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The Brooklyn Paper

Including Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and the DUMBO Paper

A Brooklyn
Papers
Publication

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LAWN AND ORDER

Witness's green thumb keeps DUMBO shining

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

The season is finally over for the Lawnmower Man of DUMBO.

That's how most people refer to Tom Combs, an elusive figure seen many summer evenings atop an old riding mower as he cuts the grass along the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

Few know who Combs is, but they all recognize his handiwork: where once there were only overgrown weeds and erosion scars, there are now three perfect lawns, ideal for picnics or sunbathing at the gateway to the rapidly gentrifying former factory area.

Combs has been the neighborhood's anonymous mowing man since 1971.

"It's just a neighborhood thing to do," said Combs, now 67. "That's nice for a press release, but there's a method to this man's mowing madness."

Combs, a Jehovah's Witness, moved from Oregon to the sect's world headquarters in Brooklyn in 1958. He's worked in the print shop cranking out the latest issues of "Awake" magazine, plus Bibles in virtually every language, but his calling has been those overgrown hills.

See **GRASS** on page 4



Tom Combs, a Jehovah's Witness, mows the lawn on three Brooklyn-Queens Expressway berms — for free — at the gateway to DUMBO.

Ratner jobs fall short

Bruce's malls haven't met projections

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

The number of retail jobs that state officials say will be created by Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development ignores the reality of his two existing shopping malls directly across the street, where job performance has fallen short, according to Ratner's own data.

Ratner's Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls created a combined 1,680 jobs — a whopping 42 percent, or 1,220 jobs, less than what should have been created according to the state's standard job-projection formula.

That state formula — one job for every 300 square feet of shopping area — is now being used to create the impression that Ratner's Atlantic Yards' proposed 247,000 square feet of retail space would generate 824 jobs.

But if the job-generation history of Atlantic Terminal, which opened in 2004, and Atlantic Center, which opened in 1996, repeats itself, Atlantic Yards will only create 477 jobs — 347 fewer than Ratner that promised in his "Jobs, Housing and Hoops" scheme.

Officials at the Empire State Development Corporation would not comment on the jobs shortfall.

See **RATNER'S JOBS JIVE** on page 4



Election elation

Her victory for a Brooklyn congressional seat was virtually guaranteed — she won with 90 percent of the vote — but City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke still pressed the flesh on Election Day.

City Council goes batty over wood

By Christie Rizk

for The Brooklyn Papers

A City Council proposal to ban aluminum bats got a "standing O" from some baseball players, while others hoped the bill would go down on strikes.

From the high-school diamonds of Bensonhurst to the sandlot fields of Red Hook, traditionalists said they support the ban, while teenagers with the major leagues in their sights begged the city to let them keep their super-charged bats.

"They should really pass the ban," said Dave Serrano, manager of a team of court officers that practices in Red Hook Park and only uses genuine lumber. "The kids can really hurt each other with metal bats."

Having played with metal bats before, Serrano and teammate Chris Gallo know that the advantage of a metal bat is also its disadvantage.

"A ball comes off a metal bat like a dart," said Gallo. And in this day and age, you have to be careful.

"You give a metal bat to a 17-year-old kid who's juicing, and you might as well give him a gun."

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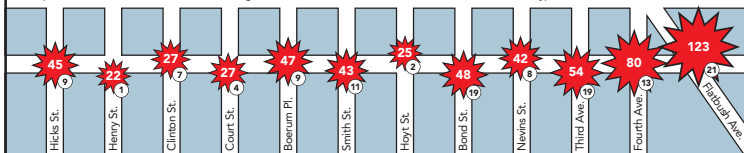
See **BATTY** on page 6



Baseball player Chris Gallo prefers a wood bat.

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"We always said there were more accidents than they indicated," said Sandy Balboza of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association. "Now we have the proof."

— Gersh Kuntzman

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AT 86TH & DAHLGREEN

Cross on red, or end up dead!

By Paul Koepf
for The Brooklyn Papers

Mom always told you to look both ways and wait for the light before you cross the street, but at one crazy Bay Ridge intersection, residents have learned that it's actually safer to cross when the sign tells them to stop.

The corner, an overpass above the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway at 86th Street and Dahlgren Place, is not a typical intersection, of course, but an object lesson in what happens when cars are served before pedestrians.

When the traffic light on 86th Street turns green, pedestrians on the intersection's north side get a "Walk" sign — and the right of way. But because 86th is a two-way street, drivers making a left onto Dahlgren Place — which is a BQE entrance ramp — peel out at the first break in oncoming traffic, honking pedestrians out of their way.

So most pedestrians don't cross until the light changes, exposing them to drag racers on Dahlgren, who also have the BQE in their sights.

"I'm not arguing with a truck," said pedestrian Ralph Marino, a retired mailman who knows the area's traffic patterns. An elderly woman who lives one street away explained the crosswalk's backward logic. "You never go when it says 'walk,'" she said as a car zoomed by. "At rush hour, forget it."

She looked up Dahlgren Place and waited until the light turned red and the "Don't Walk" sign told her to stop red-handed.

"Now I can go," she said, starting slowly across.

Community Board 10 is requesting a study to address the problem, according to District Manager Josephine Beckmann.

"It's an absolutely bizarre situation," she said.

Beckmann and others think the city might have to install a left-turn signal at the light and add signs to remind drivers that it is state law to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

But maybe another sign is needed for the pedestrians themselves.

"Only go when the hand says no."



The only time it's safe to cross Dahlgren Street at 86th Street is when the sign tells you not to, residents say.

VITO VIDI VICI!

Fossella beats Harrison, earns fifth term

By Dana Rubinstein and Christie Rizk
for The Brooklyn Papers

The city's lone Republican Congressman, Rep. Vito Fossella, held onto his Bay Ridge-Statens Island seat even as Democrats stormed back into control of the House of Representatives this week.

Fossella got 57 percent of the vote on Tuesday, beating Bay Ridge lawyer Steve Harrison, who took 43 percent.

Though a former chair of the local community board, Harrison didn't even take the Brooklyn side of the district, which has a greater tendency to vote Democratic.

Harrison did, however, get closer to Fossella than the incumbent's prior challenger, Frank Barbaro, who lost by 18 percent in 2004.

Political consultants said Fossella's ability to survive the Democratic wave and a hard-working opponent both down to one thing: money.

Fossella had it. Harrison didn't.

"Steve didn't have enough dough to communicate," said Hank Sheinkopf, a Democratic consultant, who was not involved in the race.

Geny O'Brien, a consultant from across the aisle, agreed.

"In America today, a challenger taking on an incumbent isn't considered serious unless he starts off with \$2 million," said O'Brien.

Harrison raised a mere \$109,000 overall, while Fossella's war chest overflowed with more than \$1.3 million.

The money allowed Fossella to run ads on cable.

See **IT'S VITO** on page 7

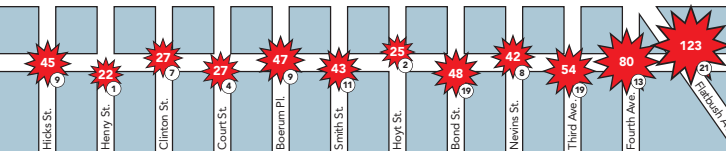


Rep. Vito Fossella (above, left) celebrates victory on Staten Island with CB10 Chairman Craig Eaton shortly after challenger Steven Harrison (below) conceded the race Tuesday night.



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See **DOMINO'S** on page 16

OUR OPINION

Don't fuhgedaboudit

ALTHOUGH MANY MOCKED IT as a pointless junket, Borough President Markowitz's fact-finding tour of England revealed the truth about how the world tourism industry views our beloved borough — and how much more work he and others need to do to put Brooklyn on the world's tour map.

"I think of Brooklyn as the center of the world, but frankly, the travel agents I met didn't," Markowitz told The Brooklyn Papers upon his return.

"All they knew about Brooklyn was that it is somewhere in New York, it has the Brooklyn Bridge and that Beckham guy has a daughter named Brooklyn."

And it didn't take long for the borough's Booster in Chief to see why. While attending the World Travel Market trade show, Mark-

witz said he was stunned by New York's "unimaginative" pitch. Trinidad, he said, had "an unbelievable booth with a full band." California served up wine. Las Vegas had showgirls. Even Lebanon and Ethiopia had big screen TVs showing attractive tourism sites.

What did New York have?

"Gonish!" Markowitz said, using the Yiddish word for "nothing."

"I'm not blaming anyone," Markowitz made clear. "But this market is so competitive that you have to be very aggressive."

We couldn't agree more. Tourism has been one of New York's growth industries — yet too little of it trickles to Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Papers has long complained of the Manhattan-centric approach of NYC & Co., the city's official tourism bureau — and Mar-

kowitz's experience overseas shows that tour packagers believe New York City stops in Manhattan.

The good news: Markowitz said NYC & Co.'s new leader George Feritita agreed with the borough president on the need to beef up New York's sales pitch — and tell the world about non-Manhattan offerings.

Here's hoping he delivers.

Perhaps he should hire Markowitz for more road-trips. As we well know, every conversation with the Bree revolves around the greatness of Brooklyn.

Even when we asked him how the fish and chips were in foggy London, he said, "They were good, but the Chip Shop is better, right here in Brooklyn."

Sounds like the start of a tourism campaign.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

If Yards suit fails, so does America

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By email: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

I was dismayed to read that the latest Atlantic Yards lawsuit is not being given much chance of success by legal experts ("Eminent" suit on Yards called a longshot," Nov. 4).

I won't question the legal minds quoted in Ariella Cohen's piece, but if those experts are right, this country is in trouble.

The Supreme Court's Kelo decision perverted hundreds of years of American tradition, namely that government should only condemn privately owned property to make room for something — a hospital, highway, bridge — that has a clear public benefit.

In Kelo, the Court ruled that such land can be taken and transferred to private developers like Bruce Ratner. Locally, Atlantic Yards is the first bitter fruit of that ruling.

I, for one, am happy that people are suing. Atlantic Yards may indeed have some public benefit, but it is mostly a land-grab by the state on behalf of the very well-connected Bruce Ratner.

If the lawsuit fails, alas, our country has failed.

Reginald Saunders, Fort Greene

Railing for trolleys

To the editor,

Your recent article about bringing back trolleys ("Trolley plan derailed again," Oct. 28) reminded me of something few Brooklynites know: Trolleys were actually less-than-beloved back when Brook-

lynites had to keep out of their way.

The term "trolley dodgers" — which the baseball team took as its name — was no joke! I was doing some research on another topic the other day and came across an article from an 1895 paper (that complained of deaths and injuries from speeding trolleys). Doing some more research, I found that there was a big gap between trolley reality and trolley nostalgia.

That doesn't mean trolleys shouldn't be brought back, of course. It's a good idea.

No doubt modern traffic would keep trolleys from moving at a dangerous pace.

Lucia McCreey, Prospect Lefferts Gardens

Smartmom is on

To the editor,

I knew Louise Crawford well enough to nod hello when we passed in the street before she started writing her Smartmom column. But I had no idea she was such a funny, smart writer.

Week after week, I find myself laughing out loud as I read her.

It's not easy to be so on point when you have to come up with a new topic every seven days, but she manages to find something relevant every single time. But the best thing about the column is that, by poking fun at herself, Smartmom helps us all take ourselves a little less seriously.

Beth Harpaz, Park Slope

Golden's credit

To the editor,

I was so pleased to read Dana Rubenstein's article ("Gold course for children planned at Dyker site," Nov. 11) that reported how state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) "put up \$500,000 for construction" of the new children's golf course.

I am so happy that Golden used his own money and not the taxpayers'.

Charles F. Beebe, Bay Ridge

Hevesi's a hack

To the editor,

I agree with your editorial, "Alan Hevesi must go" (Oct. 28). State Comptroller Alan Hevesi using a taxpayer-funded staff member to drive his wife to and from doctors' appointments for several years illustrates his arrogance as a public official.

Unlike Hevesi, taxpayers have no access to government employees to chauffeur family members around town. Ordinary citizens drive loved ones to doctors' appointments.

As well as his generous comptroller salary, Hevesi also has ample pensions from both his Queens College teaching position and from previously serving as a member of the Assembly and as city comptroller. He will also receive yet another state pension courtesy of taxpayers when he retires — or is thrown out — as state comptroller. Not a bad public pension trifecta.

Floyd Blake, Bay Ridge

If any ordinary civil servant did what Hevesi did, he would have already been fired from his job. It is unfortunate that Hevesi clearly doesn't consistently practice or follow what he preaches to others.

Too bad Republican John Faso's ego compelled him to run a hopeless campaign for governor. Given all of Hevesi's baggage, Faso could have provided voters with a credible alternative. Faso, unlike Chris Callaghan, would have had name recognition and the funding necessary to actually use the Hevesi scandal to his advantage. In 2002, he captured 47 percent of the vote for comptroller and could have been the only Republican to win statewide office this time around.

Larry Penner, Great Neck

You're the bums

To the editor,

I was happy to see that Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) got re-elected on Tuesday night, despite your editorial condemning his values and his support for the president ("Throw Fossella out," Nov. 4).

Not everyone in New York City is liberal, you know, and not everyone objects to the war in Iraq. Like Fossella, I believe we should finish the job — and that means fighting alongside Iraqi soldiers until they are ready to defend their country.

Anything else is cutting and running — and Vito Fossella is not a cut-and-runner.

Floyd Blake, Bay Ridge



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Candy is dandy, but condos are fancier

The Brooklyn Papers

City landmarks officials finally signed off on a plan to build a four-story condo in the garden of the vacant Peaks Mason Mints factory in Brooklyn Heights.

The Candy Factory — as the 20 Henry St. building is known — has been vacant for more than a year following a tumultuous legal battle between its developer and 42 rent-stabilized tenants he evicted after opting out of the Mitchell-Lama housing subsidy program.

"It's an ironic circle, said Anita Karl, who lived in the building for 28 years before losing her rent-stabilized lease and moving to Crown Heights.

"We were thrown out so [the developer] could renovate for richer people and now they are taking those people's backyards to make more condos."

The Landmarks Preservation Commission rejected seven plans



The "candy factory" building's addition, in foreground.

— including some which called for a much larger structure — for the addition to the 19th-century Candy Factory before giving the green light last week.

Landmarks approval was needed because the building and its annex sit within the Brooklyn Heights Historic District.

— Ariella Cohen

Artist is bashed in Gardens mayhem

By Lilo H. Stainton
 The Brooklyn Papers

An artist suffered a two-inch head wound after he was attacked — on his birthday, no less — in one of two robberies promulgated by packs of armed teenagers running wild in Carroll Gardens on Oct. 30.

It is not clear if the same suspects were involved in both attacks, which came about an hour apart and within a few blocks of each other. Police captured three teenage suspects that night and linked them to other recent robberies — all involving a shotgun — including an Oct. 23 mugging attempt on a 56-year-old man walking down Hicks Street.

The attack on the artist came as he left a Red Hook home around 8:45 p.m., heading toward the Smith-Ninth Street subway stop en route to a birthday dinner in Manhattan.

He was walking down Huntington Street when he passed a posse of a dozen boys, ranging in age from 12 to 18.

"One of them came out of nowhere and hit me on the head," the 35-year-old victim recalled. "I kept walking — a little faster — towards Hamilton Avenue, because there's more traffic there. I figured if I got close enough to Hamilton, the kids would just get lost."

No such luck. The brutes bashed the birthday boy a second time, then a third.

"I started to run," the victim said. "There were three or four kids in front of me [who] knocked me down. Then two or three started kicking me and hitting me and demanding money."

When he said he had none, the thugs struck him again in the back of the head. Police believe the suspects had a handgun.

"Then they were gone — and so was my phone," he recalled.

The victim picked himself up and stopped at a bodega near the Smith-Ninth Street station to clean up his wound. He then hopped the F train.

"I didn't realize how injured I was," he added later. "But every time I ran my fingers through my hair there was so much blood on them. I had a 2-inch gash on the back of my head."

The victim cancelled the dinner and took himself to Bellevue Hospital, where he received seven staples.

Meanwhile, back in Brooklyn, the crime spree continued. Around 10 p.m., a 54-year-old

man suffered a similar, but far less violent, encounter when a pack of a half-dozen teens surrounded him on Hicks Street, near Huntington Street.

Armed with a shotgun, one boy insisted, "Give me your money or I'll blow your head off."

The posse snatched the victim's MetroCard, his cellphone and \$400, and dashed off.

But not all of them escaped.

Police Officer Irving Contreras of the 76th Precinct caught up with three of the boys — all age 15 — and cuffed them on felony robbery charges.

Correction

The Brooklyn Papers

Last week's article about Coney Island redevelopment ("Thor Wiclds is Hammer in Coney Island") suggested that Coney Island USA founder Dick Zagn had made a deal to relocate his famed Sideshow and museum into the proposed Thor Equities development. In fact, Zagn has secured funding from the city to find a new location within Coney Island, but there is no formal deal with Thor Equities at this time. The Brooklyn Papers also reported that Zagn had removed some negative posts from his organization's Web site, but it turns out that the person who wrote the comments removed them himself. The Brooklyn Papers regrets the errors.

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Brennan cruises to another victory

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

It's hard to shake the idea that Assemblyman Jim Brennan kinda knew he wouldn't be losing his job.

Not only did the 20-year incumbent barely campaign against his unknown Republican chal-

lenger — sometimes even taking time to fundraise for his coming race for city Comptroller — he had a full, post-Election Day schedule.

"There is a large group of scrofula developers that must be deterred," Brennan said the morning after winning re-election with 86 percent of the vote

44th Assembly District	
Jim Brennan (D)	85.6%
Yvette Bennett (R)	14.3%

in a district that spans from Park Slope through Windsor Terrace to Kensington.

To battle the high-rise punks,



James Brennan

Brennan will chair a public hearing on Wednesday on toughening enforcement of city building codes and zoning resolutions.

Brennan has suggested strengthening the current laws so that builders who break city codes would have to pay better fines, or even go to jail — a controversial get-tough measure that lobbyists for the building industry decry.

"As the building boom goes on, we need to ensure that the city is enforcing codes that ensure adequate public safety," he said.

Brennan also plans to start off his new term with efforts to protect Windsor Terrace and Kensington with the same type of downzoning that covers Park Slope South and Green-Wood Heights.

Public hearing on building code enforcement and compliance, Assembly Hearing Room (250 Broadway, near City Hall), room 1923, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. For information, call Deborah Stevens at (516) 455-4363.

THE BRENNAN FILE

Current job: State Assemblyman since 1985, representing Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington and Flatbush.

Background: Brennan is long-time budget geek who found some new bones to pick with the state's subsidy of Atlantic Yards. Other pet issues are affordable housing, building safety and health care, especially mental health. He fought to allow those with mental illness to pay half-fare on the city's transit system.

Fun fact: Jim is an old pal of hard-boiled Village Voice snoop and Windsor Terrace resident, Tom Robbins!

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A sad day for gourmands

Anthony Scicchitano, a Park Slope pioneer and Fifth Avenue fixture, died on Tuesday. Scicchitano, the former owner of A.S. Pork Store, was as famous for his work on transforming Fifth Avenue as he was for serving up the best mozzarella and freshest pork sausage from his store for decades. He also owned Cucina restaurant at one point. "I'm naturally very sad for his family — but the loss is going to be felt everywhere in the neighborhood," said Park Sloper David Sherik, an A.S. regular.

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Victim and super thwart robber

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

68th Precinct

Talk about good timing! A quick-thinking Bay Ridge man and his building's super helped cops nab a burglar whom the victim discovered inside his Fort Hamilton Parkway apartment on Nov. 2.

When the 34-year-old apartment dweller discovered the stranger just before 1 a.m., the victim ran from his unit to the super, who called 911. The tenant and the super then returned to the burglarized apartment and held the prowler until police arrived at the building, just off 93rd Street.

Stolen property was later found in the alley next to the building, so police Officer Daniel Salvato arrested the 28-year-old prowler on burglary charges.

In a family way
Most people don't suspect a pregnant lady. But maybe they should.

A pregnant bag-snatcher struck a Fifth Avenue beauty salon and escaped with cash and personal goods valued at more than \$400 on Nov. 2, police said.

The big-bellied suspect slipped into the hair and nail shop, near 86th Street, around 4 p.m. But instead of resting her tired feet in the pedicure pool, the woman grabbed a purse near the front desk and bolted out the door.

The thief, described as a black woman, 5-foot-1, with dark, straight hair, was last seen walking along Fifth Avenue, toward 86th Street. She was wearing a brown sweatshirt, beige sneakers, a beige scarf and a black skullcap.

The stolen bag — a black, leather model — held credit cards, an MP3 player, a blue umbrella, a Louis Vuitton key ring, valued at \$200, and \$155 in one-dollar bills.

Cars burglarized
Burglars stole eyewear and a saxophone from two vehicles parked on Bay Ridge streets on Nov. 3.

Between 2:40 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., thieves busted the passenger-side window of a black Volvo parked on 68th Street, near

POLICE BLOTTER

Shore Road. The owner of the 2005 sedan, a Staten Island resident, said the burglar escaped with merchandise valued at \$1,500, including a pair of designer eyeglasses, a winter coat, a rain coat and an Olympus camera.

And between 3:15 p.m. and 5 p.m., thieves hit a 2003 Saturn parked on Seventh Avenue, near 63rd Street. The burglar busted through the window of the gray sedan, owned by a 30-year-old Bay Ridge man, and made off with his fiancée's purse, a guitar and a saxophone.

62nd Precinct

Egg rolled

A 40-year-old Chinese deliveryman lost \$400 to a knife-wielding thief who attacked him on 21st Avenue on Nov. 3, police said.

The victim brought the food order to a building near 73rd Street, at 4:30 p.m. But when he rang, no one answered to claim the chow. Instead, a robber surprised him from behind, held a knife to his back and demanded money.

The thief — described as a white man in his early 20s — grabbed the victim's wallet and ran off with the cash, several credit cards and miscellaneous identification. The victim was not physically injured.

Brolie battle
Police arrested a thug who beat a teenager with his own umbrella while on Avenue S on Nov. 2.

The brute confronted the 13-year-old victim as the boy left school, around 2:30 p.m. The two got into an argument, near West Fifth Street, which led the suspect to snatch the boy's umbrella and strike him over the head with it.

He then followed up with his fists, pummeling the victim's face and leaving swollen red marks.

Slashing

The encounter was more of a

cut than a treat, for sure. A man on West Ninth Street was cut in the face with an un-

known object on Halloween night.

The armed man rushed his 54-year-old victim from behind, as he walked near Avenue U, at 9:40 p.m. The thug slashed the man and ran off before the victim could get a good look at him.

Boxcutter heist

A pair of armed thieves knocked a man from his mountain bike during a robbery on Nov. 6, police said.

One thug rushed the 25-year-old victim from behind as he rode along Avenue T, near West Sixth Street, at 2:40 a.m. They pushed him off the bike and grabbed at his bag.

When the man got up to retrieve the items, the robbers slashed his face with a boxcutter. Threatening further injury, the thieves grabbed the bike and \$60 cash and ran off.

Thief hung up

Police arrested one of three thieves who robbed a man of his cellphone on Benson Avenue on Nov. 4.

The trio surrounded the victim as he chatted on the phone, near the corner of Bay 35th Street, around 1 p.m.

One grabbed the phone and pushed the victim in the back of the head. When the man turned to face the attackers, another thug punched him in the left side of the face.

The thieves fled on Benson Avenue. Police stopped one suspect at Bath Avenue and 24th Avenue, but the victim could not identify him as an attacker. The victim did ID another man — and that 19-year-old now faces robbery charges.

Choker caught

Police nabbed a teenager who grabbed another boy's neck during a Nov. 3 robbery at a Bensonhurst school.

The 13-year-old left gym class at the 80th Street school, near 16th Avenue, at 11:10 a.m. The thief snatched him by the neck and snatched his cellphone from his front pocket.

The theft left the victim with scratches around his neck.

The 15-year-old suspect now faces robbery charges.

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Second time's a charm

Two years later, Hyer-Spencer takes assembly seat

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Democrat Jane Hyer-Spencer narrowly won a Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights Assembly seat on Tuesday, edging out Anthony Xanthakis by just 638 votes in a race filled with bile.

With the razor-thin margin, Xanthakis didn't concede until the wee hours of Wednesday morning, but, in an act of bitterness over the tense race, failed to congratulate his win-

ning opponent.

"I never got a phone call," said Hyer-Spencer. "I had earlier gotten his number in case I lost, so I could call and congratulate him... I'm sure he's upset."

Hyer-Spencer, a Staten Island children's welfare attorney, gave her victory speech at the Statens, an Island banquet hall.

Xanthakis is former counsel to the retiring three-term Assemblyman Matthew Mirone, and was Mirone's hand-picked successor.

He could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

This was Hyer-Spencer's second run for Assembly. In 2004, she ran a self-funded campaign against Mirone, and took 40 percent of the vote.

This year, she pulled in twice as much funding as Xanthakis, raising \$209,000. But the real difference, said one Democratic insider, was in their work ethics.

"She was tireless," said Ralph Peretto, a district leader. "Xanthakis didn't work

60th Assembly District

Jane Hyer-Spencer (D)	51.6%
Anthony Xanthakis (R)	48.4%

as hard as her. In fact, he had to resort to negative stuff."

At a debate hosted by the Bay Ridge Community Council at the Shore Road Senior Center, Xanthakis accused Hyer-Spencer of being nothing more than a stooge for the state Democratic party, and of acting in her own self-interest when she left her job as city Councilman Vincent Gentile's chief of staff

after only six months.

"Gentile deserves better than that," said Xanthakis. "He deserves someone who took a job seriously."

His rhetoric got so nasty, that Hyer-Spencer began to tear up during her closing remarks.

"Shelly Silver didn't back me in 2004 — no one did except that man," said Hyer-Spencer, her voice breaking as she pointed to her husband.

It's been at least a decade since a Democrat held the Assembly seat.



A victorious Jane Hyer-Spencer said she didn't get a congratulatory call from her opponent, Anthony Xanthakis, whom she beat by less than 1,000 votes.

Red-letter day: Ex-Soviet Brook-Krasny wins

The Brooklyn Papers

The Russian-American melodrama that gripped the emigre communities of Coney Island and Brighton Beach for weeks has finally come to an

end, with Democrat Alec Brook-Krasny winning the Assembly seat that covers those neighborhoods, plus Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights.

Brook-Krasny won 70 per-

cent of the vote, while his Republican opponent, Bay Ridge Patricia Laudano, got 30 percent.

Meanwhile, Brook-Krasny's opponent in the Sept. 8 Democratic primary, Ari Kagan, has

46th Assembly District

Alec Brook-Krasny (D)	70.3%
Patricia Laudano (R)	29.7%

reportedly conceded defeat.

"He called me and conceded last week," said Brook-Krasny at a pre-election breakfast at Junior's.

It was an anti-climactic conclusion to a colorful race rife with accusations of KGB affil-

iations, voter intimidation, and electoral fraud.

Brook-Krasny, upon assuming office in January, will become the first Soviet-born member of the state Assembly.

Ain't detente grand?

It wasn't just Laudano staunch conservative values that hurt her. It was her surname.

"How are you going to beat a Russian in a district that includes Brighton Beach?" one consultant said. — Rubinstein



Alec Brook-Krasny

Thor Equities wields its hammer in Coney

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The battle for the Boardwalk has begun.

Coney Island's biggest landlord, developer Joe Sitt, 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 Sitt'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 evictions hit the neighborhood like ammo from the Shoot-the-Freak game.

Suddenly, longtime carnival colleagues were trashing 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 Carchio, who will lose his balloon-racing booth on Dec. 31.

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

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

The fallout from the evictions has even reached Dick Zigun, whose Coney Island USA runs the famed Circus Sideshow. Zigun is looking for new digs, but has made no deal with Thor.

Critics say it's a matter of time. "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 [who] want to come to the new Coney Island, and then what?" he wrote. There were other similarly ruck, highly personal posts.

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 Rafael, 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, Sitt'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, Sitt 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 Sarrel, 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, 31 coffee and an affordable day out."

Sarrel 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."



"Anthony" (right) waits for customers in a basketball game stand at the corner of Stillwell Avenue and Bowers Street, while Dick Zigun (left) stands inside Coney Island USA, a mini-museum of Coney Island artifacts located on Surf and Stillwell avenues. Zigun has been pilloried by old-timers, who say he has sold out. The Henderson building (below) is slated to be torn down.



Ratner's job numbers have fallen short

Bruce's two malls haven't met projections, but State still thinks Atlantic Yards will

By Ariella Cohen
The Brooklyn Papers

The number of retail jobs that state officials say will be created by Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development ignores the reality of his two existing shopping malls directly across the street, where job performance has fallen short, according to Ratner's own data.

Ratner's Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls created a combined 1,680 jobs — a whopping 42 percent, or 1,220 jobs, less than what should have been created according to the state's standard job-projection formula.

That state formula — one job for every 300 square feet of shop-

ping area — is now being used to create the impression that Ratner's Atlantic Yards' proposed 247,000 square feet of retail space would generate 824 jobs.

But in the job-generation history of Atlantic Terminal, which opened in 2004, and Atlantic Center, which opened in 1996, repeats itself, Atlantic Yards will only create 477 jobs — 347 fewer than Ratner that promised in his "Jobs, Housing and Hoops" scheme.

Officials at the Empire State Development Corporation would not comment on the jobs shortfall.

"We didn't handle those projects [Atlantic Terminal and Atlantic Center malls]," said ESDC spokeswoman Jessica Copen.

She added that the projections for the Yards — one of the project's main selling points — could go

down before the final project plan is approved later this year.

The numbers have certainly been fluid. Originally, Forest City Ratner predicted 770 retail jobs at Atlantic Yards, but the number rose to 824 using the ESDC's one-per-300-square-foot model.

As a result of all this fuzzy math, critics said the state should be looking closely at Ratner's own recent history in Brooklyn.

"The state should be basing all its decisions on information that is verifiable and credible," said Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope).

The shortfall at Ratner's malls was mostly blamed on the developer's failure to attract enough retail tenants.

In Atlantic Center mall, one prime location became back-of-

fice space for the ESDC. Another became a Department of Motor Vehicles office after the Sports Authority left.

The ESDC job prediction for Atlantic Yards was part of an internal economic analysis memo that was released on Oct. 18 after pressure from Brennan, blogger Norman Oder and The Brooklyn Papers.

But even if the number of new jobs end up being lower, Atlantic Yards supporters said that any job creation is a good thing.

"This is a decent number [of jobs] for a development of this scale," said Matthew Nerzig, a spokesman for Service Employees International Union Local 32BJ, which would represent the doorman, maintenance workers and cleaners who would service a projected 6,860 residential units in the

\$4.2-billion development.

Atlantic Yards would also bring 2,253 office jobs, 108 hotel jobs and 95 parking-related jobs to the 22-acre site in Prospect Heights, according to the ESDC analysis.

New Jersey union members who work at the Nets' current arena in the Meadowlands swamp will get first dibs on the 400 positions at the new arena, union officials said.

In total, only 30 percent of the development's jobs will be new, according to the ESDC.

But even new mall jobs create old problems locally. "When a new store opens [an existing] store... fires someone," said Pat Purcell, a spokesman for the United Food and Commercial Workers, a national union.

But no matter how many retail jobs are created at Atlantic Yards — 824, according to the ESDC, or 477 based on Ratner's history — job-hungry Brooklynites cheered.

"Those are jobs that [will] go to people in our community," said Ayoshia Morgan, a Fort Greene resident who worked at the Atlantic Terminal Target.

But even the retail jobs may not be "new." The retail sector around the country has been bleeding jobs as neighborhood shops lay off staff as they compete against low-margin chain stores and lightly staffed discount stores in malls like Ratner's, as well as the Internet.

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Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner

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RATNER'S JOBS JIVE AT YARDS...

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GRASS MAN...

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Saturday, November 25th, 8pm
Directed by: Renee Sanders
Running time: 50 min
Admission \$5

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That's why the projected 824 retail jobs, which ESDC predicts will be new jobs — or even the 477 suggested by Ratner's history — are so important to job-hungry Brooklynites.

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GRASS

Continued from page 1

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Smartmom wants Hepcat framed

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford



Councilman David Yassky as Elvis on Halloween

SMARTMOM WAS SO impressed with the Annie Leibovitz show at the Brooklyn Museum — with its ravishing shots of Demi, Brad, Scarlett and a host of family and friends of the photographer's — that she decided it was about time she had her very own digital camera.

Not that there's any shortage of family pictures around Smartmom's apartment. Being married to a professional photographer means that every event large or small gets duly documented.

Still, Smartmom thinks it's time she had her own camera because having her own private paparazzi has made her lazy and a bit bossy.

"Get plenty of pictures of the bride," she told Hepcat at the wedding of her second cousin in Baltimore, or "Get that shot of City Councilman David Yassky dressed as Elvis Presley," she commanded at the recent Park Slope Halloween Parade.

When Smartmom channels Lina Wertmüller (thick Italian accent, dark glasses, and all) it gets on Hepcat's nerves big time. But being married to a photographer can be annoying, too. A simple trip to the Food Co-op to buy free-range chicken thighs and Newman O's, can involve lots of stop and go while Hepcat grabs shot after shot.

After years of this, Smartmom just keeps walking; she and Hepcat generally travel two to three blocks apart.

So getting a digital camera seems like a good idea for a bunch of reasons. First off, it would give Smartmom something to do while Hepcat is taking pictures of the Key Food sign or one of

his other artsy muses.

Second, she'll get the shots she really wants: the people, places, and things that really matter to her.

But most important, she'll finally have some pictures of Hepcat. She hardly has any of those.

Truth is, it's just plain weird that the family album of their lives is missing one of its major characters. Not that he's completely absent. Like Alfred Hitchcock, Hepcat sneaks himself into a photo from time to time, but it's usually just his shadow or his finger slipping into the frame.

Diaper Diva doesn't have that problem at all. She manages to shoot a lot of pictures of herself with Ducky.

Of course, everything Ducky does is a photo op as far as Diaper Diva is concerned: Ducky at the Third Street Playground. Ducky at Beth El Shalom. Ducky with her dad, Ducky at Com-MuCo. Ducky at Music Together. It's all Ducky, all the time.

In July, Diaper Diva took more than 300 shots of the red-haired mini-Diva in the inflatable kiddie pool in the backyard of their summer rental in Sag Harbor.

And she's even good about ordering prints for the extended family, as a way to keep every one apprised of Ducky's every move.

Not so for Smartmom. It's just not her thing. And she never understood why people needed pictures of themselves in

front of famous sites like the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty and the Botanic Gardens. Haven't you already seen a trillion pictures of those places, already?

It's not that Smartmom doesn't love to have visual evidence of what she and her family have been up to for the last 15 years. But her snapshots tend to be the stories she writes in her journal, her blog, and her column. She records the important moments in her mind, paying special attention to the sensory details, the words and the humor.

And like a good reporter, she makes notes in her trusty Mole-skin notebook. Just in case.

Still, sometimes you really need a camera.

Like last week, when she and Hepcat were walking up Lincoln Place. Hepcat noticed a bird standing very still on the sidewalk. As Smartmom continued up the street (she figured he was stopping to take yet another photo), Hepcat picked up the bird and cradled it in his hands.

"I think there's something wrong with this bird," he said as he stared longingly at it. "I'm not sure it can fly."

SMARTMOM WALK-ED toward Hepcat and savored the image of her six-foot-tall urban farm boy handling the tiny bird.

"I think it's a finch or a thrush," he said, making Smartmom wish she had a camera.

They stood on Lincoln Place for more than 10 minutes trying to figure out what to do. Hepcat bonded with the bird and considered taking it home. But as they approached Eighth Avenue, the bird flew off to a tree in front of the Montauk Club.

Hepcat rushed over to make sure it was all right.

Moments like these say so much about Hepcat. A picture would have been worth thousands of words as it expressed the gentle, animal-loving side of Hepcat that Smartmom adores and few get to see.

So that decides it. She's off to B&H to pick up a simple point-and-shoot. She knows that her snapshots won't be nearly as interesting as Hepcat's or Diaper Diva's. But at least the next time Hepcat makes anything even vaguely photographic, she'll be at the ready to record another small, decisive moment in their lives.

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

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City: Ward's Bakery is not a landmark



The city says the 95-year-old tile-covered building that housed Ward's Bakery is not a landmark.

By Samuel Goldsmith
for The Brooklyn Papers

The city derailed a longshot attempt to block the Atlantic Yards development last month, rejecting a proposal to landmark a 95-year-old building that's slated for demolition to make way for the project.

Landmarks Preservation Commission staff ruled that the Ward's Bakery building, at 800 Pacific St., does not meet the criteria for landmarking, said spokeswoman Elisabeth de Bourbon on Oct. 12.

Opponents of developer Bruce Ratner's massive Atlantic Yards project applied for landmark status in 2003 because designation would have prevented Ratner from demolishing the factory.

De Bourbon said the decision was based solely on assessments of the building's historic, cultural and architectural significance. But opponents of Ratner's \$4.2-billion hotel, arena, residential and office space development said the landmark effort was doomed by the developer's vast political connections, including the support of Gov. Patrizi and Mayor Bloomberg.

"This appears to be a political decision by the Landmarks Commission," said Daniel Goldstein, a spokesperson for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, which opposes At-

lantic Yards.

"It is deeply frustrating that they have let politics enter their deliberation on a building that clearly deserves landmark status."

City Councilmember Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) had sent a letter supporting the landmarking — and was naturally disappointed by the result.

"There is a lot of politics that takes place at Landmarks," said staff member, Kate Susman, adding that designation "would definitely complicate things for Ratner."

But Yards opponents weren't the only concerned citizens demanding landmarking for the former bread bakery with a terra cotta facade and Greco-inspired ornamental arches. Preservationist groups, including the New York Preservation Alliance and the Prospect Heights Preservation Association, were also on board.

Built in 1911, the building's most impressive physical feature is the tile work, which, if polished, would make the factory shine.

That's how George S. Ward, the company's president, wanted it. Ward personally led a team of architects on a European tour before letting them design the Brooklyn factory. A bakery publication at the time called the building "the snow-white temple of bread-making cleanliness."

And here's another bit of history: Ward's brother, Robert, owned The Brooklyn Tip-Tops, a Federal League baseball team that was named after a brand of Ward's bread that was created at the factory. The Tip-Tops played in Washington Park, located in nearby Gowanus, which the Brooklyn Dodgers left in 1912 for Ebbets Field.

And this is the factory that helped create a market for mass-produced bread. Thanks to new machinery and techniques, the factory turned out 250,000 loaves a day — a lot in those days. The factory employed hundreds of New Yorkers until it closed in 1995.

The National Register of Historic Places, a federal agency that catalogues historic buildings, accepted the bakery in 2003, but it was never added to the registry because such designation requires owner approval. Then-owner Shaya Boynegreen didn't sign off on the designation, and then sold the building to Ratner in 2005.

Still, few ever saw the attempt to landmark the structure as more than a longshot.

"Looking to the Landmarks Commission to try to save the day is like fighting World War II with a slingshot," said Simeon Bankoff, director of the Historic District Council.

Copter complaints go unanswered

Numerous calls to city agencies yield no help

By Christie Rizk
for The Brooklyn Papers

More and more Brooklynites are complaining about helicopter noise, but no one is listening. The Brooklyn Papers has learned — the hard way.

Calls to 311 from cooped-out residents of high-helicopter-traffic neighborhoods such as Brooklyn Heights, Downtown, Boerum Hill and Park Slope are increasing, but the city has no jurisdiction over helicopter noise.

Who does? That answer, my friends, is blowing in the wind.

The Brooklyn Papers — responding to complaints about all the racket near our DUMBO offices — set out to lodge its own complaint. Here's what happened:

• **Call 1** — 311: The city's one-stop-sipping line logs complaints against everything from noisy dogs to noisy neighbors to



noisy trucks, but 311 operators "don't take complaints about noise from helicopters," one operator told us.

Calling 311, in fact, was the first step on the road to the realization that there is no system in place to complain about chopper

noise — which is coming from news helicopters, traffic helicopters, NYPD helicopters, tourist helicopters and even the newly re-stored airport helicopter service that shuttles the supposed Masters of the Universe from Wall Street to JFK Airport for \$800 a person.

"There has been an increase [in helicopter noise]," said Craig Hammenman, district manager of Community Board 6, which covers Park Slope, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens. "But there is not a heck of a lot that can be done about it."

• **Call 2** — The City Department of Environmental Protection: Here we were told that the agency has no ability to take complaints about air traffic, which is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration. We were told that even complaints against helicopters owned by the city, such as police helicopters, should be directed to the FAA.

• **Call 3** — The Eastern Region Helicopter Council: Many callers to 311 are told to call this Yardley, PA-based, non-governmental, self-policing association of helicopter operators.

The ERHC is so understaffed that complaints sent there are answered haphazardly — or not at all.

Even if the complaints do get through, however, the Council is ultimately powerless to act on them. The most it can do is share the information with other helicopter pilots. It is unclear whether it does this.

• **Call 4** — The FAA: A visit to the agency's Web site can, after enough clicking and scrolling to cause carpal tunnel syndrome in lab monkeys, yield the telephone number of a noise complaint hotline. We called it — but were later told by FAA



A helicopter makes its way toward Brooklyn from Manhattan.

spokesman Jim Peters said the agency doesn't keep records of complaints it receives, or of any responses to those complaints.

Peters added that the FAA

has little interest in mandating helicopter flight paths so that the whirly birds no longer annoy residents of once-quiet neighborhoods.

"That is something [the FAA] would not undertake," he said. All of our futile calling left us, however, with a sense of sympathy.

"It's like I told you: The rules don't provide a mechanism for community complaints about helicopter noise when the helicopters are in the air," he said.



The Queen Mary 2 won't be back in Brooklyn until spring.

Red Hook's ship is out

Last cruiser gone for season

By Ariella Cohen
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Queen Mary 2 has set sail from Red Hook for the last time this season, and already Brooklyn longshoremen are calling for the one-summer-old terminal to operate year-round.

"We hope that next year the boats will keep coming through the winter," said Lou Pernice, vice president of the International Longshoremen Association.

An expansion is part of the city's long-term vision for the Red Hook piers — a plan that would replace the city's last large-scale container shipping port with a second cruise terminal and a smaller industrial port as well as a "maritime-themed" education center, a hotel and a tourist-friendly manufacturing facility for Brooklyn Brewery.

But even with that expansion already well into its public planning phase, city officials aren't ready to say if winter-cruising is in Red Hook's cards for 2007, although one official did mention that ice-cruising was "big in Europe."

"The first terminal has already brought international media attention to Brooklyn and Red Hook ... and creat[ed] over 300 jobs," said Janet Patterson, a spokeswoman for the city Economic Development Corporation.

Cumard, which brought the Queen Mary 2 to Brooklyn, did not return phone calls about making Red Hook a year-round port of call. But a spokeswoman said the company was very pleased so far with its Brooklyn homeport.

Sunday's QM2 departure was the 38th and last of the season — and unlike the first one, it went quite smoothly, with no traffic jams or lost taxi-cabs.

"We're operating like clockwork now," said John Marrone, a baggage and cargo handler who also divides his time between the cruise terminal and the American Stevedoring Container Terminal, which operates year-round next door.

The ship made its maiden Brooklyn voyage in April, dropping anchor to a crowd of view-hungry Brooklynites who rallied outside of the terminal's fences, eagerly aiming cell-phone cameras at the Colgate-white 1,132-foot Queen.

Frenzy for the luxury liner soon dropped off, yet some in Red Hook said they saw the neighborhood's cachet rise like the mast of the ship.

"We are seeing more tourists just visiting Red Hook," said Florence Neal, who runs the Kentler International Drawing Space art gallery on Van Brunt Street.

Ironically, most of the new tourists are locals. Business owners in the neighborhood say they have yet to experience the expected flood of Bermuda-shorts-wearing cruisers.

Even if the terminal hasn't transformed Red Hook into a gleaming tourist attraction, there have been some small victories, local say. "We got a crowd of crazy Welsh engineers every nine days when the Crown Princess [another ship that calls Brooklyn home] came in," said Audrey Reynolds, a bartender at the Bait and Tackle bar, one block from the terminal.

"They drink a lot and get super-messed up, but it's good for the bar."

Pol's push for priorities on 'park' plan

By Ariella Cohen
for The Brooklyn Papers

A coalition of Brooklyn elected officials is demanding that state planners build the open space at the Brooklyn Bridge Park waterfront development before building the high-rise condos.

"We urge you to proceed with park construction ... and defer development," the six officials demanded in a letter to Charles Gargano, chairman of the Empire State Development Corporation, which is leading the development

of the site along the DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights waterfront.

The controversial 1.3-mile waterfront project combines public lands owned parkland with luxury condos and a hotel — private developments that, according to project supporters, will generate tax revenue to pay for the maintenance of lawns, public beaches and playing fields.

In the letter sent this week, City Councilmen David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), Sen.

Martin Connor (D-Brooklyn Heights), Borough President Markowitz, Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Red Hook) asked the state to delay seeking developers until it is certain that it will really need all the revenue-generating sites that it has set aside to underwrite the project's \$15-million annual maintenance and operating budget.

"We need to insure that they don't build more than they need to," Yassky told The Brooklyn

Papers. Critics of the state's condo-and-open-space plan called the letter a "plea for a real park."

"They are literally begging to get the park built," said Roy Sliane, who raised funds to sue the ESDC earlier this year over its "sham" plan.

"Our elected officials are acknowledging that in fact this is a development site, not a park," Sliane said.

One of the development sites in question is the Empire Stores, a 19th-century warehouse on the

DUMBO waterfront that until recently was slated for redevelopment by Brooklyn land baron Shaya Boynegreen.

The ESDC confirmed this week that the crumbling Civil War-era storehouse had been taken away from Boynegreen, who had planned to convert it into a shopping center modeled on the Chelsea Market.

"In the three years since Boynegreen was designated as the developer for Empire Stores, the plan for Brooklyn Bridge Park has taken on a new direction," said Mark Weinberg, a spokesman for the ESDC.

"The new [development plan] for the Empire Stores will reflect that new direction."

He declined to say what that direction was. But the ESDC's supporters in Brooklyn Heights said they hoped the Empire Stores would be reconfigured into an arts or cultural space.

"We think it would be a tremendous if it could be done," said Marianna Koval, executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy.

WOOD VS. ALUMINUM SMACKDOWN

The Brooklyn Papers

Metal bats and wood bats differ in more than just materials. Everything is different: from the sounds the ball makes on contact to how fast it comes off the bat. We asked Eric Bennett, one of Prospect Park's legendary weekend warriors, to do some field-testing.

— Christie Rizk

VELOCITY: Balls hit with a metal bat go faster and higher than ones off a wooden bat. "With a metal bat, they'll go 20 percent further," said Bennett. "Plus, they're lighter, and you can swing it harder."

Edge: Metal bat

SOUND: The wooden bat makes a distinctive "crack" when it hits a baseball (at least one that's well hit). A metal bat makes a noise like "a spike being driven with a hammer."

Bennett said. **Edge: Wooden bat**

CONSTRUCTION: A wooden bat has to be held a certain way, said Bennett. "If you hit a ball on a bad spot, you will break the bat," said Bennett. A metal bat will never break, so it doesn't matter how you hold it. Plus, the "sweet spot" on a wood bat is "one-third to one-quarter the size of a metal

bat," said Bennett. **Edge: Metal bat**

WEIGHT: An average 33-inch wooden bat can weigh between 30 and 33 ounces. A comparable metal bat can be as little as 28 ounces, giving the batter quicker swings. "With a wood bat, once you've committed, it's harder to adjust to a curveball," said Bennett. "That's why major league hitters strike out."

Edge: Metal bat

INTANGIBLES: "It requires more skill to play with a wooden bat," said Bennett. "I've seen guys about in metal bat leagues hit a major league home run, and they were about my size [about 5'9"]. That just doesn't happen with a wooden bat." But in the end, Bennett sided with history: "If I'm playing baseball, I want the tradition of a wood bat."

Edge: Wooden bat



An assortment of bats, including the type of aluminum bats that may soon be banned from high school competition, lay in a dugout at Red Hook Park at Henry and Bay streets.

BATTY...

Continued from page <None>

Has Slope Food Co-op's lefty ethos led to crime?

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Is the Park Slope Food Co-op's famously leftist ethos to blame for the recent rash of purse snatching within the members-only supermarket?

A number of Co-op members told The Brooklyn Papers that one of the non-profit grocer's fundamental tenets — that members handle every task, from cleaning the bathroom to providing security — has left the vaguely communal market vulnerable to savvy

thieves.

In the past few months, Co-op members have suffered six purse-snatchings — two in the last four weeks, cops said.

That may not seem like many, but it's a lot more than neighboring groceries.

Union Market, on Union Street and Sixth Avenue, has had no pick-pocketing during its two years of operation, according to co-owner Martin Nunez.

The Key Food at Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street has had only one incident in 2006.

Back to the Land Natural

Food, the Co-op's bitter, no-work-required rival on Seventh Avenue, has had no such thefts in years.

Many blame the crime wave on the Co-op's check-in-check-out stations, which are supposed to ensure that all shoppers are, in fact, members, and that all goods leaving the store have been paid for.

It's not a fool-proof system, especially when the store is crowded.

"If there's a big crowd by the door, the people who are working can't necessarily see you, or

if you just pretend you know where you're going, they don't stop you," said Oona Hanawalt, who's been a member for nearly four years.

But it's not just overcrowding at the entry door that's enabling criminals. Many believe that the members are so liberal that they won't allow themselves to question people who might appear to be "outsiders," lest they be accused of being prejudiced.

There are arguments all the time when one member looks over another member and accuses that member of not belonging," said one Co-op member.

The member revealed the Co-op abandoned a policy of searching everyone's bags last year because some check-out workers were only searching the bags of

people they suspected of being shoplifters — and often the accusation was based on race.

"So to protect everyone's sensitivities, we basically told all the criminals that their bags wouldn't be searched," the member said. "It's like a big 'Rob us' sign."

The Co-op's own newspaper, the Linewriter's Gazette, recently drove home how easy the pickings are at the Co-op — and not just in the produce aisle.

"The pickpocket seems to know how our organization works, that member labor turns over several times in a day, allowing him to come back every day, sometimes twice a day, without being recognized," said the paper, referring to the escapades of a thief who terrorized Co-op patrons for over a decade.



The Park Slope Food Co-op, on Union Street.

"The thieves are shrewder than we are," added Francine, 83, a member from Kensington who was waiting outside for her Access-a-Ride bus on a recent morning.

And then there's the awful lack of training provided to the enforcers of law and order.

"Most of the Co-op training is, 'Hi you're a new member, you're on our team, great, we'll team up with this person,'" explained Joe Holtz, the Co-op's general manager.

In contrast, the less crunchy security guards at Key Food take a 90-hour course.

Perhaps because of that lack of training, Co-op guards can be reluctant to put themselves on the line.

"I have no authority, I'm just a person," said Hanawalt. "It

would be awkward" to play the role of enforcer.

Thieves are taking advantage. As reported in The Brooklyn Papers, the most-recent thefts occurred on Oct. 15 and 17, and both involved stolen wallets.

In a sign of the times, the Co-op recently hung a banner over its check-in desk that warns, "Pickpocket Alert. Protect your wallet — even in the Co-op."

In a further attempt to deal with crime, the Co-op installed an expensive camera system a few years back.

"We probably have a better camera system than most stores," said Holtz. "On the other hand, we want to welcome people who aren't members. It's a hard job to be an entrance worker at the Co-op."

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Girl beaten at Fulton Mall bus stop

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A pack of teens robbed and beat a girl their age as she waited for a bus near Fulton Mall on Oct. 30, police said.

The posse surrounded the 14-year-old victim as she stood at the corner of Hoyt and Fulton streets, around 4:30 pm. One female attacker slapped her face, another brute punched her arm and stripped the victim of her jacket, valued at \$100.

The thieves ran down Livingston Street with the jacket and her book bag, leaving the girl without any physical injuries.

Love bites

A woman threatened to kill her ex-girlfriend as she stole the victim's portable computer in Carroll Gardens on Oct. 8, police said.

The 45-year-old victim spotted the woman with the laptop, leaving her apartment on Tiffany Place, near Kane Street, around 4 pm. When confronted, the thief growled out a threat: "I'm gonna kill you."

The Sony Viao computer was worth \$1,500 and contained all kinds of personal information, police said.

A true shonda

Thieves broke into a Jewish school that is still under construction and stole several tools worth \$1,650 last month, police said.

The burglar tore the plywood wall off the school building, on Smith Street near President Street, between 4:30 pm on Oct. 16 and 7 am the next day. Workers discovered a compressor with a staple gun and a SawZall missing from the site, the future home of Hannah Senesh, a Jewish Community Day School.

Masked attack

A mother and her teenage daughter found themselves at gunpoint while on Willowby Street on Oct. 29, police said.

A quartet of thieves stopped the pair as they neared Jay Street, around 3:40 pm. All four had masks covering their faces.

"One thug held a gun to the 45-year-old victim's head, adding, 'Don't look at us.'"

The thieves stripped the victims of their valuables, jumped into a black SUV with silver tire rims, and sped away.

The stolen items include a high-end cellphone, a Ro-cawear coat, worth \$100, a pair of Timberland boots, a red and black leather purse, valued at \$350, and \$16 in cash.

Luggage taken

Someone stole a Carroll Gardens man's luggage — filled with designer shoes worth more than \$2,000 — as he prepared to leave town on Oct. 21, police said.

The 45-year-old man set his

POLICE BLOTTER

Nab cell snatch

Police arrested a thief who stole a cellphone from the hand of a Carroll Gardens man on Oct. 17.

The mugger snatched his 47-year-old victim as the man stood on the corner of Bond and Butler streets, around 6:50 pm. The thief grabbed the cellphone and bolted, but he didn't get far.

Police Officer Mark Scarlatti of the 76th Precinct quickly arrested the 42-year-old Brooklyn man, who now faces grand larceny charges.

Taco hell

It was fast cash the thief was after, not fast food.

In just moments, a thief with a concealed gun robbed a Tex-Mex franchise on Livingston Street on Nov. 1, police said.

At least three people were in the chain restaurant around 5:20 pm when the thief, posing as a customer, placed an order. As the cashier handed him the change, the man grabbed the employee's hand and reached into the cash register with his other paw, clearing out the cash.

The cashier didn't see the weapon, but a man seated near-

by saw a gun-like handle inside the thug's waistband.

Bedtime burg

A Pacific Street resident awoke to find a stranger in his home and electronics valued at nearly \$4,300 missing on Nov. 5, police said.

The 54-year-old victim went to bed at midnight and awoke around 4:30 am, when his 16-year-old daughter caught sight of a stranger with blue pants, inside their home, near Nevins Street.

The prowler disappeared, along with the following items: three Canon cameras, a Palm

Pilot, an iPod, a high-end cellphone, and several credit cards.

High-S heist

A man suffered a bruised jaw — and lost \$1,000 and his watch — when he was robbed on Pacific Street at 5 pm on Oct. 31, police said.

The thief rushed the 52-year-old victim from behind as the man neared Third Avenue. He punched the man on the right side of the face, then grabbed the cash from his pocket and snatched his watch from his wrist, worth another \$1,000.

Parolee bandit

Talk about a parole violation. A thug with a long record and a handgun held a parole officer at gunpoint inside a public building on Livingston Street on Oct. 31, police said.

The thief sat down next to the 26-year-old officer around noon, pulled a black handgun from his waist and held it against the victim's gut, insisting he join him outside. When the gunman kept calling the officer "a rat," the officer remembered testifying against the same thug in a 2001 trial of another suspect.

Once outside, at the corner of Nevins and Schermerhorn streets, the thug insisted the parole officer turn over his cash. The thief pocketed \$180 and ran off, and the parole officer

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Has lefty ethos at Slope Food Co-op led to crime?

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Is the Park Slope Food Co-op's famously leftist ethos to blame for the recent rash of purse snatching within the members-only supermarket?

A number of Co-op members told The Brooklyn Papers that one of the non-profit grocery's fundamental tenets — that members handle every task, from cleaning the bathroom to providing security — has left the vaguely communal market vulnerable to savvy thieves.

In the past few months, Co-op members have suffered six purse-snatchings — two in the last four weeks, cops said. That may not seem like many, but it's a lot more than neighboring groceries.

Union Market, on Union Street and Sixth Avenue, has had no pick-pocketing during its two years of operation, according to co-owner Martin Nunez.

The Key Food at Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street has had only one incident in 2006, and Back to the Land Natural Foods, the Co-op's bitter, no-work-required rival on Seventh Avenue, has had no such thefts in years.

Many blame the crime wave on the Co-op's check-in/check-out stations, which are supposed to ensure that all shoppers are, in fact, members, and that all goods leaving the store have been paid for.

It's not a fool-proof system, especially when the store is crowded.

"If there's a big crowd by the door, the people who are working can't necessarily see you, or if you just pretend you know where you're going, they don't stop you," said Oona Hanawalt, who's been a member for nearly four years.

But it's not just overcrowding at the entry door that's enabling criminals. Many believe that the members are so liberal that they won't allow themselves to question people who might appear to be "outsiders," lest they be accused of being prejudiced.

"There are arguments all the time when one member looks over another member and accuses that member of not belonging," said one Co-op member.

The member revealed the Co-op abandoned a policy of searching everyone's bags last year because some check-out workers were only searching the bags of people they suspected of being shoplifters — and often the accusation was based on race.

"So to protect everyone's sensitivities, we basically told all the criminals that their bags wouldn't be searched," the member said. "It's like a big 'Rob us' sign."

The Co-op's own newspaper, the Lineawater's Gazette, recently drove home how easy the pickpockets are at the Co-op — and not just in the produce aisle.

"[The pickpocket] seems to know how our organization works, that members labor turns over several times in a day, allowing him to come back every



The Park Slope Food Co-op, on Union Street, was founded in 1973.

day, sometimes twice a day, without being recognized," said the paper, referring to the escapades of a thief who terrorized Co-op patrons for over a decade.

"The thieves are shrewder than we are," added Francine, 83, a member from Kensington who was waiting outside for her Access-a-Ride bus on a recent morning.

And then there's the woeful lack of training provided to the enforcers of law and order.

"Most of the Co-op training is, 'Hi you're a new member, you're on our team, great, we'll team you with this person,'" explained Joe Holtz, the Co-op's general manager.

In contrast, the less crunchy security guards at Key Food take a 90-hour course.

Perhaps because of that lack of training, Co-op guards can be reluctant to put themselves on the line.

"I have no authority. I'm just a person," said Hanawalt. "It would be awkward" to play the role of enforcer.

Thieves are taking advantage. As reported in The Brooklyn Papers, the most-recent thefts occurred on Oct. 15 and 17, and both involved stolen wallets.

In a sign of the times, the Co-op recently hung a banner over the check-in desk that warns, "Pickpocket Alert. Protect your wallet — even in the Co-op."

Holtz said he understands that the guards are often overwhelmed by the need to monitor outsiders and insiders, and he tries to make sure that there are at least four people on security detail at a time.

In a further attempt to deal with crime, the Co-op installed an expensive camera system a few years back.

"We probably have a better camera system than most stores," said Holtz. "On the other hand, we want to welcome people who aren't members. It's a hard job to be an entrance worker at the Co-op."

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FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Museum brawl ends in arrest

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Police nabbed two teenage thugs after an Oct. 30 brawl near the Brooklyn Museum left two students with knife wounds.

The teens — both 17-year-old boys — face assault charges after the 4:30 p.m. melee, in the parking lot behind the museum, police said. It's not clear what sparked the dispute, which involved more than a half-dozen teens, mostly students from Clara Barton High School, on nearby Classon Avenue.

One victim, a 19-year-old boy, was stabbed in the chest — just above his heart. He was transported to Kings County Hospital and is likely to survive. The victim told police he was there to pick up his girlfriend at school.

The second victim, a 17-year-old boy, was first pummeled by the group. Then his assailant pulled a knife and slashed him on the forehead, above his right eye. This victim was also rushed to Kings County Hospital for stitches, and was in stable condition.

Police collected one knife at the scene, just off Eastern Parkway, near Washington Avenue. Det. Thomas Markardt and Police Officer Joseph Nitish are credited with the collar.

Zero-sum rob

A man armed with a gun robbed a woman on 14th Street on Oct. 4 and escaped with credit cards but no cash, police said.

The thief rushed the 29-year-

POLICE

old victim from behind with his gun drawn, around 7:30 p.m. "Give me your purse," the thief insisted.

The mugger grabbed her bag and took off toward Fifth Avenue. Police searched the area, but could not find the thief, or the victim's brown pocketbook, which held various credit cards.

The robber is described as a black man in his early 20s, 5-foot-6 and 150 pounds, dressed that day — like so many other young men — in a black, hooded ski jacket.

Delivery heist

Call it hammer time, unfortunately.

A pair of thugs selected that type of tool to beat a delivery man in the head during an Oct. 29 robbery on Dean Street, police said.

The 53-year-old delivery man had just made a stop at a third-floor apartment inside a building near Fourth Avenue, at 8:40 p.m., when he was attacked. The thieves rushed him from behind, clocked him on the head with the hammer, and emptied his pockets of \$100.

The robbers jumped into a tan Dodge van, with brown stripes on the sides, and sped away. Police are searching for two black men, one 5-foot-5, the other 5-foot-8.

The victim suffered minor cuts and bruises on his head and face. He was transported to Lutheran Medical Center treatment.

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IT'S VITO!...

Continued from page 1

television and radio, while Harrison couldn't even afford mass mailings. All of his literature was hand-delivered.

Harrison's pleas to the Democratic National Campaign Committee, which underwrites many congressional races, went unheeded, as did his appeals to the local party.

"We got nothing from the Brooklyn county leader," said Ralph Peretto, Harrison's campaign chair. "They all believed that Harrison was nothing more than a sacrificial lamb."

"One [Democratic] congressional office told me, 'Vito was good to us.'"

Harrison focused on his lack of financing during his concession speech at the Staten, an island catering hall.

"We were outspent 15 to 1, [money] that we scraped and clawed to get," said Harrison.

If he had gotten the appropriate support from the national committee, I would be Congressman Steve Harrison right now. People in the DCCC must learn to listen to the locals, because if they don't listen, they lose races like this."

Fossella's money also bought him out of some jams, allowing him to run ads in which he claimed to be "independent" of an increasingly unpopular president and a war that largely led to the Democratic gains this week.

During the campaign, Fossella also had to acknowledge misuse of campaign funds for family vacations and deal with the antics of his brother, who cops said chased pedestrians down the street with a baseball bat following a traffic incident.

Of course, Fossella's success wasn't all about money. He also had the incumbent's institutional advantage and a well-organized campaign that helped him where he was potentially weakest: Bay Ridge.

Popular state Sen. Marty Golden ran for re-election unopposed this year, leaving him lots of time to "make Fossella a priority," said O'Brien.

"His Republican Victory Committee was out there working the grassroots," he said.

On Wednesday, Democrats were still spinning, despite the Harrison election hangover.

"I wouldn't look at 14 points as that big a win, when you're looking at a multi-term incumbent, who's brought home the bacon, while Harrison never raised any money, and never got his message out there," said Democratic consultant Stefan Friedman, who did not work this campaign.

For his part, Harrison hinted that he might run again: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it, and there won't be a toll," he said during his concession speech.



Rep. Vito Fossella chats with supporter Vincent La Porta at his victory party at the Bay Ridge Manor.

Harrison loses other big race

The Brooklyn Papers

Democrat Steve Harrison not only finished second in his race against Rep. Vito Fossella on Tuesday, he finished 26,498th in the New York City Marathon two days earlier.

In what was obviously a bad week for Harrison, the Bay Ridge attorney crossed the finish line in Central Park with a time of 4:47:38, his worst ever.

He even lost to his daughter.

"I got to about mile 16 and [due] to my lack of training over the last few months, I got some leg cramps, and that was a little bit of a problem," said Harrison. "I was disappointed. I had never done a marathon longer than four hours in my life."

But, as in his loss to Fossella, Harrison is trying to look at the bright side.

"I kind of enjoyed it," he said. "I got to see what it was like at the back of the pack."

—Rubinstein

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Winners and losers

The Brooklyn Papers

New York City's lone Republican Congressman, Vito Fossella, won 57 percent of the vote on Tuesday, vanquishing Democrat Steve Harrison and winning a fifth term in a bitter election campaign for the Bay Ridge seat. Here are the race's winners and losers:

WINNERS

President Bush: He may have lost the House, but he still has his only stalwart defender in the city's liberal delegation. Fossella not only votes with the president 90 percent of the time, but has been a steady voice against gay marriage and abortion rights and for harsh interrogation techniques.

Big Oil: Fossella supports drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and has not put global warming on the agenda.

Torture enthusiasts: Fossella supports the use of harsh, and internationally reviled, interrogation techniques to give our troops "every tool possible ... to prevent another terrorist attack."

City Councilman Michael McMahon: Harrison's decisive loss clears the way for the popular Staten Island Democrat to take on Fossella in 2008.

Bay Ridge: Some predict the rough campaign has scared Fossella into working harder for the support of the non-Staten-Island part of the district.

LOSERS

The New York Times: The supposed Paper of Record — which still has "New York" in its name despite having a mostly out-of-town readership — did not include a single word in Wednesday's paper about the Harrison/Fossella race. Shame.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee: The DCCC targeted "winnable" races across the country, but totally ignored one in largely Democratic New York City.

MoveOn.org: The lefty activist group opened an office in Carroll Gardens, yet didn't even try to influence a race just a few subway stops away.

City Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope): This prodigious fundraiser declined to run in a race he might have won, instead spending his time helping City Councilwoman Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) in the nearby 11th district.

Fossella himself: He may have won, but boy was he bruised by the campaign, which featured stories about how he misused campaign funds, flip-flopped on the privatization of Social Security, and even has a brother who cops say chased down pedestrians with a baseball bat.

—Rubinstein



Steve Harrison also didn't win the NYC Marathon.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on October 11, 2006, the Court, Kings County, on the 6th day of November, 2006, having received from the Office of the Clerk of the Court, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk of the Court, Kings County, located at CIVIL COURT (KINGS COUNTY), Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Katerina Grass. My present address is 947 43rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219. My place of birth is: Temposol, France. My date of birth is: February 17, 1984.

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DANCE

Between LINES

Alonso King's LINES Ballet, a 24-year-old San Francisco company that appeared at City Center's Fall for Dance Festival last month, is now bringing two New York premieres to Midwood's Walt Whitman Theatre.



LINES Ballet is headed by Alonso King, a choreographer recognized by a Bessie award, five Isadora Duncan Awards, and works shown in the repertoire of the Joffrey Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, and the like.

Although the titles of the new works — "Migration" and "Sky Clad" — sound like two takes on the same winged theme, they are quite different compositions.

"Migration," recently praised by the San Francisco Chronicle as "King at his best," is a piece about the constant evolution of form explored through birds' passage from the egg shell to the sky.

In this world, everything is trying to fulfill itself," King told GO Brooklyn. "Animals are trying to ex-

press themselves; humans are trying to reach realization. All living and non-living things are evolving in some kind of realization."

While the plasticity of dancers in "Migration" is based on the visual imagery of life-changing form, "Sky Clad" is built around a more abstract notion of sound.

Here, music is everything. Accompanied by live music from Hindustani vocalist Rita Sahai, and "tabla" (a small hand drum) and violin players, the dancers respond to two types of sound known in classical Indian music — the one heard by the human ear and "anahata," a vibration of the universe, echoed by the heart. "Sky Clad" is built around the conversation between dancers and musicians.

"Rita Sahai is wonderful," says King. "When things are live, there is the possibility for anything to happen. [The musicians] can play with intensity, which really affects the dancers and allows them to go deeper."

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Alonso King's LINES Ballet on Nov. 18 at 8 pm at the Walt Whitman Theatre, 2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place on the campus of Brooklyn College in Midwood. Tickets are \$15, \$20 and \$25. For tickets, call (718) 951-4500 or visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org. —Sasha Vasiliuk

THEATER



'Life' survives

In 1939, the 22-year-old German-Jewish artist Charlotte Salomon fled Berlin for still-occupied Vichy France only to be killed in a death camp four years later.

During her short life, however, Salomon created an impressive and rarely seen multimedia project, "Life? Or Theater?" which includes a series of more than 1300 drawings and texts meant to be accompanied by a soundtrack.

Manhattan-based experimental theater group Polybe + Seats is bringing Salomon's "Life? Or Theater?" to life in their new play, "The Charlotte Salomon Project," which plays in Williamsburg's Brooklyn Fire Proof through Nov. 19.

The project is divided into three sections meant to capture main themes in Salomon's work — childhood, romantic obsession and life after Berlin. "We wanted to work on a project that explores the entire cycle of a woman artist's life and experience, a person who did something monumental in a terrible and terrifying climate," says Polybe + Seats Artistic Director Jessica Brater.

The show preserves the multidimensional feel of Salomon's work by combining a performance installation in a gallery space with actual performance.

Polybe + Seats presents "The Charlotte Salomon Project: Life? Or Theater?" at 8 pm, Wednesday through Sunday until Nov. 19 at Brooklyn Fire Proof, 101 Richardson St. at Leonard Street in Williamsburg. Tickets are \$15. For tickets, visit www.smartix.com. For more information, visit www.polybeandseats.org. —SV



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

November 11, 2006

The 'Candy' man

Ledger dishes on Cornish, heroin and loving Boerum Hill

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

Heath Ledger's role in Neil Armfield's new film "Candy" was a chance for the acclaimed actor to play a character whose lifestyle is the polar opposite of the Australian transplant's reality amidst the leafy streets of Brooklyn.

While Ledger and his girlfriend Michelle Williams appear to be a picture-perfect family when wheeling their 1-year-old daughter Matilda around the streets of Boerum Hill, in his role of Dan, Ledger goes into a greasy haired, downward spiral fueled by his addiction to heroin. Although clearly smitten with his girlfriend Candy, the couple's love can't save them from the ravages of drug abuse and the humiliations they subject each other to in order to feed their smack habits.

Ledger told GO Brooklyn that he found out Williams was pregnant with their daughter a month before he had to film the devastating scene when Dan and Candy lose their child.

"It wasn't very nice," recalled Ledger, saying that he's uncertain that he would have made the choice to co-star in the film again had he known he was going to be a dad. The 27-year-old thespian, sporting a grandfatherly knitted cardigan, said that starting a family "changes the person you are," but added, "I didn't immediately get an urge to be a voice in an animated film."

Ledger told reporters at a press conference at the W hotel in Manhattan on Tuesday that he agreed to make "Candy," in part, because it was an opportunity for him to make his first film in eight years in his native country and use the accent which he has hidden in American feature films ("Brokeback Mountain," "Monster's Ball," "The Patriot").

The plot of "Candy" alternates between euphoric, enormously sensual love scenes and harrowing moments when the couple abuse themselves. Although it's assumed that the angst-ridden scenes are exhausting to perform, Ledger claims filming love scenes is not as easy as it looks either.

"There is nothing attractive about that process at all," he revealed. "Even if [the other actor] is an attractive person."

In this case, Ledger's on-screen love interest was Cornish, 24, who has been gaining notoriety for reportedly having an affair with her "Stop Loss" co-star, Ryan Phillippe, which may have been the nail in the coffin of his marriage to Oscar-winner Reese Witherspoon.

"There's nothing organic about [filming love scenes]," assured Ledger. "The grips, gaffers... and focus pullers are looking at your butt. It's so nerve-racking — very uncomfortable."

Presumably, there will be a lot less love-making in Ledger's next project, playing the



Wanna new drug?: Boerum Hill-based Heath Ledger (above) plays a poet strung out on drugs and his love for Candy (played by Abbie Cornish) in Neil Armfield's new film.

Joker in Christopher Nolan's Batman film, "The Dark Knight."

"Somewhere inside of me, I knew instantly what to do with [this character]," said Ledger, who signed onto "The Dark Knight" despite the detail that it does not yet have a completed script. "I knew instantly what to do with it. I didn't have to search. I have a plan of attack."

Ledger said that when he performs a role, he enjoys a bit of improvisation, which didn't match the expectations of "Candy" director Armfield.

"Neil wanted to do a lot of rehearsal because he has an extensive theater background," recalled Ledger. "Abbie and I were the naughty kids in class who sat in the back. We didn't want to give too much in rehearsal. It was slightly superstitious of us both."

It's clear that going with his gut is working for the actor. As his career and that of Williams continue to gain traction, it means the couple's logging more miles in the air and spending more time in Los Angeles. The couple recently purchased a home there, but Ledger

downplays the acquisition, calling it a "one-bedroom treehouse" and "just a place to drop our bags."

He maintains that his family is committed to keeping their Brooklyn ZIP code.

"I like everything [about Brooklyn]," he said. "I adore it. I love my neighbors and the coffee shop down the road."

"We're left there to live," he continued. "That's the thing in New York City: you're protected by numbers in a way — particularly Brooklyn. People are just trying to get from A to B."

Ledger said his Boerum Hill neighbors leave him and his family to have a normal life. Well, as normal of a life as the next generation of Hollywood royalty can expect to have.

CINEMA

"Candy" will open at the Angelika Film Center (135 W. Houston St. at Mercer Street in Manhattan) on Nov. 17. For ticket prices and showtimes, call (212) 995-2000 or visit the Web site www.angelikafilmcenter.com/newyork.

Drink like a genius

Legend has it that the inspiration for great art is substance abuse and "Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers" is a new book that delights in recognizing our country's poets, screenwriters, playwrights and novelists while lionizing their concurrent abilities to put it away.

Park Slope author Mark Bailey teamed up with Gowanus illustrator Edward Hemingway (who claims to be the grandson of Ernest) to create this book which mixes dry bios of the greats with reports of their bad behavior under the influence as well as recipes for each

scribe's favorite cocktail — or what Bailey imagines would be a suitable choice.

For instance, Sherwood Anderson's tribute is a cautionary tale. The author of "Winesburg, Ohio" swallowed a toothpick at a party and died soon after from an infection of the stomach, writes Bailey. Rather than mourn the scribe, the reader can toast Anderson with the "Old-Fashioned" recipe that's supplied. But Bailey requests that out of respect for Anderson — when gamishing the libation with a lemon twist, orange slice and cherry — but you leave off the toothpick.

While it's puzzling that the authors left out Brooklyn

native Pete Hamill, who penned the memoir "A Drinking Life," there are stories about a diverse group of 43 men and women which will inspire you to go to the library and catch up on the classics — or send out invitations to your own holiday cocktail party.

Edward Hemingway and Mark Bailey will read from "Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers" (Algonquin Books, \$15.95) at Book-Court 163 Court St. at Dean Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 875-3677 on Nov. 14 at 8 pm. For more information, visit www.edwardhemingway.com. —Lisa J. Curtis

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Almost Nana's

Brooklyn Heights' new kosher steakhouse brings back memories of family gatherings

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

I opened the menu at Mike's Kosher Steakhouse and wanted to cry.

There was the matzo ball soup that I love; there was stuffed cabbage that brought to mind my mother's light rolls with their delicate sweet and sour sauce; and something I haven't tasted since my cousin Neal's wedding in 1975: stuffed derma.

Oh, God. Stuffed derma. When it's good, it's like Jewish crack.

But this is a steakhouse, right? Well, yes and no. The word "steakhouse" is misleading. It's the obvious from what I've described that Mike's menu deviates from the usual porthouse and sides found in similarly named eateries.

Mike Domgioni, the restaurant's chef and owner, is familiar to Brooklyn Heights residents. He's the former owner of the Pastrami Box, a kosher restaurant that was a favorite lunch spot for court-house regulars who worked in Downtown Brooklyn before he closed it in May 2006. His new place offers steak and other plates, like derma, chopped liver and overstuffed beef sandwiches that his kosher and non-kosher customers crave.

Even desserts are typical Jewish holiday table fare: seven-layer cake and brownies. The only thing missing was a baked apple.

When the restaurant opened in September, it was billed as "kosher style," with typical Eastern European dishes. At that time, a rabbi did not oversee the kitchen, so customers who kept kosher couldn't dine there. Since early October, Rabbi Israel Mayer Steinberg has been making unannounced monthly visits to see that the kitchen is adhering to strict kosher guidelines and that there are no milk or dairy products on the



DINING

Mike's Kosher Steakhouse (72 Clark St. between Henry and Hicks streets in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$9.95-\$32.95. Oyster steak for two to four persons: \$64.95-\$129.95. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. For reservations, call (718) 655-1555.

premises. In late September, Mike's received its Kashrut certification. The furnishings at Mike's differ from the usual clubby, wood-paneled dining rooms with typical of steakhouse decor. There's a softy lit wood bar on one side of the room, where two televisions air sports. Separate from the bar is a dining area with dark wood tables, brick walls and large windows that afford a view of busy Clark Street. The tables are set informally with bamboo placemats, and pencil drawings of celebrities hang

on the walls. (One, of a cross-eyed Muzak, customers are treated to a cross-cultural, age-spanning serenade: "Going to the Chapel" followed by comfort food connection: (Top) Mike's Kosher Steakhouse chef-owner Mike Domgioni serves up his oyster steak entree. (Above) The Brooklyn Heights restaurant offers hard-to-find, Old World favorites like stuffed derma.

on the walls. (One, of a cross-eyed Muzak, customers are treated to a cross-cultural, age-spanning serenade: "Going to the Chapel" followed by

"Gasolina," and so on.

We ordered several appetizers, and when they arrived, our table looked like a buffet in a Catskill's resort: potato pancakes with applesauce, stuffed cabbage and yes, stuffed derma. (It's a sausage of sorts, also known as "kishka" or gus. Beef casings are filled with matzo meal, "schmalz" chicken fat, onions and seasonings, and steamed then roasted.)

Is the assortment of dishes Jewish nirvana? Almost. The potato pancake was tasty and crisp but lacked strands of the vegetable that make for a pleasing texture.

The stuffed cabbage was more Italian than Eastern European; it was pleasant in its own right with lots of garlic and rich, chunky tomato sauce, but I missed the tang of my mother's version.

And the derma. The derma was good. Not as triumphant as the one I recall from Neal's wedding, but that memory is clouded in nostalgia anyway. Domgioni's is a hefty round of meaty goodness, doused with a deeply flavored brown sauce. The sandwiches are nothing more than fresh meat piled high between rye bread, which is as it should be in this sort of restaurant. Order the brisket and the waitress will inquire, "lean or juicy," the latter meaning fattier. Go for juicy, which is barely fatty at all. Pour on the well-seasoned beef gravy, but leave enough to dip one of the crisp onion rings.

Carnivores won't be disappointed with the oyster steak. It's a shoulder cut similar to a filet mignon with a soft texture and tenderness, but has a richer flavor. The meat arrived with a thick, crusty, grilled exterior, rare and juicy inside.

When it comes to side dishes, Domgioni's style is on the spare side. Of course, in a kosher eatery, you're not going to get the usual creamed spinach. Here, the fresh, chopped vegetable is simply sautéed. It's fine on its own, but some garlic and a little olive oil wouldn't hurt. Fries are thick, freshly cut and only so-so.

You'd think that with Brooklyn being home to such a diverse mix of people, finding a kosher restaurant that offers Old World favorites would be an easy feat. Not any more. Assimilation, diets and a cosmopolitan clientele have made Jewish restaurants like Mike's a thing of the past. Nobody ever said kosher-style cooking was light, or that it was good for the soul just. So eat "bubleh." Just eat.

BROOKLYN PAPERS

Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:
FORT GREENE

Green Apple Cafe

110 DeKalb Ave. at Ashland Place, (718) 625-1248 (MC, Visa) Lunch entrees: \$4-\$8.

Sister and brother Tatiana and Maha Chiporukha opened the Green Apple four years ago, serving upscale dishes at a moderate price. The brightly painted interior is cozy, seating about 12, but on weekdays the majority of its visitors breeze through on their way to work to grab a gourmet coffee and a lemon-blossom muffin to go or pop in on their lunch hour to devour a chicken mango salad with candied walnuts over a bed of greens or else they just phone for delivery of a grilled chicken wrap with avocado, goat cheese, caramelized onions and tomato and "can you please add a spinach salad with bleu cheese for the secretary, and a veggie burger with spinach pesto and Swiss for my boss?" And don't forget the smoothies, like the "fruits mama" (mixed berries, banana, honey and soy milk). According to Tatiana, the weekend brunch brings in diners from surrounding neighborhoods to feast on the signature banana-walnut pancakes and omelette omelets. The cafe is open daily, serving breakfast and lunch, although you can grab a coffee or snack until 6 p.m. delivery is available weekdays, from 11 am to 4 p.m. and on weekends, brunch is served all day.

ICI

246 DeKalb Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue, (718) 789-2778, www.icirestaurant.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$22.

Laurent and Catherine Sallards' "modern Brooklyn bistro" serves up French cuisine with primarily organic ingredients. Devour your meal in their 40-seat dining room on the ground floor of a brownstone, or the rear garden, weather permitting. To start, indulge in the walnut dandelion salad with bacon, anchovy cream and poached egg or the pan-seared cod fillets flavored with lime and cilantro. Entrees include "croquette," pasta with braised collard greens and Swiss chard in garlic and goat cheese dressing; larger steak with pan-roasted potatoes and green beans with pesto sauce; and skate with brown butter, lemon and cauliflower. For dessert, try the honey yogurt panna cotta or the chocolate cake with creme fraiche gelato. Open Tuesday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a brunch menu available from 8 am to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Olea

171 Lafayette Ave. at Adelphi Street, (718) 643-7003 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$14-\$20.

The menu at this pan-Mediterranean restaurant takes "a little bit from each country of the Mediterranean Sea," says co-owner Johannes Sanzin. The cuisines of Italy, Greece, Spain, Morocco, Turkey and others come together to create dishes that are both traditional and innovative. Sanzin recommends a starter of falafel-crusted artichoke hearts with Turkish eggplant salad and tahini sauce. Follow it with roasted whole oxita with "patatas bravas" (fierce potatoes) and broccolini rabe. Olea has now added a new bar and a tapas menu, the "Turkish cigars," phyllo dough wrapped around ground lamb filling and served with "tastito" (a yogurt sauce laced with cucumber and garlic), are especially popular with diners, says co-owner Dan Demerit. For dessert, Demerit recommends the panna cotta, two ramekins of chocolate and chocolate cake. The tenacious little restaurant seats about 40 in a decor that is "wonderful, Mediterranean-like, lively and airy." On Wednesdays, there's a live accordion player and a four-course, \$25 prix fixe tasting menu. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner Monday through Friday, with brunch and dinner services on weekends.

Pequena

86 S. Portland Ave. at Lafayette Avenue, (718) 643-0000 (Cash only) Entrees: \$6-\$12.

At Chelsea Almar's Pequena, Spanish for "little one," authenticity is the goal — from the decorations to the Mexican menu. Nibble the house-made chips with pico de gallo, house-made guacamole, or smoky chipotle salsa while gazing at the intricate "mucha" figures hanging from the original tin ceiling. Manager Erica Crawford will tell you that they are folk art treasures brought from Mexico City's Frida Kahlo crafts plaza. Indulge in a margarita made "strong, with fresh lime juice," Crawford boasts. She says, with chef-owner Johannes Sanzin.

★ = Full review available at www.brooklynpapers.com

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

— Tina Barry

Drinking for a good cause

The American Cancer Society in Brooklyn has devised an ingenious idea for mixing pleasure with fundraising. On Sunday Nov. 12, the organization has organized the first "North Fork Wine Tour," a day of semi-sipping and snacking at three of Long Island's most respected vineyards. Proceeds from the event's ticket sales will go to providing vital transportation services to this borough's patients while they undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"This event will expose Brooklynites to some of the prized vineyards of North Fork Long Island while making

a difference in the lives of their neighbors. We're anticipating a fabulous day," says the American Cancer Society's Director of Health Systems and Collaborations Heather Anderson.

Two jitneys will leave the Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100] at 8:30 am and transport participants to the glorious wine country.

The event gets off to an exciting start at Bedell Cellars/Coorey Creek Vineyards for a tour and tasting of crisp premium wines. The next stop is Martha Clara Vineyards for a seminar, wine

tasting and four-course gourmet lunch. The day will conclude with more wine and a cheese-tasting at Palmer Vineyards, a winery on the area's East End.

Then it's a good, long snooze for those added naps as they are transported back to BAM.

Tickets to the ACS "North Fork Wine Tour" are \$125 in advance for singles, \$450 for four tickets and \$1000 for 10 tickets. To order, log on to www.nycharities.org (listings on events calendar). For more information, contact Heather Anderson at (718) 237-7851, ext. 9132.

— Tina Barry

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table, perhaps it's time to consider a new

Hooray for the Nouveau!

By Darrin Siegfried

Mark your calendars, and save the date: Thursday, November 16 is a day to celebrate! Wine lovers all over the world know that on the third Thursday of November, the Beaujolais Nouveau is released for sale. The first wine from the 2006 vintage will be here for us to enjoy!

First, though, we have to clarify one thing: not all Beaujolais is Nouveau! Beaujolais Nouveau, released for sale only a few weeks after the harvest, on the third Thursday of November, is a fun, affordable wine that is a celebration of the harvest. This, along with its ability to "go with" so many dishes makes it an ideal choice for our own Harvest Feast, Thanksgiving. I look forward to the annual arrival of the Nouveau, as it gives us a good idea of what kind of year it was in the vineyard. For many years I've cooked a huge Cassoulet on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, following a recipe from James Beard. Since so many of my friends are in the wine or restaurant business, this is the last weekend before our busy season begins. We have a great time, eating this hearty dish called the "soul of French Gastronomy" and drinking bottles of chilled Beaujolais Nouveau. One of my friends are wine snobs, so quaffing the Nouveau a few days after it has reached our shores is a shared delight. Did I say snobs? One way to tell a wine lover from a wine snob is to simply mention Beaujolais. The wine lovers will smile in anticipation of a glass to enjoy with friends, while the snobs will roll their eyes, snicker and make deprecating words.

Beaujolais is a region in France located just north of Lyon along the Saône River in the south of Burgundy. Hundreds of years of trial-and-error have resulted in the planting of only two grapes in Beaujolais: Gamay for the red wines and Chardonnay for the whites. In the northernmost part of Beaujolais, many of the white wines are labeled Macon Blanc. The Gamay has the aroma of ripe red berries, and the wine-making methods used here often include an initial whole-cluster fermentation in sealed tanks which will help to preserve this fresh and lively "nose." This step is called Carbonic Maceration.

Wine labeled simply "Beaujolais" or "Beaujolais Nouveau" can be made from

grapes grown almost anywhere within Beaujolais. One step up the ladder of quality brings us to Beaujolais Villages, from grapes located in better-situated areas. For everyday drinking, Beaujolais Villages from a good winemaker can be both delicious and a bargain.

Beaujolais Nouveau at Red White & Bubbly

Join us at Red White & Bubbly as we celebrate the arrival of the 2006 Beaujolais Nouveau! We open the first bottles on Thursday, November 16th at 5 PM. Our good friends at restaurant Belleville on 5th Avenue will offer a special Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration Dinner on Thursday, and we hope that you'll join us there after the tasting!

We'll also have the Nouveau open on Friday from 5 until 8, and our annual Red White & Bubbly Beaujolais Nouveau Tasting Party will be held on Saturday, November 18th, from 2 until 6. I am delighted to announce that our good friend Phoebe Leger will be with us this year, and hearing Phoebe play her amazing repertoire while sipping a Beaujolais Nouveau has become an annual Park Slope event. Some delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by restaurant Belleville, our favorite Park Slope Bistro, will be served, too! Do not miss this!

Sunday, we will continue our tasting from 2 until 6. Stop in for a copy of my favorite recipe for Cassoulet any time over the weekend. Inspired by a recipe from James Beard, this recipe makes a Cassoulet that is the best I've eaten. One year my friends Master Sommerer Roger Dagorn and Wine Importer Serge Dore were at my house eating Cassoulet, and they called the room to silence. "No one who is not French can make a Cassoulet this good," said Serge. Roger added, "We have decided, therefore, that you, Darrin, must be French. Now, if you will, please step forward." I stood in front of them and Serge tapped me on both shoulders with a wooden spoon while Roger poured me a glass of Beaujolais Nouveau, and they declared me, then and there, for all to know and for all time, to be an Honorary Frenchman. The Cassoulet and the wine were that good!



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Where to G

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

Sat, Nov 11
Veteran's Day

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WILD TOUR: Naturalist and author "Wildman" Steve Brill leads a wild food and ecology tour of Prospect Park. Learn about edible and medicinal wild plants and mushrooms found in the park. \$12, \$6 kids. 11:45 am. Meet at Grand Central Plaza entrance to the park. (718) 835-2153.

INTRO TO BROWWATCHING: Take a guided tour and find out why the National Audubon Society has designated Prospect Park an important bird area. Noon to 1:30 pm. Audubon Center. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts the Metro Tour Service and takes a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

PERFORMANCE

BROOKLYN FAMILY THEATER: presents "Peter Pan." \$12, 7 pm. Church of Calvarymen, 1012 Eastern Pkwy. Reservations suggested. (718) 989-2444.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Mozart, Kodaly and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, 100 Fulton St. (718) 777-7777. Free.

NEXT WAVE: presents "The 51st Annual Grammy Awards." \$12, 8 pm. Presented in association with The Harlem Stage. \$20 to \$40, 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. Free.

DOO-WOP SHOW: at St. Finbar's Center. 7:30 pm. Bait Alley, 100 Bedford and Bay Street. (718) 236-3312.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: presents "A Little Night Music." by Stephen Sondheim. \$14, \$12 seniors. 8 pm. Little Night Music, 236 E. 23rd St. (718) 377-1342.

CHAMPSAGLE & CANDLELIGHT: Concert series presents Opera Center in a program, "Journey to the Orient." \$20, \$15 seniors. 8 pm. Reception follows. 8 pm. First Unitarian Congregation Society, 100 West Street and Monroe Place. (347) 596-3882.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Historical Society presents "Songs of Thanksgiving," featuring the music of Bach, Telemann and Beethoven. \$25, \$20 for members and seniors. 8 pm to 10 pm. 128 Pierpont St. (718) 222-4111.

MUSICAL: Ridge Repertory Company presents "Auntie Mame." \$15, 8 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center, 100 West Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 836-3103.

CBBC: Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts presents an evening of theater. Michael Aramonte. \$20 to \$35, 8 pm. Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn Museum, 100 West Street and Monroe Place. (718) 951-4600. www.brooklyncenter.org.

COMEDY: Billie Holiday Theater presents the comedy "Steal Away." \$20, \$12 children and seniors. 8 pm. 1368 Fulton St. (718) 636-0918.

VOODOO EVENT: La Troupe Makandal, New York's center for Afro-Haitian drum and dance, presents "Rising Sun: Day of the Dead." \$15 general, \$10 students and seniors. \$5 children ages 12 and younger. 8 pm. 300 Oxford Street. (718) 336-0336.

BAROQUE CONCERT: Begin the holiday season with "Psalms of Thanksgiving," a chamber concert in the Oliver Library at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Voice, flute, harpsichord and viola da gamba. 8 pm. 87 Columbia Heights. \$5. Call for ticket info. (718) 643-4608.

POETRY & SEATS: Meme trose presents "The Charlotte Salomon Project: Life or Theater?" \$15, 8 pm. Brooklyn Fire Project, 101 Richardson St. (718) 302-4702.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: hosts "Flicks for Tots." Appropriate for ages 5 and younger. \$5, free for members. 11 am to 12:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

TUCACABERRY PRODUCTIONS: in partnership with Animal Care and Control of NYC presents "The Enchanted Cat." \$10, \$7 children ages 12 and younger. 1 pm and 3 pm. Call to reserve. 190 Underhill Ave. (845) 797-1320.

CHARLIE BROWN: Brooklyn Theater Arts Project presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," based on the comic strip by Charles Schulz. \$10, \$5 kids and seniors. 8 pm. Christ Church Bay Ridge, 7301 Ridge Blvd. (718) 390-7189.

OTHER

COLLEGE TALK: New York City College of Technology offers a talk, "Getting Ready for College." Open to high school juniors and seniors and their parents. 7 pm. 145 Broadway. (718) 875-8229.

ZEN CENTER: presents a retreat "Awake at Work: Cultivating Well-Being and Mindfulness on the Job." Day in the life of a Zen practitioner, discussion and lectures. 10 am to 4 pm. 300 State St. (718) 875-8229.

HABITATS CONFERENCE: Environmentalists, artists and cultural commentators celebrate revitalization of the Gowanus Canal.



Thanksgiving made easy: Greene Grape and Jive Turkey host a wine and turkey with all the trimmings taking in Fort Greene on Nov. 16.

Canal. Highlights include artists, site-specific sound and video recordings, live music, installations, recycled art and more. Epsilon Culture hosts. \$5. Noon to 11 pm. Brooklyn Museum, 227 Fourth Ave. (845) 775-5055.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "The Next Director: Marco Tullio Giordana." Today: "The Best of Youth." (2003) \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 3 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. www.bam.org.

Sun, Nov 12

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FARWELL TOUR: Brooklyn's Urban Environment hosts a tour, "Greenpoint and Williamsburg Waterfront: Farewell." Learn about plans to turn this strip into luxury condos. Also, see ruins of the Greenpoint Terminal Market and the Austin Nicholas Warehouse. \$9, \$8 seniors and students. 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet at corner of Greenpoint and Manhattan Avenue, street level of the Greenpoint Avenue station. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

ART GALLERY WALK: Singles in their 20s and 30s are invited to explore eight to 10 galleries in Williamsburg. \$10, 1 pm. E. 12th Street and First Avenue, age and gender for meeting place. walknyc@yahoo.com. (212) 696-6677.

PERFORMANCE

BALLET: Brooklyn Ballet Theater presents a folk and ballet performance. 3 pm. Leon Goldenberg Performing Arts Center, Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd. Seating is limited; center audience seats available with the troupe. \$18, \$15 seniors. 3 pm. 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) 243-2083.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Mozart, Kodaly and Brahms. \$35, \$30 seniors. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, 100 Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 642-2083.

CONCERT SERIES: Music from Good Shepherd series presents John Rutter's "Requiem." Donations encouraged. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church, Avenue 5 and Brown Street, Marine Park. (718) 998-2800.

NEXT WAVE: "Twelfth Night." 3 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "A Little Night Music." 3:30 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

MUSICAL: "Auntie Mame." 5 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

BROOKLYN FAMILY THEATER: "Peter Pan." 5 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

COMEDY: "Steal Away." \$15, 5 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: hosts "Giant Steps," featuring actors from the Bond Street Theater in a program of ailing dancing, juggling and other circus acts. \$5, free for members. 2:30 pm. Also, "Meal-time Manners." Kids are invited to discover the rules that govern mealtime. 4 pm to 5 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

WHY KNOT? Educational workshop where participants learn to tie several different knots, with variations on each knot. \$10, 3 pm to 5 pm. Waterfront Museum and Shipyard, 290 Conover St. (718) 488-1457.

CHARLIE BROWN: "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." 2 pm. See Sat., Nov. 11.

OTHER

OPEN AND INK PLUS: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers an exploration of the med-

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BARNES AND NOBLE: presents Tim McLaughlin and Ken Wheaton reading from "The Subway Chorus: Stories From Life in New York." 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

Tues, Nov 14

NEXT WAVE: presents "Underground." with David Dorfman Dance. \$20 to \$45. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Hercules Grace It: Show Brothers Return." Today: "The Jade Tiger." (1977) \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 7 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. www.bam.org.

ALZHEIMER'S TALK: Learn about the disease during screenings given at New York Methodist Hospital. 2 pm to 4 pm. 263 Seventh Ave., lobby. (718) 246-8544. Free.

BEAT THE DRUM: La Troupe Makandal, NY's Center for Haitian Drum and Dance, hosts classes in Afro-Haitian drumming. \$12, 6:30 pm to 8 pm. Restoration Plaza Youth Arts Academy, 247 Harker St. (718) 777-7777.

MEETING: of the 12th Street Block Association. 7 pm. Park Slope Community Center, 251 12th St. For details, visit www.12thstreetblock.org.

Weds, Nov 15

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Cinema Tropical." Today: "Les Quatre Mages." (2003) \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. www.bam.org.

ALIVE WITH ART: 40th anniversary benefit for Brooklyn Arts Council. Guests enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment in addition to selections from BAMCINEMATEK International Film and Video Festival. Also, \$25 to \$225 per table. 6 pm to 9:30 pm. Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge, 333 Adams St. (212) 725-2192.

BOOK LAUNCH: Gallepagos Art Space presents "Signs of Life: Surviving Katrina," a collection of photos of survivors of Hurricane Katrina. 7 pm to 10 pm. 70 W. 30th St. (718) 782-5188. Free.

NEXT WAVE: presents "Tempesto (The Tempest)" by Shakespeare. Performed in French. English subtitles. \$20 to \$45. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

TASTING: Downtown Bar and Grill hosts an evening of organic beer and food tasting. 7:30 pm. 160 Court St. (718) 604-2035.

BEER DRINKING: Loulou's Restaurant hosts a five-course dinner of local fare from the city paired with five imported beers and cheese. \$45, 8 pm. 222 Bedford Ave. (718) 246-0633.

POLYBE & SEATS: "The Charlotte Salomon Project: Life or Theater?" 8 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18.

Thurs, Nov 16

THANKSGIVING TASTING: Sample six wines and savor with all the fixings from Jive Turkey. 5 pm to 7 pm. The Greene Grape, 765 Fulton St. between South Oxford and South Portland streets. (718) 998-2800.

READING: Brooklyn College presents Yiddish Theater with a staged reading of "The Letters." 2 pm. Leonard Street, at Brooklyn College and North Avenue. (718) 951-4000. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Torino Cinema." Today: "Chung Kuo." (2004) \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4:30 pm and 7 pm. O & W with Daniel Gagliardi after 7 pm screenings. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. www.bam.org.

YOGA: Noodle Yoga presents Yoga Dating, an event for singles. Balance, stretch, bond and then lounge. All levels welcome. \$35 includes cocktail hour. \$25 for cocktail hour only. Yoga at 7 pm; cocktail at 9 pm. 31 Washington St. (718) 624-5525.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a classical music program featuring works by Shostakovich, Scriabin, Shostakovich and Myaskovsky. \$35, \$30 seniors. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

NEXT WAVE: "Underground." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18.

COMEDY: "Steal Away." \$15, 8 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18.

POLYBE & SEATS: "The Charlotte Salomon Project: Life or Theater?" 8 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18.

Fri, Nov 17

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Torino Cinema." Today: "The Second Time." (1996) \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7777. www.bam.org.

BARGE MUSIC: presents an Afro-Haitian classical music program featuring works by Tchikovsky, Vanberg, Galyon and Schmittke. The Kremin Chamber Orchestra performs. \$50, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Park Slope Food Coop presents tonight's soup/beer night. Several artists perform. \$10, \$6 kids. 8 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

PRACTICE PARTY: Creative Arts hosts an evening of informal social dancing including ballroom, Latin and swing music. No partner necessary. 8:30 pm to 11 pm. 310 Atlantic Ave. (718) 797-5600. Free.

NEXT WAVE: "Underground." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18. Also, "La Tempesto (The Tempest)" by Shakespeare. 7:30 pm. See Sat., Nov. 18. BAM Dialogue Continued on page 14...

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MMC rated among nation's best for clinical outcomes

Mainonides Medical Center

Mainonides Medical Center announced that it has received five-star ratings and top national rankings for clinical excellence in multiple services, according to a comprehensive study released by HealthGrades, the nation's leading health-care ratings company.

In the HealthGrades study, Mainonides achieved the following distinctions:

- Cardiac: Rated No. 1 in New York State for cardiology services and No. 1 in the New York City area for cardiac interventions. Mainonides also ranked among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation for cardiology and cardiac interventions, and has been named a recipient of the 2007 HealthGrades Cardiac Care Excellence Award.

• Stroke: Rated No. 2 in New York State and among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation for treatment of stroke. Mainonides is five-star rated in stroke treatment for the sixth consecutive year, and a recipient of the 2007 HealthGrades Stroke Care Excellence Award.

• Critical Care: Rated No. 1 in New York State and among the top five percent of hospitals in the nation for critical care services. Mainonides is five-star rated in critical care, and is also a recipient of the 2007 HealthGrades Critical Care Excellence Award.

• Pulmonary: For the fourth consecutive year, Mainonides is ranked among the top ten percent of hospitals in the nation and among the top ten programs in New York State for overall pulmonary care. The hospital, which is five-star rated for pulmonary services, is a recipient of the 2007 HealthGrades Pulmonary Care Excellence Award.

• Urology: HealthGrades evaluates prostate surgery outcomes and Mainonides

is five-star rated for Prostatectomies.

"We are delighted that our services are being recognized for outstanding quality, not just in New York City, but nationwide," said Mainonides President and CEO Pamela S. Brer. "Our high ratings in patient outcomes reflect the high standards set by our physicians, nurses and support staff."

HealthGrades ratings are based on 40 million hospitalization records from the federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. For its ninth annual Hos-

pital Quality in America Study, HealthGrades independently analyzed nearly 5,000 hospitals in all 50 states for its ratings, assessing clinical outcomes and quality.

"HealthGrades objectively rates hospitals' performance to help consumers make better healthcare choices," said Samantha Collier, HealthGrades vice president of medical affairs. "In the New York City area, Mainonides Medical Center stands out notably in terms of delivering quality care for its patients."

Lutheran strikes strokes

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center's Stroke Center and the National Stroke Association (NSA) announce the results of a new national survey of more than five hundred stroke survivors and caregivers.

According to the survey, more than 40 percent of stroke survivors reported limited success in meeting their rehabilitation goals, which include the ability to walk better and regain their speech.

"Unfortunately, there is still a stigma associated with having a stroke, especially when it comes to the after-effects that may occur as a result," said Dr. Salman Azhar, spokesperson for the NSA and director of the stroke center and chief of rehabilitation services, LMC. "Individuals who experience stroke clearly want to return to their pre-stroke self as much as possible, and now we have the tools at our disposal to accomplish a significant level of recovery."

For those who experience spasticity, which usually appears within the first year

after a person sustains a stroke, rehabilitation may involve one or more of the following: physical or occupational therapy, oral medications, or injectable options. However, according to the survey, there is another rehabilitation tool — which is under-utilized, yet safe and effective — called Intrathecal Baclofen Therapy or ITB Therapy (SM). ITB Therapy uses an implantable drug pump that can ease the tight, stiff muscles that affect stroke survivors. It is a rehabilitation option that has been proven to offer significant improvement in functional motor control, independence, and quality of life.

The survey indicates that only three percent of stroke survivors are offered this treatment option, despite the fact that ITB Therapy results in statistically significant improvement in walking speed, functional mobility ranges, and spasticity. Survey respondents were more commonly given nocturnal exercises (58 percent), gentle stretching (51 percent), oral medications (47 percent) or injectable medication (33 percent) for their rehabilitative treatment.

Interventional pulmonology debuts at NY Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital has joined a select group of institutions nationwide that provide interventional pulmonology, a relatively new field offering diagnosis and treatments for airway disorders from cancer or benign causes and pleural diseases.

NYM is currently the only hospital in Brooklyn capable of providing wide-ranging options for treating and diagnosing abnormalities in the lungs.

Interventional pulmonology is a minimally invasive procedure that offers an alternative to traditional surgical techniques.

Taking advantage of many state-of-the-art technologies, interventional pulmonologists are able to perform a variety of diagnostic, therapeutic and palliative procedures. These include stenting and laser therapy for patients with lung cancer who experience complications associated with airway obstruction; endobronchial ultrasound, a real-time fine needle aspiration to stage lung cancer; electromagnetic navigation to guide biopsy instruments to small lesions in the lung for fine needle biopsy; and other modalities to relieve airway obstruction caused by benign causes such as polyps or scar tissue.

Another technique, termed autofluorescence bronchoscopy, helps detect early changes of lung cancer in the airways.

"Through this new technology,



Director of interventional pulmonology at NYM, Arthur Sung, MD, right, discusses a case with Suhail Raof, MD, chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine.

he said.

The unique procedures come to the hospital with the staff addition of Arthur Sung, MD, recently named director of interventional pulmonology at NYM.

"Many people who have undergone traditional treatment options in the past but have had minimal results, are able to undergo a greatly improved quality of life after undergoing an interventional pulmonology procedure,"

he said. "The unique procedures come to the hospital with the staff addition of Arthur Sung, MD, recently named director of interventional pulmonology at NYM."

"Many people who have undergone traditional treatment options in the past but have had minimal results, are able to undergo a greatly improved quality of life after undergoing an interventional pulmonology procedure,"

Comrie heads Women's Health at LICH

Long Island College Hospital

Millicent A. Comrie, MD, MPH, FACOG, has been appointed Director of Women's Health Program Initiatives at Long Island College Hospital.

She continues her roles as attending physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at LICH, Director of the LICH Center for Women's Health, and Clinical Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the State University of New York (SUNY)-Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn.

Comrie first joined LICH as a resident in obstetrics and gynecology, and was then appointed Chief of Adolescent Gynecology. Prior to her recent appointment, she was in private practice. She is particularly interested in the management of fibroids and menopause.

Dr. Comrie holds an MD from SUNY-Downstate and an MPH in maternal and child health population and family planning from Columbia University School of Public Health.

Comrie received the Physician Recognition Award from

Rescue Center in Kingston, Jamaica.

Comrie will be developing programs to address the most pressing health concerns facing women today. "I am particularly interested in prenatal care, female cardiac health, obesity and gynecological care in the

menopausal years," she says.

"Dr. Comrie has a well-deserved international reputation in ob/gyn," says Rita Battles, President and CEO of LICH. "She will help LICH focus on the entire spectrum of health issues facing a woman throughout her life."

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

—Bertha Calverly

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CHECKIN' IN WITH...

King of the 'Brooklyn Jews'

Rabbi Andy Bachman is unbearded and 43 — clean-shaven and young by rabbinic standards. As the founder of "the Brooklyn Jews," he turned Torah study into a hip night out and brought a pop-culture sensibility to what could be a dusty orthodoxy. Now, Bachman has reached one of the pinnacles of the borough's reformed Jewish movement: he's the new rabbi at Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope (replacing Gerald Weider, who served for 28 Tisha B'avs). This week, Bachman celebrated his formal installation to the post — the same week that Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity. We thought it was as good a time as any for Bachman to check in with our editor, Gersh Kuntzman.



Q: So, did you see the headline of the Daily News, "Defiant Saddam is sentenced to death. Next Stop, Hell"? My question, rabbi: Is Saddam Hussein going to hell?

A: (Laughs) It's a very funny question! I don't believe there is a hell for him. You won't find a mainstream Jewish case for a heaven or a hell. The idea is that the evil person's death ultimately atones for the sins they did on earth.

Q: But everyone — good or bad — dies.

A: Yes, but mainstream Judaism doesn't traffic in the popular notion that an unrepentant person has to appear before God and argue his case, like in that Albert Brooks movie, "Defending Your Life."

Q: So why bother to be good?

A: Judaism is concerned less with "being good" than with a broader definition of being obedient to God. Good is not a goal in and of itself. The Jewish ethical tradition is to be obedient to Torah and being God's partner in carrying out his will — and that brings goodness to the world.

Q: So no heaven or hell, huh? That's tricky because a lot of people cling to that. Not the hell part, but the heaven part, obviously.

A: There are references in the rabbinic literature to a world that is come. There are

different visions of it. Some see it as a giant banquet in which everyone is eating fish, studying Torah and talking philosophy. It's a giant intellectual banquet for all eternity, like being in the Tea Lounge forever.

Q: But you don't buy it, do you.

A: My personal take is best summarized by this notion: if you're planting a tree by the side of the road and someone comes running up and says, "The Messiah is here!" you should just keep planting the tree. Judaism emphasizes the here and now. Plant the tree. Bring that blessing to the world. If the Messiah comes, so much the better.

Q: Are atheists welcome to your temple?

A: They're welcomed everywhere.

Q: You obviously haven't seen my mailbox.

A: I don't get into the discussion of proving or disproving the existence of God in my services. Ultimately, none of us can really know. I never read a conclusive proof that there is or is not. I don't know who believes and who doesn't, but we're all engaged. Judaism is about the pursuit of truth. But people participate in Jewish life for many reasons: musical, ethnic, political, cultural.

Q: Funny, you didn't mention my mother's brisket.

A: I included it in cultural.

DOMINO'S DEFAMES BROOKLYN...

Continued from page <None>

Brooklyn pizza? Fuhgedaboutit!

Domino's says its Brooklyn-style pizza is the real deal, but how does the company compare to a real Brooklyn pizzeria, like Front Street Pizza in DUMBO?

Domino's	PIZZERIA	Front Street Pizza
Two hours (yes, two hours)	Delivery time	30 minutes max
Made at one of 18 distribution centers nationwide and shipped cold	Dough	Homemade, crispy and fresh
"Get the door. It's Domino's."	Slogan	"Good food, fresh service."
14 inches	Size of a "large" pie	18 inches
Mozzarella and provolone	Cheese	Mozzarella
Not without breaking it in small pieces	Can you do "the fold"?	Are you kidding? This slice lives for the fold.



Domino's new "Brooklyn Pizza" with pepperoni (far left) is minuscule compared to the behemoth you can get at Front Street Pizza in DUMBO (right).

BROOKLYN
BIEFSHittin' the head
at Owl's Head

The Brooklyn Papers reporter Paul Koeppe gives two thumbs up to the new comfort station in Owl's Head Park in Bay Ridge.

for The Brooklyn Papers

The other day in Owl's Head Park, a group of teen "Skateboarders for Jesus" was handing out a pamphlet titled, "Where Are You Going?" But in this Bay Ridge park, such literature no longer poses just a theological question — thanks to the reopening of a long-shuttered public bathroom.

To make our own ceremonial first flush, The Brooklyn Papers sent its top cub reporter to seek comfort in the so-called "comfort station." After a brief campaign of shock and awe, he declared it a mission accomplished.

Refurbished with a wheelchair ramp and a ventilation system that keeps the air warm and fresh on a cold day, this one state-of-the-art outhouse.

The structure's stately brick gives it a Colonial feel, and the natural glow from the skylight adds a nice modern touch.

In fact, it's such a pleasant comfort station that visitors have been known to seek a lot of comfort. One man, for example, stayed in one of the two stalls for roughly 45 minutes (yes, it's that clean a bathroom).

He finally came out with a strong endorsement.

"It's beautiful in there," he said. "Thank God." No, thank City Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who pushed the Parks Department to finally finish the \$1.1-million project after two years of contractor bungling.

The renovation will help to flush memories of past years, when the station was so rank that portable toilets were set up as an alternative.

That foul era was long gone as our reporter looked over the skateboarders' pamphlet again and smiled.

From now on, Bay Ridgians will know exactly where they're going — at least when they're in Owl's Head Park. — Paul Koeppe

At Toro, time
to support
the troops

for The Brooklyn Papers

Who said Brooklyn doesn't support the troops?

Whether you voted for Sen. John "Foot-in-Mouth" Kerry or the equally eloquent President Bush, this week offered two more examples of how the county of Kings is behind the rank-and-file soldiers.

DUMBO's Toro Restaurant announced it will host a fundraiser to help the U.S.O. send care packages to troops around the world. The \$150 suggested admission gets you cocktails and performances by "America's Tenor," Daniel Rodriguez, and a chorus of "U.S.O. Girls" called "United We Sing."

Rest assured, ye anti-war liberals: "The event is not [in] support of Bush or anything like that," said Toro's manager, who didn't want his name used.

If plopping down \$150 isn't your method of lending aid and comfort to our soldiers, how about plopping down on the couch to write a letter to a warrior?

In Bensonhurst, Zina DiBenedetto is leading the New York brigade of the Soldiers' Angels Foundation, which shows love to the troops one email, letter or card at a time.

DiBenedetto has herself written more than 1,000 letters since January. "There are lots of military families in this area, and I was looking for a way to express my thanks," she said.

USO benefits, Nov. 29, 6-10 pm at Toro Restaurant (1 Front St., at Old Fulton Street). Call (718) 625-0300 for information. Cheer up a soldier at www.soldiersangels.org.

— Paul Koeppe



Developers of One Hanson Place — forever known as the Williamsburgh Savings Bank building — are trying to wiggle out of a requirement to provide recreational space for future tenants.

Magic playing tricks
Builders want to change deal

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's tallest building is shrinking — at least for its future tenants.

Magic Johnson and his fellow developers, who are converting the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower into high-end condos, are trying to squirm out of their commitment to provide thousands of square feet of shared outdoor space for their chichi tenants.

As part of the public review process for the project, the developers promised to provide 6,957 square feet of rooftop space in the former dental enclave — a recreational space that would have commanding views of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Statue of Liberty.

Now, the developers are asking the city to cut that requirement virtually in half, to 3,824 square feet.

Kristin Neil, the project manager for One Hanson Place, as the building is now known, said that the requested reduction was the only practical option for the "wedding-cake-shaped building."

"We have identified four outdoor spaces on the building which would be accessible. (Otherwise) we would have to carve out additional hallways."

A spokeswoman for the City Planning Commission

would not comment on this particular case, saying only that such amendment requests are common.

Community Board 2's land-

use committee will take up the issue on Nov. 15 at 5 Miletch, Room LC400. Call (718) 596-5410 for information.

— Dana Rubinstein

BAM honors Ortner

The Brooklyn Papers

Evelyn Ortner, the gentle-mannered, yet fierce-minded preservationist who played a major role in the restoration of Brooklyn's historic neighborhoods, will be remembered on Wednesday with a memorial service at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theatre.

Ortner, who died on Sept. 19 at age 82, was not only a lover of brownstones, but of opera, and the Harvey Theatre was a place of joy for her, said her husband — and preservation partner — Everett Ortner.

The Ortners moved to Brooklyn in 1963, buying a crumbling brownstone on Berkeley Place near Prospect Park, then overgrown and dangerous.

Immediately after moving to Park Slope, the couple began to restore their home to its former glory, encouraging their friends to move into the neighborhood's forgotten treasures and igniting what became the "Brownstone" movement.

The couple never stopped fighting for the architectural integrity of Brooklyn, hosting an international group of preservationists every summer and, most recently, donating time and energy to battle Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan.

The Ortner family has asked that donations in Evelyn Ortner's honor go to Preservation Volunteers, a non-profit organization the couple founded.

Evelyn Ortner memorial, BAM-Harvey Theatre (651 Fulton St., at Ashland Place), Nov. 15, 5:30 to 7 pm.

— Ariella Cohen

No 'Wonder' about these hoopsters

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn has its own professional basketball team, and Bruce Ratner had nothing to do it.

The Brooklyn Wonders, part of the recently revived American Basketball Association, will tip off for their first home game tonight — three years before Ratner's New Jersey Nets are expected to relocate to a glass-walled, Frank Gehry-designed arena in the middle of the Atlantic Yards mega-development.

The Wonders will open their 36-game season against the Newark Express on Nov. 11 — and they even have a Brooklynite, point guard Karl Sanders, leading them.

The league's famously flashy red-white-and-blue ball is perhaps the sole remnant of the original ABA, the legendary stomping grounds of Julius "Dr. J" Erving, a star of the then-New York Nets (ooh, cue the ironic music).

The original ABA merged with the NBA in 1976 and was not resurrected until 1999. This is the Wonders' first season.

Brooklyn Wonders opening game, Nov. 11, 7 p.m. at Kingsborough Community College (2001 Oriental Blvd.). For information, go to www.brooklynwonders.com or call (212) 338-0001. — Dana Rubinstein



The Brooklyn Wonders are, for now, the only (pro) game in town. At the American Basketball Association team's recent practice, guard Ryan Williams stretched out with the league's trademark red-white-and-blue ball.

New EMS
station

The Brooklyn Papers

First responders are getting first-class treatment, thanks to a fancy new EMS station in Carroll Gardens christened this week by Mayor Bloomberg.

Officially known as EMS Station 32, the new \$4.7-million ambulance depot at Carroll and Bond streets is a first-responder paradise, complete with a fitness room, dining room, kitchen, and lockers and bathrooms for a staff of 100.

The 8,150-square-foot station can accommodate seven vehicles.

Roy Sloane, a Cobble Hill activist, said the new station was a "mixed blessing."

"I hope those EMS drivers aren't letting their motors run too long and generating too much pollution," said Sloane. "But anything that enhances community safety should be experienced with."

Sloane has never had to call an ambulance, although he did acknowledge that "There's always the possibility."

— Dana Rubinstein

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