 appetizers when five would do? And why 13 entrees? On the appetizer roundup are grilled octopus bruschetta, chicken samosas, crayfish etouffée and steak-smoked bluefin tuna paired with tobiko caviar. Among the entrees are grilled Palermo-style tuna, Sunam salmon, black bass en papillote and a Creole grouper gumbo with buttermilk biscuits.

Welcome to the United Nations' cafeteria.

Aqua (174 Smith St. between Warren and Wyckoff streets in Boerum Hill) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Entrees: \$17-\$24-\$24.50. The restaurant serves dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. For reservations, call (718) 643-1589.

— Tina Barry

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Dive right in: (Above) Chef Belinda Ber with her Corsican-style bouillabaisse at Aqua restaurant in Boerum Hill. (Top left) Ber's black sea bass is roasted in parchment with a touch of grapeseed oil, lemon, sugar-snap peas and roasted potatoes.

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Where to

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, JULY 10

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

SHOW HOUSE: Bridge Street Development Corporation fourth annual show house in Prospect Heights historic district. \$15. Noon to 8 p.m. 380 Lewis Ave. (718) 575-6093.

PARK SLOPE: Big Orion Tours explores Brooklyn's Gold Coast. Learn about the history of the neighborhood and learn about its architecture. \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at southeast corner of Plaza Street and Flatbush Avenue. (212) 639-1090.

NEW YORK LIKE A NATIVE: Introduction to Brooklyn covers the history of the city, architecture, lore and landscape. \$13, 1:30 pm to 4 pm. Call for meeting place. (718) 393-7537.

MOONLIGHT RIDE: Bike through Prospect Park hosted by Mooring for a Better Environment. 9 p.m. Meet at Grand Army Plaza. (212) 862-8222.

PERFORMANCE

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Boomerang Theater presents an outdoor production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." 7 p.m. Prospect Park, Long Meadow. Enter at Third Street and Prospect Park West. (212) 501-6699. Free.

SHAKESPEARE: Kings County Shakespeare Company presents "Romeo and Juliet." \$15, \$7 seniors and students. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Chapel of The First Unitarian Church. 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 855-7882.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Brooklyn Philharmonic performs "Elis Island: The Dream of America." Projected images from the Ellis Island Archive and actors Barry Bostwick and Lili Finckelstein. 5:30 p.m. Prospect Park. (718) 855-7882.

MUSIC: Brooklyn music group, Yana Voices, performs. 7 p.m. Fort Greene Community Garden. Call for exact location. (718) 361-9822. Free.

BROOKLYN UCELM: "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" (20 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online (www.gowanna.com) or \$9 plus cost of a single six-sided die. 1:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7234.

CHILDREN

GO FISH: Macy's hosts a fishing contest. Kids are invited to participate in learn about fishing and ecology. Contest is catch-and-release. Open to children 15 and under. 11 am to 3 pm. Prospect Park. (718) 965-6975. Free.

AQUARIUM: Puffy 2004 sale and see marine mammals, whales, penguins, sea lions and fish. 10 am to 5 pm. Painted, art and crafts, storytelling and more. \$11, \$7 children ages 2 to 12 and seniors. Noon to 4

pm. Storytelling at 12:30 pm, 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm. Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street. (718) 265-FISH.

CIRCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Thrills From Brazil." \$15, \$10 children under 12 and seniors over 61. 1:30 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm. Marine Park, Avenue U west of Flatbush Avenue. (718) 735-4400.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Edison Energy Education Series presents "The Garden Through the Eyes of a Buzzing Bee." Learn about bond between flowers and their pollinators. \$4, free for members. 2 pm to 5 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

OTHER

SIDEWALK EXHIBIT: All local artists are invited to show off their work to the public. Water Street between Main and Dock streets. Call to reserve a spot. (718) 625-9352. Free.

FILM: "Carnival of Souls" (1962). \$5 includes popcorn. 8:30 pm. Cone Island Museum. 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 372-5159.

MOVE NIGHT: Community Garden hosts a vintage feature film series plus cartoons. "Most Dangerous Game" (1932). 8:30 pm. Fifth Avenue at Prospect Street. Bring your own chair. Free.

SUN, JULY 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BASTILLE DAY: Smith Street celebrates the French holiday. Highlights include third annual petanque tournament. 10 am to 10 pm. Also, events at Micro Museum (123 Smith St.) includes photo in "Big Choo" for \$5. Also, Brooklyn International Film Festival highlights. \$5, 6 pm to 8 pm. (718) 977-3116.

DOCENT TOUR: Brooklyn Historical Society hosts a tour of its exhibit "400 Years of Making a Living in Brooklyn." \$15, \$10 members. \$5 children. 2 pm, 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-1111.

ON THE IRIS: N.Y. Transit Museum explores the original IRIS train from the 1930s. \$10, \$5 seniors and \$2 children. Noon. Call for reservations and ticket information. (718) 696-1867.

PERFORMANCE

CONCERT UNDER THE STARS: Kingsborough Community College hosts a concert. "Marshall Beach Festival." 7 pm. End of Oriental Boulevard. (718) 965-6975. Free.

SHAKESPEARE: Kings County Shakespeare Company presents a Family play performance of "Romeo and

Juliet." Special activities include a visit by a playwright. H.H. Queens Elizabeth I. Children under 12 admitted free. 3 pm. See Sat. July 10.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK: Outdoor production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." 7 p.m. See Sat. July 10.

CHILDREN

ONE ARM RED: Presents a spoof of Franco-American relations in "Bon Appetit." \$15. 1 pm. Children's music workshop follows. 45 Main St. (718) 797-5005.

CIRCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Thrills From Brazil." 1:30 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm. See Sat. July 10.

BASTILLE DAY: Provenance on Boite restaurant celebrates Bastille Day with live music, buffet, raffle, balloons and more. 10:30 am to midnight. 8303 Third Ave. (718) 759-1515. www.provenanceboite.com

OTHER

DANCE CLASS: Soro Yellorou, principal dancer with Alain Aliy, hosts an intermediate/advanced class in classical ballet and modern dance. \$30. 10 am to 12:30 pm. 1250 Prospect Ave. Call for info. (718) 437-0717.

HEALTH FAIR: Hanson Plaza S.O.A. Church hosts a community health fair. Food tastings, blood pressure screening, free giveaways, gospel music, children's activities and more. Noon to 5 pm. Hanson Plaza. 1000 10th St. South Portland Avenue and South Oxford Street. (800) 307-0017. Free.

BASTILLE CELEBRATION: Williamsburg Photo Gallery hosts event featuring art, wine and cheese. Noon to 6 pm. 425 Kent St. (917) 287-7928. Free.

SUNDAYS AT SUNNYS: Novalis Robt. Reuland reads from "Sennaticomic." Also, George Hegner reads from his novel. \$5, 3 pm. 253 Conover St. (718) 425-8211.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Staten Island Yankees. 5 p.m. Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

READING: Spiral Through the Streets hosts a reading. 6 pm to 8 pm. Fall Cafe, 307 Smith St. (718) 832-2310.

Mon, July 12

CIRCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Thrills From Brazil." 5 pm and 8 pm. See Sat. July 10.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Williamsport Crosscutters. 7 pm. Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

PARK CONCERT: City Parks Foundation hosts a concert series in Fort Greene Park. Today: The Best Shot of NYC. For Summer features Jump N' Crawl. For Summer features Jump N' Crawl. For Summer features

for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

CONCERT: Summerfest series hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz presents New Edition. 7:30 pm. Bring your own chairs. Wingate Field, Winthrop Street between Brooklyn and Brighton avenues. (718) 469-1192. Free.

SPEED DATING: Meet eight singles in one night at Bookout Bar. \$35, 7:30 pm. 275 Smith St. Reservations necessary. (718) 624-8278.

SHAKESPEARE: Kings County Shakespeare Company presents "Romeo and Juliet." \$15, \$7 seniors and students. 8 p.m. Chapel of The First Unitarian Church, 50 Monroe Place. (212) 868-4444.

EVANGELISM: The David Berg Lecture Series offers a course in "Did Adam Have Parents?" Today's topic: "Nonrandom Evolution." 8 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham, 117 Norem St. (718) 376-4840. Free.

Tues, July 13

DANCE LESSONS: Young Dancers in Repertory offers a dance class for kids. 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Liff Erikson Park, 47th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 567-9620. Free.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Williamsport Crosscutters. Noon. Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

ANTIQUE APPRAISAL: Day City Antique Appraisals offers an appraisal day. Appraisals available for \$5 for two hand-held items. Noon to 5 pm. 123 East 11th St. (718) 492-0555.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents author Denise Campbell reading from her new novel "Seven Years." and "Love Thy Sister, Watch Thy Back." 7 p.m. See Sat. July 10.

MOVIES IN THE GARDEN: Loulou Restaurant hosts a weekly movie series in its garden. Series focuses on first original pictures directed by one of our famous directors. Today: "The Apartment." 8 pm. 222 DeKalb Ave. (718) 246-6633. Free.

CIRCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Thrills From Brazil." 5 pm and 8 pm. See Sat. July 10.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Williamsport Crosscutters. 7 pm. Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

PARK CONCERT: City Parks Foundation hosts a concert series in Fort Greene Park. Today: The Best Shot of NYC. For Summer features Jump N' Crawl. For Summer features

Also, underground dance music with Wuzm. 7 pm. DeKalb Avenue and Washington Park Street. (212) 360-1399. Free.

CONCERT IN THE PARK: NY Philharmonic hosts a concert featuring works by Liszt, Barber and Adams. 8 pm. Fireworks follow. Prospect Park, Long Meadow. (212) 875-5709. Free.

BARRES BAR: hosts a reading series with Ned Vizzini. Tonight's reader is Felicia Sullivan, curator of the nonfiction reading series at KGB in Manhattan. Also, Maria Walewska, author of "Topsy in Madras," reads. Call for time. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

Weds, July 14

DANCE LESSONS: Young Dancers in Repertory offers a dance class for kids. 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Liff Erikson Park, 47th Street and Fifth Avenue. (718) 567-9620. Free.

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Williamsport Crosscutters. Noon. Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-8497.

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Musical grab bag

There's something for everyone at Downtown's Cafe 111 as the restaurant-club struggles to create an identity

By Ed Beeson
for The Brooklyn Papers

Signs of life may soon creep into the nights of Downtown Brooklyn, and a local restaurateur wants to be the first to push and prod it into being.

Nando Ghorchini, who owns Cafe del Mar, Balzar, Caffè Buon Gusto and the soon-to-open El Cubano in Brooklyn Heights reinvented another restaurant of his, the critically maligned Acqua on Court Street, into Cafe 111, an eatery by day and free live music venue by night.

"We did it for the money, really," he says of Cafe 111, which opened last December. "The neighborhood is really changing."

He points to his soon-to-be neighbors, the dormitories and apartment towers opening this fall on Atlantic Avenue, as proof that even this part of Downtown Brooklyn, which traditionally has been shuttered and empty by sunset, could support nightlife.

At the moment, Ghorchini's ambitions appear to be modestly successful. The cafe boasts a full calendar of three or four performers nightly, most of whom play for tips and pleasure alone. Employees, musicians and customers all agree that Cafe 111 has steadily drawn bigger crowds since it opened, thanks to well-connected management who bring noteworthy musicians from the surrounding neighborhoods.

"Nando's given us free reign," says Aaron Whitby, the music curator at Cafe 111, whose credit cards include his own record label, Blackfeet Productions, which released the acclaimed debut album of Brooklyn Heights soul singer Martha Redbone last year.

Whitby says diversity is his goal, and by booking artists of all styles, from R&B and soul to folk and rock to hip-hop, he hopes to draw audiences from all backgrounds. Those styles are loosely organized by the night of the week. Mondays and Wednesdays are dedicated to jazz. Tuesdays and Thursdays are for singer-songwriters. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays seem to offer everything else.

Whitby talks about other plans, too—live comedy, midnight sets six nights



NIGHTLIFE

Cafe 111 is located at 111 Court St. at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn. Entrances: \$4.95-\$15.95. All performances are free, and there is a two-drink minimum. Cafe 111 accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Open daily. For more information about upcoming performers, call (718) 858-2266 or visit the Web site at www.cafe111online.com.

a week and a "Bush Bashing Day" when the Republican National Convention visits the city in late August.

The strategy is to draw three established crowds: Smith Street diners, moviegoers leaving the cinema across the street; and those Manhattanites fearless enough to venture one subway stop into Brooklyn.

Variety show: Tony Scherr belts out a song at Cafe 111 in Downtown Brooklyn while bandmate Tim Luntzel supports him on bass guitar during June 15 show. (Top right) Also on that night's varied program, Michael Blake of Polle Polle.

Of course, the real treat is for Brooklynites tired of trekking into the city for music.

"It's all the same bands that play at the Living Room," says Teddy Kumpul, a guitarist who plays here as Teddybut on Tuesday nights, referring to the Lower East Side lounge. "Might as well come here."

Live music at Cafe 111 is loud, but not overbearing. And partly because the place is still in its infancy, crowds are light. On a recent Tuesday night, the cafe's slowest according to Whitby, customers rarely numbered more than a dozen.

"I did back flips when this place opened," says Pete Harris, a London promoter who runs harrisradio.com, an Internet radio station, from his Brooklyn Heights home.

"It's kind of weird, they're not coming here to stand up in a dark, dingy basement," Harris says. "You can bring your mum."

Mum may approve, but the crew of Cafe 111 will need to untwist a few kinks before they can reap their reward. It's a hard situation. We have lunch with lawyers and judges, so it can't look like a bar," says Maria Blaszcak, the general manager of Cafe 111. Still,

she is trying to tweak the environs to appeal to night owls.

Inside, the atmosphere is bordello red, from the painted walls and the red velvet drapes that decorate the deeply recessed stage. Candles and white Christmas lights dangling like moss set the mood.

Detail is otherwise lacking. A random jumble of empty wine bottles that decorates one precipice should be recycled. Most of the big-size paintings on the wall fail to evoke description.

Cafe 111 is privileged to have a back patio, but to get to that coveted piece of real estate, one must walk a tight passage through the kitchen.

"It's OK. We have nothing to hide," says Blaszcak. True, from all appearances, the kitchen is exceptionally clean. But on a busy night, that corridor must be a nightmare. Try not to stare any waitresses lading cream of mushroom soup on your way in or out.

Lastly, too much diversity can be messy.

"Part of their problem is they haven't settled on a format of music yet. People aren't sure what they'll get," says Sean Fitzell, of Carroll Gardens, who came to watch the saxophonist Michael Blake.

That night's lineup seems to confirm that sense of schizophrenic booking. The four acts included a world music combo; Teddybut, who sings hokey, pun-laden songs by himself; a bluesy trio led by Tony Scherr; and Jamaican reggae led by Blake.

In many ways, the booking is like the Cafe 111 manager, who is a signature dish judging by its name, consists of a dense paté awkwardly topped with fried onion rings, mozzarella and portobello mushrooms. Fine ideas on their own, but not as tasty taken together.

Where to GO...

Continued from page 11...

OUTSIDE ART: "A Midsummer Night's Dream." 7 pm. See Sat., July 17.

IMPACT THEATER: "The Adding Machine." 8 pm. See Sat., July 17.

BROOKLYN UCCUM: presents "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind." 11:30 pm. See Sat., July 17.

Sat., July 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR: Mauricio Lorence leads a tour of Ft. Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25 per person. 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Big Onion Tours around this Victorian "City of the Dead."

Learn about the history, architecture and people of this Brooklyn landmark. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (212) 439-1090.

FORT GREENE MARKET: Family Green Day features storyteller Thelma Ruffin-Thomas and artists/face painters Sayedra Banks and Derrick Cross. 1 pm. Greenmarket vendors open their stalls at 8 am. Fort Greene Park's Washington Park and DeKalb Avenue.

PERFORMANCE

SHAKESPEARE: Kings County Shakespeare Company presents "Romeo and Juliet." 5:30 pm. Prospect Park Bandshell, enter at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882.

IMPACT THEATER: presents the 1920s comic drama "The Adding Machine." By Elmer Rice. \$15. \$12 students, seniors and students. 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 292-7163.

CONCERT UNDER THE STARS

Kingsborough Community College hosts a concert: "Let's Dance." 8 pm. End of Central Boulevard. (718) 365-5551. Free.

BROOKLYN UCCUM: "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online (www.gowanus.com) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die. 11:30 pm, 221 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-2234.

CHILDREN

NEIGHBORHOOD FAIR: Brooklyn Family Theater hosts a day of games, a rummage and bake sale, crafts for kids, face painting and more. 10 am to 3 pm. Churchyard at 10th Street and Eighth Avenue. (718) 620-2255. Free.

GO FISH: Macy's fishing contest. 10 am to 3 pm. See Sat., July 10.

CRUCUS: Cole Bros. Circus presents "Thrills From Beal." 1:30 pm and 8 pm. See Sat., July 10.

OTHER

PLAY BALL: Brooklyn Cyclones play Harlem Valley Renegades. 6 pm. KeySpan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. Call for ticket info. (718) 449-9497.

Sun., July 18

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

GOVANUS CANAL CRUISE: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a boat tour around the Chelsea Canal. Learn about this waterway from urban educator Dan Wiley. \$45. \$35 members, seniors and students. 2 pm. Chelsea Piers, Pier 62. (718) 365-7882. Free.

BRIGHTON BEACH WALK: Brighton Beach Historical Society hosts a walk around this neighborhood. Over the century, experience the food, \$15. \$10. \$5 children. 2 pm. Meet under the elevated train at Brighton Beach Avenue and Coney Island Avenue. (718) 224-4111.

SEE-IT-ALL TOUR: Visit the different parts of the city and learn how the house was built. Open to ages 14 and older. 11:30 am. Intersection of Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 769-2262. Free.

PERFORMANCE

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Dan Zanes and Friends host a musical picnic. \$3. 5 pm. Prospect Park Bandshell, enter at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West. (718) 855-7882. Free.

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GO FISH: Macy's fishing contest. 11 am to 3 pm. See Sat., July 10.

OTHER

POETRY: Christopher Solomon presents readings from their work. 2 pm. 221 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-2234. Free.

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NIGHTLIFE...

Continued from page 11...

Magnolia: 488 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope. (718) 369-4814.

Moda Cafe: 294 Fifth Ave. at First Street in Park Slope. (718) 832-8897. www.modacafe.com.

NY Aquarium: West Eighth Street at Surf Avenue in Coney Island. (718) 365-FISH.

Six&Seven: 667 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Park Slope. (718) 230-0264. www.sixandseven.com.

Southpaw: 125 Fifth Ave. at St. John's Place in Park Slope. (718) 230-0264. www.southpaw.com.

Todd's Bar & Grill: 96 Berry St. at North Eighth Street in Williamsburg. (718) 384-9787.

Tommy's Tavern: 1041 Manhattan Ave. at Cranston Street in Greenpoint. (718) 383-6699.

Trash Bar: 256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 399-1000. www.trashbar.com.

Two Boots: 514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 499-3253. www.two-boots.com.

200 Fifth: 200 Fifth Ave. at Sacret Street in Park Slope. (718) 638-2925. www.200fifth.com.

Ripple Bar: 709 Washington Ave. at Sterling Place in Crown Heights, no phone. www.ripplebar.com.

Samba: 9604 Third Ave. at 96th Street in Bay Ridge. (718) 439-0425.

Shake Shack: 155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 322-3794. www.shakeshack.com.

Williamsburg Music Center: 367 Bedford Ave. at South Fifth Street in Williamsburg. (718) 384-1654. www.williamsburgmusiccenter.com.

Waterfront Ale House: 155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 322-3794. www.waterfrontalehouse.com.

Willie's Bar: 155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 322-3794. www.williesbar.com.

Wine & Dine: 155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 322-3794. www.wineanddine.com.

Yacht Club: 155 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 322-3794. www.yachtclub.com.

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Co-sleeping can be necessary

Q: My grandson is 2-1/2 and has never slept in his own bed. My daughter-in-law wants him to sleep with her. I know I should stay out of it, but I think this habit is wrong. I have on occasion mentioned this. She tries sometimes to put him in his bed, but he comes and gets in their bed. My son and I don't like the arrangement, but he doesn't want to make waves.

A: Stay out of it. "Whether the boy sleeps with your daughter-in-law and son is none of your business," says a mother who got unsolicited advice from her ex-husband's girlfriend. "I'm also the mother of a former bed hopper. I obsessed about that and toilet training until a friend assured me, 'Your boys won't graduate wearing diapers, and they won't still be trying to get in your bed.'"

It's up to the parents to decide whether their child's sleeping habits need to change. Pediatricians disagree on the topic. Some couples don't think three's a crowd; others feel co-sleeping disrupts their intimacy. Whether it's right or wrong for the family isn't the point, one reader says. "The grandmother

Parent-to-Parent

adds: If the son tells his mother he dislikes the sleeping arrangement, she should encourage him to talk to his wife but should not interfere further.

A stepmother encouraged her husband to stop letting his 4-year-old son sleep in their bed. The boy was allowed to fall asleep in the living room, stay there, and would wake and come to sleep next to his father. The book "Healthy Sleep Habits, Happy Child" (Ballantine, 1999) by sleep researcher Marc Weissblum, MD, helped the stepmother convince her husband that it would be better for all involved if his son slept in his own bed.

There are many nighttime parenting styles, says pediatrician William Sears, MD, and parents need to be sensible and use whatever arrangement that best fits their family's needs.

For the grandmother to get involved could cause resentment between her and her daughter-in-law, says a mother of three. She

the night at six weeks of age. "But after their mother left home, my 21-month-old daughter began waking up and calling for me. For a week I stayed up nights rocking and cooing, trying to get her back to sleep in her own room," he recalls. "Sleep deprivation quickly affected my health and work. One weary night, I finally just put her in my own bed. We were both back asleep in seconds."

Within six months, the girl was sleeping on her own again. "Do parents realize that food allergies, mineral deficiencies and digestive problems can be the culprits in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, fatigue and erratic behavior in their children?" For me, calcium and magnesium deficiencies and an inability to absorb food properly after taking antibiotics made my muscle weakness and depression worse. Can you provide more information on this so parents know to ask their doctors about it?"

If you have tips or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at 24help@net.net.

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New glory coming for 'Old Glory Look-Out'

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

One of Bay Ridge's oldest and most overlooked war memorials is in store for major renovations for the first time in decades.

Old Glory Look-Out Point, which features a beautiful view of the New York Harbor between the 69th Street Pier and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, is slated to be decorated with six new flag poles, each wired with lights for nighttime appreciation. As a centerpiece, those organizing the memorial hope to build a large plaque in the center.

The renovation of the 106-year-old memorial, which is located on 81st Street and Shore Road, should be complete by Nov. 11, Veterans Day, said state Sen. Marty Golden who organized the spruce-up after Teamsters from union locals 804 and 282 came to the Bay Ridge official with their idea.

"There was a point back in the late-'80s or early '90s that those plaques were covered with weeds and dirt," said Golden, a member of the state



Ralph A. Mottola (left), Angelo Dolce and Alfonso Marino, members of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War, with resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of D-Day during the unveiling of Old Glory Look-Out Point renovations last week.

Senate's Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs committee. "That's how badly at one point it had deteriorated. I thought it was an appropriate idea."

Its centerpiece, said Golden with John Quaglione, is expected to be a 50-foot flag pole surrounded by five 30-foot flags, each representing a branch of the armed forces.

Kevin Lindroth, a UPS driver who lives in Bay Ridge,

organized the project with other members of Teamsters Local 804. When the plan grew wings, he invited members of Local 282, who, as concrete workers, will construct the memorial. The entire project, said Lindroth, will be paid for by the Teamsters.

Among the casualties of the failure to maintain the area were a set of four plaques attached to nearby trees that were dedicated to those who died in Vietnam. Lindroth said that one of the soldiers, Capt. Vincent Chiarello, was a friend who disappeared in the mid-1960s and whose remains were discovered only two years ago, in the wreckage of his plane.

"He was dead for 20 years and nobody knew about it," Lindroth said, wistfully. In addition to the collection of flagpoles, the Teamsters plan to pick up the stones around the site, add new shrubbery, lay concrete and add six new benches.

"Maybe you were a cook, or a clerk and didn't necessarily die for your country," said Lindroth. "But you did your duty. This is a thank you to all the veterans."

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Hurst man charged with beating elderly woman

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A teacher from Bensonhurst brutally attacked his 86-year-old mother with a metal pipe and repeatedly punched her in the back of the head, say police.

Gerald Gargiulo, 45, was arrested at his home on 84th Street at 16th Avenue and charged with beating his elderly mother.

The attack happened around 4 pm on April 19, police say, inside the man's home. Al-

though the woman suffered three bumps on her head and pain in her back, the alleged abuse went unreported until July 1 when a home care worker with the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged became suspicious of her.

"My goodness, now that's a bad crime," said Vincent Tomasuolo, a neighbor who lives across the street. "He doesn't look like the type who would go around beating up his mother."

Police and neighbors said the man was a teacher, al-

though neither could say at what school.

Department of Education spokesman Margie Feinberg said Gargiulo is a special education teacher in District 20. He has been re-assigned as a regional officer pending the outcome of his case.

Gargiulo was charged with assault, two counts of menacing, harassment and criminal possession of a weapon, according to a complaint filed with the Kings County District Attorney's office. A spokesman for the district attorney

said that he was released on his own recognizance, likely because he was not considered a flight risk.

Rachel Pauley, an assistant district attorney prosecuting the domestic violence case, said Gargiulo was provided legal aid before it was determined that he had the means to pay for his own counsel. She said that, as of now, the man has not retained a lawyer for a July 27 court date.

Neither Gargiulo nor an attorney could be reached for comment.

Shovel to head

An altercation in Bensonhurst this week was ended by a swift pounding with a shovel.

Police say that after two men got into an argument on Bay 22nd Street at Benson Avenue one of the men, 27, decided to end it swiftly by hashing his opponent over the head several times with the digging device. The 29-year-old victim was treated at an undisclosed area hospital.

Police arrested his alleged attacker shortly after the incident, which happened around 11:30 am on July 3.

Cafe caper

Thieves broke into an Mid-Eastern cafe and bazaar on Fifth Avenue on Independence Day and stole \$3,400 before escaping through a back exit, say police.

The 3:30 pm incident happened only 30 minutes after the business at Ovington Avenue closed. Police say the crooks broke in through a rear door, which they didn't lock after fleeing.

The money had been stashed away in a drawer in an office.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 3
ethooks valued at \$1,200, \$500 worth of Coach handbags, four Louis Vuitton bags valued at \$1,600 and an area rug.

Bike basher

A father-and-son moment was violently interrupted after a careless bicyclist nearly struck a boy as he and his dad were walking in Bensonhurst.

Police say that the man and boy were on the sidewalk of Bay 32nd Street at 86th Street

on July 4 when a 25-year-old man mowed about 5-foot-6, sped past them, nearly knocking down the youngster.

When the father spoke up, the belligerent biker backpedaled and began swinging his helmet at him. Police say that several connecting thumps to the 41-year-old dad's head caused severe injuries.

The incident happened shortly after 8 pm.

HAMILTON...

Continued from page 1

"We are looking into it, but we don't have anything yet," said Cocola.

Bussey was killed on his way home from a McDonald's on Hamilton Avenue, where family members were celebrating the boy's graduation from a Head Start preschool program earlier that day. His 14-year-old sister, Ashley Lane, was also struck by the truck as the two crossed the intersection near Court Street, but she was thrown out of the truck's path. She was treated at Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan where she underwent four hours of surgery on her jaw.

Neither the driver of the truck nor his Bailey, N.J., employees were charged with any wrongdoing.

Cocola said that the accident may have happened after the driver sped up to beat a yellow light on Hamilton Avenue. Choosing a traffic remedy for Hamilton Avenue may be difficult, said Kit Hodge, a campaign coordinator for the advocacy group Transportation Alternatives. Unlike an accident in Park Slope last February in which two boys, ages 10 and 11, were killed after a landscaping truck made a right turn from Ninth Street onto Third Avenue, the accident on Hamilton Avenue did not involve a turning vehicle. If it had, Transportation Department officials said, extended sidewalk corners, or neck-downs, would be considered at the location.

"Sometimes outside observers look at these crashes where people have tried to cross when they weren't supposed to and say, 'Well, the kids made a mistake and should have been more careful,'" said Hodge. "We want to make it clear that Transportation Alternatives believes that the streets should be constructed in such a way that no one should have to die from pedestrian error, especially kids, who sometimes have trouble judging intersections."

Until this accident, Transportation officials had not recommended specific safety measures at the intersection.

In fact, the thoroughfare was said to be under-capacity in a 130-page, \$1.2 million Downtown Brooklyn Traffic Calming study released last month.

"Really, what the traffic calming study intended to do was calm traffic in the sense that we put up more bike lanes," said Cocola.

A Transportation Alternatives report found the 11231 zip code in which the accident happened to be one of the safest in Brooklyn, registering only four fatalities between 1995 and 2001. That's in comparison to parts of Bay Ridge and Sunset Park, where 20 deaths were recorded over the same period.

Still, in 1997 alone, according to police records, there were 99 nonfatal traffic accidents on Hamilton Avenue at Clinton and at West Ninth streets, a bustling truck route below the Gowanus Expressway. Lane said that drivers trying to avoid congested



Sherry Lane at vigil for her 4-year-old son who was struck by a truck on and killed on Hamilton Avenue last week.

Hamilton Avenue often pull onto Clinton Street, where children from the Red Hook Houses public housing project are plentiful, said Lane, who lives on Clinton Street herself. She added that she would like to see the thoroughfare better enforced by the Department of Transportation.

Cocola said he would investigate further what could be done in the area. "I looked at the Hamilton Avenue data and there hadn't been a fatal accident there in six years," said Cocola. "But you can say all that and it really doesn't matter to those parents."

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BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE

Three up, two down for Clones

By Ed Shakespeare
For The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn 9
New Jersey 5

July 2 at New Jersey

The regular Friday night fireworks on Coney Island went off as scheduled, but the Cyclones weren't at Keyspan Park to see them; instead, they created their own pyrotechnic display 61 miles away in tiny Augusta, N.J., when they sent 14 batters to the plate in the fourth inning, lighting up the Cardinal pitching staff.

Perhaps suffering bus home from the trip, Cyclones starter Jeff Landung allowed single runs in each of the first three innings to put the Brooks in the hole 3-0.

But in the top of the fourth, the fuse to the Cyclone's explosion was lit by a leadoff hit single by Derran Watts. Tyler Davidson followed with a walk, and then Jim Bart Jr., who lives in Al-lendale, N.J., 59 miles from State's Park, blasted his home state's New York-Penn league entry with a triple to drive in two runs. Bart later scored on a groundout by Aaron Hathaway.

After Bryan Zech walked, Corey Coles launched a rocket for a three-run homer to put Brooklyn ahead 6-3. Dante Brinkley singled, advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a Watts' single. Davidson then reached first on an error, and Bart was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Grant Psoas walked to drive in the eighth run.

The Cardinals scored twice in the fourth to narrow the lead to 8-5, but Edgar Alfonzo (2-0), who earned the win, and Celso Rondón combined to pitch 5-1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

In the ninth, Davidson capped the scoring with a solo blast over the left field fence.

Brooklyn 6

Williamsport 5

July 3 at Keyspan Park

A "crosscutter" is supposed to saw wood, but the Williamsport hurlers simply added wood to the fire as the Clones came back from a 5-3 deficit to tie the game in the ninth before taking the contest in the 10th.

Jim Bart Jr., still making the adjustment from the metal bats he used in college, used his new wooden model to burn a single into center field scoring Caleb Stewart with the lead run.

After two Crosscutters runs in the first inning, Brooklyn tied the game in

the bottom of the frame as Corey Coles walked and moved to second on a fly by Dante Brinkley. Derran Watts hit a high-voltage single to drive in Coles, and Watts eventually scored on an error by the Cutter third sacker.

Williamsport went in front by a run in the fourth, but Brooklyn tied the game in the fifth when Grant Psoas led off the inning with a walk and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Kevin Rios.

In the eighth, Williamsport went out in front by a score of 5-3 on a two-run homer by Sean Smith.

But in the ninth, Brooklyn's Coles and Brinkley led off the inning with consecutive singles to place runners at the corners, before Brinkley stole second to place both runners in scoring position. After Watts and Tyler Davidson struck out, it all came down to Ambiorix Concepcion.

Historically speaking, Ambiorix was a defender of his Eburnean people against Julius Caesar, and was one of the clutch performers of the first century B.C. In like fashion, the Cyclones' Ambiorix is becoming one of Brooklyn baseball's clutch performers of the 21st century, as he smacked an 0-2 pitch up the middle to tie the game.

In the 10th, Aaron Hathaway singled and went to second on a sacrifice bunt by Kevin Rios. Stewart ran for Hathaway and Bart, pinch hitting for Bryan Zech, drilled a single up the middle to give the Cyclones a 6-5 win and an 11-6 season record, good for a tie for first place with Aberdeen in the McNamara Division.

"Cyclone" Joe Williams started for the Clones and gave up three runs in four innings. Mike Swindell pitched two scoreless innings in his Cyclones debut, but it was Carlos Muniz in relief (2-1) who picked up the win.

Brooklyn 4

Williamsport 3

July 4, at Keyspan Park

On the same day that at Nathan's, a block west from Keyspan Park, champion Japanese eater "Tsunami" Kobayashi woffled down 53-1/2 pound and buns in 12 minutes, California lefty Evan MacLane woffled down the Crosscutters, allowing only a single earned run in 6.2 innings to run his ERA to 2.1 and lower his ERA to a big-sized 1.48.

The Cyclones started the scoring in the third inning when catcher Danilo Reynoso and center fielder Corey Coles bracketed a groundout by Kevin Rios to put runners on the corners.



Cyclones Corey Coles (left) and Aaron Hathaway collide while trying to catch a pop fly on Sunday. The ball was soon dropped.

Dante Brinkley flew out, with the runners holding, before Ambiorix Concepcion walked to load the bases. Tyler Davidson then hit a two-out single to center for two runs.

After Williamsport added a run in the fifth, the Cyclones came back in the bottom of the inning when Coles singled, and stole second before Brinkley homered to right to give the Clones a 4-1 lead.

The Crosscutters added two unearned runs in the seventh when Brian Bixler singled, Christian Herrera reached on an error by third baseman Grant Psoas, Wanciel Macia bunted the runners to second and third, and Brett Holmes singled in both runners. After Evan MacLane allowed the unearned runs, he was replaced by Celso Rondón, who continued his lights-out

relief pitching by throwing 2-1/3 innings of hitless relief to leave the Cyclones with a record of 11-6.

Auburn 5

Brooklyn 4

July 5, 2004 at Auburn

The Cyclones were a two-time loser in Auburn as the Doubledays won their eleventh straight game. Auburn opened the gates with a run in the second inning. Brooklyn retaliated with two runs in the third. Grant Psoas singled and later scored on a double by Corey Coles. Dante Brinkley doubled in Coles to give the Cyclones the lead.

Brooklyn scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings on RBI hits by Ambiorix Concepcion and Derran Watts.

doing began. Catcher Aaron Hathaway threw the ball into centerfield, sending Klostermann to second. Corey Coles picked up the errant throw in center and dropped the ball while attempting a throw to third Klostermann then scored.

In the top of the second, Ryan Coultas doubled with one out and came around to score on Hathaway's double down the right field line.

Auburn came right back in the second. After a free pass to Eric Nielsen, Chip Cannon fired a shot to right center for a two-run homer.

The Doubledays ran their lead to 4-1 in the fourth when, with only one out, Auburn runners on the corners, Cannon blasted a sacrifice fly.

The Brooks put a run on the board in the fifth when Derran Watts doubled to left center, went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Tyler Davidson's single.

The Clones drew within one in the seventh. With one out, Coles singled, swiped second and scored on Dante Brinkley's single to left.

The Cyclones tied the game in the ninth when Brinkley singled in Coles.

After the Cyclones went down 1-2-3 in the 10th, Carlos Muniz (2-2) came in to pitch the bottom of the frame. Auburn won the game when Eugenio Velez singled and eventually advanced to third with two outs after Vince Esposito was intentionally walked and Brian Hall singled to center, loading the bases. Adam Lind then singled in Velez to win the game.

Auburn 7

Brooklyn 6

July 6 at Auburn

The Cyclones were a two-time loser in Auburn as the Doubledays won their eleventh straight game. Auburn opened the gates with a run in the second inning. Brooklyn retaliated with two runs in the third. Grant Psoas singled and later scored on a double by Corey Coles. Dante Brinkley doubled in Coles to give the Cyclones the lead.

Brooklyn scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings on RBI hits by Ambiorix Concepcion and Derran Watts.

Brooklyn scored single runs in the fourth and fifth innings on RBI hits by Ambiorix Concepcion and Derran Watts.

Wednesday's game against Auburn was rained out.

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Founded in 1992 by Mr. John A. Calabrese AEP, CLTC Certified Long-Term Care Specialist

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Schedules available in Russian

By Ed Shakespeare
For The Brooklyn Paper

Not so far past the Cyclone roller coaster from Keyspan Park, you don't hear much Russian being spoken.

That may soon change. Look around Brighton Beach, and you'll find some Cyclones schedules printed in Russian — a baseball first, according to the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body of minor league baseball.

You don't have to speak Russian to use the schedules because, no matter what language you speak, "SL" means Staten Island, and the dates of the games are easy to understand. But the directions to Keyspan Park and all ticket ordering information are in Russian.

"We have a huge number of Russian-speaking people in Brooklyn, particularly in Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach. These people have not been introduced to baseball on a large scale and the (New York Mets) organization wants this population to become involved in following the game," said Dave Campanaro, the Cyclones' director of media relations.

"We have had our interns distribute the schedules to a large number of stores and businesses in the Russian-speaking communities, and the schedules have been favorably received."

The Cyclones have also printed schedules in Spanish, a first-time move for the Cyclones, but not a baseball first. "Baseball is obviously very big among the Spanish-speaking communities in our area and we wanted to reach out to this community as well by printing our schedules in Spanish," Campanaro said.

There is a terrific contribution made to North American baseball by Spanish speaking



players, but how about from Russian talkers?

Well, there was an infidel in the Russian ranks in the general season by the name of Vladimir Hernandez. His first name is of Russian derivation, but it derives from the long-time Russian influence in his birthplace — Cuba.

Hernandez is also a major-league right fielder named Vladimir (Guerrero), but he was born in the Dominican Republic. Maybe the Russian-language schedules will find their way back to Russia and the Clones' first Russian player is only a few years away.

Baby rivalry

Is a rivalry a rivalry when your rival is in last place? We'll find out this weekend when the second place (11-8) Cyclones take the last place (5-14) Staten Island Yankees in a three game series. Will the Yankees climb back into the McNamara Division race over the backs of the Clones?

Will the Clones respond to the call to battle issued by Brooklyn Borough president Marty Markowitz two weeks ago at the reconstructed Parade Grounds, when he told the Clones, "Remember, whatever you do, beat Staten Island, beat the Yankees!"

The action starts with a 7:05 pm game at Keyspan Park on Friday, July 9. The teams cross the Narrows for a 7:05 start on Saturday at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George, before coming back to Brooklyn for the series finale at 5:05 pm on Sunday.

The Cyclones and Yankees will meet 11 times this season and the winner of the season's series claims the coveted Mayor's Cup.

The Play's the Thing

With Ed Shakespeare

Senior school at Keyspan

MOST BROOKLYN SCHOOLS are out for the summer, but as traditional schools were wrapping things up, another type of school was just getting underway.

That school is located in Coney Island, and it's for young men of diverse backgrounds who come from all over to engage in the rigorous curriculum.

It's pretty tough to be admitted to this school, as only those showing the best potential are accepted. It's a summer school with more than 35 students at a time. The campus has acres of room and an ocean view. What these students are studying is so interesting to the public that thousands come to the campus to watch the students take their exams.

Of course, the school we're talking about is called the Brooklyn Cyclones, located on the campus called Keyspan Park.

So who runs this school? Let's start with the head of instruction, Guy Conti, the New York Mets' field coordinator.

"The purpose of the Mets' minor league system is about teaching winning baseball," explains Conti. "And there's a big difference between winning being the primary objective of an organization as opposed to playing winning baseball. I think winning is a byproduct of execution; it's a byproduct of sound fundamentals. Brooklyn has the same philosophy as every other club in our organization — we want to teach winning baseball and teach players to win in New York City."

"The only thing different in Brooklyn is the atmosphere," he explains. "The kids in Brooklyn get to experience the pluses and minuses of a huge crowd. They get the opportunity to experience large crowds at an early stage in their development. On a hot night like these crowds will get on a ball player. On a good night, the crowd is a plus."

Tony Tjerima, the Cyclones' manager, is like a principal who also teaches classes. Minor-league coaching is a profession that contains only a manager, a pitching coach, and a hitting coach, and the Cyclones are no exception. The manager not only directs his coaches' teaching, but the skipper must also do a lot of teaching as well. Tjerima's assistants are Donorson Mitchell, the hitting coach, and Hector Berrios, the pitching coach.

MICHEL TIERIMAS "Hitting 101" — but he also helps out with the infield and outfield defense. "Right now, many of these guys are coming from college systems where they were taught [that college's] way to play," Mitchell says. "Now we have to give them an introduction to professional baseball as well as teach them our system for cutoffs, reliefs, how we take batting and fielding practice."

Do the Cyclones also jump right in and alter a hitter's stroke? "As for batting, all of these guys have come to us after some degree of success, so when we get a first year player, we initially let him hit as he has in the past," says Mitchell.

"If he struggles and comes to us for help, then he's ready to absorb a change. If a player has already been playing professionally before he reaches us, then we might make a change with his swing or approach, but first I clear it with Mickey Benitez, [the New York Mets' minor league hitting coordinator]. Kevin Morgan, [the Mets' director of minor league operations] and Tony [Tjerima] before I try, because we all have to make sure that we're on the same page and that the player is receiving contradictory advice."

Of course, everything a player does is recorded during a game and sent to the Mets, but Mitchell mentions that even practice drills are meticulously noted.

"After the game, I have to send a situational hitting report that I have to give to the manager and he faces it to New York," adds the batting coach. "For example, I'll say I had Rios working on tracking pitches in the bullpen. I had Bart working on going the other way. Usually, it's about five or six guys that I have in the cage every day, two or three guys in the bullpen tracking pitches, or three or four guys that I show extra BP [batting practice] each day."

On the minor league level, the lineup is not designed just to win that night's game.

"There are certain guys that the organization wants to get at bats and they need to be in the lineup," Mitchell says. "Tony makes the final decision on the lineup, but he takes input from [his coaches]. At this level, Tony tries to play everyone, but sometimes the organization dictates playing time for certain guys."

Mitchell mentions the unique situation of playing before a packed, Brooklyn crowd as a player's abilities are tested.

"One of the things we tell the guys is that if you are dogging it here in Brooklyn, you'll hear it from the stands because these are baseball fans here," he says. "You can't fool 'em."

As Mitchell does with the hitters, pitching coach Hector Berrios tries not to immediately change a player's form, unless that form could possibly lead to injury. And as on the hitting side of the game, any changes in pitching form are coordinated with the Mets.

During the game, Berrios stands in the dugout, taking notes. Sometimes he discusses the flaws he sees in a pitcher during a game, but other times he waits until the next day to go over what he sees. Why is that?

"Some players can absorb instruction during the heat of battle," Berrios says, "but many players learn better after things have cooled down from the game."

WHEN DOES BERRIOS do this teaching? Well, the Cyclones usually have to report to the ballpark for stretching and warm-ups at 3 pm for a home night game. The reporting time means being on the field, ready to stretch, not lounging in the clubhouse.

If you think a regular school is strict about being on time, take a look at the Cyclones school. Being late costs them a fine and affects a player's reputation. Most live in a dormitory at the Polytechnic Institute in Downtown Brooklyn. (Yes, they actually live in a school.) They board a van (school bus) hours before they are due at the Keyspan campus.

After their stretch and warm-up, Berrios becomes a teacher. He goes over the charts he keeps. He goes over how his pitchers get hitters out; he goes over the opposing hitters. Berrios brings to mind the repetition teaching method used by a certain famous football coach from Sheephead Bay, Vince Lombardi, when he talks about his teaching technique.

"I go over what we can learn from the previous game," notes Berrios. "Hopefully, if we repeat things over and over again, things will sink in."

Berrios uses visual aids. He shows players videos of various famous pitchers to study their techniques, and he has a book that shows still photos of various pitchers and all the positions that pitchers are in during various stages of their deliveries. So the neophyte Cyclones learn as he shows them photos of pitchers such as the Mets' Tom Glavine and the Astros' Roger Clemens.

"Now our pitchers can see why these great veterans have stayed in the game so long," he says. "They make it easy on their arm by using proper techniques and we want to show our pitchers how to do the same thing."

Part of the teaching process involves the 60-40 rule. According to Berrios, this means "a pitcher must throw about 60 percent fastballs and 40 percent off-speed pitches during each appearance in a game. This means it is certain that a pitcher will be working enough on his off-speed pitches instead of relying too much on his fastball, as he may have done in college."

Tjerima explains many rules to the players from the time they report to the team. Rules involve curfew, use of alcohol, etc.

"We try to build a structure so the player can properly represent the Mets organization on and off the field," notes the manager.

So the next time you're out at Keyspan, remember that Tjerima may take out a pitcher because he has reached his pitch count, or leave in a pitcher so that he can develop.

The Cyclones may play someone because that player needs work, even though a different player might be better at the moment.

At the game, you're watching the daily examination. But you don't have to pass this course, the players do. And they are always looking to move up to the grade above them, Capital City.

As a fan, you fun comes during someone else's test.

Papers columnist Ed Shakespeare's book, "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn," is available at Amazon.com.