

The Park Slope Paper

Including Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park, Midwood, Kensington, Ocean Parkway Papers

**A Brooklyn
Publication**

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 • © 2006 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 20/16 pages • Vol. 29, No. 43 AWP • Saturday, November 4, 2006 • FREE

BOND BOMBSHELL

IRS would hike Ratner's Yards cost

Experts: New rules could scare off investors

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner's sweetheart deal may be about to turn sour — thanks to the IRS.

Just in time for the final approval of Ratner's Atlantic Yards project, the Internal Revenue Service has proposed the reform of a development-friendly tax program — a bond-financing scheme that happens to provide a funding foundation for Atlantic Yards.

The program under scrutiny is called "payments in lieu of taxes," or PILOTs. Using PILOTs, a city can take land off the tax rolls in exchange for fixed rent-like payments — but the payments are typically less than property taxes and, in Ratner's case, would not even end up in the city's coffers.

If the new rule goes into effect as expected next year, developers would no longer be allowed to use federally subsidized, low-interest bonds for projects that involve PILOTs, unless the payments reflect taxes based on a property's actual value.

The change would "better assure a reasonably close relationship between eligible PILOT payment and generally appli-

cable taxes," the IRS said in the regulation. "If the proposal becomes law, it will generally raise financing costs for developers," said George Sweeting, deputy director of the city's Independent Budget Office.

This could hurt Ratner in two ways:

For one thing, the IRS rule change would force PILOTs to be pegged to a piece of land's fluctuating value. But the investors who are expected to buy the bonds to underwrite Ratner's construction don't like such fluctuations. As a result, they'll demand a higher return on their investment to compensate for the added risk, experts said.

Secondly, PILOT cash doesn't flow into city coffers, but instead pays for the developer's debt servicing or maintenance of the development — another cozy arrangement that has drawn the attention of the IRS bean-counters.

PILOTs are routinely used for public projects like hospitals. But critics — including city Comptroller Bill Thompson, who called the incentive rife with "costly flaws and misuses" — argue that when used as a development incentive, the program cheats ordinary, tax-paying citizens.

It's a slight of hand that allows the city to stick it to taxpayers on behalf of developers," said Neil DeMause, author of Field of Schemes, which focuses on the massive public cost of stadium financing.

See **RATNER** on page 14



Trick and treat

Chloe Kate-Barton displays her bounty at the Cobble Hill Park Halloween Parade on Tuesday. During Park Slope's parade, a reveler in costume robbed a bank on Fifth Avenue (see page 14).



Baby on boards

Workers from the Brooklyn Museum deliver sculptor Ron Mueck's lifelike creation through a back door for his solo exhibition, which opened on Friday. For Lisa J. Curtis's review of the Brooklyn Museum's Annie Leibovitz show, see page 11.

Taxidermist to hipsters: Stuff it!

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

A chic bar in Park Slope hosted a master class on how to mount dead animals.

Taxidermy, of course, is an activity more commonly associated with Union Hall, the bar on Union Street.

But at 5:30 pm last Saturday night, Scott Bibus, a member of the Minnesota Association of Rogue Taxidermists, sat down at a long table in the pub's trendy basement, for once church-like in its silence.

Bibus put his scalpel to the breast of a white-feathered chicken, and sliced it down the middle, all the way to its "vent," an industry euphemism for anus.

Then he took his latex-gloved finger and inserted it into the carcass to begin separating its delicate skin from the "inner anatomy."

Taxidermy is the craft of skinning an animal, preserving that skin, and then mounting it onto a form sculpted to represent the original animal body.

The Rogue Taxidermists use the traditional craft as an artistic medium. Bibus, for example, likes to make his finished specimens look ghoulishly dead, in contrast to the conventional practice of making dead animals look ghoulishly alive.

Heinrich of Bavaria," a multiple-species creation, stands proudly at the Great Autumnal Taxidermy Get-Together at Union Hall in Park Slope last Saturday.



Scott Bibus gestures as he removes the skin from a chicken with the help of Serena Brewer during his taxidermy lesson on Saturday.

In the master class, likes to make gaffes, or fake animals, by combining the body parts of different species. She's the kind of person who would put antlers on a squirrel skin to create the legendary "jackelope."

Like most members of the Association, Bibus and Brewer rely on road kill for their carcasses. But the chicken was store-bought.

"Step one is skinning," said Bibus, giving a play-by-play. "Remove the skin as intact as possible, with as few incisions as possible. Any meat left behind will shrivel and be plagued by bugs."

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The little Brooklyn biz known for creating Sweet 'n Low celebrated its 500 billionth carnation-colored packet this week, reminding a Splenda-iferous world that the old lady of sugar-free is still going strong.

And let the sugar puns begin!

"It's pretty sweet," deadpanned Borough Historian Ron Schweiger before turning serious about the decline of Brooklyn industry.

"Domino Sugar left. The oil industry left, the Navy is gone. At least we kept something indulgent," he said.

The son of the company, Ben Eisenstadt, invented the world's first

granulated sugar substitute in 1957, the year the Dodgers left his hometown.

And for the past 49 years, Eisenstadt's saccharine blend has been mixed, packed and shipped from a low-slung factory across from the Navy Yards in Fort Greene.

"It's a beautiful, lovely pink place," said Brenda Holland, a Sweet 'n Low packer who estimated her share of the 500 billion packets produced by the company as "a lot."

Eisenstadt's company, Cumberland Packing, donated the 500 billionth packet to the Brooklyn Historical Society.

The Pink Panther, as the sweeter is now trying to re-brand itself, has seen its fate shift along with the tides of American culture and health.

The diet craze of the 1970s, and

1980s brought prosperity, but like TAB, the no-cal drink with a similar aftertaste, the growth of the nation's multi-billion-dollar diet industry brought competitors and flagging profits to Cumberland.

A mob scandal and unproven links to cancer in the 1990s didn't help — but the nation's battle with diabetes — the sixth leading cause of death in the Brooklyn — has the pink lady no longer singing the blues (except in diners where only Equal is offered).

"As terrible as it is, diabetes has been good for us," said company CEO Steven Eisenstadt, the third-generation Eisenstadt to run the company.



The 500-billionth packet of Sweet 'n Low rolled off the Fort Greene assembly line this week.

Smartmom keeps tabs 'As the Slope Turns'

THE NEW FILM WITH KATE WINSLET and hunky Patrick Wilson, "Little Children," reminded Smartmom of something she's known for a long time: extra-marital sex just isn't worth the bother.

The film, which follows Sarah and Brad, two dissatisfied parents in a high-end suburb not unlike Brownstone Brooklyn, makes hanky-panky seem even more transgressive than Smartmom ever expected. Why, it's right up there with being a pedophile or something.

Sure, "Little Children" is meant to be a broad satire about marital infidelity among the stroller set. But it's also a watershed cultural moment for parents of small children: a referendum on what happens when privileged Yuppies let their mid-life blues and marital bliahs get the best of them.

And the unmistakable conclusion is this: Don't let your libidinous selves get carried away. Sloppers. It won't solve any of your real relationship issues: kids, money, sex, career unhappiness or bad communication.

In the film, Sarah married the wrong guy, an older man who's obsessed with Internet porn. When she falls head over heels for Brad, a former jock who is easy to talk to and easier to land in the sack, it's just lucky she has a gigundo suburban house with a tiny attic room with a mattress on the floor.

There, Sarah and Brad can hump and moan as loudly and passionately as they want because their toddlers take long naps in the afternoon.

**SMART
mom**

By Louise Crawford

But life doesn't imitate art. When Smartmom's pal To-futta had a massive crush on a stay-at-home dad she met at Tots-on-the-Go, she barely had enough time to go to the bathroom, let alone plan an afternoon interlude.

And there was just nowhere to go for their intimate interactions. His wife worked at home and "doing it" in her marital bedroom would have been just plain weird. Plus, To-futta's husband's dirty socks on the floor were probably not much of an aphrodisiac.

She considered trying the new Holiday Inn Express on Union Street, but realized that was too close to the school where Mrs. Kravitz

See **SMARTMOM** on page C10



This ain't Smartmom: In the new movie, "Little Children," suburban moms and dads (Patrick Wilson and Kate Winslet) have affairs to ward off the marital blues. But Smartmom says it never works in the real world.

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LEGAL NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS WITH NOTICE OF APPEARANCE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER — INDEX NO. 446706 — FILED 4/14/06
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA
FKA: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK AS TRUSTEE FOR RS AJT A 2004-12, PLAINTIFF,
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS: FHN MORTGAGE CORPORATION, c/o FIRST AMERICAN, 8425 N. STAMMANS FREEWAY, DALLAS, TX 75247
—against—
RALPH PANTOJA, And all of the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lessors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lessors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of the aforesaid classes of persons, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, of all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff, except as herein stated.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, RAFAEL PANTOJA AKA RAFAEL M. PANTOJA, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC., AMERICAN MANUFACTURER MUTUAL INSURANCE, "JOHN DOE," "RICHARD DOE," "JANE DOE," "COBA COE," "DICK MOE" AND "RUBY POE," the co-defendants last named in caption marks being intended to designate tenants or occupants in possession of the herein described premises or portions thereof. If any there be, said names being fictitious, their true names being unknown to plaintiff.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Amended Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer or if the Amended Complaint is not served with this Summons to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, or within thirty (30) days where service is other than by personal delivery exclusive of the day of service and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.
DATED AUGUST 22, 2006.
/s/

GERALD ROTH
STEIN AND SHELDOVER, L.L.P.
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
One Old Country Road, Suite 113
Carle Place, New York 11514
Telephone: (516) 742-1212
SSE FILE # PHN 19929

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
TO: RALPH PANTOJA
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable JOHN B. LEPOWITZ, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, dated the 12th day of SEPTEMBER, 2006 and filed with the clerk of said court and the papers in the office of the Clerk of the County of WESTCHESTER.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT
THE OBJECT of the above entitled action is to foreclose a mortgage in the original principal amount of \$1,186,250.00 plus interest, late charges, costs, advances, expenses and legal fees, recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County of WESTCHESTER on JANUARY 11, 2005, in CRFN 44250807, covering premises described as: 744 LAKE STREET, WEST HARRISON, NY 10606, as more particularly described on Schedule "A" annexed.

The relief sought is the within action of a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the mortgage described above. Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER COUNTY as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises are situated.

DESCRIPTION
"SCHENCK & A."
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ASSEMBLY SMACKDOWN

2 candidates in 44th AD fight it out to rep Slope

The 44th Assembly District covers most of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace and Kensington. The incumbent, Jim Brennan, has represented the district for more than 20 years. Both he and his Republican opponent, Yvette Velazquez-Bennett, responded to our candidate questionnaire.

What are the three main reasons voters should choose you?

JIM BRENNAN
Voters get vigorous, high-quality service from myself and my office. My office helps thousands of residents each year with both individual and neighborhood concerns. My office sponsors conferences and events every year, including a job fair in 2006, a volunteer fair in 2005 and a health fair in 2004. My office has provided the vigorous political leadership that has resulted in downzoning in Community Boards 6, 7 and 14, throughout Park Slope, Windsor Terrace and Flatbush. My office has been intervening on a regular basis to protect residents from predatory developers and landlords in relation to controlling unsafe construction practices, maintaining habitable conditions, etc. I chair the Assembly Standing Committee on Cities and initiated a new \$300-million Urban Revitalization Fund in the legislative session this year.

YVETTE VELAZQUEZ-BENNETT

1. I am in favor of educational choice, including greater educational tax credits, an increase in the number of charter schools and school vouchers that do not restrict the religious practices of non-sectarian schools. 2. I am committed to enact legislation allowing civil confinement of violent sexual predators predisposed to molest, rape or kill again. 3. I have conservative values. I am pro-life (I have been endorsed by the NYS Right to Life Committee) and want to maintain the traditional definition of marriage. **Offer two or more reasons why your opponent(s) are less qualified — or significantly less qualified — than you.**



Jim Brennan

BRENNAN
I have nothing negative to say about my opponent.

VELAZQUEZ-BENNETT
1. My opponent is opposed to school choice. I am not only a proponent and advocate, but have chosen the path of home-schooling my children. 2. Our social values are vastly opposite. He is a socially liberal. I am not. I am endorsed by the New York State Right to Life Committee. The values of the constituents of this district would be best represented by my values.

What are the three most important issues facing your district — and what are you going to do about them?

BRENNAN
There is an overwhelming lack of affordable housing, most acutely for the low-income elderly and disabled. The national, state, and city governments need to create new subsidies and vouchers, and build additional subsidized housing. The unavailability of health insurance, in combination with major bureaucratic obstacles to enrollment in existing health insurance programs, in combination with not seeking access to care. State and city governments need to streamline health insurance programs, as well as expand eligibility to assure basic access to health care. Overcrowding



Yvette Velazquez-Bennett

in the public schools, in combination with lack of funding for after-school, evening, and weekend youth service, limits opportunities for young people. The legislature needs to fund the public school system to comply with the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case. Overdevelopment threatens the quality of life, from Atlantic Yards to everyday neighborhoods across the city. The leadership needs to support zoning compliance and permit added density in a well-controlled and more balanced manner. The city is growing in population and there is an acute lack of affordable housing. As a result, some additional density is required, but this can be done without harming the existing quality of life if well.

VELAZQUEZ-BENNETT
1. Although I am in favor of development that would provide jobs and affordable housing, developers and the community need to come to agreement to keep future development in character with the neighborhood. I am also in favor of a constitutional amendment to prohibit eminent domain for economic development and limit it to true public purposes. 2. Business taxes, real-estate taxes and personal income taxes are inhibiting potential investment in our community by our community. Too many of our youth are forced to move out because they can't get a job that allows them to afford to live here. Businesses have deserted our neighborhoods in droves because of high taxes and unfriendly attitude toward industry and local businesses.

We need lower taxes. 3. Child and sexual predators must be dealt with. I am committed to enacting legislation that would allow the civil confinement of violent sexual predators, predisposed to molest, rape or kill again.

Is Brooklyn heading in the "right" direction or the "wrong" direction?

BRENNAN
Candidate did not answer.
VELAZQUEZ-BENNETT
My family does not have TIVO or cable. We occasionally use a VCR to record science fiction. I would rather visit the theater of the mind via reading or radio. We subscribe to Netflix and watch classic old movies and old sitcoms when it fits our schedule.

Bonus round: What TV show do you TIVO so you are sure to never miss it?

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POLICE BLOTTER

Baptist Church hit again on 6th

By Lilo H. Stalton
The Brooklyn Papers

The burglar was a churchgoer — but not in the traditional sense.

A thief pretended to be on legitimate business when a witness saw him leaving the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church on Oct. 24 — the second time in three months the church has been burglarized, according to police.

"Oh, I was just getting something," the burglar told a woman as he left the building, on the corner of Lincolnton Place, at 10 am, wheeling a bicycle out the door on his way.

The 43-year-old witness later discovered the front door was broken from its hinges. The orange-and-silver bike, with a gray child's seat mounted on back, belonged to someone at the church.

The thief was described as a black man, 5-foot-7 and 180 pounds, wearing a tan ski cap at the time.

A 37-year-old church representative said burglars crashed the house of worship three months ago. Details on that heist were not available.

Park heist

A trio of thieves stole a backpack off the ground as an inline skater rested nearby in a Fifth Avenue park Oct. 28, police said.

The 24-year-old skater put down his bag beside a fence inside J.J. Byrne Park, near Third Street, around 8 pm. Suddenly, three men ran up, grabbed the bag, and fled.

The victim, a Massachusetts man, could not describe the thieves. The bag held a host of personal items, including several bank cards, a high-end iPod, a cellphone, a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses, tools and \$201.

Books stolen

A thief snatched books, music players, ID cards and cash from the basement of a Seventh Avenue diner, police said.

The burglar broke through a cellar door at the eatery, at Seventh Street, shortly after 11:20 pm on Oct. 21, and ran off with



A fire ravaged Iglesia Presbiteriana Memorial Church in Park Slope last Friday, gutting the rectory and a community space used by the Park Slope Child Care Collective. More than 100 smoke-eaters battled the blaze at the 125-year-old Seventh Avenue landmark — yet parishioners are sticking to their regular Mass schedule. The city found temporary space for the collective, which is now caring for the youth of Park Slope at the Old First Reformed Church.

\$360, an iPod, two Sony CD players and two book bags.

Target taco

Talk about a sour note. A burglar busted into a jukebox in a Fifth Avenue Mexican restaurant early on Oct. 26, police said.

The thief had broken through a metal window guard in the back of the building, near the corner of 12th Street, after the restaurant closed at 1 am.

Once inside, he cleaned the cash out of the song machine. He then moved to the office, busted open a strong box and removed the cash there.

In total, the burglar escaped with \$700. He also stole a Sony digital camera.

A security video shows a man in a hooded sweatshirt, but showed little other detail.

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Locking lockers won't stop tenacious thieves

By Claire McTaggart and Lilo H. Stainton
 for The Brooklyn Papers

Yet another gym-rat found his locker broken into in a Downtown gym last week, the latest in a string of such robberies, cops said.

The 42-year-old man went for a run at a gym on Joralemon Street at Court Street at 6 pm on Oct. 27, only to return and find his combination lock busted open and his cash, laptop, BlackBerry and cellphone missing.

Another wallet was stolen Oct. 24 from a gym on Boerum Place at Pacific Street around 6 pm. In this case, the victim saw the thief raiding his locker. The robber bolted with the stolen wallet and took off in a black Lincoln Town Car.

Atlantic antic

Three gun-toting masked men robbed an antique store on Atlantic Avenue and Hoyt Street and tied up the employees while they ransacked the place.

The trio entered the store around noon on Oct. 28, bladed guns and demanded money. When the employee could not come up with any, they ransacked the store and threatened to kill the worker if he dialed 911.

Church theft

An unknown group of thugs broke into a church on the corner of State and Bond streets and took off with the collection box and safe.

Police said the perps entered the Pentecostal Church at 10 pm on Oct. 27 by throwing a brick through the front window, forcing the front door open and kicking in two office doors.

A church pastor reported the items missing the following Sunday, but did not have an exact record of how much money had been lost.

Pricey cake

A man was robbed of his passengers' tools while he was getting them some cheesecake.

The 34-year-old man picked up two 20-year-old women whom he had previously met, and drove them from Manhattan to Brooklyn during the afternoon of Oct. 29. The two re-

POLICE BLOTTER

quested some cheesecake from a famous purveyor on Flatbush Avenue Extension at DeKalb Avenue, and waited in the running car while their breakfast went inside to get it.

By the time he returned, the ladies had taken off in his 2003 green Ford Expedition. Witnesses saw the theft go down, but did not intervene. The driver told cops that he knew his car-park only by the names of Stacie and Nicole. Police are looking for the SUV with the New York plate DNN-1958.

DUMBO entry

Thieves broke into a design office in a DUMBO office building, at Washington and Front streets, sometime after 11 pm on Oct. 22.

When the company owner returned on Monday morning, she found her door broken and more than \$400 in design goods missing.

Auto theft

A \$15,000 1995 Lexus GS400 was lifted from Dean Street near Smith Street on Oct. 22.

The owner parked the luxury car outside his apartment at around 8:30 pm, and noticed it was missing early Monday morning. He also lost a phone, CDs, and other items that were in the car.

Police are looking for the green four-door sedan with a New York plate of CPG-6650.

Gun mug

A trio of armed thieves robbed a woman crossing the Henry Street footbridge on Oct. 18, police said.

The three thugs stopped the 22-year-old victim as she made her way from Red Hook to Carroll Gardens, at Coles Street, around 9:30 pm. One man pulled a silver handgun and insisted, "Where is your money?" as his partners threw her down on the pavement.

The gang grabbed her cellphone and wallet — which held the usual mix of credit cards, a MasterCard and \$60 — and bolted into Red Hook. The victim, who was not physically hurt, described the robbers as a His-

panic man, around 6-feet tall, dressed in a black jogging jacket, and joined by accomplices of 6 feet and 5-feet-7.

IKEA hit

The Swedish design Mecca planned for Red Hook holds appeal for all types — and even the thieves can't seem to stay away.

Someone stole more than \$4,200 worth of hand and power tools from the site of the future IKEA store on the waterfront off Board Street, at the end of Otsego Street, police said.

The construction zone, surrounded by a wooden security fence, was intact when workers left at 4 pm on Oct. 27. But when they returned at 6:40 am on Oct. 30, they discovered the break-in.

Burglars had torn down a section of the wooden fence and crept onto the site, where they broke into an office trailer and snipped the padlock on a box of a tractor-trailer. When they left, the thieves replaced the clipped lock with their own padlock.

The burglars helped themselves to several saws, tin snips, wrenches, a radio, an electric heater and two generators — worth \$1,000 each — among other items.

Purse snatch

A 46-year-old Boerum Hill resident was robbed of nearly \$1,000 when her purse was taken from her apartment on Pacific Street near Bond Street.

The woman momentarily left her door unlocked at 2:30 pm Oct. 22 in order to move some furniture into her home. That gave a thief enough time to walk in and take her purse from inside the apartment.

Four arrested

Police arrested four robbers who allegedly struck a California man during an Oct. 25 mugshot on Classon Avenue.

The thugs surrounded the 20-year-old victim, near the corner of Willoughby Street, around 9:30 pm, cops said. One smashed him in the face — leaving a gash — and another grabbed his wallet before the quartet ran off along Classon Avenue.

The victim called police, who broadcast a description of the thieves. Police Officer Michael Noboa caught sight of the suspects inside a nearby park, and — after the victim identified the muggers — arrested the youths, ages 13, 14, 16 and 20, on robbery charges. Officers also recovered the wallet, along with the bank and credit cards, and \$20 that had been stashed inside.

Mystery beat

A thug used a baseball bat to brutally beat a man on his way to work on St. Felix Street Oct. 27, police said.

The 53-year-old victim had just left his home, near Fulton Street, around 10:30 pm, when a stranger appeared with the wooden weapon. The thug began swinging the bat, smacking him repeatedly in the left side of the face, his left arm and left leg. Paramedics took him to Brooklyn Hospital, where he was treated for bruises, cuts and a world of pain.

It's not clear what prompted the attack. Police are now looking for a white Hispanic man, roughly age 20, 5-foot-1 and 170 pounds, dressed in a black jacket, black jeans and tan work boots.

Teen taken

A teenage thug snatched the cellphone from a younger girl as she entered a subway station on Fulton Street on Oct. 26, police said.

The 14-year-old girl was headed down the staircase at the Clinton-Washington G-train station, around 3 pm. A stranger came up behind her and tapped her on the shoulder. When she turned around, he reached inside her coat and tried to grab her phone from her waistband.

"Give me your phone before I pop you," the thief said, when his own efforts failed. The girl turned over the mobile and the mugger, along with his partner, who stood as a lookout at the top of the stairs, disappeared from the station.

The girl said the primary thief was a black boy, roughly 18-years-old, 5-foot-10 and 170 pounds, sporting a beard and dressed in a gray cap, gray jeans and a black jacket. The lookout was a black boy of the

See **POLICE** on page 2B

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Thor wields its hammer in Coney

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The battle for the Boardwalk has begun.

Coney Island's biggest land-lord, developer Joe Sin, took his first steps last week towards re-making the honky-tonk neighborhood into a glitzy Vegas-on-the-Atlantic — and already, the darts are flying within the tight-knit community of freaks, geeks, and other wonders of hu-

man curiosity.

The carnival conflict erupted when Sin's Thor Equities sent eviction notices to eight tenants who operate games, shops and amusement rides at a former dance hall known as the Henderson Building that the developer plans to demolish to make way for a man entrance to his proposed \$1.5-billion indoor water park, hotel, megaplex and retail development.

The eviction notices hit the

neighborhood like ammo from the Shoot-the-Freak game.

Suddenly, longtime carnival colleagues were trading the developer — and each other — on the street and on Internet bulletin boards.

"Coney Island never had much trust to begin with and now people are faced with losing their jobs. They get scared and start saying stuff," said Jimmy Carciolo, who will lose his balloon-racing booth on Dec. 31.

Talk of who will be allowed to stay another season has been rampant since Sin began negotiating with small property owners — many of whom had only "handshake" leases, a spokesman for the developer said — who operate businesses on his Sin's land along Surf Avenue and the Boardwalk.

"It's hard to be forced out when you know other people get to stay," Carciolo said.

The fallout from the evictions has even reached Dick Zigun, whose Coney Island USA runs the famed Circus Sideshow. Zigun has been promised a place in Sin's new attraction.

"The time I'm an insider and my job is to get the best deal for Coney Island and Coney Island USA in the new Coney Island," he told The Brooklyn Papers.

That deal, however, has made Zigun — a Coney stalwart — a target of those who accuse him of siding with developers and stabbing his neighborhood sword-swallowers in the back.

A man identifying himself as "Coney Blowhard" even went on Zigun's own Web site to slam the sideshow king for selling out the very audience he created.

"The artsy kids [won't want to come to the new Coney Island, and then what?]" he wrote. There were other similarly raked, highly personal posts, but Zigun took them down.

Even the game operators who will be able to stay, thanks to formal lease agreements, had spite to share.

"[Thor Equities] says Coney Island is their pet project, but it's my life," said Cesar Rafel, who operates five games on Henderson Walk and lives nearby.

"I own a small business, pay taxes and support my kids. All a new hotel or some shops is going to do is turn me back into a worker."

In new renderings released this week, Sin's domain will be transformed by super-size street furniture styled after circus elephants and the mermaids that come out each year for Zigun's trendy Mermaid Parade.

"We want jaws to drop," said the developer's spokesman, Lee Silberstein. "This is going to be the largest expansion of the amusement district that Coney



The latest Thor Equities vision for the Boardwalk in Coney Island.

has ever seen. There will be jobs, restaurants at every price point, all kinds of retail, the water park, a hotel where people could hold trade shows."

But in order to turn a profit, the complex must be at least two million square feet and attract at least 13 million guests a year, Sin told New York magazine last year.

Few believe the transition from honky-tonk to high-rise will be easy.

"Coney Island needs the new blood," said Michael Sarrell, the owner of Ruby's, a classic old-man bar that has been promised at least another year on the Boardwalk and a spot in the amusement complex.

"But for the people who are

here now, what the change will mean is the end to jobs, \$1 coffee and an affordable day out."

Sarrell told The Brooklyn Papers that he didn't plan to move to the new development.

"Honestly, I don't believe that would be something that would make any sense for us," he said. "We are an outside place, take us inside and you

lose the charm."

Even Zigun, now recovering from the virtual blows to his ego, predicts a tough ride ahead for the home of the Cyclone.

"We haven't had development for 70 or 80 years. We need it and it's happening," he said. "But there are questions of sensitivity and those seem to have gotten off on a wrong foot."

Golf course for children planned at Dyker site

Six-hole teen-and-under links would be first in U.S.

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Youth golfers — from these Tiger Woods wannabes to those who merely want to be corporate titans someday — will soon get their very own junior links in Dyker Heights, the first facility of its kind in the United States.

The golf center, scheduled to open next September, will occupy 11.8 now-fallow acres of the Dyker Beach Golf Course and will feature six holes, a driving range, a putting green, a chipping green with sand trap, a PGA teaching professional, and even a "19th Hole" clubhouse — all for children ages 5 to 17.

"It's a comprehensive center just for kids — and that fact that it's free makes it the first of its kind," said David Rivet, executive director of the City Parks Foundation, which funded most of the \$6-million center and will oversee its operation.

State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) put up \$500,000 for construction,

and the city put up another \$1.5 million.

The Foundation currently runs a junior golf program for 1,500 low-income children across the city, providing them free lessons and equipment.

"We bring golf right to neighborhood parks," said Rivet. "But this facility will get kids to the next level, without adults driving them off the course."

And while the players will be under-age, the facilities will not be sub-par.

"The only thing that's mind about this golf is that the holes with be shorter, only 50 to 120 yards," said Rivet.

By picking up their first club at Dyker, the kids will be following in legendary spikes. Earl Woods, the late father and coach of Tiger Woods, played his first round of golf at the course when he was stationed across the street at Fort Hamilton.

"A lucky of his said, 'Why don't you come play golf?'" said Rivet. "The rest is history."



More youth golfers, like this teen from a 1999 tourney, will have their long walks spoiled thanks to a new junior course.



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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 19th day of October, 2006, bearing Index Number N008972006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of McDonald M. Louis. My present name is: Melvone McDonald Louis aka McDonald Melvone Louis aka McDonald M. Louis aka McDonald Louis. My present address is: 100 East 12nd Street, #1A, Brooklyn, New York 11212. My place of birth is: Cap Haitien, Haiti. My date of birth is: December 26, 1963. BP43

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 25th day of October, 2006, bearing Index Number N008972006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of Theodore Aronson. My present name is: Theodore Aronson. My present address is: 15 Elliot Place, Bronx, New York 10452. My place of birth is: Karmia, Ghana. My date of birth is: July 20, 1962. BP43

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations for the Boroughs of the Bronx and Staten Island and revised floodplain delineations throughout the City of New York. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) reflecting new or modified Base Flood (1% annual chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs) and revised floodplain delineations throughout the City of New York. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed BFEs and revised floodplain delineations are shown on the FIRM for the City of New York. These proposed BFEs are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). However, before the BFEs are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed elevations. For a detailed listing of the proposed BFEs and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit our website at <http://www.floodplanning.com>, or call the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-328-2627). Copies of the FIRM are available for review at the following listed locations: <http://www.nyc.gov/doh/floodinfo>, New York City Borough President Offices, Bronx: Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Brooklyn: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Jorickman Street, Room 340; Manhattan: Manhattan Borough Hall, 1 Centre Street, 18th Floor; Queens: Queens Borough Hall, 120-35 Queens Boulevard; Staten Island: Staten Island Borough Hall, 10 Richmond Terrace, New York City Planning Department: Waterfront and Open Space Division, 22 Raritan Street, Room 6E, Manhattan; New York City Department of Buildings Borough Offices: Bronx: 1932 Arthur Avenue, 5th Floor; Brooklyn: Brooklyn Borough Hall, 270 Jorickman Street, 8th Floor; Manhattan: 280 Broadway, 3rd Floor; Queens: Queens Borough Hall, 120-35 Queens Boulevard, 1st Floor; Staten Island: Staten Island Borough Hall, 10 Richmond Terrace, 2nd Floor. BP42-43

Visit from Oz

The Tinman and Glinda the Good Witch steered a Brooklyn Papers pirate ship full of costumed kids through the choppy waters of the Park Slope Halloween parade on Tuesday. The annual event drew thousands to Seventh Avenue.

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Brazen, big bucks heist on 97th St.

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

A Long Island woman lost \$1,500 and her diamond earrings to a thief who robbed her car as she unloaded the trunk on Oct. 22, police said.

The 54-year-old woman parked on 97th Street, near Fort Hamilton Parkway, around 5:30 pm and began to ferry boxes from her vehicle to a home nearby. It wasn't clear if the victim locked her car, but she admitted to leaving her front, passenger-side window open as much as five inches. That crack was enough to allow the thief to pull her purse from the car and escape with her wallet — which contained cash and a pair of \$500 earrings. The victim never saw the burglar.

62/68 BLOTTER

He got games

A burglar hit the big time in a 62nd Street apartment that was unoccupied the afternoon of Oct. 22.

The thief crawled through an open side window at the building, near 10th Avenue, between 1 and 8:15 pm, police said. Once inside the first-floor apartment, he pocketed a number of colored gemstones — worth an undetermined amount — a trio of Game Boys and \$1,500 that belonged to the 63-year-old owner.

Neighbors said they didn't hear or see anything unusual that afternoon.

Penthouse rob

He came in through the bathroom window — and left with \$1,800 in gold.

A burglar pried open a window of a 88th Street apartment and crawled inside while the penthouse home was vacant for several days, police said.

The 53-year-old victim said she and a friend left around 4:30 pm on Oct. 15. When they returned to the building, near Ridge Boulevard, at 11 am on Oct. 21, the window was open and the jewelry was missing.

The stolen items included four gold bracelets — one valued at \$1,000 — and seven pairs of gold earrings.

Pub heist

A well-informed thief snatched \$2,500 from a Third Avenue bar before it opened on Oct. 23, police said.

A 44-year-old employee arrived at the watering hole, on the corner of 97th Street, just before 7 am to discover a back door broken open and a pair of bank boxes missing from their hiding place — in the ladies room.

The cash — 25 hundred-dollar bills — was inside the beige boxes when the pub closed for business earlier that day, at 2 am. Neighbors said they didn't notice anything unusual.

Making burglaries

A burglar stole cash and a digital camera from a Fifth Avenue photocopy and photography store after it closed at 10

pm on Oct. 22, police said.

The 36-year-old owner said he arrived at 11 am the next morning to find the sidewalk cellar door open at the business, between 75th and 76th streets. Once inside, he found the cash register ripped from the counter and a digital camera missing from the shelves; he later found the register in the basement, empty of \$250.

Neighbors told police they didn't see the thief.

62nd Precinct

Brothers grim

Police arrested a trio of young thieves — two of them brothers — after they allegedly robbed an older teen in a Bensonhurst subway station on Oct. 26.

The 18-year-old victim was listening to his iPod as he headed down the stairs at the 62nd Street station, on New Utrecht Avenue, on his way home from school just before 2 pm.

The thieves surrounded him, grabbed the digital music device and his cellphone from his jacket pocket, and bolted from the station.

The victim notified police, who broadcast a description of the trio. Officers from the 62nd Precinct identified the youngsters and, after a struggle, arrested all three. The boys, one age 14 and two 17-year-olds, now face robbery charges.

Running minks

A thief with an eye for fashion stole \$150,000 in fur coats from an 86th Street store on Oct. 27, police said.

The thug cut open the padlock on the front security gate and smashed the glass window underneath to gain access to the coats. The store, near 21st Avenue, was robbed between 10 pm that night and the following day's opening.

Pack snatch

A thief grabbed the pack off the back of a 33-year-old woman on Bay 13 Street Oct. 29, police said.

See **BLOTTER** on page 2B

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Cruising, Italian-style, with Caleps



By Claire McTaggart

Dreaming of exotic islands, refreshing drinks, hot sand, live entertainment and a week of home-style Italian cooking?

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Venuto said the outing "will be like no other cruise. We book and promote the whole thing so we know how much there will really be to do."

To reserve, call Caleps at (718) 234-3400, or visit www.msccruises.com to learn more about the MSC Opera.

Hurst retailers not surprised

Say sanitation police wrongfully ticket their stores all the time

By Dana Rubinstein
and Paul Koeppe
The Brooklyn Papers

A rogue Sanitation enforcement officer remains on the job — even as the city investigates why he was caught on tape littering in front of several 86th Street stores and then hitting the stores with trash summonses.

The Sanitation Department confirmed that it is investigating the allegations against the officer, Michael Goldring, but also confirmed that Goldring remains on the job.

But for how much longer is unclear: This week, more shop owners along Bensonhurst's busy commercial strip said they, too, had been victims of the overzealous enforcement officer.

One week after restaurateur Allan Sy allegedly caught Goldring on his surveillance camera, Assemblyman William Colton (D-Gravesend) took a "listening tour" of the area — and he heard an earful.

A number of storeowners took advantage of the assemblyman's presence last week to present a litany of other complaints, be they about traffic on the expressways or trash from street festivals.

But most kept on-message.

Sam Mohamed, the owner of Everything and More, a children's wear store on 86th Street and 20th Avenue, said he was ticketed in September, as were neighboring Sleepy's, and Pizzaz, Inc., a shoe store.

The guy wrote that there were lightbulbs in front of my store," said Mohamed. "But when we throw away lightbulbs, we break them up and put them in plastic bags and give them to our sanitation company."

A manager at Benz Jewelers, on 86th Street between Bay 25th and Bay 26th streets, said her store was cited for litter at 11:35 am — 25 minutes before the end of the one-hour Sanitation Department grace period.

And Irina Kilimnik of Le Beau Visage at Bay 25th Street, added: "We had this experience twice last summer. To me, it wasn't fair."

Unlike Sy, she paid the ticket, figuring that you can't fight City Hall.

But Sy is — and he'll have Colton at his side when he gets his day in court.

Sy's H.K. Ten and Sushi was one of three recipients of summonses by Sanitation supervisor Michael Goldring that sparked last week's furor.

"We found the ticket on the gate in the morning, and it mentioned fluorescent lightbulbs in the street," said Sy, whose restaurant is at Bay 25th Street.

Sy said he disposes of his lightbulbs properly, so the ticket "made me wonder if someone was putting garbage in front of our store." When he went to the videotape, sure enough, he saw the officer doing the damage.

"The people that are enforcing the law were breaking the law!" Sy said.

After calling 311 and getting what he deemed an unsatisfactory response, Sy contacted Colton, who, in turn, found other examples of Goldring's reign of litter.

Colton said Goldring's alleged ticketing spree indicates a quota system that rewards supervisors for issuing summonses.

"This is reflecting a policy of the city to use fines as a way to increase city revenue," said Colton.

But that's an allegation the city has repeatedly denied.

"There is no quota system and no rating system," said a Sanitation spokesperson. "If you're giving out more tickets, it means you're a better, harder worker."

Ever the diplomat, Colton thinks another investigation might be in order.

"If Goldring's been breaking these lightbulbs full of mercury — which is carcinogenic — he should really have himself checked out, because he might have a problem," said Colton.



Restaurateur Allan Sy shows a copy of ticket he received from a Sanitation officer who left trash in front of his 86th Street restaurant.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 2A

The victim was walking near Cropsey Avenue around 2 am when the mugger appeared out of the dark and snatched the bag, filled with various electronics. The thief ran off before the woman could get a look at him.

Baby blues

Thieves snatched the wallets from the strollers of at least two women shopping on 86th Street on Oct. 30, police said.

One crook targeted a 23-year-old victim shopping at a sneaker store, near 21st Street. The mother said she put her bag on top of the carriage momentarily, at 5:50 pm, to chase after her son. When she corralled him and returned moments later, the purse — with \$80 and various credit and charge cards — had disappeared.

And at 4:30 pm, a 28-year-old woman lost her bag at a store on the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 23rd Street. Once again, the thief stole the woman's purse — and an unknown amount of cash — from the back of the baby carriage.

No pain, no gain

A woman escaped without injury, but lost \$100 to a robber who threatened her on Oct. 29, police said.

The thief rushed the 53-year-old woman as she walked home along 15th Avenue, near 89th Street, around 1:30 am. "I'm going to hurt you [so] give me your bag," the thug demanded.

But instead of adding injury to the insult, the robber grabbed the purse without violence and ran off along 15th Avenue.

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Keeping tabs on affairs of Slope

Continued from page 1
sends her children — and Mrs. Kravitz, with her vivid imagination, is always be walking by that hotel.

TOO BAD THE Lincoln Hotel got turned into condos. That old mansion/brothel between Seventh and Sixth avenues was no Brooklyn Marriott, but it did the trick. A friend (really, she was a friend) frequented the place when she was having an affair with You Know Who.

See, it's tough keeping secrets in chatty Park Slope because all everyone does is talk, talk, talk and write, write, write. You can't even have a juicy, tell-all conversation in the back room of Sweet Melissa's without someone (sometimes even Smartmom herself) running home and blogging about it.

Take what happened to Big Foot, when her husband had an affair with their babysitter while she was pregnant with their second child. She was devastated. But when she got back on her feet again, she started blogging about it big time. Everyone laughed — except her, of course.

Not everyone gets caught. Stayathome had a fling with that cute freelance writer with the lonely, bedroom eyes who picks up his third-grader at PS 321 every day. Big mistake. They used to do it in his two-bedroom apartment every fourth Tuesday afternoon while his wife was doing a double shift at the Food Co-op and his son was at school.

Trouble was, Stayathome knew three people who lived in his building and the walls were wafier thin. But that wasn't all: the spark went out when she started to wonder why her lover wasn't doing his own Food Co-op shift. She soon realized he was just as much of a do-nothing creep as her own husband. And not even as cute.

It would be so much easier to have a fling with another parent of the same sex. Who would suspect a couple of dads going off to "play tennis" at the Parade Grounds or "take a jog" in Prospect Park?

Or take the case of Jaded Mom and Lonely Mom, two heterosexuals — at least they were, until they became disciples of Sappho while their workaholic husbands were working late and their toddlers were asleep.

They took a much-deserved "mom's weekend" at a

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

Dutchess County B&B for some R&R. Aroma therapy, pilates class, hotel sex, facials. But then Lonely Mom's husband found a torrid email from Jaded Mom on the computer desktop.

Things got ugly. Fights. Divorce. Loneliness. And to this day, Lonely Mom says she's not gay. She just wanted a little love and attention.

And that's pretty much what any marital infidel wants (plus, perhaps, the thrill of doing what you're not supposed to be doing).

STILL, SMARTMOM doesn't need a movie to tell her that, in the long run, it's plain stupid to fool around. Having an affair is a cowardly way to deal with the real problems in a marriage (and we all know Smartmom does the right thing, what with her once-a-week couples therapy and twice-a-night Cabernets).

Marital infidelity is really just a temporary escape from what ails a marriage. And boy



it is tough to recover from such a tumultuous breach of trust. As for the sex, the illicit thrill wears off after a while and then it's just another relationship with all of the inherent problems that come along with that.

So Smartmom is going to stick with her "until-death-do-us-partner," whom she loves and adores anyway.

It's hard enough adjusting to someone new. Especially when you're just getting used to your spouse's snoring, toenail clipping, and annoying habit of leaving his dirty laundry on the floor next to the hamper rather than in it.

Imagine getting used to a bunch of new bad habits. Tough to admit it, but marital life is much like it's depicted in "Little Children": the person who seems so right from a distance is probably an awful lot like the person you're already married to.

Louise Crawford also writes the Web site, "Only the blog knows Brooklyn."



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District 16	Ron Barfield	718.574.2824	rbarfield@schools.nyc.gov

If you have additional questions feel free to contact **Trish Appel Peterson**, Regional Coordinator of Gifted + Talented/Enrichment Programs at tpeters2@schools.nyc.gov or 718.935.4340.

Robbins, with Fulton Ferry nest, latest celeb to roost in Brooklyn



New Brooklynite Tim Robbins in "Bull Durham."

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

Finally, some real star power in Brooklyn.

Actor-director-activist-lover Tim Robbins has plunked down \$1.35 million for a house on a secluded street along the Brooklyn Heights waterfront.

Could the inveterate Manhattanite, his longtime leading lady Susan Sarandon and the couple's two kids actually be moving to Brooklyn? Robbins' "people" refused to say.

"He bought it as an investment," said the actor's spokeswoman, Jennifer Turner.

According to the legal paperwork, the house on Doughty Street was bought by an entity called "The Timothy Robbins Self Declaration Trust."

Turner would not comment on speculation that Robbins' "self declaration trust" is a veiled comment on the state of his union to Sarandon.

"I only know that this is an investment," Turner said. "I don't discuss my client's personal lives and/or details of their investments."

The documents indicate that Robbins will be using the property as a "second home." But he is clearly planning to spend some

time in the neighborhood best known for Grimaldi's Pizza, the River Cafe and the Eagle Warehouse. A real-estate source told The Brooklyn Papers that Robbins was recently talking to Two Trees Management, a major DUMBO landowner, about renting office space. But those talks ended around the time Robbins closed on his new pad.

Even if he won't be relocating his "Mystic River" Oscar to the Doughty Street mantel, Robbins is hoping that the property performs as well as it did for its previous owners.

Daniel and Robyn Friedman bought the home just four years

ago for \$820,000 and earned a nice \$530,000 on the flip. The Friedmans have moved out of the place and could not be captured for comment.

Robbins is arguably the brightest star in Hollywood's firmament to buy a piece of Brooklyn. Heath Ledger owns a brownstone in Boerum Hill, but he's never won an Oscar.

Jennifer Connelly has won an Oscar and owns a mansion in Park Slope — but she grew up in Brooklyn, so is a legacy.

And Maggie Gyllenhaal, as readers of The Brooklyn Papers are quite aware, just bought on Sterling Place in Park Slope.

On 11/11: The calendar says corduroy

The Brooklyn Papers

To you, Nov. 11 is just another day on the calendar, but to lovers of corduroy, 11/11 is a national holiday.

"No other date so closely resembles corduroy," explained Miles Rohan, a Prospect Heights resident and head of the Brooklyn-based Corduroy Appreciation Club.

Surely they jest. Yes, but they do love corduroy — and they'll celebrate 11/11 with a corduroyevanza in Park Slope, featuring more than 100 club members, art and poems dedicated to their beloved cloth and even an appearance by noted corduroy lover (and author) Jonathan Ames.

Certainly it must have occurred to you that a corduroy jacket appears in two of Ames' novels ("Wake Up, Sir!" and "The Extra Man").

The best part, of course, was

that Ames accepted the club's invitation (and, apparently, the requirement to wear two items of corduroy). Not so other honorees of the evening, including Brooklynite Heath Ledger (who will be given the award for "Exemplary Usage of Corduroy in a Motion Picture" for his work both in and out of corduroy in "Brokeback Mountain") and Isaac Mizrahi (who'll get "Exemplary Usage of Corduroy in Fashion" for his corduroy-heavy Target line).

"They're not really returning our calls," said Rohan, a digital archivist by day at Nickelodeon. "We also invited the new Bolivian ambassador, who is a big fan of corduroy, but we haven't heard back from him, either."

Such is life when you're running an appreciation society for something society doesn't take the proper time to appreciate. But



Brooklynites Michelle Williams and Heath Ledger in a corduroy-trimmed scene from "Brokeback Mountain"

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Study: Boro's wealthy aren't so healthy

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Gentrified Brooklyn may be wealthier, but that doesn't mean it's healthier.

Residents of some of the toniest Brooklyn neighborhoods have a rate of premature death from heart disease that's 10 percent higher than the city as a whole, and on par with Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and Brownsville, according to the new report released last week by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

In the study area that includes Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Downtown, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Park Slope and Red Hook, the death rate from heart disease between 2003 and 2004 was 334 per 100,000 — as compared to the 297 per 100,000 rate in the city as a whole.

Northwest Brooklynites also got a below-average grade in binge drinking (or would that be an above-average grade?). In those neighborhoods, 20 percent of residents over 18 are estimated to have drunk to excess at least once a month, in contrast to 12 percent in Brooklyn overall, and 14 percent citywide.

The binge drinkers are disproportionately white men, the report said.

Health Department experts say they're not quite sure how to explain the elevated heart disease death rates, given the population's more widespread health insurance coverage, better education, and higher exercise rate.

"We don't know exactly why we see these differences, which is the reason why we take this local-level data," said research scientist Karl Olson, who wrote the report.

But Olson did point out that the population of the study area is hardly uniform.

"Northwest Brooklyn includes not just neighborhoods which have been gentrified, but also [lower-income] areas like Red Hook, Downtown, and Gowanus, where you're more likely to see the same kinds of health disparities as in areas like Central and North Brooklyn," said Olson.

As far as binge drinking is concerned, Olson pointed to cultural factors.

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Rohan will not be discouraged.

"Brooklyn, actually, is especially friendly to corduroy," he claimed. "Hipsters love corduroy because it reminds them of the clothes their parents made them wear during the last corduroy heyday in the 1970s."

And when he's like the little vmp-vmp sound it makes? The Corduroy Appreciation Club meets on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 7 pm at the Montauk Club (25 Eighth Ave., at Lincoln Place, in Park Slope). Tickets are \$18 and must be purchased in advance. Visit www.corduroyclub.com for information.

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OUR OPINION

Throw Fossella out

AMERICANS ARE, AT LONG LAST, debating the disastrous Bush administration agenda — and, in large numbers, are finding it a failed one.

But it is not ideology that is fueling voter anger on the eve of Tuesday's crucial mid-term election. It is incompetence.

From the unfinished war in Afghanistan, to the lost war in Iraq, to the forgotten battles at home, the Bush administration has shown a mind-boggling inability to get things done.

The budget surplus has been squandered on tax cuts. The post 9-11 good will of the world has been sacrificed for an invasion of Iraq that was hyped as vital to our national security, yet has only endangered it. Our addiction to fossil fuel has not been curtailed and our environment not cleaned up. The list is endless.

But the war in Iraq, like no other issue, de-

fines where this country is headed. During the last mid-term election season, when our battle against Taliban-backed Osama bin Laden (remember him?) was just beginning, Americans chose not to change horses in mid-stream.

Four years later, the Bush administration and the Republicans who control Congress have a record of failure on which to run. And Rep. Vito Fossella has been with the president every step of the way.

In his four-terms, Fossella has been on the wrong side of issues that affect his mostly Democratic constituents. He has called for Social Security to be privatized. He has supported the gun lobby. He has been weak on the environment. He opposes many abortion rights.

It is no small coincidence that Fossella is three times more likely to vote with the noxious John Birch Society than with the Service Employees International Union — many of whose members

live in his Staten Island and Brooklyn district.

The district has changed a lot, thanks to an influx of upper middle class voters priced out of Brownstone Brooklyn. These voters would be shocked to find that their elected congressman votes like a red-state hack.

It's too bad that national Democratic officials choose to stay away from this vital battle. As a result, Fossella's worthy opponent, Democrat Steve Harrison, was left to fight — and raise the money needed to take on an incumbent — alone. As a result, the race has almost entirely been defined by Fossella's campaign commercials, in which he laughably claims to be an "independent."

Harrison is articulate, right on the issues — and, most important, would not be a rubberstamp for two more years of Bush administration failure. We heartily endorse Steve Harrison for Congress.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Hawley

LETTERS

'Avenue of Death' story sparks debate

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To the editor,

The surprising thing is that there were only 123 accidents on Atlantic Avenue from Hicks Street to Flatbush Avenue in the last 22 months ("Bumper Cars," Oct. 28).

The Department of Transportation has made various physical improvements in the aid of safety in recent years. But that cannot overcome the disgusting behavior of so many drivers — speeding at 40 mph or more, weaving in and out of lanes, and running red lights. Many drivers seem to think that the yellow light means, "Get the lead out."

We need real enforcement throughout the city, which means frequent action by NYPD officers, and most of all, real penalties — like a fine of \$500 for the first offense, climbing steeply from that level. If that makes driving prohibitively costly for aggressive drivers, so be it.

And reporters need to stop writing about cars "that went out of control," as if the car had been driven by a genie, not a real live law-breaking person.

Dick Netzer, Brooklyn Heights

To the editor,

I found your front-page story misleading. There are traffic control signals at every corner on the stretch where all of these accidents occurred. And traffic is so heavy that it is almost impossible to speed. I do see a lot of pedestrians crossing against the light and crossing in the middle of the block. Certainly this would contribute to the likelihood of them being struck by a car.

Name withheld, Brooklyn Heights

More Maggie!

Not since my days as a sensitive-man-in-training in Madison, Wisconsin have I seen such an outpouring of phony outrage from Maoists, Puritans, Dr. Phil drones, and Yuppies scum over your use of the Maggie Gyllenhaal photo (Letters, Oct. 14).

That so many people think a photo that shows the same amount of skin as a skimpy cocktail dress should be censored, that The Brooklyn Papers actually apologized for printing it, that so many outraged writers who probably saw "Secretary" and view behemoths on the Internet and lick their page-turning fingers when they read about dead Somalis in the Times, is pretty near proof that Brooklyn is, despite its population, a small-minded, parochial Podunk with a warped self-image.

I really liked the photo. So shoot me.

Billy Tushman, Prospect Heights

No fake trolleys

To the editor,

In your recent article about trolleys ("Trolley plan derailed again," Oct. 21), you mentioned plans for a jitney bus that looks like a trolley. A jitney, even disguised as a trolley, is still a bus. And even if it were to run on "clean" natural gas, it still produces greenhouse gases that add to global warming.

Thus, while we find more and more cases of asthma and other respiratory ailments among our children, proven to be

caused by pollution created by excessive traffic congestion, the obvious transportation solution is being ignored.

We are not giving up hope that one day, the city's decision-makers will allow us to provide clean-running, fuel-efficient transportation for all to enjoy.

Arthur Melnick, Midwood
The writer is head of the Brooklyn City Streetcar Company

An oversight?

Gersh Kuntzman's article "Bloomie Attacks State Board..." (Oct. 20) mentions state Sen. Seymour Lachman's book, "The Men in a Room." But it should also have mentioned that my son, Robert Polner, was the co-author.

Murray Palmer, Great Neck

Peace be with you

To the editor,

It was wonderful to see coverage of Muslims and Jews breaking bread together during Sukkot (The Brooklyn Angle, Oct. 21). But that very fine article may perpetuate the myth that Muslims and Jews typically in conflict.

For 1,500 years, Muslims and Jews have governed together, studied together and made music together — and quite amicably for the most part. It is only in the last 120 years or so, since the advent of Zionism, that Arabs and European Jews have come into conflict.

It should be stressed that the current conflict that does (unfortunately) exist be-

tween Arabs (who are Muslim, Christian, Druze, Bahai and even Jewish) and the state of Israel is political, not religious.

Rather than seeming unusual, the beautiful interfaith event that took place in Park Slope should be seen as just one of many such gatherings that bring "people of the book" together in a warm attempt to restore the sense of brotherhood that has historically existed among the various people of the Middle East.

Dave Hall, Boerum Hill
The writer is Arab-American

Uncivil debate

To the editor,

I am disgusted with the Bay Ridge Community Council (BRCC) for its feeble attempt at hosting a civil and fair debate between Rep. Vito Fossella and Steve Harrison ("Tide turns on Fossella," Oct. 28).

The "debate" lasted a measly 15 minutes. Four questions were directed to Fossella, none to Harrison. For all the attention paid to this race in the local media, you'd think the BRCC would have made an effort to provide equal opportunity to both candidates to communicate their ideas on the issues.

But absent any serious attempt to enforce its own rules of conduct, the BRCC, permitted dozens of attendees to taunt the candidates, speak out of turn and make rambling opinion statements instead of directing specific questions to the candidates.

Ignatius Blume, Bay Ridge



Brooklyn's **REAL** newspapers

Published weekly by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc.
at 55 Washington St., Ste 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone (718) 834-9350
Established 1978. Copyright 2006. • Ed Weinrobb, President (ext 105)

PUBLISHER Celia Weinrobb (ext 104)
EDITOR Gersh Kuntzman (ext 119)
SENIOR EDITOR/PRODUCTION MANAGER Vince DiMiceli (ext 125)
GO BROOKLYN/BROOKLYN BRIDE EDITOR Lisa J. Curtis (ext 137)
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NATIONAL AFFILIATIONS: The Brooklyn Papers is a member of Independent Free Papers of America (IFPA), Suburban Newspapers of America (SNA), and the National Newspaper Association (NNA), listed in 302C.



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*Brooklyn neighborhoods receiving leaf collection

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Keeping tabs on affairs of Slope

Continued from page 1
sends her children — and Mrs. Kravitz, with her vivid imagination, is always be walking by that hotel.

TOO BAD THE Lincoln Hotel got turned into condos. That old mansion/brothel between Seventh and Sixth avenues was no Brooklyn Marriott, but it did the trick. A friend (really, she was a friend) frequented the place when she was having an affair with You Know Who.

See, it's tough keeping secrets in chatty Park Slope because all everyone does is talk, talk, talk and write, write, write. You can't even have a juicy, tell-all conversation in the back room of Sweet Melissa's without someone (sometimes even Smartmom herself) running home and blogging about it.

Take what happened to Big Foot, when her husband had an affair with their babysitter while she was pregnant with their second child. She was devastated. But when she got back on her feet again, she started blogging about it big time. Everyone laughed — except her, of course.

Not everyone gets caught. But some get smart. Stayathome had a fling with that cute freelance writer with the lonely, bedroom eyes who picks up his third-grader at PS 321 every day. Big mistake. They used to do it in his two-bedroom apartment every fourth Tuesday afternoon while his wife was doing a double shift at the Food Co-op and his son was at school.

Trouble was, Stayathome knew three people who lived in his building and the walls were wafers thin. But that wasn't all: the spark went out when she started to wonder why her lover wasn't doing his own Food Co-op shift. She soon realized he was just as much of a do-nothing creep as her own husband. And not even as cute.

It would be so much easier to have a fling with another parent of the same sex. Who would suspect a couple of dads going off to "play tennis" at the Parade Grounds or "take a jog" in Prospect Park?

Or take the case of Jaded Mom and Lonely Mom, two heterosexuals — at least they were, until they became disciples of Sappho while their workaholic husbands were working late and their toddlers were asleep.

They took a much-deserved "mom's weekend" at a

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

Dutchess County B&B for some R&R. Aroma therapy, pilates class, hotel sex, facials. But then Lonely Mom's husband found a torrid email from Jaded Mom on the computer desktop.

Things got ugly. Fights. Divorce. Loneliness. And to this day, Lonely Mom says she's not gay. She just wanted a little love and attention.

And that's pretty much what any marital infidel wants (plus, perhaps, the thrill of doing what you're not supposed to be doing).

STILL, SMARTMOM doesn't need a movie to tell her that, in the long run, it's plain stupid to fool around. Having an affair is a cowardly way to deal with the real problems in a marriage (and we all know Smartmom does the right thing, what with her once-a-week couples therapy and twice-a-night Cabernets).

Marital infidelity is really just a temporary escape from what ails a marriage. And boy



is it tough to recover from such a tumultuous breach of trust. As for the sex, the illicit thrill wears off after a while and then it's just another relationship with all of the inherent problems that come along with that.

So Smartmom is going to stick with her "until-death-do-us-partner," whom she loves and adores anyway.

It's hard enough adjusting to someone new. Especially when you're just getting used to your spouse's snoring, toenail clipping, and annoying habit of leaving his dirty laundry on the floor next to the hamper rather than in it.

Imagine getting used to a bunch of new bad habits. Tough to admit it, but marital life is much like it's depicted in "Little Children": the person who seems so right from a distance is probably an awful lot like the person you're already married to.

Louise Crawford also writes the Web site, "Only the blog knows Brooklyn."



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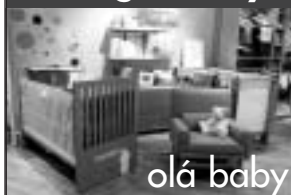
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Discover Marco

Series shows Italian director's take on immigration, Pasolini & more

By Kevin Filipksi
for The Brooklyn Papers

Italian director Marco Tullio Giordana was unknown until his epic "The Best of Youth" was released in 2003. As BAMcinematek's series "The Next Director: Marco Tullio Giordana" makes clear, he has been making vital, significant films for nearly 30 years.

BAM's ongoing "Next Director" programs give audiences a chance to discover talented but unfamiliar filmmakers. The Giordana retro — which runs Nov. 8-12 — includes five features and two shorts, all of which show off an artist whose concerns are as worldly as they are personal.

Of course, "The Best of Youth" (scheduled for Nov. 11, preceded by an introduction by Giordana himself) was the introduction for many viewers to an uncompromising cinematic talent. A panoramic overview of two brothers' very different lives over a period of 34 years, with convoluted historical events as a background, "The Best of Youth" stunningly combines the intimacy of the best character studies with the sweep of historical epics.

Most impressive about "The Best of Youth" is that, although it was picked up for distribution by Miramax, a studio with a reputation — whether earned or not is hard to discern — for preferring to trim many of the films that it releases, "Youth" made it to theaters without seeing the scissors.

The "Next Director" series opens Nov. 8 with a new print of Giordana's first feature, 1979's "To Love the Damned." It's very much a period piece: a veteran of the radical movement of 1968 returns a decade later to his hometown to see that all of his fellow ex-radicals are now either normal businessmen or abnormal addicts. Although it never reaches the heights of similar films by Marco Bellocchio — who has been exploring the fallout of the 60s radical movement throughout his career — Giordana's debut is remarkably mature, with a healthy sense of humor.

"To Love the Damned" is preceded by Giordana's short film from 1996, "White Shoes," which he made as part of a UNICEF anthology. (The director will introduce both films.)

Giordana's latest film follows on Nov. 9. "Once You're Born, You Can No Longer Hide" is the director's 2005 exploration of the immense and delicate problem of immigration in Italy. Like Gianni Amelio — whose more expansive 1995 masterpiece "Lamerica" forced Italian viewers to confront the very real difficulties facing immigrants — Giordana personalizes this issue, but moves closer to melodrama by placing a young Italian boy in the middle.



Postcards from Italy: As part of "The Next Director: Marco Tullio Giordana" film series at BAMcinematek in Fort Greene, "Once You're Born, You Can No Longer Hide" (at left) will be screened on Nov. 9 and "One Hundred Steps" (above) will be shown on Nov. 12.

Day brings about intimations of foul play by the Mafia.

Similarly, Giordana's best film to date, "Pasolini: An Italian Crime" (also showing Nov. 12), explores the possibilities of a cover-up. Giordana's superlative docudrama about the grisly death of the provocative Italian poet/essayist/Marxist/homosexual/filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini is a complex blend of newsreel footage, dramatic reenactments, multiple viewpoints and conjecture about what happened on Nov. 2, 1975.

Although a teenager was soon arrested for the murder and was found guilty at trial, there was much contradictory evidence. Giordana reopens the case skillfully, and he painstakingly shows how convenience led everybody involved — police, press, even many citizens — to overlook troubling aspects of the case.

The police treated the whole affair as if it were simply a matter of two homosexuals going about their sordid business. Incompetently, cops failed to cordon off the murder site until it was too late, ignored obvious witnesses and left Pasolini's car out in the rain.

While recounting such events with his very authentic actors, Giordana also uses actual newsreel footage to convey Pasolini's importance as an outspoken leftist critic of the government. The most compelling sequence is the trial, when the accused's account butts heads with that of a forensic expert who maps out his reenactment based on the evidence. Giordana shows both versions — and there's no doubt which one we're supposed to believe.

Like all of Giordana's work, "Pasolini: An Italian Crime" is a necessary exploration of Italy's political, social and psychological pulse.

CINEMA

"The Next Director: Marco Tullio Giordana," plays at BAMcinematek, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, Nov. 8-12. Tickets are \$10, \$7 seniors. For a complete list of screening dates and times, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at www.bam.org.

I mean that literally: the boy falls out of his father's boat and is rescued by a ship carrying various illegal immigrants. Needless to say, he persuades his estranged parents to

adopt a brother and sister, and the movie's melodramatics hit a high point. For once, Giordana eschews subtlety, but with persuasive performances — particularly from the young actor Matteo Gadola — "Once You're Born" hits its mark.

"Especially on Sunday," a trilogy of shorts written by Tonino Guerra, will be shown Nov. 10. Giordana's segment, "Snow on Fire," is the most accomplished. Giordana's look at organized crime, 2000's "One Hundred Steps" (Nov. 12) is based on a true story about a Sicilian agitator whose mysterious death prior to Election

Honky-tonk Heights

Newly opened Buck's Lodge brings sawdust, 'Daisy Puke' and poker tournaments to Atlantic Avenue

By Claire McTaggart
for The Brooklyn Papers

Rock tunes are blaring while a sawdust-covered man mounts a deer head to the barn wood walls of his country western lodge.

No, this is not a day in the life of a Montana big game hunter, but hours before the

Oct. 28 grand opening of Buck's Lodge — a new honky-tonk bar that opened its antique wooden doors to bikers, NASCAR die-hards and hipsters alike.

"Think of it as Hogs & Heifers comes to Brooklyn," Buck's Lodge owner and manager JD told GO Brooklyn, referring to the popular dive saloon in Manhattan's Meatpacking District. "We're going to cover the walls with

hunting signs, road signs, fishing equipment, and all the country western props and paraphernalia we can find. I'm going to park my Harley right in front, so people know that bikers are welcome."

The decorating process is still in its early stages, as JD and his wife, Diane, continue to scour every flea market and thrift shop to make

See **BUCK'S** on page 13



Howdy partner: Co-owner Diane offers up a pint of liquid refreshment at the bar of her new watering hole, Buck's Lodge, which opened in Brooklyn Heights on Oct. 28.

DANCE

Feet on 'Fire'

After performing in such distant lands as Belarus, South Africa and Australia, the exciting, decade-old Argentinean tango dance company, Estampas Portenas, is finally coming to Brooklyn.



Founded in Buenos Aires by highly acclaimed Argentine ballerina and choreographer Carolina Soler, the 10-member Estampas Portenas ("Made in Buenos Aires"), is presenting "Tango Fire" tomorrow night at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

"Tango is very sensual dance, very attractive for me," says Soler, 49, who was a prima ballerina in Buenos Aires's Teatro Colon. "[It is] more sensual than ballet."

"Tango Fire" includes full-company pieces and unique duets (pictured) for each of the five gorgeous couples and is interspersed with performances by singer Diego Fama and the piano-bandoneon-strings quartet, Quatrotono.

The two-hour extravaganza showcases a range of tango styles and rhythms, including the highly intimate, lyrical "milongas."

"Only 'milongas' is boring," says Soler. "You need to put a show on stage. The company [has] very young people and they have a lot of energy."

Call it "energy" or call it hot-blooded passion, the sultry moves of these Argentines are not to be missed.

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Estampas Portenas in "Tango Fire" on Nov. 5 at 2 pm at the Walt Whitman Theatre, 2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place on the campus of Brooklyn College in Midwood. Tickets are \$15, \$30, \$35. For tickets, call (718) 951-4500 or visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org. — **Sasha Vasilyuk**

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I love my fur coat. I love it not only because it's the most pricey, wearable thing I own, but also because this soft piece of fluffy magic saved me on all of those freezing, globetrotting nights. Anyone who has been to Russia in January knows what I mean.

But I love animals, too. Especially furry ones. They may not save me from the bitter Russian frost, but they sure are cute.

So, if I had to — God forbid — get rid of my fur coat, what better way than to give it back to the animal kingdom?

That is why Williamsburg's Buffalo Exchange store is now accepting fur donations for the Coats for Cubs program of the Humane Society of the United States that uses fur scraps as bedding for the animals.

"We're acting as a drop-off for people who no longer want their fur items," says Jenny Harris, manager of the resale clothing store on Driggs Avenue. "It's for a good cause."

So, no matter what condition your fur is in, bring it to the store, mention it's for the cubs, and soon an orphaned raccoon (pictured) may be using it as comfy bedding, a playmate or even a surrogate parent.

And don't look at me — I have to go to Russia in January.

Fur donations can be made to the Buffalo Exchange (504 Driggs Ave. at North Ninth Street in Williamsburg) through April 22, 2007. For more information, call (718) 384-6901 or visit www.buffaloexchange.com or www.coatsforcubs.org. — **SV**



SHOPPING

Holiday gifts

Sharon Humphreys and Jacque Jones (pictured), co-chairs of the Crafts Guild at Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, gave GO Brooklyn a sneak peek of the wares that will be for sale at the church's Yankee Fair on Saturday, Nov. 11.



Those that love the DIY-style, but don't have time to do it themselves, will enjoy perusing the Yankee Fair's tables brimming with handmade crafts and holiday decorations and homemade desserts. The fair will also offer antiques, collectibles, vintage clothing and party wear.

In addition to shopping, the organizers promise that the ground floor of the church's Brooklyn Heights campus will be transformed into a fairground of activities, replete with pony rides.

The Plymouth Church Yankee Fair will be held Nov. 11, from 10 am to 4 pm, at Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims (on Orange Street between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights). Admission is free for adults, \$10 for children (which includes bracelets providing admission to most kids' activities), \$5 for each additional child. For more information, call (718) 624-4743 or www.plymouthchurch.org.

— **Lisa J. Curtis**

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"One of Brooklyn's Best" — TIME OUT MAGAZINE



Leibovitz's reality show

Photographer shares her family album, revealing self-portraits and work with stars at Brooklyn Museum

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

While photographer Annie Leibovitz may be best known for her assignments for magazines — such as much-talked-about “Vanity Fair” covers like this year’s first photos of Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes’s daughter, Suri, or the nude portrait of pregnant actress Demi Moore from 1991 — the new exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum, “Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer’s Life, 1990-2005,” is a revealing look at not only the artist on every celeb’s A-list, but also the people who are most important to her: family and friends.

By “revealing,” we mean that the famed shutterbug doesn’t shy away from turning the camera on herself in this show, which includes a self-portrait of Leibovitz in her birthday suit, pregnant with her first child, at age 52.

“You can feel beautiful when you’re pregnant,” the now-57-year-old artist told the crush of paparazzi at the exhibition’s press opening on Oct. 19. “It’s absolutely true.”

Leibovitz, whose work with the stars has turned her into a much-lauded celebrity herself, includes a wide range of images of American VIPs in this show. Whether they are actors or generals, her subjects are captured in poses as formal and traditional as paintings of royalty hanging in the Prado or Hermitage museums or as relaxed as a candid snapshot. The ingenuity Leibovitz employs in revealing her subjects is as breathtaking as her range of styles.

Yet this “assignment work” — 15 years’ worth of portraits of presidents, artists and musicians — is interspersed with shots of the photographer’s immediate and extended family as well as of her longtime companion, author Susan Sontag, and her battles with cancer.

Literally capturing the human experience, from the delivery room to the funeral home, the show can only be the work of one thoughtful, down-to-earth lenswoman.

Despite the deaths of Sontag and her father, which took place during the years featured in the exhibition, Leibovitz’s life appears to be an enviable one. She shares her snapshots of travels in Egypt, Jordan, France and Italy as well as her beaming family members reunited for the holidays or her parents’ 50th wedding anniversary. Candid photos of friends are snapped inside sunshine-filled rooms with book-lined walls where it seems certain that the literati congregate and trade bon mots over the right wine.

There are photos that reveal the writer’s life, too. In 1990 Berlin, Leibovitz shot a still life of scraps of paper scrawled with notes from Sontag’s novel, “The Volcano Lover,” and another still-life of notes, two years later, on a computer screen in Manhattan. Although the exhibition notes don’t define the relationship between the two women, it’s clear that theirs was a love story.



Flashback: (Top) Photographer Annie Leibovitz was swarmed by paparazzi during the media preview of her exhibition, “A Photographer’s Life, 1990-2005,” at the Brooklyn Museum on Oct. 19. (Above) Among the celebrity portraits included in the show is a 1990 image of Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rob Besserer in Cumberland, Ga.

Surprisingly, there’s no shortage of artists familiar to and beloved by Brooklynites in this exhibition. A 1998 black-and-white portrait of Mark Morris shows the enigmatic choreographer-dancer with a cigarette clamped between his lips. His hair is a wild mane of dark curls, and his T-shirt is frayed and torn. It’s a portrait of the youthful artist — years before he opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Fort Greene — that is both defiant and wary of the camera.

There are also color, tight shots of the body parts of Mark Morris Dance Group’s June Omura, taken in 1999. Those legs that appear to be flawless, muscled perfection on the stages of the

Brooklyn Academy of Music. Opera House or the band shell in Prospect Park, are revealed by Leibovitz’s lens to be quite vulnerable: scratched and bruised and run through with blue veins.

During the press conference, Leibovitz betrayed an affinity for comedians whom she likened to mad geniuses, so perhaps it’s not surprising that her 1998 portrait of Chris Rock, a Bedford-Stuyvesant native, would stop a gallery visitor in their tracks. Rock is photographed in a ringmaster’s ensemble — in white face — against a circus tent at Floyd Bennett Field. It’s provocative and uncomfortably comic at once.

In a stunning display of trust — orchutzpah — frequent BAM performer and avant-garde artist Laurie Anderson is photographed hanging by her ankles — without a net — over the Coney Island boardwalk filled with smiling on-lookers in 1995.

“Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer’s

ART

“Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer’s Life, 1990-2005” remains on view at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights) through Jan. 21, 2007. Admission is \$8, \$4 for students with valid ID and seniors, and free for children younger than 12. For more information, visit the Web site www.brooklynmuseum.org or call (718) 638-5000.

Leibovitz will be honored by the museum’s “Women in Arts” program on Nov. 8 at 11 am, which is a fundraiser for the Brooklyn Museum. Tickets to this event, which include admission and parking, are \$125-\$1,500. For information, call the Community Committee at (718) 789-2493.

Life, 1990-2005” was born from the book of the same name (Random House, \$75), and they are interesting companion pieces. Yet fans should seek out the exhibition before it closes in January, because it infuses the book’s images with life. While the 1992 portrait of actor Daniel Day-Lewis is mildly arresting on the page, the large print at the museum brings every detail into focus and gives the thespian a decidedly more regal air.

In her introduction to the book, Leibovitz writes that this project is “the closest thing to who I am that I’ve ever done” and the inclusion of her intimate photographs is a courageous decision.

Also, Leibovitz chose to blow-up the photos of her assignment work for the exhibition and kept her personal work snapshot size, to draw the viewer closer, as if they were indeed looking at her family album.

At the press conference, Leibovitz said that if she was pressed to pick a favorite image, it would be the black-and-white portrait of her mother, taken in 1997, which betrays every crease and wrinkle in her face. It’s like a map documenting a lifetime of accumulated wisdom, compassion and lines etched by smiles and laughter.

The show closes with a room full of enormous blow-ups of Leibovitz’s muddy, grainy, black-and-white landscapes which can’t help but seem less than all of the searing, joyful or poignant portraits that have come before. But this gallery does have a contemplative quality that quiets the mind before entering the reading room, the final space that houses Leibovitz’s 2001 portrait of one of her heroes, photographer Richard Avedon, and another of his camera.

It seems fitting that Leibovitz pay tribute to one of the artist’s who inspired her at the end of an exhibition that is certain to inspire so many of her own fans.



100 Wine Tips

Red, Red Wine

By Darrin Siegfried

Autumn is here and, as the leaves turn color and fall from the trees, many a young man and woman find their thoughts turning from white and rosé to red... red wines! Many of the light, crisp, lively white wines and crisp rosés that we love to drink chilled on a hot day simply don't seem as enticing once the leaves are on the ground and sweaters come from the closet. Many of the foods we eat during the colder months naturally call for a red to accompany them, too. Think: stews, roasts, braises, daubes!

Red wine, like all alcoholic beverages, is made through fermentation. In fermentation, yeast converts the natural sugars in grapes into ethyl alcohol, giving off heat and carbon dioxide as byproducts. Anyone who has worked with yeast, as in home bread making, knows that yeast responds to temperature. Too cool and fermentation slows down. Too hot and the yeast dies, stopping fermentation. One of the reasons that modern winemaking is done in stainless steel tanks is that it is easy to control the temperature of the fermenting must inside them. (Must is the combination of pressed, unfermented grape juice along with pulp, skins, stems and seeds from the grapes. These “other” components are also called pomace.) Cool temperature fermentation takes longer, but generally produces lighter, more aromatic wines. Warmer fermentations are faster, and result in big, full flavored wines such as Châteauf-neuf-du-Pape. Fermentation proceeds until one of three things happen:

- 1) All or almost all of the sugar in the grapes has been converted into alcohol, resulting in a dry wine (no sweetness).
- 2) The alcohol level has become high enough to kill the yeast that has been creating it. This can occur whether there are sugars left in the must or not.
- 3) The wine maker stops the fermentation before all of the sugars have been converted into alcohol. This will leave some sugar, called residual sugar, in the finished wine. This is usually done by chilling the wine and filtering out the yeast. With fortified wines, brandy is added to kill the yeast and keep a high level of sugar in the wine.

There are countless strains of yeast, and each has its own characteristics. Some can survive in fairly high concentrations of alcohol, and are used for making wines where the wine maker wants a wine with 14 or 15 percent alcohol. There are strains of yeast that will die once the alcohol level in the wine they are making reaches a bit over 12 percent. Use one of these yeasts with grapes that are very ripe and high in sugar and you will end up with lots of residual sugar: a wine with noticeable sweetness. Yeast also affects the taste of the finished wines, which leads many wine makers to import yeasts from other areas, hoping to influence the flavor of their wine. Biodynamic wine makers refuse to do this, believing that the sense of the “terroir” of the vineyard is best expressed by relying on the yeasts that live in that vineyard along with the grapes.

Since the pigments that give red wine its color are in the skins, the juice of red grapes is fermented along with the grape skins. Whole bunches of grapes are normally destemmed, since the harsh tannins and other bitter chemical compounds in the stems would give the finished wine a “green” and harsh taste.

Tannin is a natural preservative, found in the skins, seeds and stems of grapes. It also occurs in tea leaves, coffee beans, tree bark and in the oak barrels that wine makers often use to age wines. Tanning, the process of turning animal skins into leather, gets its name from the tannic acid that it uses. In tanning, the skins are soaked in a tannic solution that keeps the skins from rotting. The presence of tannins in red wines preserves them, too, and is the main reason that red wines can age longer than most white wines. Tannins have a natural drying effect that you can feel on the sides of your tongue. The presence of tannins, with their natural affinity for linking with proteins, is the reason why red wines are a much match for drinking with red meat and grilled meats.

With time, the tannins and pigments in red wine will link up in the bottle with assorted other chemical compounds and form long, heavy molecules called polymers. As these molecules form, they are no longer in suspension in the wine, so the wine “matures”, becoming smoother, more rounded and complex in flavor. This is why the finest red wines are best when aged, for years or for decades. Red wines with sediment are best served after decanting them, leaving the sediment behind in the bottle. For more on this, see my column on Decanting and Decanters online at: http://brooklynpapers.com/ads/redwhitebubbly/_vol29/29_13redwhite.html



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Chris Strong

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70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosartspace.com.
Fridays: VJ/DJ Friday Nights, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 4: Deuce Deuce with The Klaxons, Shit Disco and DJ Womanmaer and special guests, 10 pm, \$10; Nov. 5: (Backroom) Nationbeat and Maracatu, 8 pm, \$TBD, (Frontroom) The

Sulu Series featuring Yellow Rage, Jay Legaspi, Vinh Hua, R.A. Villanueva, Giles Li and more, 7 pm, \$3-\$5 suggested donation; Nov. 7: (Backroom) The Stand, 10 pm, \$TBD, (Frontroom) Keep Alive/Smartyants, 9 pm, The Epochs, 9:50 pm, Ghost Blazer, 10:40 pm, Keep Alive/Smartyants, 11:30 pm, \$5; Nov. 8: Welcome Back Art Jam hosted by Earl Dax featuring Lisa Kron, Taylor Mac and Jay Brennan, 7:30 pm, \$pay-what-you-can; Nov. 9: (Backroom) Fancie, 8 pm, Zachary Cale Band, 8:45 pm, Sam Jayne, 9:15 pm, \$7, (Frontroom) Jenny Owen Youngs, Peculiar Gentlemen, Beat Radio, Needledrop, and Sugar Shack Burlesque featuring Lady Satan and Runaround Sue, 7 pm, \$10; Nov. 10: (Backroom) Opening reception for Natural Selection by Shige Moriya, 6 pm, \$TBD, Consignment, 10 pm, \$TBD; Nov. 11: The Looseness (a special edition), 10 pm, FREE.

Good Coffeehouse Music Parlor
(At The Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture) 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2972, www.bsec.org.
Nov. 10: Doug & Telisha Williams (fuel-injected funk), 8 pm, \$10 adults, \$6 children.

Hank’s Saloon
46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8003, www.hankssaloon.com.
Sundays: Shotgun Shack, 6 pm, Sean Kershaw and the New Jack Ramblers, 10 pm, FREE; Mondays: Live band kuntry karaoke with Rob Ryan and the Brooklyn Country All-Star Band, 10 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Mobscenty, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 4: Fat Rat Promotions presents The Roadhogs, Speedcrazy, The Arkhams, The Tombstone Brawlers, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 10: Brain Finger, Battle for Wyoming, Members of the Press, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 11: Go Girls Fest, 10 pm, FREE.

The Hook
18 Commerce St. at Columbia Street in

Red Hook, (718) 797-3007, www.thehookmusic.com.
Nov. 4: VI Festival of Russian Rock in America with Billy’s Band, Interzona, The Orphans, Seven Ways Out, Zheka Koshmar, Doza, Force Major, Vostok Zapad, Grunes Herz, Caravan, Schizowave, Ian McDonald, \$20 in advance, \$25 day of the show; Nov. 5: Desdro, Caution Pineapple, Left to Chance, 6 pm, \$15; Nov. 9: Evolutionnrow, Robroymountjoy, 6 pm, \$15; Nov. 10: Rebecca Hart, Ashes Rising, Plastiz Passion, Damn Glad, H-Cide and the Movement, and 23 to Sparta, 6 pm, \$15; Nov. 11: Joshua Mitchell, 9 Circles, 6 pm, \$15, Audio Infantry presents Uprising DJs ESP, Frankie Vega, Avex Axiom, Pleasurehead, Odi and more, 11 pm, \$15.

Hope and Anchor
347 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook, (718) 237-0276.
Saturdays: Karaoke hosted by Dropsy Dozzman, 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays and Fridays: Karaoke hosted by drag queen Kay Sera, 9 pm, FREE.

Laila Lounge
113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 466-6791, www.lailalounge.com.
Mondays: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: APA League, 7 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Jezebel Music Showcase with an open mic, 7:30 pm, Live music, 8:30 pm, FREE.

Les Babouches
7803 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-1700.
Saturdays and Fridays: Belly dancer Shahra-zad, 8 pm, FREE.

Liberty Heights Taproom
34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-8050.
Nov. 4: The Weistronauts, 11 pm, FREE.

The Lucky Cat
245 Grand St. at Roebling Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-0437, www.theluckycat.com.
Mondays: Joe McGinty’s Piano Parlor and keyboard karaoke, 11 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Jezebel Music Open Mic Night hosted by Dave Cuomo, 7 pm, FREE, Organ Grinder Tuesday, 10 pm, FREE; Fridays: Finger on the Pulse with live DJs, 11 pm, FREE; Nov. 4: Death in Brooklyn V1 presents Sea of Bones, Communion, Putrified Flesh, Moral Degradation, 7:30 pm, \$5; Nov. 5: Ad Per Aspera, 7 pm, FREE, Cakes of Light, Latitude Longitude, Noble Lake, 8 pm, FREE; Nov. 7: B-Monster, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 8: Jordan Cooper, 9 pm, The 70s Punk/80s Nu Wave Party, 10 pm, FREE; Nov. 9: Frank Wood’s Birthday Party Show with Duncan, 8 pm, REW, 9 pm, Progressive Dementia, 9:30 pm, Folk Fiction, 10:15 pm and DJ Rob Nitro, \$TBD; Nov. 11: Rocketship Park, Parenthetical, The Martha Dumptruck Massacre, 10 pm, \$5, The House of F***er (DJ Mother F***er on the decks), 1 am, FREE.

Magnetic Field
97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0069, www.magneticbrooklyn.com.
Nov. 4: CMJ Music Marathon and Dot Dash Showcase present The Coydogs, The Spider Bags, Goodnight Loving, 7:30 pm, \$7; Nov. 8: Dick Swizzle’s Sudden Death Game Show, 8 pm, \$5 per contestant; Nov. 9: Live band karaoke, 8 pm, FREE; Nov. 10: Dead Flowers presents Norton Records 20th Anniversary Party with The Real Kids and more, 8 pm, \$10; Nov. 11: Dot Dash presents The Magnetix, Los Blankitos, 8 pm, \$6.

Continued on page 13...

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'Eminent' suit on Yards called a longshot

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

A lawsuit against Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner and the state and city officials who allegedly conspired with him has little chance of success, said legal experts — including the lawyer who sued Ratner over his Metrotech project two decades ago.

"Knowing the history of these cases, I don't see how [it] will get to first base," said Robert Goldstein, a lawyer who specializes in eminent domain cases who has counseled the Empire State Development Corporation as well as tenants who lost property to Metrotech.

The federal eminent domain lawsuit filed last week by 10 residents and one business owner within the Atlantic Yards footprint outlines a sequence of alleged cynicism that led to the MTA's decision to sell its Long Island Rail Road yards to Rat-

ner for \$100 million less than its appraised value.

That decision was made after Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff sent a memo declaring the city would back only the Ratner plan, the lawsuit said.

But even that "smoking gun" won't be enough to show that city and state agencies subverted the public-review process, which is the legal requirement for halting the use of eminent domain, legal observers said.

"The plaintiffs need [to show] a set of unwholesome facts that have not currently been revealed," said David Reiss, a law professor at Brooklyn Law School.

Another expert said that Atlantic Yards may indeed have been "replete with special, political deals."

But the issue before the court, said Roger Pilon, vice president of legal affairs for the anti-eminent-domain Cato Institute, "is whether you can prove there was anything illegal."

Meet the plaintiffs



The Brooklyn Papers

The 10 Prospect Heights residents who have sued state and city officials, plus developer Bruce Ratner, over Atlantic Yards share little except the knowledge that their homes could be seized and demolished to make room for the \$4.2-billion megadevelopment. Here, in their own words, is why a few of them chose to challenge the state's eminent domain order.

Freddy's Bar

The popular Prohibition-era pub on Dean Street is slated to be razed to make way for a 400-foot condo tower.

"This battle here is already kind of lost, but it's important that we force the issue of how governments and developers treat communities. These cases are happening all over the country. We could move, but every structure has a history and a presence. There is a presence to Freddy's. We could go somewhere else, but we would have to start completely over. It takes 10 years for a bar to establish itself. Why should we have to do that? (Freddy's General Manager Donald O'Hanlon, above, spoke for the bar.)

Daniel Goldstein

The Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn spokesman owns a condo at 636 Pacific St., which was renovated just before Atlantic Yards was un-

veiled.

"I had only lived in my apartment for about three months before I heard about the project. I was shocked, and then angry. Pretty immediately, it became political. Most of the time, it's just a home that I enjoy — I have a kitchen table, a bed, an office, great views south to the Verrazano, a lot of plants — until I walk outside and see the emptied out block and the rail yards. Then the project is hard to put aside."

Isana Forbu

Owens a home at 491 Dean St.

"It's the first house I ever owned. My first in Brooklyn. My first in America. I moved here from Romania, where they do things like this because the government is corrupt. I didn't expect this in America. I love my home, my garden, the flowers in my window, the fact that I am in Brooklyn. I should be able to say I'm not moving."

Golden law puts gun thugs in jail

By Christie Rizk
for the Brooklyn Papers

Think gun-toting thugs should go to jail? So does Bay Ridge's state senator — whose bill mandating prison for criminals carrying an illegal gun finally passed this week.

A previous loophole in gun law allowed perps carrying only one illegal firearm to avoid jail time. The new law requires a jail term for anyone caught carrying any illegal, loaded firearm.

Sen. Marty Golden's bill, which was signed by Gov. Pataki this week, raises the penalty from mere probation to a mandatory sentence of three-and-a-half years. The "more-than-one" rule has at last been replaced with a "more-than-none" rule.

"This is monumental legislation for the city,"

said Golden, a Republican. "Within a year and half, I expect to see a decline in crime, in robberies, in murders, because of this tremendous bill."

Golden (left), a retired New York City police officer, has been working on the bill for more than two years — "Nothing in Albany comes easy," even for the majority party, he said — and was ecstatic to finally see it become law.

"I've seen first-hand what a gun does," said Golden, who was injured in the line of duty as a police officer.

He said the bill's greatest strength would be in getting gun-toting criminals — who previously only got probation — off the streets.

"It'll be interesting to see how many of these clowns end up behind bars," he said.

Golden wasn't the only person singing Golden's praises this week. Jackie Kulis, the executive director of New York's Against Gun Violence, said the law demonstrated "an overall strategy to reduce the flow of illegal guns."

She also praised Golden's efforts and his willingness to listen to groups like hers. "He's generally been a friend on the issue," she said, adding, "He's especially good at having an ear open to law enforcement."

Shot cop mends

The Brooklyn Papers

Police Sgt. James Rector is recovering from two gunshot wounds after getting shot — and shooting a perp dead — near a Myrtle Avenue housing project on Oct. 26.

Police reports said the shootout began around 7:30 pm on Auburn Place. Rector was returning from an NYPD recruiting center in the Walt Whitman Houses when he saw a 17-year-old, training a gun on another man.

Rector identified himself as a cop, and the suspect wheeled around, firing several times at the sergeant, police said. Rector returned fire, hitting the teenage gunman with four shots. He later died at Brooklyn Hospital.

Meanwhile, paramedics rushed Rector to Bellevue Hospital, where the Queens man spent several days under treatment for his bullet wounds.

Mayor Bloomberg visited Rector last week and praised the sergeant's reaction in the life-or-death situation.

"You've got a spouse and children at home...and you've got to make a decision and you've got to do what's right," Bloomberg said.

Another man, from Crown Heights — identified in some media reports as a second suspect — suffered a single bullet wound to the leg, police said. Other details were not available. Police continue to investigate the shooting.

— Lilo H. Stainton

POLICE...

Continued from page 2A

causing any damage. Construction workers nearby saw nothing, but at least three security cameras were trained on the block. Police were still sifting through video to review two of the video tapes, but footage from one camera angle showed a man — without any detail — unloading the goods.

Electronics to go

It took a thief only seconds to unload computers, cameras and cash valued at more than \$7,000 from a car on Myrtle Avenue while the victim picked up Thai food, police said.

The 35-year-old man said he parked his 2004 Ford Taurus near Washington Avenue, around 2:30 pm on Oct. 23. He locked the car, crossed Myrtle Avenue, and collected his take-out. When he returned to the sedan moments later, a duffel bag filled with valuables was missing.

The victim believes he dropped his keys on the street by accident and the thief used those to get inside the Ford without

causing any damage. Construction workers nearby saw nothing, but at least three security cameras were trained on the block. Police were still sifting through video to review two of the video tapes, but footage from one camera angle showed a man — without any detail — unloading the goods.

The stolen items included a high-end laptop, a digital camera, four cellphones, an MP3 player, a GPS tracking system, \$1,000 worth of computer-repair tools, and a wallet with credit cards and \$200.

Heirloom lifted

A burglar snatched an antique family ring valued at \$30,000 and other valuables from an Adelphi Street apartment on Oct. 25, police said.

The victim returned to her home, near Willoughby Street,

around 11:30 pm to find her bedroom window ajar and the drawers of her bedroom dresser open. Missing was the platinum-and-diamond heirloom ring, a gold necklace and an "S" pendant, a iPod in a pink case and a Compaq laptop.

The woman said her live-in boyfriend had been home until 8:30 pm.

Sit on it

A burglar scored bedroom items and electronics from a North Elliot Place home that had been left vacant overnight, police said.

The thief broke into the building, near Flushing Avenue, between 7 pm on Oct. 28 and 9 am the following morning. The 59-year-old victim returned to find a busted door and the following items missing: two bedroom vanities, a \$1,200 tile cutter, a phone-answering machine, and a pair of toilet seats.

The long-expected eminent domain lawsuit — officially known as Goldstein v. Pataki, taking the name of its lead plaintiff, Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn — seeks to challenge the government's right to seize property for private development by seizing on a line of attack left open by last year's Supreme Court decision in the controversial Kelo case.

In that watershed 5-4 ruling, the high court upheld the right of governments to seize property for new private development as long as the project served a public purpose and had been "carefully considered" — two legal requirements that Ratner's "Jobs, Housing and Hoops" scheme doesn't meet, the complaint charges.

"Kelo reinforced the requirement that any eminent domain must come after a clear development process," said Dana Berliner, a co-counsel on the Kelo case.

"If they can show that the process was ignored, then they have a real shot at defeating the project."

Like at Metrotech, Ratner, a former city bureaucrat, has been buying people out. This time, he will only face 10 residential households and one small business in the courts.

In the fight for public opinion, Mayor Bloomberg last week slammed the plaintiffs

as "misguided, myopic and selfish." During his weekly radio show on Friday, Bloomberg directed his criticism directly at DDBD spokesman Goldstein, the first person to call in with a question.

"You can't just let any one person stop all development, and that's when eminent domain comes in," the mayor

told the condemned critic.

In its own statement, Forest City Ratner also cast the lawsuit in a negative light, calling it, "a sad attempt to delay a project that is supported by over 60 percent of Brooklyn." The statement apparently was referring to an opinion poll done by Crain's New York Business.

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ELECTION DAY SMACKDOWN

46th Assembly District

Alec Brook-Krasny (D) vs. Patricia Laudano (R)

What are the main reasons voters should choose you?

ALEC BROOK-KRASNY

1. I have spent close to two decades working with neighbors, labor leaders, local activists and elected officials to help solve the problems affecting our community. And I have gotten results. 2. I have managed 43 community-based organizations that provide vital assistance to countless Brooklyn families. As a member of Community Board 13, I have worked tirelessly to solve neighborhood problems. There is no issue—including crime, housing, parks, senior services, traffic—that I have not been involved in. As a successful local businessman, I have brought economic opportunity and dozens of jobs to the district. 3. I will be a strong voice for affordable housing, expanded health care and improved schools.

PATRICIA LAUDANO

1. I run for office as a non-politician with no plans to make a career of the position and therefore to never become a part of the self-serving establishment. 2. I will display the courage to vote "no" to special interests. Only then can we begin to truly balance the budget without gimmicks. 3. I support spending controls, so I can honestly advocate for tax cuts in a state that imposes the highest combination of taxes in the country on its citizens.

Offer two or more reasons why your opponent is unqualified—or significantly less qualified—than you

BROOK-KRASNY

I have no interest in participating in the mudslinging that all too often dominates politics—all it does is turn voters off.

LAUDANO

My opponent doesn't have the many years of experience I have in local community activities. And his election will add to the imbalance that currently prevails in the Assembly. Bipartisanship requires a minority party with sufficient numbers to play an effective role in the pursuit of good government.

What are the three most important issues facing your district—and what is your plan to address them?

BROOK-KRASNY

1. Affordable housing. I will work tirelessly to ensure public monies are earmarked for the creation and preservation of affordable housing. Roughly 500,000 families spend over half their income on rent. That's unacceptable. And many longtime residents are being priced out

of the very homes they have lived in for generations. We need a serious financial commitment from the state government to solve the housing crisis, and that begins with affordable housing. The state, quite frankly, needs to hold developers accountable. If a project receives tax breaks, we need to make sure that the developers are following through on their pledges (to build affordable housing).

2. Education: I will make sure that kids have access to a sound public education by taking on the Republicans in Albany and getting local schools their fair share of education funding. We need smaller classrooms, experienced teachers and modern facilities.

3. The United States is the only industrialized economy in the free world that does not provide some form of universal health care, and that is flat out wrong. Forty million Americans go without health insurance—a disgrace—and I will work to make prescription drugs more affordable through bulk purchasing programs.

LAUDANO

1. Neighborhood preservation. Overdevelopment must be controlled through new and enforced zoning laws. More police coverage is an important part of preserving the viability of neighborhoods.

2. Assistance for local schools. Smaller class sizes are needed as is greater discipline and higher standards. More money may be required, but organizational and administrative changes are more needed. 3. Economic growth in the city as a whole can assist our local community to flourish all the more—and that can occur via city and state tax policies designed to stimulate economic growth.

Is Brooklyn heading in the "right" direction or the "wrong" direction?

BROOK-KRASNY

I think Brooklyn is heading in the right direction. Our streets are cleaner and safer. Our local economy is getting stronger. But many longtime residents are being priced out of their homes. Progress is great, and it's terrific that properties in our borough are becoming more valuable. But we can't leave people behind.

LAUDANO

Heading in the right direction. I favor growth and sensible development, which is controlled and carefully done.

Bonus question: What show do you TIVO so you'll never miss it?

BROOK-KRASNY

Candidate did not answer.

LAUDANO

"Face the Nation" and "The McLaughlin Group."

Election Tuesday

Most elections in New York City are settled on Primary Day, but voters in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights have some genuine choices to make this Nov. 7. In the 13th Congressional District, which covers virtually all of both neighborhoods, plus some of Bensonhurst, four-term Rep. Vito Fossella is facing a stiff challenge from Democrat—and former Community Board 10 chairman—Steve Harrison. The two had a vigorous debate over major issues that affect the district and the nation.

Meanwhile, the neighborhoods' two Assembly seats are free-for-alls. In Bay Ridge's 60th District, Democrat Alec Brook-Krasny won the last election, but Republican Patricia Laudano after winning the first-ever, all ex-Soviet primary.

In the neighboring 46th AD, Democrat Janele Hyer-Spencer (who once worked for City Councilman Vince Gentile) is pitted against Republican Anthony Xanthakis (who once worked for the retiring assemblyman, Matthew Mirone).

Most of all, remember to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 7. To find your polling place, go to the Board of Elections Web site at <http://vote.nycnyc.gov>.

13th Congressional District

Steve Harrison (D) vs. Rep. Vito Fossella (R)



Steve Harrison

Rep. Vito Fossella

What are the main reasons voters should choose you?

VITO FOSSELLA

1. Terrorism: Over the past two years, I have supported the Terrorist Surveillance Program, which stopped an al-Qaeda plot to blow up the Brooklyn Bridge. This program allows law enforcement to listen in on the telephone conversations and read the emails of suspected terrorists who are plotting new attacks against America. I have also supported the Patri-

ot Act, which gives law enforcement the same tools to fight terrorism that they already have to go after organized crime. And I have voted to implement several of the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, including breaking down the wall that prevented the FBI from sharing information with the CIA. 2. Social Security: Congress has a responsibility to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security. That is why I support a Bipartisan Commis-

sion to develop a plan to guarantee Social Security remains stable and viable for decades to come. I oppose the president's privatization plan and also progressive indexing. I also do not support a real reduction in benefits for today's seniors and baby-boomers. 3. Local issues: I am proud to have taken the lead to prevent the closure of Fort Hamilton and the Brooklyn VA Hospital. By planning ahead and working with a bipartisan coalition of residents, we were able to protect both institutions in the past year. In addition, I helped secure the agreement to make \$16 million in repairs to the Shore Parkway bike path and walkway, which were in ruin. Lastly, I brought home nearly \$7 million in federal funding to renovate the 86th Street subway station and an additional \$100,000 for improvements to the 86th Street shopping corridor.

STEVE HARRISON

1. Voters deserve ethical and responsible leadership. I vow to represent all the people in this district, not just corporations. I have roots in both Brooklyn and Staten Island and will be a Congressman who crosses the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge often. I will be present in the community and listen to the concerns of all constituents. 2. I oppose the war in Iraq and call for the withdrawal of forces as soon as it is safe to do so.

See **SMACK** on page 14A

60th Assembly District

Janele Hyer-Spencer (D) vs. Anthony Xanthakis (R)

What are the main reasons voters should choose you?

ANTHONY XANTHAKIS

1. As counsel to [retiring] Assemblyman Matthew Mirone I have already been working on all of the major issues of concern to the people of Bay Ridge. 2. Having come from Bay Ridge and now living in Staten Island, I understand the concerns of both sides of the district. 3. I am an independent voice and not supported by special interests.

JANELE HYER-SPENCER

1. I believe we can and must do better for the people of this district. I bring qualified, dedicated, and committed leadership. As a public-interest attorney, I have served Staten Island and Brooklyn by protecting our families affected by violence to helping community-based organizations secure not-for-profit status. I will use my experience as a prosecuting attorney specializing in child sex abuse to ensure we that we keep our communities safe from violent sexual predators by locking them in jail, period. 2. I will work hard to preserve our health-care system. When he was diagnosed with cancer and lost the family business, he lost his health insurance, so I know all too well that health care coverage is a necessity, not a luxury. I will fight for provisions that ensure HMOs put people before profits, expand access to affordable prescription drugs, work to clean up the mess created by the Medicare Part D fiasco and ensure we have access to treatment before problems escalate. 3. I will fight for our fair share of funding to ensure our schools have the best teachers, up-to-date technology, pre-K for every child, smaller classes and safer classrooms so students can learn without the threat of harm or distraction. We need to do more than just provide an adequate education, but for a meaningful education and keep making those resources available through college.

Offer two or more reasons why your opponent is unqualified—or significantly less qualified—than you

XANTHAKIS

1. My opponent is beholden to special interests and will only serve their needs, particularly the demands of the Assembly Majority. 2. My opponent has already abandoned the residents of Bay Ridge by quitting her position with Councilman [Vince] Gentile after six months, a job she only took in the first place to raise her profile and build her resume.

HYER-SPENCER

1. My approach during this campaign is to tell you what I stand for, my experience, what I believe in, what I'll fight for and I thank you for listening. I will leave

It is up to the voters to decide who has the best qualifications.

What are the three most important issues facing your district—and what is your plan to address them?

XANTHAKIS

1. Civil confinement of sexually violent predators after completion of their prison sentences. 2. Strengthen our public schools by bringing the additional funds mandated by the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit, and continue requiring accountability by our school system. 3. Preserve the character of Bay Ridge by encouraging good building practices with tax credits and establishing sensible and immediate parking improvements.

HYER-SPENCER

1. Parking. With limited space, we must devise creative and innovative ways to alleviate parking woes, yet allow for economic development while maintaining our quality of life. I would set up a parking task force comprised of residents, business owners, community leaders, and school personnel who regularly deal with the parking issues around school pick-up and drop-off times. Education and health care remain top issues that must be addressed with the solutions I suggested above.

Is Brooklyn heading in the "right" direction or the "wrong" direction?

XANTHAKIS

Brooklyn is heading in the right direction. Bay Ridge is a desired community to live in. The community has always taken care of itself, and programs such as the Naturally Occurring Retirement Community add to that care.

HYER-SPENCER

Brooklyn is moving in the right direction. Case in point, the Bay Ridge downzoning was one of the most aggressive and effective downzoning plans in the city. Because of the effort, Bay Ridge has managed to protect its unique quality of life and it has served as a template for others. While there is more to do in the area of parking, Gowanus Expressway construction, and the rising costs pricing many seniors of the community, Bay Ridge is generally a model to follow.

Bonus round: What TV show do you TIVO so you are sure to never miss it?

XANTHAKIS

I try to never miss a New York baseball game. (Candidate did not specify his favorite team.)

HYER-SPENCER

Grey's Anatomy.

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Member FDIC

Critics see Fossella damaged by Bush link

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

On the eve of one of his hardest-fought elections, four-term Rep. Vito Fossella — an unstinting supporter of America's adventure in Iraq — this week bucked popular belief and the preponderance of evidence to say that the war is going well.

Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) offered a rosy outlook for what some call a civil war at best and a quagmire at worst — even finding optimism in Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki's flouting of the American military on Tuesday by demanding its withdrawal from Baghdad's embattled Sadr City.

"I think it is, in a sense, a sign of progress, that they can make this decision on their own," said Fossella.

Fossella also predicted that "the window [of American involvement] is closing."

He wants to stay put until that happens.

From Day One, I've said, "Let's finish the job, let's do it right, let's give our troops the tools they need."

Fossella's sunny forecast not only contradicts Democratic challenger Steve Harrison, who has sought from the outset to make Fossella's strong support of the Bush-led occupation a campaign issue.

It also flies in the face of what's become conventional political wisdom, as Republican candidates across the country distance themselves from both Bush and his war.

With Republicans such as Tennessee Senate candidate Bob Corker and New Jersey hopeful Tom Kean Jr. saying that the U.S. needs to get out of Iraq quickly, Fossella echoed the Administration's rhetoric.

"My concern with those who say let's get out right now is that it would become a de-



Democratic hopeful Steve Harrison on the campaign trail with Sen. Charles Schumer on Tuesday.

facto war for terrorists."

But as Fossella stays the course, voters are considering the notion of changing horses in mid-stream.

"If I were Vito Fossella, I would move away from the president as fast I could in the waning days of the campaign," said Hank Sheinkopf, a Democratic political strategist.

Fossella has supported a broad range of Bush initiatives that are unpopular among more-progressive New York Republicans, including privatizing Social Security, cutting taxes despite a federal budget deficit and harsh interrogation techniques that many believe amount to torture.

In a rare display of bipartisan unity, Gerry O'Brien, a Republican political consultant, agreed with Sheinkopf:

"He should delineate some differences with the Administration. The complaint that a lot of Republicans have isn't that we're in Iraq, it's that we're doing it in a disorganized fashion."

But what's bad for Fossella is good for Harrison, who pounced on his opponent's support for the status quo.

"They claim that we should stay the course, but there is no course defined," said Harrison.

"We being golf say if we leave, that empowers the terrorists. But if we don't leave, it allows Malik to drag his heels."

Fossella may be unwilling to distance himself from an unpopular position, but Harrison may have been buoyed by some good debate performances and public appearances with Sen. Charles Schumer — but both Sheinkopf and his Repub-

lican counterpart are predicting a tight win for the incumbent.

"Fossella will probably get

53 to 57 percent," said O'Brien,

a much smaller margin than his 2004 victory over Frank Bar-

baro, but a win nonetheless. "I don't see it getting much closer than that."

But not all predictions are as dire for Harrison.

At his appearance this week with Schumer, the senator predicted a "sea change" in Congress that included the 13th Congressional District.

"Republicans are doing what we used to do — fighting with each other," Schumer crowed. "This is a very winnable race."

Harrison, of course, agreed, predicting victory, even as he admitted that he raised only slightly more than \$100,000 (in contrast to Fossella's \$1.3 million).

"We will 'lit drop' every single home in the entire district, we're doing robocalls [including separate ones from Bill Clinton and his senator wife], and on Election Day, people will be everywhere," he said.

"We can do it. Fossella has no message. He's just trying to hold on now."

— Rubinstein

Cops: PTA president stole kids' cash

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Sometimes, it's "all about the children."

A Bensonhurst Parent-Teacher Association president is alleged to have left plenty of children behind by stealing \$1,650 from a school account intended for pupils and expenses, cops said.

Police arrested Margaret "Peggy" Borgerson, 42, on Oct. 26, and alleged that she used her power as president to withdraw the money from the fund at PS 205, which

is located at 20th Avenue and 67th Street. Borgerson used the cupcake-and-cookie-sale dough to pay her own bills, cops said.

The alleged thefts were first discovered in March, but cops needed several months to make their case, a police source said.

Borgerson could not be reached for comment and the school's principal did not return a telephone message. The district's parent coordinator, Joyce Fisher, referred calls to the city Department of Education, which also did not return multiple calls.

Borgerson was arraigned on Oct. 30 on charges of grand and petit larceny, and was released without bail, according to a

speakman for the Brooklyn District Attorney. She's expected to return to court on Dec. 11.

Police officials do not track specific incidents involving PTA officials, and could not say how frequently such crimes occur. But there has been at least one similar case: A PTA president allegedly stole \$5,638 from an account at her Ozone Park school in 2004.

The money, intended to pay for field trips and help for needy students, instead paid for her manicures and tanning sessions at a Howard Beach salon, prosecutors said.

Golf course for children at Dyker

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Youth golfers — from those Tiger Woods wannabes to those who merely want to be corporate titans someday — will soon get their very own junior links in Dyker Heights, the first facility of its kind in the United States.

The golf center, scheduled to

Six-hole teen-and-under links would be first in city

open next September, will occupy 11.8 now-fallow acres of the Dyker Beach Golf Course and will feature six holes, a driving range, a putting green, a chipping green with sand trap, a PGA teaching professional, and even a "19th Hole" clubhouse

— all for children ages 5 to 17.

"It's a comprehensive center just for kids — and that fact that it's free make it the first of its kind," said David Rivel, executive director of the City Parks Foundation, which is funding the \$6-million center

and will oversee its operation. State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) put up \$500,000 for construction, and the city put up another \$1.5 million.

The foundation currently runs a junior golf program for 1,500 lower-income children across the

city, providing them free lessons and equipment.

"We being golf right to neighborhood parks," said Rivel. "But this facility will get kids into the new, well-maintained links driving them off the course."

And while the players will be under-age, the facilities will not be sub-par.

"The only thing that's mini about this golf is that the holes will be shorter, only 50 to 120 yards," said Rivel.

By picking up their first club at Dyker, the kids will be following in legendary spikes. Earl Woods, the late father and coach of Tiger Woods, played his first round of golf at the course when he was stationed across the street at Fort Hamilton.

"A buddy of his said, 'Why don't you come play golf?'" said Rivel.

The rest is history.

Golden: Lockup gunners

By Christie Rizk
The Brooklyn Papers

Think gun-toting thugs should go to jail? So does Bay Ridge's state senator — whose bill mandating prison for criminals carrying an illegal gun finally passed this week.

A previous loophole in gun law allowed perps carrying only one illegal firearm to avoid jail time. The new law requires a jail term for anyone caught carrying any illegal, loaded firearm.

Sen. Marty Golden's bill, which was signed by Gov. Paterson this week, raises the penalty from mere probation to a mandatory sentence of three-and-a-half years. The "more-than-one" rule has at last been replaced with a "more-than-none" rule.

"This is monumental legislation for the city," said Golden, a Republican. "Within a year and half, I expect to see a decline in crime, in robberies, in murders, because of this tremendous bill."

Golden (left), a retired New York City police officer, has been working on the bill for more than two years — "Nothing in Albany comes easy," even for the majority party," he said — and was ecstatic to finally see it become law.

"I've seen first-hand what a gun does," said Golden, who was injured in the line of duty as a police officer.

He said the bill's greatest strength would be in getting criminals — who previously got probation — off the street. "It'll be interesting to see how many of these clowns end up behind bars," he said.

Golden wasn't the only one singing his praises. He was also cheered by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence.



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SMACKDOWN...

Continued from page 7

consider the safety of our troops, I believe that the Bush Administration has not articulated a rationale for the continuation of this war. The war has not made our country any safer and has hurt our international standing. I strongly support our troops and, unlike Vito Fossella, will fight for adequate funding for our troops and to better the average American. I will push to repeal tax cuts for the rich and require corporations to assume their share of the tax burden. Congressman Fossella supported the Bush cuts and strongly supports his Republican Party's borrow and spend philosophy that has put the Iraq war lab on the national credit card.

Offer two or more reasons why your opponent(s) are unqualified — or significantly less qualified — than you.

FOSSELLA
I believe elections should focus on one's qualifications for the job — not attacking the opponent. I'm proud of my record and do not feel the need to criticize my opponent to convince you I deserve your vote. I encourage you to take a look at my opponent's response to this same question. Has he chosen to attack me or to ask for your vote based on his record?

HARRISON
Vito Fossella does not represent the hardworking people of Brooklyn and Staten Island. The House Committee on Mailing Standards recently ruled that Representative Fossella must pay back at least \$60,000 for misuse of taxpayer-funded congressional mailings. He has earned a 20-percent rating from the AFL-CIO and a 6-percent rating from the SEIU, two of the country's largest labor federations, for his anti-working class votes. He is the only New York City member of Congress to oppose reasonable gun legislation, earning him a high rank from the National Rifle Association. These actions demonstrate that he does not vote in the best interests of the people of our district. Also, Vito Fossella has been a rubber stamp for the Bush Administration voting with the administration almost 90 percent of the time. He has supported the privatization of Social Security, now claims he opposes it, but leaves room to again change his position. I oppose privatization of Social Security now and will oppose the privatization of Social Security when I am in office. Lastly, Vito Fossella is running a campaign of fallacies and distortions that is consistent with his record of misrepresenting facts. He lied about supporting an independent 9-11 commission obtaining \$5 million for the seawall, my position on taxes and his position on Social Security. This district deserves a congressman who will serve with integrity.

What are the three most important issues facing your district today — and what is your plan to address them?

FOSSELLA
Terrorism: I am proud to have helped secure \$50 million for improvements to strengthen Fort Hamilton, and I will continue fighting for additional enhancements. Mass Transit: I am proud of my work to renovate the 86th Street subway station and expand mass transit for commuters. In the years ahead, we need to continue pushing the MTA to increase regular and express bus service as well as enhance train service. Overdevelopment: The push to replace large, older homes with multi-family dwellings has the potential to change the character and integrity of Bay Ridge. We need to continue

working to strengthen zoning laws to ensure that future development enhances our community. We also need to continue working with new property owners to encourage them to keep the community's best interest at heart.

HARRISON
I support vigorous enforcement of all zoning rules... to prevent overdevelopment that is overcrowding our schools, congesting our highways and diminishing our standard of living. During my years on Community Board 10, I helped preserve our community's character and standard of living. 2. The federal government ought to spend more money on building schools in order to reduce class sizes and implement education initiatives outlined in the No Child Left Behind Act. Too many schools are overcrowded, creating poor learning environments for children forced to compete for attention from their teachers. I am the endorsed candidate of the United Federation of Teachers and the New York State United Teachers. 3. I am serious about homeland and port security. One hundred percent of containers that enter U.S. ports must be scanned as their part of origin. The technology exists, and I will fight to ensure that this precaution is taken to keep our communities safe.

Is Brooklyn heading in the "right" direction or the "wrong" direction?

FOSSELLA
I absolutely believe Brooklyn is heading in the right direction. I also believe Brooklyn's best days are ahead of us. There are certainly challenges facing our community, but Americans are optimistic by nature and always ready to overcome any obstacle in our path.

HARRISON
Brooklyn is heading in the right direction and is enjoying a renaissance. Our community boards remain enthusiastic and vigilant in addressing matters such as overdevelopment, finding sites of group homes, and traffic issues. As a community board chairman, I led the largest rezoning in Brooklyn's history to thwart residential overdevelopment. As a community, we have taken innovative approaches to track traffic and much of the input for the Gowanus Tunnel has come from our district's committed residents. The response of local and state officials has been excellent. But the sole missing ingredient has been the appropriate involvement of Congressman Fossella. He has been conspicuously absent during the crucial period when we were trying to rezone. In terms of zoning, he has provided a mere \$6 million for the renovation of the 86th Street subway station, while providing over \$1 billion for Staten Island improvements. Granted, Staten Island is Staten Island, Fossella has provided Brooklyn with less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the funding required for transportation needs and improvements. Vito Fossella has shirked his constituents.

Bonus round: What is the one TV show you would TIVO so you never miss it?

FOSSELLA
Candidate did not answer

HARRISON
I never TIVO anything since I prefer to live in real time. If I were to TIVO anything, it would be "Nightline."

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Marty crosses pond to pitch Brooklyn



Borough President Markowitz walked across Brooklyn's biggest tourist attraction with a band of London bobbies on Sept. 11.

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

The King of Kings is in the land of Queens pitching a vacation fit for a prince.

Borough President Markowitz jetted off to foggy London on Wednesday night on a weeklong junket to encourage British tour operators to fledge about Manhattan and send their customers to Brooklyn instead.

"Tourism is one of Brooklyn's biggest

and most-vital growth sectors," the Beep said in a statement before hopping onto a big old jet airliner to attend the World Travel Market expo this week.

"I'll do whatever it takes to show the world the beauty of our borough, even if it means leaving."

Tourism is a vital — and growing — part of the Brooklyn economy. Last year, the number of visitors to the borough's 27 main attractions rose more than 7 percent from the previous year, with more than 12 million

people stopping by the Brooklyn Museum, the Botanic Garden, Deno's Wonder Wheel, Junior's, and other hot spots, according to NYC & Company, the city's official tourism board (see sidebar).

But selling Brooklyn overseas has been a hard job, mostly because foreign tourists stick to well-trodden itineraries. Even cruise ship passengers who disembark in Red Hook don't spend much time in the borough, hopping on buses and into cabs for rides to Manhattan or the airports.

But the word is getting out. According to Markowitz's office, the Brooklyn tourism center in Borough Hall, which opened in February 2004, now gets 250-300 visitors per week — more than double the first-year figures.

And Travel + Leisure magazine has a big spread on Brooklyn this month, the latest glossy to advise tourists that there's no sleep 'til Brooklyn.

Markowitz's trip — which includes a fire and lodging for his wife Jamie, as well as being paid for by the Brooklyn Marriott, which is sponsoring the junket to drum up business for itself and other tourist-dependent businesses in the borough.

The arrangement is above board, said Markowitz's spokesman, Eric Demby. City ethics code allows private companies to fly elected officials all over the world — as long as the trips are considered a gift to the city, not a gift to the lawmaker, Demby said.

"This is not a junket," Demby said. "An influx of tourists does not just happen. You have to go out there and pitch your place — and nobody does it better than Marty."

"Marty's goal has been to put Brooklyn on the international map, which is a very important thing," he said.

Even better news? As the Beep will discover, it's pretty easy to keep to one's diet in England.

THE TOP FIVE

Borough President Markowitz is in England trying to drum up tourism for his beloved hometown, which is all too often ignored by travelers from abroad. Here are the top five tourist attractions in Brooklyn (and the number of visitors they drew last year). One thing to keep in mind: Visitors to the Brooklyn Bridge, which easily number in the millions, are not tracked by tourism authorities.

1. **The New York Aquarium.** Coney Island (780,000)
2. **The Brooklyn Botanic Garden.** Prospect Heights (700,000)
3. **Deno's Wonder Wheel Park.** Coney Island (650,000)
4. **Brooklyn Museum.** Prospect Heights (411,409)
5. **The Brooklyn Academy of Music.** Fort Greene (400,000)

Source: Borough President's office



New York Aquarium



Matt Matros is one of dozens of volunteers with MoveOn.org who have turned a Carroll Gardens apartment into a phone bank to help Democrats.

Lefties phone it in for Dems

THE REVOLUTION will be telephoned.

And it will be fueled with Dunkin' Munchkins, Fig Newtons, strong coffee and gallons of Arizona Iced Tea.

If the Democrats actually re-take Congress next week, it will partly — ever so partly — be a result of dozens of volunteers manning phone banks in a vacant Carroll Gardens apartment on behalf of MoveOn.org, the lefty political operation forged in the crucible of the 2000 election debacle.

The other night found 18 current MoveOn volunteers calling former MoveOn volunteers to enlist them in one last climactic campaign. Their pitch is familiar

to anyone who has been home and near a phone between 5 and 9 pm during this heated election season.

"Hello, I'm calling from MoveOn.org and we're trying to take back the Congress," volunteer Matt Matros started out. "Can I count on your support? Hello? (pause) Well, is the issue time? I mean, you are with us in trying to take back Congress, right? Good, um, OK, so could you please call for just one hour this week?"

Anyone willing to donate some time to the cause was asked to log onto www.callforchange.org, where they'd find detailed instructions on how to make their own calls — this time

to Democrat-leaning voters who don't regularly get to the polls.

"These are people who are shown to be more likely to vote if we just give them a little prod," said Matros.

I watched Matros and his fellow crusaders for an hour or so. Everyone followed MoveOn's time-tested method, including a wall-mounted list of "Tips 4 Calling": 1. "Convey the urgency" (after all, it Democrats can't take back Congress, what's the president has a disapproval rating as high as an IQ, when can they?). 2. "Smile and have fun" (because getting bogged down in Iraq is such a joy). 3. "Keep conversations brief" (which is always good advice).

4. "Be bold" (because how many people will get off their couch and into a political campaign if the caller on the other end sounds like he couldn't care?). But despite all the passion I saw, I couldn't shake the feeling that Democrats are a bit like Mets fans. We all want to believe that the Amazons' will win Game 7 — they're the better team, after all — but we know that when the final score is tallied, our guys will be on the losing side. Chuck Schumer, Carlos Beltran, Howard Dean or David Wright — someone is going to strike out looking at some GOP curveball that he never saw coming.

Full disclosure: I have a bit of sympathy for the MoveOn troops. Two decades ago, I stood on street corners in Rhode Island and pulled up the hair of voters because I objected to Ronald Reagan's invasion of Grenada. One time, four guys in an Audi pulled up, rolled down their windows and gave me the finger. And two years ago, I campaigned for John Kerry in Ohio. Despite possessing my own version of the Hippocratic Oath ("First, do no harm"), I am convinced that I lost more votes for Kerry in Ohio than I gained.

Political work is grueling, unsatisfying and often depressing (hence the table of junk food next to the coffee maker). You can lay out your best case for a candidate only to find that the

person on the other side of the door thinks your candidate is unfit to catch the local steps.

Of course, that energizes some volunteers.

"I did calling for Kerry in 2004, and I found it so wonderful to talk to voters all over the country," said Esther Cassidy of Fort Greene, before her recent two-hour shift.

Despite Kerry's apparent loss, Cassidy said she got back on the campaign line because, "we have to take back Congress."

"I would really feel bad if I didn't do the best I could do," she added.

Funny, that's what I said in Rhode Island and Ohio — and

THE BROOKLYN
ANGLE
By Gersh Kuntzman
DECISION 2006

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

One of the last great bastions of cash-only transactions — parking meters — will finally fall this week when the city installs new machines on Atlantic Avenue that accept credit cards, leaving Laundromats, the Peter Luger Steakhouse and the 1970s-frozen Park Slope Food Co-op as virtually the only places left where cash is king.

The city has begun removing 239 quarters-only meters from 10 blocks along Atlantic Avenue, between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue, and replacing them with 39 "manometers" that accept cash and plastic, according to Craig Chin, a Department of Transportation spokesman.

All 39 of the newfangled no-arm bandits will be up by Nov. 8.

The munimeters won't just free drivers from having to scrounge between car seat cushions for spare change, but also free up 15 percent more parking spaces, Chin said.

Local merchants, who have long complained of inadequate parking, are thrilled.

"The more space, the better," said Kathleen Goward, the owner of Pomegranate Looms, on Atlantic Avenue and Clinton Street.

Credit cards and more space may be the most obvious benefits, but others cheered the reduced street clutter.

CHECKIN' IN WITH...

Rev. Billy

Just in time for the retail hell of the Christmas shopping season, Rev. Billy has fueled up the bandwagon, raised the tent poles and rehearsed the choir for this year's "Shopocalypse" revival tour. Rev. Billy, the white-collar-wearing alter-ego of Windsor Terrace native Bill Talen, is that perfect mixture of street preacher and Borscht Belt comic — so good, in fact, that sometimes you can't tell if he's serious or not. But with the tour about to roll — the first "service" is Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Brooklyn Lyceum, featuring the Stop Shopping Gospel Choir — and a book coming out next year ("What Would Jesus Buy?"), we thought it was time for Talen to check in with our editor, Gersh Kuntzman.

Q: So, your new crusade is anti-shopping. But isn't shopping as American as apple pie, baseball and invading countries that didn't do anything to us?

A: Shopping is our sin, brother Gersh. We've gotten so bad that now we need celebrities to mediate our world experience. Bono has to teach us how to help Africa. Christy Turlington has to sell us a T-shirt. They've become a new wing of government. Let celebrities make movies, but don't let them be the government. hallelujah, amen. They want us to love the chain stores. They want shelves filled with sweatshop products. No. That's the shopocalypse. But let me tell you, I can make love without permission from a sexy celebrity.

Q: You can?

A: I did yesterday. And you know what, just to be sure, I'll do it again today, hallelujah!

Q: I'm impressed. But what is the show about?

A: It's part Chautauqua revival, part urban neo-shamanism — but with plenty of down-home gospel music. It doesn't lend itself to the commodification of a label,

brother Gersh. The political people think we're religious. The religious people think we're political. We're the diff-cult.

Q: But is it entertaining?

A: Is it entertaining? We talk about the destruction of our neighborhoods and our life systems by American consumption. I ask for your blessing, brother Gersh.

Q: You have my blessing.

A: These little things add up. Where is that \$4 latte from? Of all the coffee they sell at Starbucks, only four percent is fair trade. The growers in Ethiopia are dying, but they have Dylan on the soundtrack. We have to tell people that, hallelujah. We're not grumpy liberals. Change-alah! It feels good. Don't buy the Starbucks. Don't bow to Bruce Ratner. Change-alah!

Q: I couldn't help but notice that the Shopocalypse tour ends at the Cooper Union, where Abe Lincoln once spoke. A coincidence?

A: I love Abraham Lincoln. I'd like to think that Honest Abe would've gone for the bird-friendly, shade-grown, bio-diverse, fair-trade organic coffee. So would Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth. Not only is it better coffee, but it's better for the world, change-alah!

for The Brooklyn Papers

One of the thousands of costumed revellers parading through Park Slope on Halloween night took advantage of the may-

hem to rob the local bank.

Blending in with the other ghouls and goblins on Tuesday night, this trick-or-treater — technically more "trick" than "treat" — walked into the Commerce Bank

on Fifth Avenue at around 7:30 pm and handed the teller a note demanding cash.

With dozens of pirates, vampires, witches and ghosts wandering into the bank all afternoon, the teller didn't think much of it when a woman sporting a fake beard and mustache entered.

But her instincts must have kicked in when the woman handed over the note, as she quickly complied by filling a bag with an undisclosed amount of money.

The young robber left, taking her adult candy with her.

Police have little to go on, given that the perp's description — a woman in a costume — fit hundreds of other revellers (and at least one Coney Island Sideshow performer).

At least two other bank robbers took advantage of Halloween to wreak havoc, according to police.

The Apple Bank on Court Street in Cobble Hill was robbed at around noon. A man did his best impression of a sking surgeon — wearing a ski hat, sunglasses and a surgical mask — demanded money, and then fled.

And the North Fork Bank on Flushing Avenue in Marine Park was also hit on Tuesday afternoon. In that case, the costumed robber fled after getting the money he demanded.

— Christie Rick



Peacenik parents

Members of Brooklyn Parents for Peace headed to Fort Hamilton HS in Bay Ridge last week to protest military recruitment and to hand out flyers and "opt-out" forms. The federal "No Child Left Behind" law requires the military to get information about public high school students unless the parent opts out. "For the most part, parents were receptive [to receiving the flyers and the opt-out form], even though this is one of the most conservative neighborhoods in Brooklyn," said Erika Fox, a peace group member. One father, though, said he would support his daughter if she enlisted. "My father was in Korea," said Rich Messina. "I wanted to join [the military], but they wouldn't take me."

— Dennis W. Ho

STUFF IT!...

Continued from page 1

Ghiv, clearly some had a pre-existing interest in taxidermy. "I'm a real natural history enthusiast," said Carrie Labe, a Bedford-Stuyvesant resident. "I like the freakish aspect of it, too. This is absolutely an art form."

By now, the shimmering, inside-out chicken skin was trembling in Bibus's hands like raspberry jelly. The room began to smell of raw poultry.

Bibus pulled out the esophagus and tongue, and cut through to the intestines. After a few more tweaks, Bibus announced, "And he's skinned!"

Afterwards, there was the inevitable taxidermy contest, an experience that was, arguably, even more other-worldly than the master class.

Brooklynites converged on the makeshift stage with every manner of preserved animal body.

The competing specimens included a mounted chicken skeleton called Gens Nicolais Richias, the testicles of a dog named Merit preserved in a jar of rubbing alcohol, an Indonesian "ringling," and a naturally mummified rat.

But the top prizes went to a pair of squirrel testicles mounted on a plaque, a pigeon specimen, and two gaffes — a Fiji mermaid and a Coney Island "searabbits."

Takeshi Yamada, the Coney Island artist who submitted the two gaffes, sees taxidermy as an art form that brings its practitioners closer to nature and the divine.

"This is a three-dimensional illusion, in contrast to the two-dimensional illusion of painting, so it brings us one step closer to God," said Yamada. "It's also an expression of how to live better and connect with the environment."

Bibus shares a similar view of the craft. "It's a way for me to get close to animals," said Bibus. "I have a deep respect for the natural world."

And so, apparently, do the good people of Park Slope, many of whom clamored to take home the leftover rooster meat. Not to mount, but to eat.

Continued from page 1

New York City's use of the payments came under federal scrutiny after the IRS grudgingly signed off on controversial PILOT deals for new stadiums for the Yankees and Mets.

Sources told The Bond Buyer last month that the IRS felt that those stadium deals — which cost the city an estimated \$216 million in tax revenue over 40 years — looked "too much like private loans."

"Now they are trying to close the barn door that those deals went through," said Doug Turetsky, spokesman for the city's Independent Budget Office.

Ratner's 16-tower, arena, residential, hotel and office space development is slated to pay PILOTs to the Empire State Development Corporation for the next 99 years in exchange for 25 years of full and partial property tax exemptions.

The deal will save Ratner up to \$91 million in tax costs over 30 years, according to the IBO.

Ratner would not comment for this story, but his spokesperson has always said that the tax break will underwrite the project's 2,250 affordable housing units.

If the IRS rule change goes through, it may inflate Ratner's costs, but it could also lessen the chances that he will scale back the size of the 8-million-square-foot project — Brooklyn's biggest ever — because Ratner will need to make up for the shortfall.

"The higher cost will not be good for the developer and in turn, it won't be good for the city," said Richard Chirba, a tax attorney who is not working with Ratner on the project.

Neither the Empire State Development Corporation, nor its city counterpart, the Economic Development Corporation, commented for this story.



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