

# The Brooklyn Paper

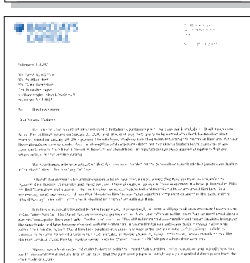
Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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## Barclays to Brooklyn: No 'blood money' here



The Brooklyn Paper's coverage of the Barclays-Ratner deal (top and bottom) and the company's letter objecting to our coverage (center).

### Claims no link to slave trade

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

A British bank that is under fire from black leaders for profiting from the slave trade centuries ago fought back last week, claiming the allegation "is simply not true" — but a prominent historian, and yet another high-powered black elected official, came forward this week to dispute the bank's rosy view of its own history.

In letters sent last week to several journalists — including those at The Brooklyn Paper — Barclays spokesman Peter Truell asked that the newspapers "immediately retract" stories that relied on what Truell called "simply untrue" and "misleading" evidence of the bank's slavery links. (The letter, pictured at left, can be read on page 5.)

The Brooklyn Paper responded to Truell's letter with a news story and a signed editorial on the newspaper's Web site on Friday afternoon (an updated version of that "Editor's note" is on page 5).

The Paper's coverage of Barclays' \$400-million naming-rights deal with Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner ("Blood Money," Jan. 20) said that the British financial behemoth was "inextricably linked" to slavery.

### MORE INSIDE

- Read Barclays' letter: p. 5
- Our editor's response: p. 5
- Anti-Ratner laugh-in: p. 13
- It's not just slavery (letter): p. 6

That article was followed by stories in the New York Daily News; the New York Times; the New York Sun; the Independent; a British newspaper, TMZ; the celebrity online magazine; and the Atlantic Yards Report, a Web site.

The Daily News responded to the letter with an editorial calling discussion of Barclays' slavery link "grossly unfair, if not flat out wrong" — even though its own reporter, Michael O'Keefe, linked the bank to slavery in its articles in the newspaper's sports section. Truell's letter contends that the basis for the claim that Barclays was founded on slave-trade profits — first published in Eric Williams' seminal 1944 book, "Capitalism and Slavery" — is "unsupported and mistaken."

"Our research shows that Alexander Barclay was

never a partner, employee or agent of the bank and the 'David Barclay' referred to in this book also had no connection with our bank," read Truell's letter.

But historians disagree.

"I'm very sure that the David Barclay in 'Capitalism and Slavery' is also the David Barclay that was a principal founder of the bank," said Christopher Leslie Brown, a historian of the British empire at Rutgers University.

Brown also challenged Truell's contention that "it is simply not true [that] Barclays was founded on the proceeds of [the] slave trade."

"David Barclay did business with slave holders on a regular basis and profited handsomely from that trade," Brown said.

"Much of his wealth derived in trade of metals and textiles with slaveholding colonies from North America and probably also from the Caribbean," Brown said. "Was he a major slave trader? Probably not. Did he profit from the slave economy? He indisputably did."

When The Brooklyn Paper asked Truell to comment on Brown's assertions, the spokesman actually quoted from Brown's newest book, "Moral Capital: The Foundations of British Abolitionism."

See **BARCLAYS** on page 5

### 'Domain' foes have their day in court

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

A familiar cast of characters clashed in the first courtroom battle over the fate of Atlantic Yards — with opponents saying the project abuses state condemnation powers and a state lawyer retorting that plaintiffs are "naïve" to the ways of the world.

The state is allowed to seize private property, but only if it can demonstrate that it is doing so for public benefit. Lawyers for a handful of tenants and building owners in Atlantic Yards' 22-acre footprint questioned that public benefit.

"If [Bruce] Ratner makes billions of dollars from the development and the city makes [less], then how is his benefit the primary motive [of condemnation]?" asked Matthew Brinckhoff, lawyer for Daniel Goldstein, whose apartment building is near center court inside Ratner's proposed basketball arena.

Empire State Development Corporation lawyer Douglas Kraus scoffed at the plaintiff's case against the \$4-billion, 16-tower residential, office, arena and retail mega-project, calling it "fictional," "hyperbolic" and "at odds with state law."

He asked that the case be based on a naïve understanding of "the way things work," his shorthand for the inner workings of government.

See **DOMAIN** on page 13

### Congresswoman: End Barclays deal now

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Rep. Yvette Clarke, a powerful supporter of the Atlantic Yards project, denounced developer Bruce Ratner's \$400-million deal with Barclays that would brand the Nets arena — the centerpiece of Ratner's 16-sky-scraper project — with the name of an institution that profited from the slavery and other horrors of human history during its "troubling past."

"Barclays is a 400-year-old, \$2-trillion, multinational financial empire that has been linked to Nazi Germany, Apartheid in South Africa and the transatlantic slave trade," said Clarke.

The naming-rights deal comes "under

very questionable circumstances," added Clarke, who largely sat on the sidelines of the Atlantic Yards debate during her tenure in the City Council, but now raised the possibility of "congressional hearings on the impact of the Atlantic Yards development on my constituents."

By issuing her condemnation, Clarke joined a growing group of black leaders — many of them Ratner supporters — demanding that the developer reconsider the agreement.

"I have a duty, as a representative of arguably the largest black bank in North America, to voice concern when minority supporters are left in the dark about the arrival of an institution with such a troubling past," she said.

Opponents of the arena naming deal

hailed Clarke's move as an acknowledgment that "this is not just a local issue."

"[Barclays] invests in the community if they want to benefit from the American market," said Rev. Clinton Miller, the leader of Brown Baptist Memorial Church in Fort Greene and an Atlantic Yards opponent.

"Barclays needs to come off its high horse and admit...that it was as involved as anybody else in slavery."

"If they're not willing to be inclusive and fair, then the agreement should be terminated," he said.

A spokesman for Forest City Ratner did not return calls for comment. Barclays denies a link to slavery.



Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

**VALENTINE'S DAY 2007**

## THE BOROUGH OF LOVE...

In honor of Valentine's Day, The Brooklyn Paper sought out the best, worst, most tragic and, frankly, most romantic love stories. Inspired by Borough President Markowitz's "state of the borough" speech, we set out to assess the "state of the state of love in the borough." The state of love is, of course, strong!

### 9-11 widow finds love again

By Louise Crawford  
The Brooklyn Paper

One of Brooklyn's highest-profile "9-11" widows, Marian Fontana of Park Slope, is engaged.

More than five years after the horrific day that claimed the life of thousands — including her husband, Lt. David Fontana of Squad 1 — Fontana got engaged last week to Tom Martinez, a minister at the All Souls Bethlehem Church, a Unitarian congregation in Kensington.

"What I love about Tom is that he understands what I have gone through and the deep love I will always have for Dave, and is okay with all of it," Fontana wrote in an email to her friends.

her. To my astonishment, she gave me her email address, and later, agreed to meet. I could scarcely believe my luck: a date with the architect of my sandwich.

However, our nascent affair ended before it really began. After just a few emails, my young sandwich temptress started grilling me about marriage, children, and commitment. I was alarmed, as I felt her to be skipping several important steps in our relationship, namely the first date. She then began calling and text-messaging me — and eventually left me a scathing voicemail. I ended it there.

I didn't find my beloved — and I lost my beloved sandwich in the process.

—John O'Connor

**SMART mom** Get the inside scoop PAGE 13

"I am blessed to have so much love in my life."

Fontana told friends that she had a hunch that Martinez, a fine arts photographer and author of "Confessions of a Seminarian: Searching for a Soul in the Shadow of Empire," was going to propose because he first asked Fontana's 10-year-old son, Aidan, about how he should go about it.

"Tom asked for Aidan's permission first, a gesture so sweet and so indicative of the love they share," Fontana wrote in that email.

"I was not surprised that he began his proposal with 'I love Aidan with all my heart.'"

Of course, 10-year-olds aren't the best at keeping secrets, so Fontana knew the big question was about to be popped.

Though she now lives in Staten Island, Fontana remains a larger-than-life figure in Park Slope, thanks to the way she mobilized the neighborhood after 9-11 to keep Squad 1 open when the city threatened to shut it down just weeks after the attacks.

The squad, which is housed on Union Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, lost 12 firefighters that day.

If it's good for Brooklyn, it's good for New York City!

Lucky Numbers 7, 11, 2, 3, 12, 47

## Marty for Mayor? This cookie didn't crumble

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Paper

He buried it deep within his one-hour-long, cholesterol-filled schmaltzfest known as the State of the Borough address, but Borough President Markowitz now says he's running for mayor.

Of course, he didn't say it right out. Instead, he introduced fortune cookie makers Ching Sun Wong and his son Norman and said their product would help him make his decision about running for higher office after term limits kick in in 2009.

"I don't need a fortune cookie to tell me Brooklyn's future looks good," Markowitz said, holding up the sugary augury. "But with term limits looming — what about my future?"

Markowitz broke open the cookie and read the "fortune": "If it's good for Brooklyn, it's good for New York City," he said.

That may be a big "if," but Markowitz is certainly positioning himself for a run.

As The Brooklyn Paper has reported, the Bep is sitting on a campaign war chest of more than \$1 million and cannot run for his beloved borough president's office again, thanks to term limits.

He has openly discussed the possibility of running for mayor and has rented an office near Borough Hall to do the political groundwork.

Some party insiders laughed at the notion that Brooklyn's biggest cheerleader could be elected in a five-borough race, but others said Markowitz has a proven track record as a fundraiser — which may be the most important political skill higher office seekers these days.

When pressed for whether the fortune cookie told the full story, the Bep backpedaled a bit: "I've opened the door a crack to look at my future on the other side of term limits."

See **MAYOR** on page 16

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# HERE TO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**SATURDAY**  
February 10

Photo by  
David J. Phillip

### The real entourage

HBO's Sunday night star Adrian Grenier is set to drop by the 27th Abury Shorts at the Brooklyn Lyceum with his band, The Honey Brothers. The "Entourage" star will also be screening his new short film, "Euthanasia."

7:30 pm at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope). \$12. For information call (866) GOWANUS or visit [www.brooklynlyceum.com](http://www.brooklynlyceum.com)

**SUNDAY**  
February 11

### Maine event

The boat will be rockin' on Sunday night when Maine's DaPonte String Quartet lands at Barge-music. Joining the group on piano for Dvorak's Quintet for Piano and Strings in A Major will be New York Times art critic Michael Kimmelman.

4 pm at Barge-music (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO). \$40. For information call (718) 624-2083.

Photo by  
David J. Phillip

**WEDNESDAY**  
February 14

### V-day dance

Southside Williamsburg's favorite Latin-flavored lounge, Bembe, is showing its love this Valentine's Day with a party called Love Beat. Featuring live percussion by Chauncey Yearwood and DJs from brooklynradio.net, the basement lounge could be the place to bring your sweetheart — or to find one.

10 pm at Bembe (81 S. Sixth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg). Free. For information call (718) 387-5389.

**THURSDAY**  
February 15

### Hip hops

Bushwick-based five piece White Rabbits are about to release their debut record, so check 'em out at the newly relocated Luna Lounge before the rest of the world catches on. Opening acts will be Ford & Fitzroy and Hayes Peebles.

7 pm at Luna Lounge (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg). \$8. For information visit [www.lunalounge.com](http://www.lunalounge.com).

Photo by  
David J. Phillip

**FRIDAY**  
February 16

### Going 'Def'

BAM's "Brooklyn Next" festival, which is billed as "a borough-wide celebration of Brooklyn's musical talent," kicks off with the first of two sets by Brooklyn Heights resident Mos Def.

8 pm at the Howard Gilman Opera House at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). \$20-\$40. For information call (718) 636-4100.

## THREE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

### SAT, FEB 10

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**MORNING BIRDING:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a walk around its Nature Trail. Learn about the birds of the salt marsh and see some of the winter migrants. 9 am. \$300 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**WALKING TOUR:** Urban Park Rangers explore Fort Greene Park. Learn about the park's history and the 148-foot tall Martyr's Monument. 1 pm. Fort Green Visitor Center. Enter park near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

**ANIMAL COURTSIDE:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a talk on how animals attract mates. Learn about firing pre-Valentine's Day. 1 pm. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**WALKING TOUR:** Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25. 2 pm to 5 pm. Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

#### PERFORMANCE

**MUSIC:** Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch presents The Ben Gooding Show featuring music of the Caribbean. Also, gospel, rhythm and blues, Broadway tunes and jazz. Noon to 1 pm. 200 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-7100. Free.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents an adaptation of the novel by Thomas Mann "Death in Venice." Artistic director John Neumeier presents a dance of death. \$20 to \$70. 7:30 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 50 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**BARGE-MUSIC:** Enhanced music concert with music by Beethoven, Gershwin, Wolf and Dvorak. \$40. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** presents a musical performance about a building which falls in love with a real estate developer. "Little Building" by Nick Jones. \$15. 7:30 pm. 70 N. Sixth St. (718) 384-4584.

**CONTEMPORARY MUSIC:** Conservatory of Music presents Omni Ensemble. Works by Bach, Copland, Faure, Messiaen and others. \$15. 8 pm. Students and seniors. 8 pm. Center for the Performing Arts at the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd. (718) 859-8649.

#### CHILDREN

**TEEN ART CONFERENCE:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange offers open to teen opportunities to teens who study and perform theater and dance. Workshops, performances, panel discussions and more. 9:30 am to 5 pm. PS 24, 127 58th St. Advance registration required. (718) 632-0018. Free.

**ART MAKING:** Brooklyn Museum hosts "Artzy Facts." Explore the galleries, enjoy a family activity and create art. Appropriate for ages four to seven. \$8 adults, free for kids 12 and under and members. 11 am to 2 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5000.

**MAGIC SHOW:** King Henry Entertainment performs. Appropriate for kids 5 to 12 years. 2 pm to 4 pm. New Utrecht Reformed Church, 8th Avenue at 84th Street. (718) 234-0678. Free.

**KIDS CAFE:** Dancewear's Kids Company performs. Festival celebrates salsa music and dance. Performances by over 200 kids from across NYC. \$20, \$12 kids. 3 pm. Long Island University's Kumbie Theatre, Delafalle and Flatbush avenues. (718) 522-4696.

#### OTHER

**POKEMON TOURNAMENT:** at Kings Games. Noon. 1485 East 15th St. [www.pokemon-tog.com](http://www.pokemon-tog.com).

**HUNTERFLY ROOST HOUSES:** Learn how Black people lived in the mid-1800s, early 1900s.

Photo by  
David J. Phillip

Art break: Matthew Johnson shows his latest works, including "I accept chaos, I am not sure whether it accepts me" (above), at Hogar Collection. The show opens Feb. 10.

and early 1930s with a guided tour of these historic houses. \$8. Free for residents of 11213 and 11233 with ID and children under 12. Noon. 1698 Bergen St. (718) 620-5400.

**TABLA RASA GALLERY:** hosts a discussion "What is Original Art?" Master printmaker Agnes Murry leads talk. 2:00 pm. 224 46th St. (718) 633-9700. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Senkarska Gallery of Contemporary Arts Art hosts an opening reception. 3 pm to 6 pm. 111 Front St. (718) 666-3600.

**BROOKLYN PRIDE:** hosts a bus trip to Atlantic City. Trip is co-sponsored by Ginger's Pub. Host of a happy hour. \$35. 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. Trip leaves at 5:00 pm. 363 Fifth Ave. (718) 670-3337.

**EXHIBIT:** Hogar Collection presents "All About Art," new paintings by Matthew Johnson. 4 pm to 5 pm. 111 Grand St. (718) 388-5022.

**BACHELOR AUCTION:** Xaverian High School hosts a Valentine dance and auction fundraiser. \$50 includes food and more. 7 pm to 11 pm. 7100 Shore Rd. (718) 836-1000, ext. 184.

**HOLIDAY PARTY:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a fundraiser to celebrate marriage. Singles, couples, LGBTQ, and straight folks are all welcome. Bring your tax, wedding dress or veil. Jacques Huguere

## CIVIC CALENDAR

### TUESDAY, FEB. 13

**72nd Precinct Community Council.** Regular meeting. Mariam Heim Center (4530 Fourth Ave. at 45th Street). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 965-6326 for information.

**Community Board 7.** Public hearing. On the agenda: liquor license application for Rose Quartz Lounge. Board offices (4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street). 6 pm. Call (718) 854-0003 for information.

**South Park Slope Community Group & Concerned Citizens of Green-Wood Heights.** On the agenda: Plan for supported housing at 575 Fifth Ave. Grand Prospect Hall (283 Prospect Ave. between Fourth and Fifth avenues). 7 pm. Call (718) 854-0003 for information.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

**Community Board 6.** Full board meeting. Long Island College Hospital, conference room A and B (1379 Hicks St. at Atlantic Avenue). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for information.

**Community Board 2.** Full board meeting. ARTV (138 South Oxford St. between Arthur Avenue and Hanson Place). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for information.

### THURSDAY, FEB. 15

**Community Board 7.** Public hearing. On the agenda: Plan for supported housing at 575 Fifth Ave. St. John's. Matthew Emmanuel Lutheran Church (283 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 854-0003 for information.

in concert. Also, music and dancing. \$20 donation plus any unused wedding gifts and/or food/beverages for the police/supper and auction. 7 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-0972.

**FILM SCREENING:** "An Evening of the World's Best Short Films," hosted by The Brooklyn Lyceum. Special guest is Adrian Grenier, star of HBO's "Entourage" series. He answers questions about "Euthanasia," his short film. \$12. 7:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. at President St. (718) 607-4616.

### SUN, FEB 11

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**ICE SKATING:** The William Rink is open. \$5, \$3 seniors and children. \$5.50 skate rental. 10 am to 1 pm. 2 pm to 6 pm. 7 pm to 10 pm. Prospect Park, access through the Parkside/Ocean Avenue entrance or the Lincoln Road/Ocean Avenue entrance. (718) 287-5252.

#### PERFORMANCE

**BCEB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College presents "On Broadway with Media Moore." \$15 to \$35. 2 pm. West Whitman Hall at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4800.

**BARGE-MUSIC:** Enhanced music concert with music by Beethoven, Gershwin, Wolf and Dvorak. \$40. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** "Little Building." 7:30 pm. See Feb. 10.

#### CHILDREN

**BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** hosts a family science workshop: "Luck of the Dragon." Kids are invited to celebrate Chinese New Year and discover the significance of the dragon in Chinese culture. Arts and crafts follow. Appropriate for ages five and older. \$4. Free for members. 1 pm to 3 pm. Also, tips to hip-hop dance show. 2:30 pm. 145 5th Ave. (718) 778-4800.

**KIDS KRAFTS:** Salt Marsh Nature Center invites kids to make something special for Valentine's Day. 1 pm. 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info.

**GROUNDHOG SERIES:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents a series for family audiences. Today: "The Other Side of This Life," featuring hip-hop Nicolas Flair. \$10, \$8 kids 12 and under. 7 pm. 4211 B'way. (718) 622-0018.

**KIDS CAFE:** Dancewear's Kids Company performs. Festival celebrates salsa music and dance. Performances by over 200 kids from across NYC. \$20, \$12 kids. 3 pm. Long Island University's Kumbie Theatre, Delafalle and Flatbush avenues. (718) 522-4696.

#### OTHER

**BUDDHIST MEDITATION CLASSES:** Today's topic: "How to Solve our Human Problems with the Power of Mind." \$10. 10 am to 11:15 am. Vajradharma Meditation Center, 380 44th St. (718) 638-5114.

**SUNDAY PAPERWORK:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts its annual poetry publication. Members and friends read personal, favorite and international poetry. 11 am. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-0972. Free.

**CRAFT WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Artists Gym offers a crafts class on Pottery and lift transfers. \$40. 2 pm to 5 pm. 168 Seventh St. (718) 558-9600.

**MOVIE:** Union Temple presents "Women of the Wall." Award-winning documentary follows struggle of a women's prayer group for the right to pray at the Western Wall. 3:00 pm. Discussion with filmmaker Faye Lederman.

See 9 DAYS on page 11

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Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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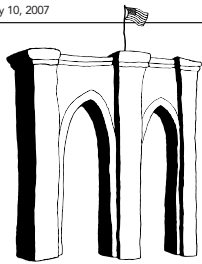
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# THE STROOM

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

## Whose D'town is it anyway?

**BLACK FACTS** was the canary in the coalmine. The popular black bookstore — a mainstay in Downtown Brooklyn and a haven for readers put off by all the best-sellers and mass-market fiction at the local chain store nearby — closed last month.

And Diamond Girl on Fulton Street couldn't keep up with the rent hikes and competition from Zales on the nearby Fulton Mall. Mom-and-pop businesses — most of them built from nothing — are blinking out of existence faster than Christmas tree lights on the friz.

In most of America, these store owners would be called "the embodiment of the American Dream." In Downtown Brooklyn, they're called "in the way."

Does anyone doubt that Downtown Brooklyn — where mountaintop condominium towers and hotels are going up two and three at a time — will soon be nothing but Middle-American chain stores?

There's no longer any room for anything quirky and different Downtown. We're trying to force our neighborhoods into a mold of what we think "successful" looks like.

The face of Downtown Brooklyn is changing. It's overdue, perhaps, but the people who made the area vibrant and lively are being tossed out with the evening's trash.

Small-business owners in Downtown Brooklyn are terrified by what they're seeing all around them — big-time developers swooping in, buying the buildings their storefronts are in and kicking them (and their dreams) out.

The City Council unanimously rezoned Downtown Brooklyn in 2004 to bring in high-rise office towers and sleek new residences.

It's happening already. So congratulations to our esteemed councilmembers. But in a severe case of shortsightedness, the rezoning is killing the small businesses that already existed in the area. Now, the buildings on the side streets — Lawrence, Willoughby, Duffield — are being bought up one by one and torn down to make way for something "better."

Some betters are more equal than others.

Several buildings on Lawrence Street — housing a wig shop, a nail salon and an art gallery — have already been bought by developer Gregg Wolpert, who plans to demolish them as early as June. He paid an astounding \$11 million for the three one-floor buildings. (Then again, not so astounding: Wolpert wasn't buying the decrepit little buildings; he was buying the scores of floors he could build on top of them.)

Joyce Kiehm's wig shop has been on Lawrence Street since 1986. She emigrated here from Korea, started her own business and played by all the rules.

"I don't know what's going to happen to me," said Kiehm, who has two years left on a lease that most experts say will never be renewed, even if she could afford the inevitable rent hike.

And it's not just Lawrence Street that's changing.

"This whole neighborhood is changing. [The developers] are focusing more on people with money," Kiehm said. "I'm not too small a fish compared to them."

"I'm not counted as part of the community anymore," she added. And that's probably what hurts most.

Sandy Boodran is also feeling the pain. The owner of Justin's Island Cuisine across the street from Kiehm, Boodran is rapidly losing business.

As much as change can be good sometimes, Boodran knows that what's happening to Downtown Brooklyn isn't good for her.

"Everyday it's a different story," she says. "I'm just trying to hang on."

So Downtown may get a new office tower with an Au Bon Pain in the lobby. But where will real people get their current goat or their wigs?

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

The **Toastmasters**, an organization that promotes speaking and leadership skills, is now accepting members from Downtown's Long Island University. So if you need to learn to make toasts, or like to eat toast, give them a call. ... The West African band, **Kekonde**, will be playing on Feb. 10 at 9 pm at 227 Duffield St. — one of the displaced Underground Railroad houses — to raise awareness (and maybe some money). Suggested donations are \$8. ... **Rep. Ed Towns** (D-Brooklyn Heights) is demanding potty parity for women. Towns wants a law to increase the number of women's bathrooms in public places like sports arenas and theaters so women can drink as much as they want and never miss a big play because of bathroom lines. ... **Kevin Powell**, who tried to beat Towns last year, had a party for himself at LLU's Kumbhe Theater on Monday to celebrate 20 years as a poet, journalist and "hip-hop historian." We hope more people showed up at the celebration than voted for him.

**Talk to us. Write: Shop@BrooklynPaper.com.**

### HEIGHTS LOWDOWN

Christie Rizk

## Brit: Save Duffield houses

By Josh Saul  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three houses on Duffield Street — which some believe were stations on the Underground Railroad — should be spared the wrecking ball even if they're not historically significant because they provide a living reminder of the slavery still with us today, a British labor leader said on Monday.

Bill Adams of the British Trades Union Congress, toured 227 Duffield St., whose owner believes it was a station on the fa-

mous fugitive slave route, but is nonetheless slated to be torn down for an underground parking lot.

"We still have people making starvation wages, from Eastern Europeans making [\$25] a week to women being trafficked and re-trafficked," said Adams. "The legacy of slavery is still with us today."

And that, Adams said, makes the Duffield Street houses relevant today. In England, he said, they could only be torn down after "an official inquiry."

Adams toured the house with its owner,

Joy Chatel, who showed off a bricked-over portion of the basement wall that she believes was once a passageway between homes.

Chatel says her house, and the others, are historically important and should be protected, but the consulting company hired by the city could not find a link between the Duffield houses and the Underground Railroad.

The houses are in an area that had been rezoned to encourage high-rise construction and could be seized by the state's power of eminent domain.

## Shots at Citibank on Montague

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Police rushed into a Montague Street bank on Monday and shot a beserk bandit who tried to rob the security-glass-protected branch with a knife.

The alleged robber, 27-year-old Andy Wilson of Brownsville, walked into the Citibank branch near the corner of Clinton Street, waited in line and then brandished a 12-inch knife at the teller, who was protected behind the bullet-proof glass.

Khamis Elsayed, a popular coffee vendor on the street who had come into the bank to make change, was standing behind Wilson, and saw him reach for the knife.

"I saw him looking back and forth and up and down. It was very strange," Elsayed said. "Then I saw a knife in his right hand. He started lifting it up, and that's when I ran."

Wilson demanded money and went berserk when the teller re-



Police leave the Citibank at 181 Montague St., where a man allegedly armed with a knife was shot by officers Monday morning.

fused to comply, cops said. She hit the silent alarm instead as Wilson screamed, "Give me the money!" and banged repeatedly on her protective shield.

Within minutes, cops in helmets and flak jackets had stormed the building, briefly giving Montague Street the look of a siege.

When Wilson lunged at the cops, one of the officers shot him in the stomach, bringing down the dazed man with one round.

"The cops pointed their guns," said witness Ronald Pritchard, who added that the officers did their best to talk Wilson down before shooting him.

"He didn't drop it, [so] they shot him and kicked the knife away."

Wilson was handcuffed, strapped to a wheelchair and then taken to Lutheran Hospital, where he is expected to make a full recovery.

He is in stable condition and has been charged with robbery, criminal possession of a weapon, menacing, and criminal mischief.

## DUMBO painting the town Dewar's

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Dewar's whiskey is about as hip as your old grandad's Old Grandd. So why is the whiskey advertising in DUMBO — the land of the hip and cool?

Residents of the land down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass looked up at the side of 67 Jay St. last week and found an old-style painted advertisement on the building instead of the usual gray brick.

The ad — which features a gentleman in a waistcoat and spats bent over a pool table — is part of an ad campaign by Dewar's to attract a younger clientele.

"They're definitely looking to change their image and reach the hipster crowd," said Adrian Moeller, president of Colossal Media, the Brooklyn-based company that put up the ad in one day last week.

"They've got some other [ads] up in Williamsburg and the Lower East Side — wherever the hip crowd hangs out."

Colossal didn't design the ads — those were provided by Dewar's and designed by well-known Brooklyn artist Shepard Fairey — but this kind of old-fashioned painted ad is the kind of thing Colossal specializes in.

And in a day and age when everything old is new again, they also decided to give the ad an aged look. The ads will stay up from a month to a year, depending on how long Dewar's wants to extend its contract with Colossal.

But Moeller thinks they'll be up for a long time. "Dewar's loves the ads," he said.

So do some passers-by.

"They're good because they're not run of the mill," said Jim Sweeney. "They have a nice, handmade look, which is perfect for this kind of neighborhood."



A hand-painted ad for Dewar's whiskey showed up one day over 67 Jay St. in DUMBO.

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# THE STOOP

CARROLL GARDENS—COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL  
RED HOOK

## Guru espresses coffee disgust

DON'T let the foam fool you.

After a thorough canvass of Red Hook, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill's best-loved coffee shops, one of the nation's top-ranked baristas—yes, coffee preparation is a ranked field—has determined that South Brooklyn is drowning in milky waves of improperly prepared cappuccino.

"These guys are just going through the motions," said Nick Cho, winner of this year's Southeast Regional Barista Championship, and guru of a nascent movement that aims to treat lattes like fine wines, with sommeliers, sniff-tests and an appreciation for how the brew was made.

Cho, who will compete in the Barista Nationals this spring, was in Brooklyn as a demitasse doyen, here to teach the art of espresso-making and, in his off-hours, educate me to the potential for greatness in the muck 'n' slush morning, noon and, occasionally, night. And educate he did.

I have always regarded the saggy, white crest atop a cappuccino somewhat warily, a creamy, but ultimately costly signature of the caffeine-gluttony that has marked my transition into the cubicle-land of adulthood.

At worst, the foam was a bothersome white wall between my lips and the precious, dark caffeine floating murky below.

Apparently, my experience is a familiar one known by industry insiders as the "seafoam problem."

"When the milk is over-steamed, the bubbles get too big and dry up," Cho explained. "It's become a standard in American cappuccino."

Baked, in Red Hook, was Cho's ground zero for the current movement in the beverage's consumption—the second wave.

"This is coffee for enjoyment's sake, but nobody is paying enough attention," he said, noting the way the barista's eyes wandered away from the steamer even as the milk reached its critical boiling point.

Roaming eyes aside, the sleek bakery ranked number one among the coffee-selling establishments open on a Sunday afternoon in the BoCoCa-Hook java-triangle, beating out Naidie's, the Coffee Den, Bococas Cafe, and Georgia's Place, which boasted a sweet, but undeniably watery, cino.

(The grandfather of South Brooklyn java, D'Amico's, is closed on the seventh day, so Cho couldn't render his verdict.)

The perfect cappuccino, according to Cho, can't be found in South Brooklyn, and, in fact, is only for sale at perhaps three establishments in the entire city of New York.

Cafe Grumpy in Greenpoint is the only such place in Brooklyn.

The problem with most places, he told me, often begins with premature percolation.

"The espresso shouldn't be shooting out in six seconds," Cho hissed as we stood, his stopwatch ticking, at the counter in The Coffee Den on Union Street. And of course, there is the foam issue.

"If the milk is steamed properly," he said, "the bubbles are very small and the milk is liquid and silky. You should be able to sip a cappuccino without a spoon."

Another issue is size, he said.

"A piece of sushi shouldn't be a foot long and a cappuccino shouldn't be 16 ounces," Cho said, noting that any place that serves the Italian brew in multiple sizes, whether they are called "large," "big," or the less-pretentious "grande," should be regarded with suspicion.

But who can put an issue of the paper to bed with a single-shot cappuccino? Obviously, Cho is living in a dream world.

—*with Dana Rubinstein*

### BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen

## 'Traffic Stopper' slows Red Hookers on Van Brunt

By Chris Curen

For The Brooklyn Paper

In a creative attempt to combat Red Hook's mushrooming traffic problems, a seven-foot-tall, self-proclaimed "Traffic Stopper" was covertly installed in the intersection of Van Brunt and Dikeman streets early Saturday.

Speculation is rife as to the identity of the artist, but the intention of the sculpture seems clear.

"They wanted to test the authorities and see if they were even paying attention," said Audrey Reynolds, who lives in an apartment that overlooks the intersection.

"Traffic has become so bad here, and nobody pays attention. They wanted to see if anybody would even bother to take it away."

The cynicism was ill-founded.

The sculpture was erected somewhere around 3 am on Saturday, and police and the Department of Sanitation managed to remove the cider-block structure by 3 pm, allowing Fairway shoppers to browse for prosciutto and figs without further delay.

But there was a message to the guerrilla artist's madness.

Traffic on Van Brunt has increased dramatically since the Fairway supermarket opened in March. In July, the death of a pedestrian at Walcott and Van Brunt—one block from the sculpture and directly in front of a local public school—led to a series of neighborhood protests.

Recently, a Department of Transportation study recommended a stop light for Sullivan and Van Brunt streets. But while the city moves slowly towards installation, accidents on the 15-block Van Brunt straightaway occur regularly.

And with further development coming, many residents feel that things will only get worse.

"The traffic is terrible and it needs to be addressed," said Stephen Merola, who came across the sculpture while getting his morning coffee.

He said the recent installation of "No standing zones" near key intersections has helped, "but you still see accidents every week and near accidents almost daily. It wasn't like this even a year ago."

When asked about the effectiveness of the sculpture, Merola smiled. "It would have slowed me down," he said.

A source who knows the artist said he is planning future installations. But a police spokesman said that those artworks would have as short a run as the "Traffic Stopper."

"It was an illegal structure, and it had to be removed," the spokesman said.

—*with Dana Rubinstein*



This traffic-calming device showed up on Sunday along busy Van Brunt Street in Red Hook.

## Unmasked! Boerum Hill woman builds a garage

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

You can hide your car in a garage, but you can't hide your garage in your house.

It's a simple lesson that Boerum Hill resident Myrte Moshulu has learned the hard way—with three orders from the city to stop building, one mysterious incident of vandalism and plenty of angry stares from neighbors now that she's removed the construction fence that had long shrouded her undercover garage.

"I always knew the garage was in there behind the fences," said neighbor Grant Pezeshtski, "but when I finally saw it, I was bothered."

And he wasn't the only one.

Garages with curb cuts and curb cuts mean the loss of a valuable parking space for all the other drivers who don't have their own lot.

"The competition for parking is more and more acute on a daily basis and the more curb cuts there are,

the harder it gets," said Jo Anne Simon, a Democratic district leader and Boerum Hill resident.

"So, it's not about someone else having a parking space and not us, but the larger combination of issues. The garage is illegal and you are taking away legal spaces to put it there."

The neighbors aren't the only people complaining about the cut, and the short driveway leading to Moshulu's secret garage. The Department of Buildings hit her with a violation, citing the zoning code that forbids curb cuts on properties its size.

Moshulu did not return phone calls from The Brooklyn Paper.

Buildings officials said this week that she remains in violation of code and has "10 days to provide the Department with plans to bring the property into compliance with the zoning regulations."

"Violations will continue to be issued until they comply," said Kate Linguist, a DOB spokesperson.

Stay tuned.



A townhouse owner added a driveway—and a curb cut—to a home at 578 Pacific St. in Boerum Hill.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

K-9 crackdown: City health inspectors have hit Red Hook's Coffee Den with a big bone of a ticket for allowing pets inside the cozy cafe.

With you like your local java-slinger, don't bring your pooch to meet her, lest she get a ticket. —*Smith and Vine*

opened this month one block south of its old location, at 268 Smith St., after its ex-landlord refused to offer a secure lease. The upshot is the new location—formerly the South Brooklyn Local Development Corporation—is bigger and simply "better."

Vine sommelier Patrick Watson told the Stoop, Good news for SBLDC staffers, though: the agency is keeping a small office in the rear of the wine tasting bar. —*Rise up singing: A new gospel chorus, the Gowanus Chorus, is looking for singers. Wanna join? Call Dave Hall at (718) 260-9308.*

... Update on the lonely cat story: Two weeks ago, we reported that a lonely black cat is living in the former video store at 145 Union St. because the owner's wife, who lives upstairs, is allergic. If you're a cat lover who wants to adopt this mouser, call (646) 279-7399.

Talk to us. Write: Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com.

Photo by Andrew Rosen for The Brooklyn Paper.

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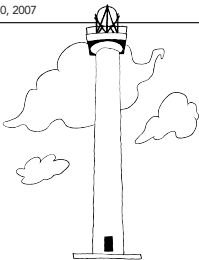
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# THE Stoop

## FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

## Class struggles in Fort Greene

**S**AY goodbye to Fort Greene and Clinton Hill as you know them. The neighborhoods are fast transforming from middle-class enclaves to upper-class naves.

Just look at the listings if you don't believe me. A quick Internet search reveals that Corcoran is hawking a townhouse on Washington Avenue for \$3.4 million, and Aguiro and Huebner is selling a Washington Park brownstone for \$3.8 million.

The average single-family home in Community Board 2, which encompasses Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Boerum Hill, and Brooklyn Heights, sold for \$1.75 million in 2005, according to NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy.

No one is calling for the return of Murder Avenue and boarded-up brownstones, but come on! Must Fort Greene become the milieu of the super-rich? (Look at me, I'm even using the word milieu!) This may sound provincial, or just plain naïve — but I'll just put it out there: economic integration is a good thing.

Where I grew up, in an old industrial town outside of New York City, our next-door neighbors ran a gas station. Down the street lived a Lays potato chip deliveryman, who gave out snack-sized bags of salty goodness every Halloween. We had our white-collar sorts, too — a couple of doctors, an engineer. And, of course, like any city, we had our millionaire's row — Bray Farm Lane, a 10-minute drive away. (Rumor had it that if you trick-or-treated there, the homeowners gave out \$1 bills).

As an adult, I'd take Fort Greene over the town of my youth any day, but for a child, economic diversity is especially crucial — it helped me understand that not everyone can afford tennis camp and trips to Spain.

But you don't have to take my word for it. I'm backed up by academics, even!

"It's beneficial for children to see and interact with many different types of people, to enrich their understanding of the world," said Ingrid Gould Ellen, co-director of New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy.

Then there's the issue of equity.

"If we're skeptical that we'll be able to achieve separate-but-equal communities, then that's one reason to support integration," said Ellen.

And we all know what a debacle "separate-but-equal" was. (See Brown v. the Board of Education or modern-day housing projects.) Fortunately, Fort Greene and Clinton Hill real estate isn't being left entirely to brokers.

Deborah Howard and the crew she heads up at the Pratt Area Community Council routinely sell affordable housing.

But in a true reflection of just how expensive the neighborhood has become, even some of PACC's below-market-rate houses are, well, pricey.

PACC recently announced nine new "affordable homes" for sale in Clinton Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant — ranging in price from \$415,000 for a single-family home to \$653,000 for a two-family home.

These are one- to three-family homes, and way below market rate.

Even so — hot damn!

"The [prices] are higher than other home ownership opportunities we have coming down the line," Howard admitted. "All we can try to do is to create as many affordable housing opportunities as we can."

And, to their credit, they are doing what they can.

Among the 72 new home ownership opportunities slated to go on the market in future months, at least four will sell for \$25,000 each.

Now that's affordable housing.

Let's hope some of the middle- and working-class manage to stick around that long. The neighborhood won't be the same without them.

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

If you graduated from **Bishop McDonnell Memorial HS** in 1930 (and want to impress your classmates with what you've done over the last 76 years), your moment has arrived: the long-defunct Prospect Heights parochial school will hold an alumni reunion at Fort Greene's **Bishop Loughlin Memorial High** on Mar. 31 for classes from the 1930s, as well as every five years from 1942-1972. For information, call Janet Griffin at (718) 857-2700 x2251.

Present-day high-schoolers from **Benjamin Bonner Academy** are raising money for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (**ACORN**) in New Orleans. To contribute, call Terry Samuel at (718) 797-3702 x412, or send tax-deductible checks to her attention at Benjamin Bonner Academy, 77 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205.

The **Myrtle Avenue BID** revealed that a six-story, 52-unit building called "The Clermont" will rise on Myrtle and Clermont avenues. The jury's still out on how much the units will cost.

Talk to us. Write: [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).

### GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein



Riders are perplexed by the stink in the G-train station at Fulton Street in Fort Greene.

## Stinking Ft. Greene subway

By Michael Giardina

The Brooklyn Paper

It's the underpass that smells like underpants.

The Fulton Street subway stop on the G line in Fort Greene is the site of a smelly mystery. An unknown stench fills the underpass connecting Brooklyn-bound trains to Queens-bound trains — but it's unclear where the smell is coming from because the

underpass is actually clean and well maintained.

"It made me want to throw up," said Rashell Jenkins, "It's disgusting, it smells like a bathroom."

"It smells like urine in an open space," added Joshua Fried of Williamsburg. "I think it's refrigerated and that affects the smell."

"It smells like that everyday," added

Charlie M. of Queens, who rides the line each day.

"It smells like a dead body, that's exactly what a dead body smells like," added another rider, who did not want to give her name.

MTA New York City Transit did not return our call about the abominable underpass, but the agency's Web site says it is putting aside billions to restore and improve the entire system.

Can they afford a little Mr. Clean?

## Roadhogs! State officials agree to stop stealing parking spaces



Despite the sign, cars of officials regularly park all day at the intersection of Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street.

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

State officials have agreed to stop hogging scarce parking spaces in Fort Greene — but only after The Stoop started asking too many questions.

In recent years, state bureaucrats equipped with city parking permits have plopped their cars down all day long in Fort Greene parking spots, at the expense of area residents and small businesses —

despite the permits' three-hour time limits and the presence of 12 nearby subway lines and the Long Island Railroad.

Equally irksome, the city Department of Transportation — the same agency that issued the permits to the government workers — recently

equipped many of those parking spots with meters, ostensibly to increase turnover and boost patronage of local businesses.

After The Stoop asked about the misuse of permits by Department of Taxation and Finance workers at three

spots along Lafayette Avenue at Fort Greene Place, the agency, whose offices are a block away on Hanson Place, promised that its employees' behavior would improve.

"We spoke with the employees of that office [and] I don't think there'll be any more issues," said Michael Bucca, a Finance spokesman.

Area residents were hopeful that the bureaucrats' behavior would improve.

"We have to at least give them a chance," said Fredrik Anderson, vice chair of the Fort Greene Association, which has campaigned hard for better parking practices by government employees.

"Perhaps a new page has turned."

While their future parking habits remain in question, one thing remains certain — parking in Fort Greene is an issue.

"The meters initially did open up space so people could get in an out of stores," said Selma Jackson, who runs 4W Circle on Fulton Street. "But it's still tight."

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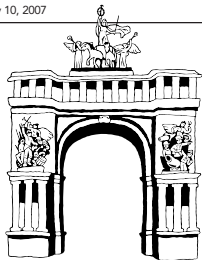
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# THE Stoop

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK  
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## The Ghosts of John Jay

A BRUSCHETTA Pizza-Pasta restaurant on Seventh Avenue hung an odd sign on the door the other day: "No students allowed on the premises between 11 am and 5 pm on school days."

No students allowed? At a pizzeria across the street from a school packed with their best customers: teenagers?

The owner told me she is willing to give up those student customers — students from the three schools that now inhabit the John Jay HS building — because they're kind, vulgar and not big spenders (one kid buys a slice while his 10 pals hang out).

John Jay HS is gone — replaced by the Secondary School for Law, the Secondary School for Research and the Secondary School for Journalism — but as the pizzeria's sign shows, the notoriously bad school's stigma still casts a shadow over Seventh Avenue. The neighborhood's sentiment toward the school and the students — you are not part of our neighborhood — remains.

Certainly, those students are not Park Slope residents; at dismissal time, they don't melt into the surrounding blocks, but flow like a river to the subway, where they are met by police officers posted there to keep the peace.

Park Slope has been waiting for the schools in the building to improve. Law, Journalism and Research are failing to draw in local teens.

The schools are slowly improving, and at least one of the three has been getting better reviews from parents, staff and the school-watching website, [www.insideschools.org](http://www.insideschools.org). But better is not good enough. And so the Park Slope kids go to other schools that have solid tests scores and more appealing programs.

It might help to take out programs that are downright unappealing. The program that tips the scales in the "I'm-not-sending-my-kid-there" direction is the Region 8 Suspension Center for high school students. Suspension Centers are run like regular schools, with required classes and certified teachers, but the student body comprises kids who have not merely moulted off or littered, but done something serious enough to warrant a removal from their high school.

Besides that, the Department of Education should work on its PR. John Jay is like a tree falling in an otherwise empty forest: If a good thing happens inside the building, but no one in the outside community is told about it, did it really happen?

Last week, students at the School for Research had an opening for a photo-essay exhibition that was terrific. The students studied the gentrification of Park Slope and the development of Coney Island and the Atlantic Yards. They took photos, interviewed residents and community leaders, and reached their own conclusions about the impact of change on the neighborhoods. The work that the kids did — and its quality — was inspiring.

The show needs to be hung in a local coffee shop, or in the lobby of PS 321, so that parents there can see that there is good work being done behind the closed doors of the hulking building.

The goal, of course, is for John Jay to become an educational center that works for the people who live near it, rather than a dumping ground for the system's worst students with only pockets of high-quality education.

If Park Slope is ever going to embrace the school, the school needs to embrace Park Slope — but it also needs to demonstrate that it offers an alternative to Stuyvesant or Brooklyn Tech, where so many Park Slope parents send their public school kids, despite the distance.

Once that happens, the attitude that the school is not serving our neighborhood will change, and the sign in the pizza parlor will surely come down.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Did you go to St. Saviour Elementary School 50 years ago? The school is throwing a fundraiser on March 9 at the Grand Prospect Hall to honor students who remember when the new school was built on Eighth Avenue. Tickets are \$100. But seeing people you haven't seen in half-a-century? Priceless. ... The Third

See SINK 4

PS ...  
I LOVE YOU



Nico Lalli



The city wants to turn this parking lot on Fifth Avenue and 16th Street into a 50-unit building for formerly homeless men. Locals want affordable housing for families.

## Homeless housing plan stirs 'affordable' rift on 16th St.

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Paper

A fight is brewing in Park Slope pitting city housing officials who want to build low-income studio apartments for formerly homeless people against residents who believe bigger, family-friendly units would better serve the community.

The city Department of Housing Preservation and Development wants to build 48

to 50 studio apartments at 575 Fifth Ave. — currently a municipal parking lot at 16th Street.

Neighbors have other designs on the site. "I don't see how the current plan could be positive for the community," said John Burns, a member of the newly formed South Park Slope Community Group.

Sixty percent of the housing would go to formerly homeless single adults, while the rest of the units would go to adults earning

less than \$29,000 a year.

"There is a huge need for affordable housing in Park Slope," said HPD spokesman Neil Coleman, "and that's what we're trying to provide."

But Burns and others are worried about the possibility of mentally disabled individuals moving in, though Coleman said those residents would be well cared for.

"It's supportive housing," he said, adding

See HOUSING on page 4

## Glass is fully empty at 'Half'



By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Paper

Apparently, the perfect Prospect Heights dream of one ambitious couple wasn't all they imagined.

The popular wine bar, Half, on Vanderbilt Avenue near Prospect Place, has been closed for months, but now there's a sign on the outside saying that the shop — rock, stock, and plenty of barrels — is up for grabs.

"Wine bar for sale," it reads, ruefully.

Running such a gin joint might just well be every Yippee's dream. And for just \$100,000 and a monthly rent of \$2,600, it could become every Yippee's nightmare — just like it became for Patty and Max Jerome.

"It just proved to be too much for them, with everything else going on in their lives," explained Steve Commander, a leader in the local merchant's association who owns a flower and gift shop, the Forest Floor, across the avenue.

The Jeromes still live nearby, but they did not return calls for comment.

Like many Brooklyn entrepreneurs, the Jeromes crafted their business as a place they would like to hang out themselves, Commander said.

For a while, the place was exactly that. The Jeromes even ran a special, "Tots and Tonic," that brought in some moms groups in the late afternoons.

But like so many things, the dream didn't live up to reality. Patty Jerome had a baby, Max Jerome pursued art projects, and eventually the bar closed.

Whoever buys the location doesn't have to keep it as a wine bar, of course, but the neighborhood is hoping to lure another young professional with big dreams who will keep the vino flowing.

"Lots of people are hoping a wine bar opens up again," said Jan McGill, one of the owners of Fermented Grapes, a two-year-old retail wine shop across the street.

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# Call cut short on Montague

By Lilo H. Stainton

The Brooklyn Paper  
One second, she's a normal teen, chatting on the phone at a busy corner.

The next she's a 14-year-old crime victim.

That was the case for one Brooklyn Heights girl on Jan. 31. Police said the teen was walking along Montague Street, near Court Street, around 7 pm, when the thief rushed up behind her. He grabbed her arm and insisted, "Give me the f—ing phone," then snatched the cell and bolted.

### Stroller bowler

A robber knocked down a little girl when he robbed her mother of cash, a passport and other documents on Flushing Avenue on Jan. 30, police said.

The brute attacked the 33-year-old woman just before 3 pm, as she pushed her daughter in a stroller near Fulton Street. The thief rushed up, toppled the buggy, grabbed the woman's bag and disappeared.

The stolen goods include the victim's Mexican passport, Social Security card, the daughter's birth certificate, work papers, a cellphone and \$900.

The girl was OK, cops said.

### Quick change

Even the dreaded parking ticket would have been a better deal.

A 60-year-old woman discovered that awful truth on Jan. 30 when someone swiped her car while she walked down Schermerhorn Street seeking change for the meter, police said.

The victim admitted she left her 1999 Toyota running — and unlocked — when she went looking for quarters, just before 11 am. When she returned, her green Corolla was gone.

### Subway series

The Hoyt Schermerhorn spree began with a 4 a.m. robbery on Jan. 31. A 13-year-old boy was attacked by a posse of five guys as he waited for a Smith Street-bound G train. One man started with a question, "What do you have in your pockets?" and then grabbed the boy's hands from his jeans to steal the video iPod he was concealing.

The next day, a 31-year-old man was robbed while waiting for a Manhattan-bound A train at the same station at around 5 am. A stranger approached, punched him in the face and tried to take his laptop, then threw the man onto the train tracks, police said. The victim was not seriously injured, and 84th Precinct Police Officer James Yard arrested a 40-year-old suspect.

Cops also nabbed the thug who tried to stab his baby's mother as she waited for an A train around 2 am on Feb. 2. The woman wasn't seriously hurt, and the 22-year-old knife man was cuffed on assault charges. There were also two unrelated attacks in the Pacific Street station, at Fourth Avenue. On Feb. 1, around 4 pm, police captured a creep who allegedly fondled a 16-year-old girl's breast on a

## POLICE BLOTTER

### Manhattan-bound N train

The girl's 17-year-old brother tried to make the thug stop, but the brute slapped the boy, too. The 23-year-old faces multiple assault charges, since he also attacked the arresting officer, cops said.

Two days later, at 5 am, four quartet of brutes attacked a man on a city-bound N train at Pacific Street. The victim was taken to Long Island College Hospital.

### Clermont crisis

The three-block stretch of Clermont Avenue from Dekalb to Park avenues was the scene of at least three assaults last week, police said. Police arrested five thieves in one of the attacks and cuffed a hammer-wielding assailant a few days later.

On Jan. 31, a quintet of brutes ranging in age from 17 to 33 surrounded a 16-year-old near Myrtle Avenue, punched him and slashed him above the left eye with a razor blade. The victim went to Brooklyn Hospital and thanks to Police Officer Mervin Bautista, the assaults went to jail.

Two days later, someone stole \$9,000 in camera equipment, plus other valuables, from a New Jersey man who was walking along Dekalb Avenue, near Clermont Avenue, around 11:20 pm.

The victim wasn't hurt, but his losses included a Canon camera, an 85-mm lens, a camera mount and other equipment, plus an Apple computer and a design-

er suitcase filled with \$500 in clothing.

And on Feb. 4, a dispute between two 40-something men ended with a bloody wound for one man and criminal charges for the other. The 2:15 am dispute, on Clermont Avenue near Park Avenue, but the violence escalated when one man pulled out a hammer. The thug beat his 48-year-old victim so badly, the man needed stitches. But Police Officer Richard Holland arrived in time to hand the assailant and the hammer — into the 88th Precinct stationhouse.

### Putnam nab

Police caught two of three thieves who allegedly swiped a cache of valuables from a Putnam Avenue: a DVD player, a pair of white sneakers, two blankets and a Spiderman doll.

The trio broke into the house, near Irving Place, around 1:20 am. The 32-year-old resident heard the ruckus and when she looked outside, and, moments later, she saw two men and a woman walk out of her door and disappear down the street.

One intruder is still at large, but police found two others and collected the stolen goods. The 44-year-old man and 24-year-old woman now face multiple burglary charges.

### Gun heist

A man lost his laptop, passport and other valuables when a robber attacked him on Classon Avenue Jan. 29, police said.

The 31-year-old victim was walking near Greene Avenue, just before 8 pm, when he noticed a man walking slowly ahead of him. After he passed the stranger, the slow walker grabbed the man from behind, held him in a headlock and showed off a silver handgun.

"Give me what you've got," the thug insisted. The victim turned over his bag, the brute punched him in the nose and ran off.

### Checked out

When the bill came, it also revealed the theft.

A man's wallet was swiped from the pocket of his hanging jacket as he dined at Dekalb Avenue on Jan. 27, police said.

The 36-year-old victim had just finished his meal at the African-themed eatery, off Carlton Avenue, around 8:30 pm. But when he reached for his billfold, he realized his pocket had been picked. The wallet held \$35, his Green Card and various charge cards. Thief also managed to ring up \$12 on one credit card before the victim could call the company and cancel the account.

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a handful of powerful developer/owners lobbied against designation. (As you would expect, they oppose anything that might restrain their freedom to extract the maximum profit.) So now the Landmarks Commission needs to hear from property owners who want designation. That's you.

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## Saint aflame

Some children might secretly love to set their schools on fire, but when it actually happens, it's more scary than funny. That's what the students at St. Charles Borromeo in Brooklyn Heights found out on Tuesday when they arrived at school to find it being consumed by flames. The small electrical fire apparently started in the basement and was put out by firemen in less than 30 minutes, fire officials said. The school will be closed for several days.

—Christie Rick

## Museum finds really old thing in Egypt

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn-Museum-led archaeological excavation in Egypt unearthed a more than 2,000-year-old gilded artifact that the country's minister of culture deemed "a significant find" last week.

The extravagant relief, or lintel — discovered in early January at the museum's ongoing ex-

avation at the Temple Precinct of the Goddess Mut at South Karnak — is believed to have crowned the doorway of a religious structure.

"Some of the significance of the lintel is the quality of its carving and its gilding," said archaeologist Richard Fazzini, who has run the excavation since its inception more than 20 years ago.

The 43-inch relief depicts a

sun disk from which hang two uraeus-cobras — representations of the protective goddesses of Upper and Lower Egypt — and a series of child-deities squatting atop lotus blossoms rising from water.

Facing these deities are two goddesses standing behind an altar-shaped table piled with food.

One goddess is a female Bes-image, with her hands in a gesture of adoration, the other a crowned, pregnant hippopotamus with a crocodile on her back and holding a hieroglyph for "protection."

In ancient Egyptian iconography, the pregnant hippopotamus represents motherhood.

The lintel was transported to the Luxor Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art, where it will receive its final cleaning and conservation and where it will be placed on display.



This ancient Egyptian lintel was found last month in Egypt by archaeologists from our own Brooklyn Museum.

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# Car thefts sweep the Slope

The Brooklyn Paper

At least seven cars and vans — and one Bobcat construction tractor — were swiped off Park Slope streets last week, including two trucks taken

from the same U-haul lot.

The theft of the two U-haul vans still has cops stumped. On Jan. 29, at around 7 p.m., a worker was doing inventory when he discovered that one van was missing.

While he was trying to figure out what was going on, an unidentified driver fired up the ignition on a second van and drove off. The keys had been left in both Ford vans, which is standard practice at the lot, which is on

Fourth Avenue at Sixth Street. Police said one of the vans was later recovered, but one is still out there hugging someone's stuff.

In other thefts:

• On Jan. 30, the driver of an airport service van left the vehicle idling in front of a building on Second Avenue, near Fifth Street. She told cops she went into the building for only a minute or so at around 11 a.m., but returned to find only exhaust fumes where the 1997 Ford van had been.

• A 72-year-old woman who parked her 1995 Honda Civic near her apartment on Carroll Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, on Jan. 23 told cops that when she went back to the car a few days later, it was gone.

• Another woman, 37, had her 2000 Honda Civic stolen from in front of a building on Fourth

Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues. She told cops that she parked the car on Jan. 26 at around 11 a.m., only to find it gone when she returned to the spot six days later.

• A 36-year-old woman parked and locked her 1995 Acura on Fourth Avenue at 11th Street on Jan. 26. When she returned, it was gone.

• The Bobcat was stolen on Jan. 26 at around 7 a.m. from the corner of Seventh Street and Seventh Avenue, cops said. A construction worker had parked the \$20,000 machine near the corner, but minutes later, it was gone.

• An upstate man had his 2003 Mitsubishi stolen from in front of a building on Union Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, on Jan. 23.

— Kuntzman

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# Mid-day boxcutter slash on Ninth St.

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three gang members slashed a 44-year-old man standing on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street on Feb. 1, causing severe lacerations, but earning two of the gang-bangers a trip to the police.

The Prospect Park West man told cops that three men surrounded him at around 2:40 p.m. and didn't say anything before one of the men pulled out a boxcutter and started the attack.

Police quickly arrested two men, one age 30, the other 22. Both live in the same building at 939 68th St., and were charged with numerous crimes stemming from the assault, plus one count each of "gang assault" in the first degree.

The third gang member is being sought.

## Perp got \$20

A burglar did a lot of work to earn himself a mere \$20 in an early morning break-in on Feb. 1. At around 2:30 a.m., the thief tore off a mailbox on the outer wall of a boutique on Seventh Avenue between 14th and 15th streets, and then broke through the wall, cops said.

Once inside, he took \$20 and then left the way he came in.

## It was close

Two thugs demanded money from a 40-year-old woman, but when she ran away, they fled in the opposite direction.

## POLICE BLOTTER

The woman had been walking near the corner of Park Place and Sixth Avenue on Feb. 1 at around 1 p.m. when two would-be robbers set upon her.

"Give me your wallet," one of the men said. When the woman turned around, the other perp repeated the demand.

But the woman did not comply with either request, and high-tailed it back to her apartment nearby. When she got to the door and had a chance to catch her breath, she noticed that the thugs had not followed her.

## Heavy metal

Here's another reason to ban aluminum bats: One was used last week to assault a man inside his 14th Street apartment.

Two people were arrested after allegedly beating up a 40-year-old man inside the flat, which is near Fourth Avenue, on Feb. 4 at around noon.

It was unclear what sparked the dispute, but the victim told

cops that the two people — a 19-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman — beat him with the bat, which was recovered at the scene.

Both assailants were charged with assault.

## Off-track beating

Perhaps the OTB slogan should be "Beat with your head, not over it."

Two employees of the OTB parlor on Fifth Avenue, which is near 11th Street, got into a fight that left one at the doctor and the other in police sights.

The argument began shortly after noon on Feb. 3. It escalated to the point where one of the women kicked a chair at her foe, who was struck in the chest. The chair-kicker, 21, then slapped her 42-year-old foe in the face, earning a slap back, cops said.

Later, the victim complained of pain and took herself to the doctor. Police say they know the identity of the assailant.

# FDNY to 11th St: Enough already

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

FDNY officials told residents of 11th Street, where a third firetruck will soon join two already housed on the block, that the agency is doing its best to ensure that the block can live with the new guests — even to the point of jeopardizing area response times.

Residents of the firehouse block — between Seventh and Eighth avenues — came to last week's Park Slope Civic Council meeting to protest the relocation of Engine 239 to 11th Street, which is already home to Engine 220 and Ladder 122.

But FDNY officials kept their cool under fire from a barrage of questions, calmly explaining that the agency had already made significant concessions to make the process as painless as possible.

"We usually house visiting apparatus in a cage on the front of the firehouse," explained FDNY spokesman Paul Geoghegan. "This time we're going to piggyback two of the trucks inside the firehouse so that one is in front of the other."

Geoghegan admitted that this concession to the neighbors might lengthen the companies' response times if one truck has to wait for another truck to be moved. "It's going to make things complicated for us, but we're going to do it," he said.

The move is set to happen in six to eight weeks and will last 12 to 15 months.

Residents complained that the third truck would add noise and endanger the safety of the children. Some even asked for firefighters to refrain from blowing their sirens when on the block.

Geoghegan explained that the sirens, while annoying to the neighbors, are a safety feature that saves lives.

"We've tried having [firemen] come off the truck to direct traffic," said Geoghegan, "and I can't tell you how many guys have gotten hit by cars that way."

Many 11th Street residents remained skeptical, but Geoghegan promised to keep the lines of communication open.

"Moving companies like this is never pleasant for anyone," he said, explaining that the firemen don't enjoy the changes either.

"It's like having your in-laws stay with you. But we're trying to make things as convenient as possible for everyone."

# HOUSING...

Continued from page 3

that the residents would have counseling and other help.

"We're not just going to dump them there and let them fend for themselves," he said.

Burns's group has not developed its own proposal, but says it wants family-sized units. But Burns said he and his fellow residents would listen to HPD's proposal at a series of community meetings in the coming weeks before making up their mind.

"I just hope it's a civilized debate," he said.

The South Park Slope Community Group & Concerned Citizens of Green Wood Heights will meet to discuss the proposal on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at Grand Prospect Hall (263 Prospect Ave. at Fifth Avenue). Call (718) 854-0003 for information. Community Board 7 will also have a public hearing on Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John-St. Matthew Emmanuel Lutheran Church (263 Prospect Ave. between Fifth and Sixth avenues). Call (718) 854-0003 for information.

# SINK...

Continued from page 3

**Street playground** in Prospect Park will be closing this spring for restorations. Finally, the city has released \$500,000 so the **Prospect Park Alliance** can fix to the water drainage issues that turn the park into a lake.

The **Park Slope Civic Council** is looking for a web designer. If you think you're qualified (or to find out what the qualifications are), give them a call. ... The **Montauk Club** has elected an historian **David Carter** to its board of directors. And he started off with a Truman Capote reading. Capote initiator Philip Seymour Hoffman didn't attend, but Carter served notice that the storied old club was again open for business. ... **Grand Army Plaza** will soon be all aglow. The state has allocated \$500,000 to complete improvements to the historic lighting around the area. ... Run into our pal, **Councilman Bill DeBlasio**, again at the **Tea Lounge** on Seventh Avenue. He rebuffed our suggestion that he can't wait until Hillary Clinton becomes president so he can become a big mucky-muck in DC. Almost on cue, a constituent came over and said, "We need Bill fighting for us here."

Apparently, she forgot about term limits!

Talk to us. Write: [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com).

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# Weird case of test-drive bandits

By Matthew Lysiak  
and Michael Giardina  
The Brooklyn Paper

## 68th Precinct

A woman who allowed two mechanics to take her car for a test drive got taken for a ride herself when the car disappeared.

The 27-year-old parked her 1994 Nissan Altima dark green sedan in front of the repair shop on 65th Street near 13th Avenue on Feb. 2 at 5:30 and gave the mechanics permission to take the vehicle for a test drive.

But when she went back the next day, the car was gone. The mechanic told cops that he saw the vehicle still parked when he left the premises at 5:30 pm. The

owner reported being in possession of both sets of keys.

So someone stole the vehicle. Cops are looking into it.

## Home invasion

An elderly woman was hit with a bat after a verbal confrontation. A 78-year-old lady was talking to her daughter in front of her Orvington Avenue home when an intruder came over and started arguing with her.

The argument got heated and the intruder, who was described as a 44-year-old white woman, pulled out a wooden bat and hit the old lady on the side, causing minor bruising to her arm.

## Pipe Attack

A man was beaten with a pipe by intruders who entered his West 10th Street home on Feb. 2.

The 16-year-old victim was inside the home, which is near Avenue P at 8 pm when three men came through the front doors and began arguing with him.

The discussion turned violent, with the assailants landing several blows to the victim's head with a metal pipe.

The victim told cops that one of the perps, known as "Blade," promised to return to "inflict more pain" on the victim, before fleeing on foot.

## Designer heist

A man who left the door of his truck unlocked returned to find his fancy wardrobe missing.

The bandit entered the 56-year-old victim's truck, which had been parked in front of a building on 76th Street between 11th and 12th avenues, at around

9 am on Feb. 2.

He helped himself to 40 designer shirts valued at \$700, five suits valued at \$775, two "Bill Blass" raincoats valued at \$132, and two "Ralph Lauren" sport coats valued at \$200 before fleeing.

## 62nd Precinct

## Bus stop burg

Two women waiting for the bus on Bay Ridge Parkway were robbed at gunpoint on Feb. 3.

At around 11 pm, the women were waiting at the bus stop, which is near 20th Avenue, when a thug came up from behind them.

In a jittery voice, he said, "I ain't going back! If you turn around, I'll kill you." He demanded their purses and the women complied, police said.

The thief took \$230, their cellphones, and credit and debit cards, and fled down Bay Ridge Parkway.

## Homecoming

A man returned home on Jan. 31 to find his apartment had been robbed.

The victim returned at around 11 am to find his rear door broken and his home, on Bay Ridge Avenue near 19th Avenue, ransacked.

The thief was long gone with \$1,000, police said.

## D-way dispute

An 81-year-old woman was thrown to the floor and robbed in her own driveway on Jan. 30.

The woman was walking down her driveway, which is on 62nd Street near Bay Parkway, at

around 7 pm when a thug came up from behind her and shoved her to the ground.

In the scuffle, the thief snatched her purse, police said.

He fled with \$300, and credit and debit cards.

## Catch car thief

A Bensonhurst woman helped catch a thief who robbed her pocketbook from her car on Feb. 2. The woman had left her car parked near her home on 20th and Bay Ridge avenues. She told police she went upstairs and returned to her car, only to find the thief rummaging through her things.

He stole her purse and fled on foot, but the victim chased after him, allowing her to later make a positive ID.

The thug caused more than \$250 in damage to her car window. Her purse was recovered in the garbage.

## Workout rob

Another gym rat has been robbed, this time the Shore Parkway member lost more than just sweat during his workout.

The robbery occurred at the sports club, which is near Cropsey Avenue on Jan. 30 at around 6 pm. The man locked up all his possessions within the locker, and went off to exert some excess energy on the weight machines. He returned to find his wallet that contained his credit cards, and other electronics missing, police said.

The thief fled unnoticed, leaving many gym members in danger of shedding more than just some unwanted pounds during their next workout.

# No Wal-mart at D'town site sold for \$125M

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

The site of a Downtown Brooklyn mall that was reportedly eyed by Wal-Mart was sold this week — and the new owner says that the behemoth of Bentonville is not moving in.

Acadia Realty Trust and its development partner Paul Travis bought the aging Gallery at Fulton Mall from Thor Equities for a reported \$125 million last week — and promptly told Wal-Mart opponents not to worry about seeing the chain's yellow happy face on their property.

Rather, the partnership intends to demolish the home of Toys "R" Us, Forever 21, and a number of smaller retailers to make room for a 1.8-million-square-foot office, residential and retail tower called "The Center at Albee Square."

Thor Equities paid just \$25 million for the site in 2001.

"We received a letter from the developer this afternoon saying that he is not putting a Wal-Mart at the site," Pat Parcell, an organizer of Wal-Mart Free NYC, told The Brooklyn Paper on Wednesday.

Parcell, who is also a spokesman for the union that represents city grocery workers, said he hoped the developer would be willing to talk about including affordable housing in the tower.

"He was very open-minded about what should be there," Parcell said. "The fact that Wal-Mart isn't coming is a victory for us and the developer has already said that he will have a meeting to discuss other issues."

A separate group of activists was planning to storm a public hearing on Thursday, when the city's Industrial Development Agency was set to consider developer Travis's request for \$1.7 million in tax breaks.

"It is surreal that the city is considering giving this developer a tax break when you have people right here needing homes," said Beverly Corbin, a Downtown Brooklyn resident and board member of Families United for Racial and Economic Equality.

In the application for the subsidy, the developer estimated that the offices would accommodate 500 "tenant jobs" and generate nearly \$13 million in direct and indirect city tax revenue.

The one-time exemption is routinely awarded to companies who build offices in areas that the city wants to maintain, or strengthen, business districts.

Crain's New York Business reported the Gallery's sale on Tuesday.

The high-rise plans for Albee Square — a bridge between Fulton Mall and Fort Greene — are certainly no surprise, given that the city unzoned the area in 2004 to encourage just such development.

So far, the unzoning has failed to attract the office tenants and commercial developers the city had hoped — leading fiscal watchdogs to worry that tax breaks will be demanded every time a developer proposes building offices in Downtown Brooklyn.

These critics say that the city should not be handing out tax breaks to developers who are already taking advantage of the unzoning, which freed developers to build as high as 400 feet — and include profitable residential development in areas traditionally reserved only for offices.

"The city has created a situation where developers can build very profitable residential towers," said Dan Steinberg, a spokesman for Good Jobs New York. "And so it must use incentives to get the offices and jobs that taxpayers were promised would come with the Downtown Brooklyn Plan."

Janel Patterson, a spokeswoman for the city's Economic Development Corporation, defended the incentive as a necessary aid for developers who are building costly office space for tenants that they do not yet know exist.

"The incentives being requested minimize the developer's exposure to financial risk for developing commercial space prior to securing tenant lease," said Patterson.

The Gallery was previously owned by Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner, who sold it to Joe Sitt's Thor Equities after it failed to attract enough high-dollar tenants.

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## COMPLETE ATLANTIC YARDS COVERAGE — ONLY IN THE BROOKLYN PAPER

## Barclays letter to The Paper

February 1, 2007

Mr. Gersh Kuntzman  
Ms. Ariella Cohen  
Ms. Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper  
55 Washington Street, Suite 624  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Re: Barclays Center

We refer to your recent articles on Forest City Ratner's partnership with Barclays Bank, including, "Black Leaders to Brace: Pay Us Back" issued on January 27, 2007 and "Blood Money: Nets arena to be named after bank founded on slave money" issued on January 20, 2007 pursuant to which you made certain allegations regarding the history of Barclays. We take these allegations very seriously. As a good neighbor and corporate citizen, we pay close attention to the concerns of any community in which we have a presence; however we also defend our reputation vigorously against allegations that are simply untrue or that are misleading.

We have looked into your allegation that Barclays was founded on the proceeds of the slave trade by Quaker slave traders in the West Indies. This is simply not true.

A handful of internet sites and newspaper articles have mistakenly claimed that Barclays Bank was founded by

"Quaker slave traders" Alexander and David Barclay. These allegations appear to have originated in a book published in 1944 entitled "Capitalism and Slavery." The book makes serious, unsupported and mistaken allegations about Barclays. As a preliminary point, our research shows that Alexander Barclay was never a partner, employee or agent of the bank and the "David Barclay" referred to in this book also had no connection with our Bank.

Barclays was actually founded by John Freame and Thomas Gould in 1694 and later took its name from Freame's son-in-law, James Barclay. The David Barclay who was a partner in our Bank (and different to the David Barclay mentioned above) was not "engaged in the slave trade." To the contrary, "our" David Barclay formed a committee of London Quakers to oppose the slave trade, and later became involved with the committee in taking the Quaker anti-slave trade message nationwide within the United Kingdom. David Barclay's position on slavery is shown in the instance, when, after calling in a debt in Jamaica, he became owner of a farm which had, included in its operations, 32 slaves. After trying unsuccessfully to free the slaves in Jamaica, David Barclay made arrangements for them to travel to Philadelphia where they were free.

Slavery was a heinous period in the history of both the United States and the United Kingdom, and indeed the whole world. We condemn it and are firm in our belief that the partnership bank on which we were founded did not profit from the slave trade or slavery.

We have also investigated your claims that Barclays was a principal funder and ally of the apartheid regime in South Africa. Perhaps the best response is to note that Barclays conduct within South Africa has been endorsed by the current President Thabo Mbeki and our commitment to Africa has been recognized by former President Nelson Mandela. While it is true that Barclays was among many firms engaged in business with the South African government throughout the twentieth century, we divested from the country in 1986 (eight years before the end of apartheid) and our divestiture sparked further withdrawals from the country. Barclays re-entered the South African economy in 1995 and in 2004, Barclays became the lead corporate sponsor of the Mandela Trust and Legacy Organizations. In 2005, when Barclays acquired a majority stake in ABSA, South Africa's largest customer bank, former African National Congress (ANC) leader, including current President Thabo Mbeki, Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel and Tito Mboweni, Governor of the South African Reserve Bank, all supported the purchase.

Barclays is a respondent in a class action for reparations arising from our time in South Africa pre 1986. The claims against us and the other defendants are presently dismissed. This decision has been appealed and the appeal was heard by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals on 24 January 2006. A decision on the appeal is imminent. Barclays (and the other defendants) defend the claim is supported by the Governments of the United Kingdom, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Finally, we have examined your statement that we seized millions of dollars of savings of Holocaust survivors during World War II, and paid \$3.6 million to settle with these survivors decades later. This issue arose in the context of a class action lawsuit brought against Barclays and other banks operating in France at the time with plaintiffs seeking to claim money deposited in those banks by European Jews before and after World War II. During the Second World War, Barclays in France was classified as an "Enemy Bank" by the occupying forces and was administered, without assistance from us, by German Army Controllers. On the basis of our investigation of our operations in France during the war, we found no examples of Barclays doing anything other than what was required under then applicable laws, and in fact, we found numerous in-

stances in which Barclays assisted Jewish depositors after the occupation in obtaining full restitution. Nonetheless, we were the first bank to settle the lawsuit.

I hope this clarifies the issues you've raised. If you would like further historical background regarding Barclays, I recommend the text written by Margaret Ackrill and Leslie Hannah entitled "Barclays: The Business of Banking 1690-1996" published in 2001 by Cambridge University Press.

As an institution which takes its reputation very seriously and which prides itself on its tradition of involvement in local communities, the statements you have made are very troubling. Now that you have factually correct information, we ask that you immediately retract and cease making any further misrepresentations of this sort, including as appropriate, by removing the same from any websites under your control. We look forward to working with you to improve the Brooklyn community in which we all will live and work together.

Very truly yours,  
**Peter Truell,**  
Head of Corporate Communications  
for the Americas, Barclays Capital  
cc: Jonathan Hughes, Global General Counsel, Barclays Capital  
Ed Waisbuch, Publisher,  
The Brooklyn Paper

## BARCLAYS...

Continued from page 1

Truell sent an excerpt in which Brown discusses how David Barclay became a prominent abolitionist after amassing his wealth by trading with slaveholders.

"The wealthy Quaker merchant David Barclay led a delegation of Friends (Quakers) to the Board of Trade in the spring of 1773 in a behind-closed-doors attempt to win a favorable certificate for colonial anti-slavery petitions."

While the bank went to great lengths to show that David Barclay was indeed an abolitionist — there seems to be no historical doubt about that — Truell offered no evidence to contradict Brown's and Williams' findings that Barclay's initial wealth derived from doing business with slave traders.

Although Barclays is one of the world's largest financial institutions, it has a limited presence in the United States and is using the naming-rights deal as a prominent new basketball arena to introduce itself to American customers.

When that introduction got muddled by coverage of the bank's dispute, the bank fought back to, to Truell put it, "defend our reputation vigorously against allegations that are simply untrue or that are misleading."

But local scribbles were not surprised by Barclays' approach.

"It's clear what they're doing," said one journalist (not at The Brooklyn Paper) who is familiar with the coverage of Barclays' slavery link and has seen the bank's subsequent letter.

"They're trying to make a big splash in America, so they want to nip this kind of coverage in the bud. Basically, they're trying to scare reporters off the story."

Meanwhile, black leaders — including Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush), the Rev. Clinton Miller of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church, and Councilman Charles Barron (D-East New York) — continue to call for the termination of the naming-rights agreement — and not just because of the bank's links to slavery.

"Barclays is a 400-year-old, \$2-trillion, multinational financial empire that has been linked to Nazi Germany, apartheid in South Africa and the transatlantic slave trade," said Clarke, an outspoken supporter of the Atlantic Yards project.

Clarke is just the latest black leader — many of them Ratner supporters, as well — to condemn the naming-rights deal.

Rev. Daughtry, for example, said he found the naming-rights agreement "outraging."

But Barclays remained adamant: "The letter stands," said Truell.

## Paper editor replies to letter from Barclays Capital

The Brooklyn Paper

Barclays has requested a retraction from this newspaper (and others) for stories about the bank's link to slavery and other dark moments in human history (read the letter from Barclays spokesman Peter Truell above).

But we are not retracting our stories. Indeed, further research on our part confirmed the central truth of our coverage: Barclays profited handsomely from slavery and its business dealings with the Apartheid government of South Africa.

That said, we do need to correct a glaring error in our original story ("Blood Money," Jan. 20). That story quoted Jessie Campbell, a senior archivist for the company, who had written a letter to the Guardian, a respected British daily.

We acquired Campbell's letter through a normal search of Factiva, a Dow Jones news database. But due to a formatting error on that database, Campbell's letter had been grafted onto another letter describing Barclays' involvement in the slave trade.

That letter was written by John You-

att Dunning, not Campbell. Campbell's actual letter can be seen at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/kenedy/0,253161,00.html>.

We failed to see that the letters had become one — and we greatly regret that error.

Getting the facts right is a central tenet of journalism and the foundation of the work we do here at The Brooklyn Paper. When Barclays' link to slavery was mentioned to us by critics of the Atlantic Yards project, we didn't merely print the trades of participants, but rolled up our sleeves and checked it out with academics and historians.

We do not "make stuff up," as some critics contend. We report what credible experts say.

Several books and accounts referred to Barclays' involvement in the slave trade in the 18th century, but none was more definitive than Eric Williams' "Slavery & Capitalism," which was first published in 1944, and was re-issued, with a new forward by Princeton University professor Colin P. Pringle, in 1994.

Williams, who was prime minister of Trinidad from 1961-1981, was a respected scholar and historian of the slave trade. Throughout academia, there are countless citations to his book and its paradigm-shifting thesis that the Industrial Revolution was built on the backs of slaves.

Williams's thesis "has been challenged, but never convincingly," the Guardian reported last year.

On page 101, Williams's book states: "For London only one name need be mentioned, when that name is Barclay. Two members of this Quaker family, David and Alexander, were engaged in the slave trade in 1756. David began his career in American and West Indian commerce and became one of the most influential merchants of his day. He was not merely a slave trader but actually owned a great plantation in Jamaica. ... The Barclays married into the banking families of Gurney and Freame, like so many other intermarriages into other branches of industry which kept Quaker wealth in Quaker hands."

Elsewhere, the book states:

"In 1756, there were 84 Quakers listed as members of the company trading to Africa, among them the Barclays and Baring families. Slave dealing was one of the most lucrative investments of English as of American Quakers. ... The Quaker opposition to the slave trade came first and largely not from England but from America."

When we published our stories, we had no reason to believe that any serious scholar disputed key parts of Williams's seminal work. And Barclays didn't call us back to challenge our belief.

Now, Barclays' Truell asserts that Williams's book "makes serious, unsupported and mistaken allegations about Barclays." — most importantly that Alexander Barclay "was never a partner, employee or agent of the bank" and that the "David Barclay" referred to in this book also had no connection with our bank.

But a noted Rutgers University historian, Christopher Leslie Brown, flat out disputed Truell's letter (see lead

story, page 1). He said it is impossible to deny that Barclays profited from slavery.

Even the book that Truell referred us to — Margaret Ackrill and Leslie Hannah's "Barclays: The Business of Banking 1690-1996" — makes one historical fact quite clear: Barclays "held the accounts of slaves and slave-owners."

This is not the debate we wanted to have, but it is the debate that Barclays has foisted upon us by sending a letter that tried to absolve itself from what historians say is a clear link to the so-called "peculiar institution" of slavery.

We would much rather be analyzing the flaws of the Ratner project — the public subsidies that will allow the developer untold profits with very little risk, the huge environmental toll, the steamrolling of the established public review process — than debating the causes and villains of the horrific crime of human bondage.

Besides, our news stories about Barclays were not an examination of whether the bank had profited from

slavery — all banks did, so to pretend otherwise is silly. Rather, our initial article — and its follow-up, "Black leaders rip Ratner's \$400M Barclays arena deal" — centered on the outrage that black leaders like Councilwoman Letitia James, Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, former Assemblyman Roger Green, and some church pastors — felt after hearing about the Ratner-Barclays contract.

We did not manufacture their outrage; we reported it, leaving our readers to decide for themselves if the bank's past bothered them.

It certainly bothered people long before we covered the story. As Councilman Charles Barron (D-East New York) told the New York Sun, "Whether The Brooklyn Paper had highlighted the link to slavery or not, many of us involved in the reparations movement were aware of Barclays for a long time."

A lot of confusion might have been avoided had Barclays' officials been open with us earlier. We reached out to the company the day of the official

naming-rights announcement, but two calls to England were not returned.

Then, at the naming-rights press conference, when our reporter Ariella Cohen asked Barclays President Robert Diamond about his company's link to slavery, Mayor Bloomberg interceded and did not allow Diamond to address the very serious substance of Cohen's question. The mayor, instead, substituted his own agenda, praising Barclays as a "great corporation."

We have no doubt that Barclays is that, but the mayor obstructed our reporter's effort to get to the bottom of the bank's murky past.

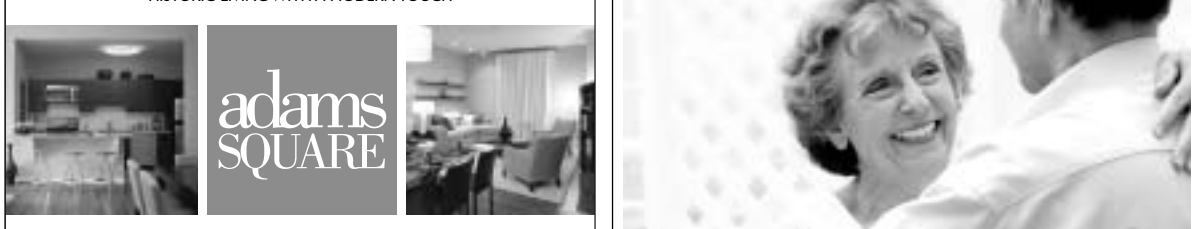
Truell's letter also took exception to our reference to the bank's long-documented link to South Africa's apartheid government, and its role in freezing the accounts of some French Jews during the Holocaust.

But the letter did not substantively dispute the accuracy of our coverage so we stand by those parts of our stories, as well.

Gersh Kuntzman, Editor,  
The Brooklyn Paper

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## LETTERS

# Barclays deal is wrong for lots of reasons

To the editor,

Many Brooklynites have condemned the \$400-million Barclays naming-rights deal for the proposed Nets arena. Even among supporters of the controversial Atlantic Yards development, this deal has caused anguish due to Barclays' historical links to slavery and apartheid, among other past horrors.

Though these arguments are factually accurate, a sounder — though less-sensational — argument against the deal is this: using the arena to advertise this bank is contrary to the economic reality of most Brooklynites. Ordinary folk simply have no reason to care about Barclays' boast that in 2006, it was named "Inflation Derivatives house of the year, Commodity Derivatives house of the year, and Currency Derivatives house of the year by Risk magazine." Say what?

Forest City Ratner garnered support of many low-income African-Americans for its mega-development by promising jobs and housing. Yet by selling the naming rights to a foreign investment bank with wary U.S. consumer brands, FCR has shown its true colors.

Suddenly, the project is revealed to be less about the poor kids who will grow up in its shadow (literally), and much more about unfathomably rich investors.

Decades ago, New York turned its back on industry in favor of real estate and finance. But the benefits of this shift are far from apparent in Brooklyn: despite generous incentives meant to keep it here, Pfizer just announced

the closure of its historic Marcy Avenue plant.

A stable job, with the hope of advancement, was once within reach for kids growing up in nearby housing projects. Not so anymore.

Who decided to shutter this plant, like so many others that offered livable wages to blue-collar workers across the city? Precisely the corporate financial managers Barclays hopes to impress with its Barclays Center.

Had authentic, honest dialogue about the goals of this project occurred, we might not be learning at this late date that Brooklyn's road to jobs and housing passes through London's financial district.

Stuart Schrader, *Project Heights*  
The writer is the producer of the "Picketing Henry Ford" blog at [www.startschneider.com/blog](http://www.startschneider.com/blog)

## Call him PR Vito

To the editor,

I am perpetually amazed at how political hacks like Rep. Vito Fossella, an admitted thief who stole money for his personal pleasures, can get re-elected. Fossella runs around with his music-stand podium, constantly taking credit for all the hard work that has been done by either the community board, local citizens or other elected officials.

He has developed a talent for being the Johnny-come-lately, who is there generating his personal public relations.

Community Board 10 fought for years to get the walkway along Shore Road repaired. When the asphalt finally collapsed, and the

Corps of Engineers made repairs, they had to call him because he did not know anything about it, but he showed up to take all of the credit for getting work done.

He managed to put \$7 million into a budget in Washington to help repair the 86th Street subway (which really needs over \$44 million), but forgot to mention that the money is six years away from coming.

Now that the Owl's Head sewage treatment plant has become a pressing issue, he commands the city Department of Environmental Protection in the process, even though it is failing to act timely or properly regarding the massive problems in and around the plant.

It is about time that the citizens and voters in Bay Ridge wake up to what is going

on. We only have to suffer another two years at most, unless Washington goes after him over the money he stole. His ethics are the opposite of mine: they stink.

Allen Bortnick, Bay Ridge  
The writer is a member of Community Board 10

## Help that man!

To the editor,

The grandkids who are trying to kick out Dominick Diomede ("94-years-old and homeless," Jan. 13) are heartless!

They're jerks and I hope NO ONE rents the apartment after they kick out Dominick. It would serve them right to have that apart-

ment sit empty forever.

Renee Papp, Dallas Texas

## NoGo mojo

To the editor,

I read Dana Rubinstein's recent article "Slime fighters: Spiffed-up Gowanus is closer to reality" (Jan. 27) with interest. As a long-time resident of the area of North Gowanus, I was surprised that she didn't use the more commonly used term "NoGo," which has become somewhat of a standard among my neighbors.

We feel it's the type of name, unlike Boerum Hill, that subtly resists gentrification.

Michael Freedman, Gowanus

# Miss America column: Our nation speaks

Last week's Brooklyn Angle column about Miss America ("Snubbed! Miss New York loses big crown again") prompted an avalanche of letters from readers throughout the nation (who read the column at [BrooklynPaper.com](http://BrooklynPaper.com)) condemning the columnist, Gersh Kuntzman, for his misplaced Brooklyn pride. Since Kuntzman has had his say, we felt obligated to allow readers to have their say about whether Miss New York (the pride of Bay Ridge, Bethlene Pancoast, far right) or Miss Oklahoma (Lauren Nelson, near right) deserved the top tiara.

## Smokin' hot!

To the editor,

If the girl you chose as Miss New York is the best that y'all can do, just give it up. Miss Oklahoma is smokin' hot and would still be hot no matter where she was from.

I love New York, and I know that there are tons of women way better than the one chosen to represent your state this year. Oh, well, maybe next year...

A.J. Lawler, town withhold, California

## Lone Star lover

To the editor,

I am a native and former New Yorker who now lives in Texas and love it here in the Lone Star State. I am sure your comments about the Oklahomans were in jest, but it sounds like what I remember of New York whining that I do not miss at all. In Texas, we have Oklahomans to kick around and it is fun, just like I used to laugh at New Jersey jokes when I lived in New York.

But your writings are idiotic. As far as hairstyles go, even a native Texan bleached blond stereotypical hairstyle does not compare to the God-awful Brooklyn hair-styles I have seen. Do you really want to see

Brooklyn hairstyles on the stage? I hope not.

You sure seem to think you are better than other people in the way you write. Take off your rose-colored glasses. I could go on and on about your slanted article, but I think I am just going to stop reading anything written by a bunch of flake pseudo-intellectuals from New York.

I love New York, except for the people. Marc (last name withheld), Texas

## Ask a boy

To the editor,

You might ask the Boy Next Door which woman he prefers. My guess is that you are the only one who has no clue. Perhaps it was the hair under the arm?

PS: I see the parade of beauties on Waikiki beach daily, so maybe I have sharper senses.

PPS: Why's a guy named Gersh writing about girls anyway? You should be covering the valetroom grooms or the police blotter.

Bill Maxwell, Honolulu, Hawaii

## Stop whining

To the editor,

Good God, Kuntzman! Your column read more like a bitchfest than an editorial. I wholly support territorial pride and whatnot, but please, New York is not the greatest state, and the city is certainly not the greatest city.

Furthermore, from a completely superficial standpoint, Miss Oklahoma looks a lot cuter and a lot less anorexic than Miss New York.

You treated the other states in an unfair fashion. In beauty contests, the winner is rarely chosen on where they are from, but on how they look in a bikini and how much they want world peace.

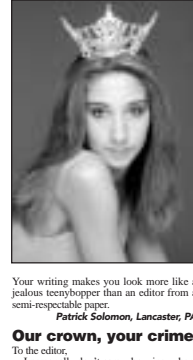
Mocking my home state of Pennsylvania, alongside Oklahoma and Nebraska, is quite



insulting as well. My apologies, sir, but New York City has nothing on Philadelphia, and it never will.

As a newspaper editor from such a "progressive" city as New York, you should be writing columns about how the whole spectacle (of beauty pageants) is a black mark on American culture. One would think that you would be writing columns on how we should be ashamed of encourage such superficial behavior.

But, alas, you wrote a whiny editorial.



Your writing makes you look more like a jealous teenybopper than an editor from a semi-respectable paper.

Patrick Solomon, Lancaster, PA

## Our crown, your crime

To the editor,

I personally don't care who wins, where they are from or what talent they might have. I do care about how you have just bashed the state of Oklahoma.

I did a job in Brooklyn back in the late 1980s, building the Manhattan King Seafood plant. I was amazed that the top of all apartment complexes I saw were fenced in. I also noticed that every window had steel bars covering them, protecting from unwanted intrusions.

The jobsite I was at featured almost a nightly routine of being broken into by the

locals in search of anything of value. I lost \$12,000 because of that particular contract.

Brooklyn has been my worst experience in my life for visiting any American city. I had hired some help out of Harlem, and would pick them up, and take them home. I never had any problems while in Harlem.

I do enjoy reading your columns, but feel you took a cheap shot at Oklahoma's expense. I would suggest that one get his own house clean before trashing another in the future.

Craig Carpenter, Oologah, OK  
Editor's note: Crime in Brooklyn is down dramatically from the 1980s, though, clearly, America's opinion of the place has not kept pace.

## I'm rich, you're not!

To the editor,

I think you're overestimating the importance of New York. The truth of it is, we're just not that impressed. I love to travel, visit places, see things, but for a place to live, I'll take Louisville any day. The lack of traffic and smog, real estate within two percent of actual market value, and the ability to see stars at night make for a great place to live.

There is no part of the city that I am scared to drive in, at any time of night. I live on five beautiful acres, have a 2,500-square-foot home with an in-ground pool, and a three-car garage.

What's more, I don't need a [working] wife or significant other to afford this lifestyle. To afford this in New York would require a ridiculous income, as there were a five-acre tract of green space in New York anyway.

The real reason that Pancoast didn't win, is most likely her nose, the first thing I noticed about her. Facial proportions are a major part of beauty, and when the proboscis in question stretches for half the face, it's very likely that people will not find her attractive.

Daniel Shwerdt, Louisville, Kentucky



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February 10, 2007

# Dirty words

Former online sexpert Grant Stoddard recalls his checkered past

By Sarah McCormick  
for The Brooklyn Paper

**O**f all the bars that Grant Stoddard has been to, he remembers only a handful. Rosemary's Greenpoint Tavern, the divey haunt on Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, is one of them.

No sooner had the former sex columnist for Nerve.com sat down with his oversized Styrofoam cup of beer than a regular perched at the bar spotted him.

"Hey! You're that guy! Do you still do all that weird sex s—t?" Stoddard grinned, looking slightly embarrassed, and replied, "It's funny you mention it, that's actually why I'm here."

After spending three years at Nerve, which has been publishing personals and porn since 1997, Stoddard has written a memoir, "Working Stiff: The Misadventures of an Accidental Sexpert," spilling the beans about his time as a professional stud.

Despite the sometimes-shocking "sex-plots" outlined in his book, Stoddard claims to be a hopeless romantic. He moved to the United States from his native England in 1998 to chase a Jersey girl who had stolen his heart.

When things ended badly, Stoddard picked up the pieces and brought them to Brooklyn, moving to Kensington briefly before settling down in Williamsburg. The living situation was far from ideal.

"It made my hatred of hippies much more acute," he said, citing an unfortunate situation where "an acid dropout girl stole our flat mate's laptop for money to follow Plush on tour."

Barely able to make ends meet, Stoddard worked shrink-wrapping CDs in a warehouse. "I spent most of my time appreciating the art of loafing," he said, recalling the drudgery. "I structured my days around how to accomplish doing absolutely nothing."

After a few months kicking around, Stoddard learned that he was facing deportation. To earn a work visa, he entered a trivia contest on Nerve with questions such as "What is the one area that engorges with blood other than the genitals during sexual arousal?" (Answer? The nose!) He ended up getting lucky. Literally.

As winner of the contest, he was awarded the grand prize: one passionate night



Roman hands: Former Nerve.com columnist Grant Stoddard gets grabby with GO Brooklyn's Sarah McCormick outside of Rosemary's Greenpoint Tavern in Williamsburg.

with a married Nerve columnist. "I guess I didn't do too badly," he said, because with a good word from her at Nerve, he scored again — landing a paid internship with the site.

Stoddard began writing comical columns with titles like "I Did It For Science," and made a name for himself by doing absolutely anything to get his next story.

"Like most writers, I procrastinated," Stoddard told us. "While I was living in Williamsburg, I was given an assignment to take five drugs, on five separate occasions and have sex under the influence. Of course, I put it off until the last weekend and ingested all five in a 36-hour period. I could still perform, but I was a mess. I had a boner that wouldn't go away for days."

## BOOKS

"Working Stiff: The Misadventures of an Accidental Sexpert," is available at Barnes & Noble (237 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope), Vox Pop (1022 Cortelyou Rd. at Coney Island Avenue in Flatbush) and Balducci's Books (242 Prospect Park West at Windsor Place in Windsor Terrace).

For other stories, he had sex on the subway, played bridge in the nude, attended an S&M retreat in West Virginia as an undercover sadomasochist, and took part in a number of out-there orgies, including one celeb-filled romp at the Chelsea Hotel.

Ever the gentleman, he declined name names. It isn't surprising that Stoddard became a bit of a workaholic. In fact, one evening he decided to bring a girlfriend to an after-work event. Fearing that the details of their destination would scare her off, he decided to refer to the upcoming orgy as "raunchy party," and hope for the best.

While he was standing across the room at the buffet table, munching on corn chips, a quick glance across the room revealed something unexpected. His formerly buttoned-up date completely unbuttoned and enjoying the company of a number of other partygoers. His conclusion? "People will do anything if you just ask them to."

Stoddard continued working at Nerve until 2003. He left to pursue other options and work on his memoir, but insists that he looks fondly upon his tenure as a sex columnist.

Despite his adventures, Stoddard maintains that he's nothing but a shy guy who was caught in extraordinary circumstances. "I'm very shy and very cautious. 'Working Stiff' is about how I was not the right person to be doing this. [Maybe I was] from a comely standpoint, but from a sexual standpoint — no."

## Working Stiff: An excerpt

I'd first heard of Leather Camp during a Nerve.com editorial meeting.

Leather Camp is a five-day retreat in which extremely kinky people from the United States and abroad get together and enact their darkest fantasies. The idea was that I would attend and report back on the scene. Should anyone ask, I was to tell them that I was attracted to BDSM and thought that Leather Camp would be a good way to find out what worked for me. I had already delved into some BDSM-type activity in my column before now: "I'd been shrink-wrapped in latex, infantilized by a dominatrix, and had seven shades of s— beaten out of me by a female wrestler..."

A portion of the Leather Camp Web site dealt with travel arrangements and carpooling. I ended up getting a ride with a guy called Manflesh. I traveled to Brighton Beach to meet up with him at his parents' home.



Manflesh was red-haired, soft-spoken, and in his mid-20s. He had borrowed his parents' vehicle for Leather Camp: a large silver minivan with a large disabled sticker on the back and a mechanism for getting wheelchairs in and out.

"For a minivan, this thing can really move," he assured me, then faithfully observed the speed limit the whole way

down past the Mason-Dixon line. As we headed closer to camp, the clouds cleared. In the final mile of our journey, we passed through a quaint little village that listed the times of services on its welcome sign. There I was, driving in with a man who made the Marquis de Sade look like Pat Boone. Did Littlebrooke's residents know that 400 more of us were on the way?

We slowly pulled up the gravel driveway to the checkpoint, where two 50-year-old women in stars-and-stripes T-shirts checked our credentials.

"We gotta check that you ain't vanilla!" one of them yelled, laughing. After three hours with Manflesh, I was feeling more vanilla than at any point in my life.

About 25 yards from our car was a 50-year-old man dressed as a little girl, with a bright red wig, pink dress, white knee-high socks, and Mary Jane shoes. He looked like a dry-cured Strawberry Shortcake.

He skipped along the dirt road before hopping into a buggy and taking the reins. —from "Working Stiff: The Misadventures of an Accidental Sexpert" by Grant Stoddard (Harper Perennial, Jan. 2007)

## CINEMA

### Music videos

"Half-Cocked" may be the best teen movie ever made. And now, 13 years after it was released, people can finally see it.

The film follows a gang of kids who steal a van stocked with musical equipment and make believe they're a band. Starring Tara Jane O'Neil, formerly of Rodan, and Ian Svenonius, once named Sassy magazine's "Sassiest Boy in America," the film has become a cult classic. It's being screened



— along with its companion piece "Radiation" (pictured) — this week to promote a double-feature DVD commercial release.

"There were only 500 copies of ['Half-Cocked'] ever, and those were on VHS," co-writer and director Michael Galinsky told GO Brooklyn. "We saw that copies were selling online for \$200 and that's when we sat down to do this."

Packed with screaming sounds, the black-and-white world of "Half-Cocked" is a snapshot of what was happening over a decade ago, a scene that Galinsky said "doesn't exist anymore."

Let's hope today's rockers take notes.

"Half-Cocked" and "Radiation" will be shown at Rope (415 Myrtle Ave. at Clinton Avenue in Clinton Hill) at 3 pm on Feb. 11, and at Vox Pop (1022 Cortelyou Rd. at Coney Island Avenue in Flatbush) at 7 pm on Feb. 12. For information visit [www.rumorm.com](http://www.rumorm.com).

— Youyoung Lee

## MUSIC

### A real dream

Though the Supremes disbanded in 1977, founding member Mary Wilson still hasn't stepped out of the spotlight.

Wilson, who performs original material in addition to classic Supremes songs, still tours extensively — in fact, when GO Brooklyn caught up with her, she had just wrapped up a set of shows with Little Richard and Chuck Berry at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Bringing her act to Brooklyn, Wilson will perform alongside the Temptations Review, featuring Dennis Edwards, making for a real Motown reunion.

"The Temptations and Supremes were always sort of like the prince and princess of Motown," she told us this week.

While Wilson is aware of the success of the film "Dreamgirls," which is based on the story of the Supremes, she pointed out that it was not directly analogous. "Mary Wilson doesn't really exist as a character in that movie," she said. Modestly, she deferred to Diana Ross and Florence Ballard, whose stories were more prominent.

Wilson told us that "Reflections" is her favorite Supremes song, but with her appearance in Brooklyn happening this week, we think "Come See About Me" would be even more fitting.

Mary Wilson will perform at the Walt Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College (one block from the corner of Flatbush and Nester Avenue) on Feb. 17 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$20-\$35. For information call (718) 951-4500.

— Chris Varmus

## WEB

### Heart museum

Kris Waldherr illustrates tarot cards.

It's no surprise, then, that the Dittmas Park-based artist has an obsession with ornate imagery and spooky fortunes. Both play major roles in her newest project, the Museum of Love, which is billed as "the most romantic place on the Web."

Completely virtual, the Museum acts as a home to more than a few doomed couples of mythology and lore.

It's the one site on the Web that isn't interested in the latest celebrity break-up. Dante and Beatrice are there, Tristan and Isolde, too.

Originally hatched as a way to expand upon her book, "The Lover's Path," the museum has taken on a life of its own and now features over 80 pieces of Waldherr's original art, as well as a number of interactive features geared toward the amorous. Visitors can send love letters to their sweethearts or ask questions of the "Lover's Oracle," which is a bit like romantic three-card monte.

"I find that as you're wandering around and getting lost [in the Museum], it's sort of the way relationships are," Waldherr told GO Brooklyn this week. "You don't know where you're going and you're lost and seeing all these amazing places, but you don't know what's really going to happen until you get there."

The Museum of Love is open all the time at [www.museumoflove.org](http://www.museumoflove.org).

— Youyoung Lee

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**THE BROOKLYN PAPER**

**Bites**

**Valentine's Day Treats**

**Abu's Homestyle Bakery**  
1184 Fulton St. at Bedford Avenue, (718) 230-1115, www.abubakery.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Pastries, cakes and pies: \$1.50-2.25  
Find yourself in a sweet-tooth heaven when you enter this small bakery. Owner Idris Corry has been providing Brooklyn with dozens of assorted homemade pastries, cakes and pies for the last six years, and even ships them nationwide. The signature item, lemon pie, never stops pleasing. Says Corry's son, manager Idris Ibrahim: "For the best pie, my beans are used as part of the crust filling, which is topped with a thin layer of cinnamon and butter. An African-American delicacy created as an alternative to apple pie or sweet potato pie. Ibrahim calls the bakery's bean pie 'the jazz of dessert.' The bakery also gives 'a different spin' to carrot cake and German chocolate cake, and makes wedding cakes and personalized photo cakes. For large orders, delivery is available for a \$10 fee. Open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 10 pm; Saturdays, from 10 am to 10 pm; and Sundays, from 10 am to 5 pm.

**The Chocolate Room**  
86 Fifth Ave. at St. Marks Place, (718) 783-2000, www.thechocolateroombrooklyn.com (MC, Visa)  
Desserts: \$5-13; chocolates: \$40 per pound. ★  
On February 14, what better way to celebrate the year's sweetest day than bringing your loved one to a world of chocolate goodness? Husband-and-wife team Jim Payton and Naomi Josepher operate this chocolate boutique and dessert emporium, which opened in January 2005. This year they're offering a special three-course Valentine's Day menu: For \$28 a piece, diners can reserve a spot for one of the three seatings: at 7 pm, 8:30 pm or 10 pm to enjoy a chocolate Luscious Cookie, a double dipped strawberry passion fruit, panama chocolate and "more love," consisting of a granola cracker heart, with molten chocolate marshmallow sauce topped with caramel ice cream. Dessert wine also included.

**Baked**  
359 Van Brunt St. at Wolkoff Street, (718) 222-0345, www.bakedny.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Cakes: \$4 • slice: 8-12 inches: \$33-50 ★

**Mon Lisa Bakery & Restaurant**  
1476 86th St. at 15th Avenue, (718) 837-0053, www.monlisabakery.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Entrees: \$8.95-\$11.50  
Mon Lisa has been making handmade breads, cookies, cakes and pastries for over three generations; the traditional Italian breads like the prosciutto-lard "Tart" bread are baked in a coal-fired oven. Owned by Steven Cannata, Mon Lisa has everything from their chocolate-covered cannoli to sumptuous twist on the traditional cannoli — they're hand-dipped in dark chocolate from Switzerland to their Anaretto cookies (made with an imported almond paste and delicate Anaretto liqueur). The interior of Mon Lisa, with its marble-top tables, full bar, gelatos and sorbets will make you think you're in a cafe in Rome. Mon Lisa even makes their own wedding cakes, and they ship their baked goods nationwide. They will be open on Valentine's Day from 8am to 12am.

**Jacques Torres Chocolate**  
46 Water St. at Main Street, (718) 875-9772, www.jacquestorres.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Assorted chocolates: \$48 for 50 pieces. ★  
Willy Wolkoff got nothing on Jacques Torres, the former executive pastry chef of the four-star Le Cirque 2000 in Manhattan. In his DUMBO factory, Torres produces more than 35 different varieties of chocolates filled with a variety of exotically flavored ganache — a mixture of cocoa, cream and flavorings. And for Valentine's Day Jacques is really going all out. Stop by any time and pick up any of Torres' and inventive amorata indulgences, including the Mini-Heart Assortment, a truffle box with seven round chocolate truffles, or the Cherry Popper, pieces of dried cherry enrobed in dark chocolate ganache. But Torres won't stop there, his Jacques Torres Body Butter, made from a caramel sauce, is back due to popular demand. Despite a high-tech approach, Torres runs a hands-on operation — from heating the chocolate to the perfect temperature to packaging the fresh, preservative-free finished product; you can watch the chocolates being made while waiting in the small European-style cafe in the front of the shop. The cafe serves coffee, tea, and Torres' trademark wicked hot chocolate. Open Monday through Saturday, from 9 am to 7 pm, and Sundays, from 10 am to 6 pm.

**Little Cupcake Bakeshop**  
9102 Third Avenue at 91st St., (718) 480-4465 (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Cupcakes: \$1.50-\$4.00 ★  
This cute cupcake shop, which seats about 20 people, opened in July of 2006. The Valentine's Day owner Luigi Lobuglio will be delving into a romantic theme, serving red cupcakes topped with cupid and heart-shaped sprinkles, heart-shaped cakes and cookies with various messages screened on them. Regular menu items will also be available: Brooklyn black out cake, "a time for love," according to Lobuglio, is made from dark chocolate with ganache filling and covered by 2 types of chocolate butter. Another popular item is the Red Velvet cake, a traditional southern cake with cream and cream cheese icing that is completely red inside. The new Nutella Cappuccino and hot chocolate will be served to wash down the goodies.

**Cake Man Raven**  
708 Fulton St. at Fort Greene Place, (718) 372-2598, www.cakemanraven.com (AmEx, MC, Visa)  
Cakes: \$25-\$100  
Raven Patrick DeSean Dennis III, a.k.a. "Cake Man Raven," learned to bake in his grandpa's kitchen in South Carolina when he was knee-high to a grasshopper. It's a skill that has served him well. His Southern red velvet cake has made it in the mouths of celebrities as old-school as Lela Home and Cab Calloway and as new as Jay-Z and Justin Timberlake. The Cake Man also debakes in cookies, pastries and pies. His wedding cakes are gorgeous, too, and he can do seemingly anything with fondant. Just ask. Open daily. On Valentine's Day, Cake Man Raven will offer "sweets for your sweetheart," heart shaped yellow, red velvet or chocolate cakes, spinning from 4 to 12 inches in size and

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**February 10, 2007**

**DINING**

**FreshDirect.** To insure delivery on or before Feb. 14, order by Feb. 12. For information call (866) 283-7374 or visit www.freshdirect.com

**Grab** (438 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope) is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 pm until 8 pm, Saturday from 10 am until 7 pm and Sunday from 10 am until 5 pm. For information call (718) 369-7595.

**Luscious Brooklyn** (59 Fifth Ave. at St. Mark's Place in Park Slope) is open Monday through Thursday from 11 am until 8:30 pm, on Saturday from 11 am until 7 pm and Sunday from 11 am until 6 pm. For information call (718) 398-5800 or visit www.lusciousbrooklyn.com.

**One Girl Cookies** (48 Dean St. at Smith Street in Cobble Hill) is open on Monday through Thursday from 11 am until 7 pm, Friday and Saturday from 11 am until 9 pm and on Sunday from 12 pm until 6 pm. For information call (212) 675-4995 or visit www.onegirlcookies.com.

**Two Little Red Hens** (1112 Eighth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope) is open Monday through Friday from 7 am until 7 pm, Saturday from 8 am until 7 pm and Sunday from 8 am until 5 pm. For information call (718) 499-8108 or visit www.twolittleredhens.com.

tables on our side, we sought out a few experts committed to transforming amorous amateurs into enamored epicures.

Laura Nuter, owner of the Grab Specialty Foods in Park Slope, and fondue was the perfect pre-meal teaser to get your appetites — for dinner and more visceral linkings — flowing. Though traditional versions blend cheeses like Gruyere, Comté and Appenzeler, Nuter likes to "stink it up a bit." To elevate the common fondue, she recommends adding a French cow's milk cheese, such as Vacherin Fribourgeois, or an herb-crusted Marcalot, to the mix.

The cheese is traditionally melted

**See VDAY on page 10**

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# A real 'treat'

## DUMBO entrepreneur expands his coffee shop into an empire

By Juliana Bunim  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Jason Stevens says he's a regular guy who can't cook, clean or decorate. So how did this former banker turn 5,000 square feet of industrial loft space into a community destination?

With a bar, coffee shop, forthcoming nightclub, WiFi lounge and tapas menu, Stevens's Retreat is attempting to be the ultimate gathering place.

"It's not home, it's not work. It's that other place," he told GO Brooklyn.

For Stevens, that "other place" can sometimes serve as both work and home. The bar closes at 4 am and the Coffee Box — the espresso counter situated in an old elevator shaft — opens at 6 am, and on occasion Stevens can be found taking a quick nap outside in his car.

Such dedication is new for Stevens, who called his lucrative banking job at Merrill Lynch, "a waking death." He left it to open the Coffee Box last March. The bar, dubbed Rebar, followed in December.

"[At Merrill Lynch], I dreaded getting up every day and couldn't even find a way to stay awake. I could've floated along forever. For me, I won when I looked that big check in the face and said no. Now, I work probably twice the number of hours."

Stevens started designing Retreat in his head seven months before he quit Merrill Lynch last February. He hasn't stopped since, despite the burden on his family.

"I've basically been an absentee father for almost a year now," said Stevens, referring to his wife Genevieve and 3-year-old twins, Benjamin and Olivia.

"My wife is just amazingly strong to not say, 'Hey, you've abandoned me.'"

Opening in DUMBO presented Stevens with an opportunity that other neighborhoods didn't. With more affordable real estate and only



Jason's world: Owner Jason Stevens (top) has expanded Retreat from a small, ground-level coffee shop to a bi-level all-purpose venue, serving small plates like the artichoke salad (center) in addition to drinks at the new bar (above).

a handful of bars and restaurants, he identified a need for a gathering place for the neighborhood's unique cross section of artists, Manhattan transplants and Brooklynites.

Tucker Reed, director of the

attract people to DUMBO for an experience they can't find in other neighborhoods.

"For the most part, it has always been the Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn Heights kind of thing," he said. The crowd down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass "is in many ways a cross section of [those neighborhoods]."

Stevens wants the community to make Retreat their own Brooklyn experience. "Our motto is 'It's your space.'"

The art gallery is Retreat's hub, and the WiFi is free. With outlets for laptops every four feet, used books piled on shelves and plush vintage chairs and couches, locals are already taking advantage of the honey atmosphere.

"There isn't that normal claustrophobia that exists in most cafes," said writer Jeffrey Cretan, 27. "It's so open, and not having to buy something every five minutes al-

lows me to relax and get work done."

Stevens sees the WiFi gallery, which takes up a third of Retreat's overall space, as an opportunity to give back to the community.

"I really believe that public spaces are at a premium," he said. "If I have an opportunity to create one, then I have an obligation. Especially in a neighborhood where art is such a unifying theme, that space should be a gallery."

Recently, the gallery showcased panels by painter Pasqualina Azzarello. The panels previously comprised a 400-foot-long floral mural surrounding the condo development across the street. After the fence's removal, Azzarello sliced it into individual pieces to showcase — and sell — on Retreat's walls.

Next up for the gallery is an exhibit of wood carvings by a Retreat regular, 80-year-old DUMBO artist Dolphy Hazel.

Stevens also plans to showcase children's art. "Other than schools, there are not a lot of places for Brooklyn child artists to exhibit," he said. "If this neighborhood is serious about art, then it should be serious about art from the very beginning."

He also wants to make sure that the needs of his older customers are being taken care of, too. Inside the wrought iron gates of Rebar, drinkers will find a warmly lit wooden cove that's perfect for downing American microbrews, Belgian beers, organic wines and tapas.

"If I could have a fireplace, I would," said Stevens. "But I've got 15 taps of beer — second best thing to keep you warm."

In addition to the abundance of beer, the bar will attract guests with a weekly live jazz night, called On-Air Retreat, which will feature a broad selection of sounds and styles including Cuban jazz, drum and bass, up-tempo bebop and covers.

On Feb. 10, the gallery will be converted into a dance floor for The Rockabolics, a band of "old guys with black leather jackets and tight jeans performing rock and roll covers," said Stevens.

And that's not all for Retreat. This summer, a full Northern Mediterranean tasting menu and GOOD, a specialty tea and sweets shop, will move in.

With so many options under one roof, Stevens hopes his customers will settle in and get comfortable. "There's no reason to leave," said Stevens. "We're giving people a reason to stay in DUMBO."

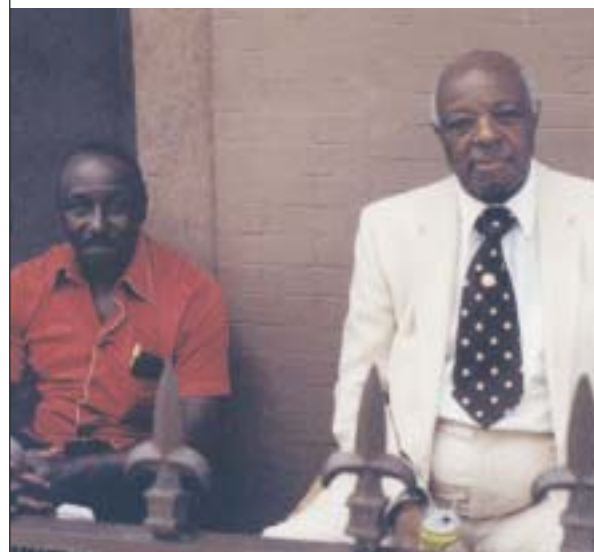
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## What's in a name?

A new bistro opening in Williamsburg isn't generally exciting. There are only, oh, maybe a dozen others in the neighborhood. Juliette though, comes with a pedigree.

Owner Alexandra Drozd was behind the short-lived, but excellent, Le Brunette, a French-Caribbean eatery that closed in 2002; and chef Thierry Rochard's name is familiar to those who frequent his long standing Tartine, a homey French bistro in the West Village.

Rochard (who named Juliette after his daughter) offers everything you'd expect in a Left Bank setting: French onion soup, escargot and steak au poivre, as well as

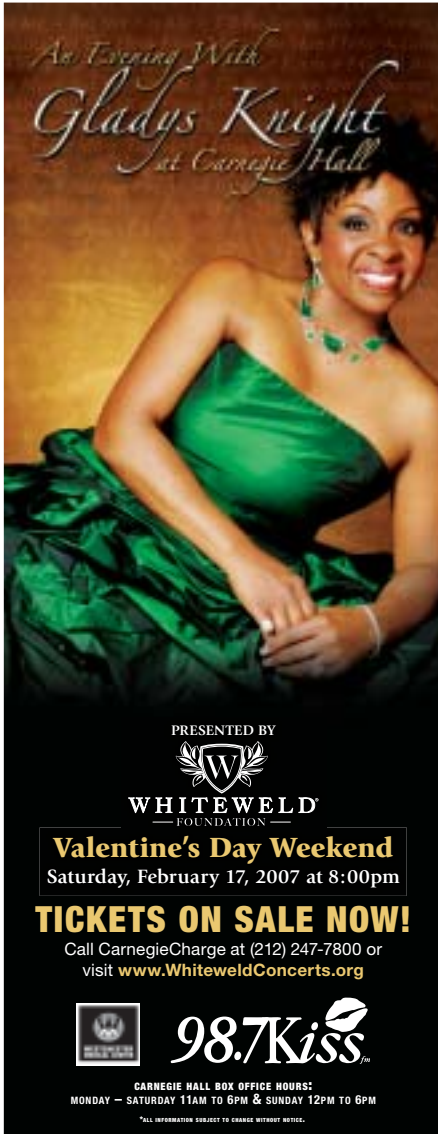
few surprises. For classics with a twist, there's the "France Mexique," a spicy chicken soup with cilantro, and "Tartine's spicy chicken" served with guacamole and French fries.

To fashion their new brasserie, which opened in October, the partners revamped the former dive bar Red & Black with "very beautiful French antiques of the 1920s and 1930s," says the eatery's manager, Florencia Aspinaz. In the 60-seat dining room and 40-seat "winter garden" (enclosed with French glass doors and heated) an eclectic mix of hanging chandeliers and funky lamps give the cream-colored space a warm glow. Come spring,

diners will be able to sit on the rooftop garden. The focal point of the dining room is a large, zinc bar, circa 1930, where wannabe Romeos can drink the poison of their choice (the "French martini," vodka, fresh OJ, Campari and bitters is popular) and still wake up to find Juliette.

Juliette (135 N. Fifth St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$14-\$22. The restaurant is open for dinner daily. Brunch is available on weekends from 10:30 am to 4 pm. Subway: L to Bedford Avenue. [www.juliettelwilliamsburg.com](http://www.juliettelwilliamsburg.com). For information, call (718) 388-9222. — Tina Barry

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## Flying high

### Floyd Bennett Field honors history of Tuskegee Airmen

By Rebecca Migdal  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It was the incident that would change the military forever—and, naturally, a Brooklynite was in the middle of it.

On April 5, 1945, the military police at the door of the officer's club brandished machine guns as the famed Tuskegee Airmen approached to enter. "You can't go in there," one of the MPs said. "If you go in, we're gonna arrest you."

"We went in anyway," Brooklyn-born Lt. LeRoy Battle told GO Brooklyn.

Battle's story of how he and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen fought the Nazis, and then fought for their own rights at home is part of a stunning new exhibition on the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American fighter pilots, at Floyd Bennett Field on Feb. 17.

When Battle, now 85, was a busboy at the officer's mess hall at Floyd Bennett Field in 1936, he saw the all-white Navy cadets there. But after he got drafted in 1943, he quickly learned that they were not his true comrades-in-arms.

Luckily, at Camp Upton on Long Island, Battle scored high on tests for an experimental program for "colored flyers" at Tuskegee, Alabama. Training as

a bombardier and navigator, he learned to fly in tiny, rickety planes with nicknames like "Yellow Peril" and "The Vibrator."

It was dangerous work, and many cadets never made it to graduation. Those who did went on to destroy hundreds of enemy planes in Italy and Germany. Tuskegee Airmen fighting in Europe dined alongside white officers—but a humiliating homecoming awaited them.

"When we returned to the States with chests full of ribbons, we were very proud of what we had done for our country," Lt. Col. Willie Ashley recounts in

"The Tuskegee Airmen: The Men Who Changed A Nation," by Charles E. Francis.

"But when we went to the officer's club, we were marched through the kitchen, out the back door and told not to return. We had helped to free everybody but ourselves."

By the time Battle earned his wings in 1945, he said, "the war in Europe was winding down. They wanted to send us to the Pacific Theater. So, we were transferred to Freeman Field [in Indiana]."

When Battle arrived in the Midwest, he was quickly caught up in the rising controversy over racial segregation. Col. Robert Selway, his commanding officer, was determined to enforce the military's segregation policy. He sent



**Wingman:** On Feb. 17, the Ryan Visitor Center at Floyd Bennett Field (at left) will honor the accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen including 2nd Lt. LeRoy Battle, shown above with his mother, Marjorie Battle Smith, and his aunt in 1945.

out a memorandum saying that the Tuskegee pilots would be barred from the Freeman Field officers' club. The memo, according to Battle, was in direct conflict with military regulations, so the Tuskegee Airmen chose to ignore it.

"We went to the theater, then a bunch of us went over to the club," Battle recounts. "We brushed by [the MPs], went in and sat down. Col. Selway ... put us under barrack arrest. They had a barbed-wire fence around our area. We could look out and see the Italian POWs walking around, going to the PX. We would meet in the lavatory," Battle chuckles. "In the lavatory, everybody's equal."

One of the 101 airmen arrested was Coleman Young, a labor organizer who would later become mayor of Detroit. Young led the latrine-based strategy sessions. The men were nervous about being brought up for court martial for disobeying a direct order in wartime, an offense punishable by hanging.

Lt. William Coleman, who had been a law student in Philadelphia, offered his advice: the Airmen must send a formal letter to Selway requesting counsel. An investigation ensued, and the Pittsburgh Courier ran a story favor-

able to the Airmen, Battle recalls.

Battle's own mother, a short-order cook on the Pennsylvania Railroad, passed around a petition in support of the incarcerated men. Finally, only one officer, Roger C. Terry, was found guilty of refusing arrest and was fined—the other 100 were just reprimanded.

"For the record," wrote some of the officers on their letters of reprimand, "the undersigned wishes to indicate ... his unshakable belief that racial bias is Fascistic, un-American and directly contrary to the ideals for which he is willing to fight and die."

Three years later, President Truman desegregated the troops. Ultimately, the records of all 101 Tuskegee Airmen involved in the Freeman Incident were cleared.

All told, 992 men graduated from the Tuskegee Army Flying School. Of these, 450 were sent into battle; eight won purple hearts, and 149 airmen were killed in action, during training or on routine missions. On the home front, the steadfast courage of the 101 men involved in the Freeman Incident paved the way for fairer treatment of blacks in America. Brave, intelligent and skilled, the Tuskegee Airmen battled racial prejudice, and won.

## V-DAY...

Continued from page 8

with wine; go for crisp whites rather than sweet selections to complement and not overwhelm the flavor. Nutter suggests investing in a high-quality

fondue pot to ensure an even consistency. She likes Swissers sets. "They take the cheese out of fondue," she joked, promptly putting the cheese right back in.

For help with a main course, we asked Aliyah Rowe, a chef who recently taught a pre-Valentine's Day Cook & Learn course for All About Brooklyn—one of the many they run throughout the year. The course emphasized healthy alternatives to dining out on the big day.

Rowe's main course suggestion was a simple, yet sensual, lemon-lavender chicken with baked quinoa, caramelized vegetables and broccoli sauce.

Cooking with hearty ingredients like quinoa (a protein-packed grain), beets and vegetables keeps things savory but wholesome.

"What better way to express your love than to think about your partner's body and health?" she asked.

Valentine's Day isn't famous for veggies, though. To get the lowdown on making dessert, we checked in with Dawn Casale and Dave Crofton of One Girl Cookies, who have also offered Valentine's-themed lessons. On Feb. 6 they hosted a sold-out event, "For the Love of Chocolate," that guided lovesick students through the basics of creating a chocolate cake for two.

"Couples often dine out so it's not as special anymore," said Casale. "Cooking for someone happens less frequently so it's more of a treat." If you didn't make the class, or have yet to master the creme brulee torch, don't fret—Casale has an idea or two to help you fake it like you baked it.

For serious dilettantes, she suggested serving store-bought ladyfingers topped with homemade whipped cream and berries. Homemade ice cream—if you've already got the equipment—is a simple way to impress a deserving lover. Or you could keep things light by simply topping a plate of fresh fruit with sabayon, a painlessly prepared wine-based custard.

And if your cream turns or your custard scalds, all is not lost. Make your way to One Girl for a pint of gelato and fresh brownies for an ad hoc dessert, or spread the love—Two Little Red Hens, a Park

Slope mainstay for more than 12 years, offers treats like Secret Affair Squares (layers of almond cake topped with chocolate) which are perfect for dessert a deux.

Even with Brooklyn's best backing us up, things—particularly in our kitchen—often go awry. In that spirit, we've worked out an escape plan to ensure a smooth transition should the smoke alarm sound.

Christine Zeni, chef and co-owner of catering outfit Luscious Brooklyn, will feature a three-course dinner for two of jumbo shrimp cocktail, osso buco served over a creamy polenta and a side dish, finished off with cupcakes, available at \$65 for pickup or local delivery.

So, as the rest of the world celebrates a frenzied coup of breathless trollops and beefy Fabios in anticipation of the great day, we're sitting pretty, sipping our cocoa (chocolate's an aphrodisiac, you know) and looking forward to cooking our way into the hearts and knickers of our significant others. Happy Valentine's Day!

## Valentine's Day 2007

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## BROOKLYN BRIEFS

### Powerplay is back in action

By Dana Rubinstein and Josh Saul  
The Brooklyn Paper

A popular Park Slope children's gym has finally reopened after nearly a month of wrangling with the city, which shuttered the gym on Jan. 11 claiming that it was endangering its kiddie customers.

During the ensuing 23 days of closure, Powerplay gym sued the Fire Department, claiming a violation of the gym owner's "civil rights" — and local karate kids suffered from unprecedented cabin fever during the recent cold snap.

But on Saturday morning, Powerplay was back in business — well, partially, anyway.

The top floor of the Third Avenue and Seventh Street center rang with the chatter of children jumping on trampolines, while the first floor sat idle, its balance beam, trampoline and gymnastics rings shrouded in dust.

The partial opening came almost a month to the day after what the Fire Department described as a routine inspection revealed a propane tank adjacent to the second-floor gym space and an unsecured day-care facility.

Gym owner Fritz Jean maintained that he was just temporarily housing the day-care center after its own quarters burned down, and that the propane tank was actually an empty kerosene tank for a barbecue.

Jean quickly removed the offending clutter and ejected the day-care center, but it took three weeks, and a lawsuit, to get the city to allow him to reopen.

"It was a bureaucratic tangle," he said, adding that he lost \$50,000 during the forced closure.

Meanwhile, area parents were thrilled to finally get their children out of the house.

"Keeping kids at home in the winter is not fun," said Brit Henrickson, who was stuffing her daughter Samantha into her winter clothes after a morning at the gym.

Jean said the first floor of Powerplay won't reopen until he finishes installing a proper storefront on the seven-year-old bungalow.

The Fire Department wouldn't comment on the recent turn of events.



MTV wants to film a reality show called "Brooklyn" — so naturally it came to Brooklyn Tech HS to find camera-ready teens.

### MTV trolls Tech for talent

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Forget "Engaged and Underaged." Hello, "Brooklyn."

MTV, in a nod to the borough's red-hot "cool" factor, is developing a reality show with local teenagers, to be dubbed, "Brooklyn."

And, in a move as clever as a teenager's deceit, MTV first leaked the news to students and teachers at Brooklyn Technical High School, in Fort Greene — where the network will stage casting calls.

"The premise is to paint an accurate picture for America of what life is like for the average Brooklyn high school student," wrote Marc Williams, an English teacher, in the Brooklyn Tech student newspaper.

MTV told The Brooklyn Paper that it doesn't comment on shows in development, but Marge Feinberg, spokeswoman for the city's Department of Education, confirmed the news.

"[Brooklyn Tech] has allowed a partner of Russell Simmons, who is doing work for MTV, to use a room for a casting call for a reality TV show on Brooklyn, the borough," said Feinberg.

But MTV may not have chosen wisely. Brooklyn Tech, on Fort Greene Place at Dekalb Avenue, is one of the city's elite "specialized" high schools, with a student body gearing up for

institutions like Harvard — not the schools of hard knocks that play so well on national television.

"No matter what the show is about, I'm wholly uninterested in it," said Josh Margul, 17, who writes for the student newspaper.

"The people I've heard express interest in it are in drama and chorus. Until I know what MTV wants to get out of this, I wouldn't throw my name into the ring."

He's not the only less-than-enthusiastic student.

"When I've had glimpses of things MTV's done with high school students in the past, like 'Laguna Beach,' it seems like they're trying to drag drama out of it, trying to manufacture a story," said Alex Faust, 18, who heads up the school's newspaper.

"I don't know a lot of people who would be interested in [participating]. A lot of the parents would be uneasy about it, too."

(For the record, neither Margul nor Faust could audition even if he wanted to — the casting call is limited to sophomores and juniors.)

And for parents worried about the prospect of their children humiliating themselves on MTV, Feinberg had some words of comfort.

"Parental permission will be required [to participate]," said Feinberg, adding, "We don't allow filming during school hours."

## Re-run for Bklyn's Gump

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Breaking news! The Forrest Gump of Brooklyn — who apparently had abandoned his quest to run every single inch of Brooklyn — now says he'll be back on the road as early as next month.

Gary Jarvis, whose 1,599-mile marathon has garnered attention from Greenpoint to Coney Island, has gone public to deny reports that said he had hung up his worn-out shoes.

Jarvis now says that he will hit the road at the end of the six-week break he began after hitting the halfway mark nearly three weeks ago.

I still plan on resuming this whole running thing," he posted on his blog, runsbklyn.net, after The Brooklyn Paper reported that he would not finish because he had underestimated the size of Brooklyn.

Jarvis did admit that he may have given The Paper the impression that he was spent.

"True enough, the first half took its toll both mentally and physically," he wrote on the blog, which is sometimes written in Latin.

"But I'm going to take a few more weeks off, and if everything heads up properly, I'll pick up the running right where I left off — hopefully sometime in early March."

He's optimistic, certainly. And he also vows to complete his other main marathon, writing his doctoral thesis — which he's been working on for almost a decade.

The Running Man had other problems with The Paper's article, which likened him to "the Forrest Gump of Brooklyn."

"Between the 'Forrest Gump' comparisons [and] aforementioned 'Iowa native' references...it's understandable how a



Gary Jarvis now says he will get back on the road.

reader might [think] I'm some kind of Midwestern rube standing at the edge of Brooklyn, rubbing his eyes in disbelief at the sheer vastness of the Big City."

Point of information: Who doesn't love Forrest Gump? The guy may be fictional, but he did run across the country — which is a lot bigger than Brooklyn.

And another point of information: Jarvis is not a Midwestern rube. The Paper did say he was "an Iowa native," but he's actually from New Jersey (we thought we were doing him a favor).

Overall, Jarvis wondered on his blog "whether the casual treatments of the facts is due to specific editorial policy or a young reporter's inexperience."

Point of information: We'll be the first people at the finish line with a bottle of Champagne if Jarvis finishes.



The Fifth Avenue Committee wants to build this green building on Atlantic Avenue near South Portland Street.

### Dream overshadowed

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project would cast such long shadows that the architect of a housing complex being built across the street has scrapped a plan to heat his building with solar power.

"It's just not an option for a building that will be in substantial shade all year round," said Magnus Magnusson, who is designing the 80-unit "Atlantic Terrace" building that will rise next year on Atlantic Avenue at South Portland Street — across the street from Ratner's proposed 16-tower mega-development.

Magnusson, who is working with the non-profit Fifth Avenue Committee development group, said he harbored his green dream until the state approved Ratner's 30- to 50-story towers this winter.

"If the towers had been reduced to 20 or 25 stories, it would have been possible," he said.

Environmental impact studies for Atlantic Yards predicted that Ratner's project would cast shadows "for most of the ... day" during the spring and fall, and through the afternoon in the summer. In the winter months, light will be "severely" diminished.

Forest City Ratner did not return a call for comment.

## Double your fun at Prospect Park's two new rinks

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Prospect Park will get two new skating rinks by the end of 2010 under a soon-to-be-announced plan.

The new skating center would replace the existing Wollman Rink, which is in disrepair after nearly 45 years of pounding from hockey teams and families flop-

ping all over the place.

The proposed \$25-million facility, called Lakeside Center, would include two new rinks — one for hockey and a smaller one for recreational use — and would be built on the Wollman Rink's parking lot.

The new rinks will be open-air, but the plan — which is being pushed by the politically connected Prospect Park Alliance — includes a two-story building that



Skaters have a blast at Wollman Rink in Prospect Park.

would house a café and classroom spaces, among other amenities.

After completion, the Wollman rink will be torn down to restore the original landscaping, which was once "one of the most beautiful vistas in the park," according to Atlantic President Tipper Thomas.

The extra landscaping will cost an additional \$10 million.

Funding has been lined up, Thomas said, thanks to the gener-

ous support of local polls.

Thomas would not reveal the name of the architect — but did joke, "I can tell you it's not Frank Gehry," a reference to the designer of Atlantic Yards.

With very little digging, The Brooklyn Paper discovered that the architects are Manhattan-based Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, a husband-and-wife duo. This will be their first Brooklyn project.

## What Really Matters in Schools

By Randi Weingarten

Mayor Bloomberg and Chancellor Klein recently announced, with much fanfare, plans for yet another top-to-bottom restructuring of the nation's largest school system designed to dismantle the bureaucracy and shift all responsibility for educating kids onto the shoulders of principals.

This radical restructuring, the third in five years, deals almost exclusively with structure and, except for the get-tough rhetoric, does nothing about education. Instead, it would set schools adrift, privatize many essential education services, cut funds for successful schools, limit parental input and make it even harder for new teachers to voice their concerns for fear they will be denied tenure. It also could hurt students because of the uncertainty and instability it will cause.

Why would we engage in the most radical restructuring of the best urban school system in America without real evidence that what is being proposed works any better than what is being replaced? The only other school system in America that dismantled its central structure in this way is post-Katrina New Orleans — and that was because of a disaster and with disastrous results.

The reorganization talks about accountability but it looks only at principals and teachers, while Governor Spitzer wants to hold chancellors, superintendents and school boards accountable as well. The governor also focuses simultaneously on instruction by requiring that

districts use much of the extra state money for classroom instruction, lowering class size and universal pre-kindergarten.

Parents, students and educators care more about matters that will directly improve scholarship and social development: smaller class sizes, school safety, adequate supplies and giving teachers the professional latitude to tailor instruction to their students' needs. Students and parents know that bureaucratic changes have little bearing on classroom interaction, which is crucial to any hopes for sustained academic improvement in our schools.

Some editorial writers want you to believe the chancellor is right in wanting to use student test scores to help determine whether teachers are granted tenure, but the truth is it will undermine the integrity and fairness of the process, deter teachers from working with the most challenging kids and further exacerbate the focus on test prep. (By the way, tenure is not a lifetime job guarantee; it simply grants teachers the right to a day in court before they are disciplined or fired.)

Some say another reorganization of the school system is worth considering. After all,

what harm could it do? Quite a bit, actually. A recent New York Times editorial urged city and state lawmakers and the State Board of Regents to make sure "the reforms are closely scrutinized and modified where necessary to produce the best possible result."

I agree. Every reorganization has created great upheaval and uncertainty for parents, students, teachers and principals; it usually takes them at least a year to adjust to a slew of new regulations and bureaucratic red tape. Our students cannot afford yet another year of educational drift and turbulence — look at what just happened with student bus route changes.

For several weeks now, the city teachers' union has been running a television commercial encouraging the public to listen to teachers about educational priorities. Ask a teacher and you'll hear nothing about structure. Instead you'll hear about the need for smaller classes, more career and technical education, music and art classes, less emphasis on tests and greater latitude.

These are the things that really matter to parents and teachers. It's well past time for structural changes that don't directly translate to the classroom. Now that we have, by the mayor's own words, the best teaching force anywhere, it's time to help those closest to students — their parents and the dedicated educators who teach them every day.

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## Feeling the Valentine's love

SOMETHING IS IN THE air. Two of Smartmom's lovelorn friends are finding love again. And that is so inspiring.

These are friends who've been through the emotional mill. Harried Harriet endured an unpleasant marriage that resulted in an unpleasant divorce. And Marian Fontana lost her firefighter husband on 9-11. Grief-stricken, she learned how to be a single mom as she struggled to heal and move forward after that life-changing event.

Harried Harriet found love on Harmony. And a really good man who loves her back. They're living together and planning to get married soon. When her divorce comes through, that is.

Marian met her guy on a blind date, sort of. The man she was supposed to meet chickened out and he sent his friend instead.

They hit it off right a way. When Marian told Smartmom and Divorce Diva about her blind date over drinks a year ago at Black Pearl she told them, "He's the one."

If raised eyebrows could talk, Divorce Diva and Smartmom could barely contain their skepticism. "Take it slow, they cautioned. What's the rush?"

"We just don't want you to get hurt," Diva said.

To be honest, there was sure-

ly a spray of jealousy in the air. New love sounded like such fun to long-married Smartmom and the recently divorced Divorce Diva. It had been a long time since either of them had



By Louise Crawford

been wine and dined at the Rainbow Room.

AS TIME WENT ON, Marian's new love affair escalated unabated. A couple of months in, "the One" told her that he wanted "Ring of Fire" to play at their wedding.

Now she was telling him to slow down. Besides, she thought it was an odd choice of song. Considering...

Still, things moved fast as they often do when two decisive people fall head over heels in love. Plus, her new man was crazy about her son. And vice-versa.

It was a match made in heaven.

Sure, they had their ups and downs. Arguments. Heavy talks. Nights spent sleeping on the couch. It wouldn't be a real relationship without all that. In fact, one of the reasons Marian loves "the One" as much as she does is that he is willing to talk, analyze and talk some more about just about everything.

In other words, he's a therapist. And there's nothing more romantic than a guy in therapy. So, last week, on the anniversary of their first date, he proposed. And he did every thing right.

First, he told her 10-year-old son what he had in mind to make sure he was on board. And boy-ob-boy was Marian's son excited.

Then, he went to Greenwood Cemetery to ask for permission from Marian's late great husband, Dave.

On a cold January day, he waited and waited. It's not easy to get a thumbs-up from the dead, but "the One" did receive a sign.

Smartmom was so happy for her friend. Marian is a writer and that's her story to tell.

LAST WEEK, SMARTMOM, Divorce Diva, G. Candelaria, and Marian got together at Santa Fe Grill for a congratulatory glass of champagne (except, they don't serve champagne there, so they had to settle for the house Chardonnay).

Marian remembered last year's raised eyebrows. "You guys thought I was crazy," she said.

The group wanted to hear every detail of "the One's" proposal. And Marian obliged with her usual gusto.

Then she showed off her beautiful new engagement ring which she was wearing on her pinky finger.

"Why is it on your pinky?" Smartmom asked.

"The One" had grabbed a ring from her jewelry box so he'd know her finger size. Problem was, he snatched a pinky ring. The new ring needs to be resized.

Staring at Marian's pinky-sized engagement ring, Smartmom realized that along with happiness, her friend was also experiencing just a smidgen of pain. It can't be easy getting en-

gaged when you're still someone else's wife.

Like the ring, this engagement would take a while to really fit.

While Marian will never stop loving Dave, the father of her adorable child, she can still create a great life with someone new.

Her love for her late husband and her love for "the One" are not mutually exclusive. And

that's something "the One" understands.

And that's why he is "the One." It won't always be easy, but the openness these two share will go a long way toward making this a wonderful and lasting marriage.

Louise Crawford is the writer of "Only the blog knows Brooklyn" and the keeper of the "Park Slope 100."

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Host Barbara Vaughn opened up by saying that there were so many men people in his building that he must "live on top of an a-hole burial ground."

Bobby Tisdale earned screams with his imitation of "peeing like a little boy."

Andrea Rosen described being so appalled at some guy popping a zit on a subway train that she pulled out a bottle of "Summer's Eve" and cleaned her genitals for the entire 45-minute ride to Manhattan.

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He said that the changes didn't alter "the fact that this project would create affordable housing, eliminate blight and bring an arena to Brooklyn."

The hearing, ostensibly to debate a motion to dismiss the case, was postponed by the city and the state, ended inconclusively by Federal Judge Robert

Levy promising to issue a decision "as soon as possible."

It is unlikely that Levy will dismiss the federal eminent domain claim, a complicated, case filed by Goldstein, who is also spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, and 12 other Prospect Heights property owners who believe that their homes are being taken for a development that will primarily benefit Ratner, rather than the public.

Legal experts said that Levy could send the constitutional claim to state court, where most eminent domain complaints are heard.

In New York's courts, the case could have a harder time because of its judges' reluctance to rule against other governmental bodies on land-seizure

cases, said eminent domain lawyer Robert Goldstein, who is no relation to the plaintiff.

Throughout the four-hour hearing, the players brandished a newfound mastery of arcane legal precedents, but little new insight on the case at hand, known formally as "Goldstein v. Patuki."

Ratner's lawyer Jeffrey Braun used the same line of argument that he used in fighting an earlier lawsuit intended to stop the project—namely that Ratner's minicity would revitalize a "blighted" area in Prospect Heights, where brownstones sell for more than \$1 million.

Braun pleaded with the judge to drop the case as quickly as he could.

"It would be torturous to allow this case to move forward," he said.

Should this case get dismissed, opponents are preparing another battle, this time against the state's supposedly flawed environmental impact statement.

## ATLANTIC YARDS COVERAGE

# Laughs ain't Brace at 'Laugh'

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

In the end, Bruce Ratner wasn't that funny.

Comedians stayed away from jokes at the expense the Atlantic Yards developer at Tuesday night's anti-Atlantic Yards fundraiser, "Laugh Don't Destroy," at Union Hall in Park Slope.

With Ratner off the table, the overflow crowd of 150 was treated to the usual array of jokes about urinating, flatulating, defecating, masturbating, douching, drinking one's own urine (it's sterile, you know) and, of course, "Star Trek."

But mostly, it was crude, rude and hilarious. And lucrative. The event raised \$2,000 for Develop Don't Destroy's legal battle against Atlantic Yards, said spokesman Daniel Goldstein. [See page 1 for more on the lawsuit.]

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BY LEON FREILICH

We invited Leon Freilich to weigh in with some low-class verse. Here is this week's poem, "leon.freilich@gmail.com."

I never had a middle name, I missed an awful lot.

My thanks to you, e-mail address—

You've gone and dubbed me "Dot."

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### The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz takes great pride in his hometown — and certainly lets everyone know about his cultural and culinary riches.

Where other politicians would use a "state of the borough" address to highlight important initiatives, Markowitz celebrated the greatness of Kings. Here's a guided tour of "Many's Brooklyn".

• Kensington: "Why did [Lonely Planet travel guide] choose Brooklyn [as a hot destination]? Could it be the Giant kosher pastrami egg rolls... or Doug's barbecue in Kensington?"

• Bay Ridge: "The most delicious mousaka and fried eggplant this side of the Mediterranean" is at Tanoreen on Third Avenue.

• Midwood: "There is [a] maestro behind the counter at DiFuria Pizzeria... What makes it come to fresh ingredients and top pizza 'soul,' nobody can touch Dominic DeMarco — especial-



Borough President Markowitz is escorted by 2006 Miss New York Bethlene Pancoast and 2006 Miss New York Sweetheart D'Andre McKay.

## FOR MARTY...

Continued from page 1

The tantalizing notion of a Markowitz mayoral run was the biggest piece of news to come out of the annual state of the borough speech on Feb. 1 — but the overflow crowd of dignitaries, politicians, parents, pizza makers, friends, neighbors were kept entertained by plenty of Markowitz Yiddishisms, jokes about his wasteline, and praise for the flavors and ethnicities of Brooklyn.

In his full-throttle, 18-page speech (single spaced, all capitals), Markowitz hit all his hot buttons.

• He championed the borough's recent accession to Lonely Planet's hot destination list — one of only three locales in America to get the honor.

• He praised Brooklynites large and small, from former Borough President Howard Golden to Jeremy Zaiman and Timothy Edmund, who built a car that runs on used cooking oil at the Automotive High School in Williamsburg.

• "You're putting those trans fats to good use," Markowitz joked, and then blew a kiss at his wife in the front row. "And Jamie, next time you catch me eating French fries, I'll have the perfect excuse. I'm doing it for the environment!"

• He celebrated Steiner Studio, the movie-making complex where he made the speech.

• The father and son team of

David and Doug Steiner are visionaries," Markowitz said of the founders of the largest film studio outside of Hollywood. "Not only because they had the chutzpah to make their dream a reality, but because they recognized early on that as home to the cruise ship industry to Red Hook ('promise made, promise kept'), spicing up Coney Island's pancake jump ('promise made, promise kept'), creating Brooklyn's restaurant week ('promise made, promise kept'), helping to reduce auto insurance rates ('promise made, promise kept'), and launching the annual Brooklyn Book Festival ('promise made, promise kept')."

He extolled the delicacies of Brooklyn, and, of course, he celebrated himself. An entire section of the speech was dedicated to his motto, "Promise made, promise kept."

In this section, Markowitz took credit for creating a tourist office at Borough Hall ("promise made, promise kept"), attracting the cruise ship industry to Red Hook ("promise made, promise kept"), spicing up Coney Island's pancake jump ("promise made, promise kept"), creating Brooklyn's restaurant week ("promise made, promise kept"), helping to reduce auto insurance rates ("promise made, promise kept"), and launching the annual Brooklyn Book Festival ("promise made, promise kept").

He also promised to restore the Loeys's Kings Theater on Flatbush Avenue to its original glory. Of course he did: It's

where he had his first date when he was 16 (he also recounted how the girl in question threw away his arm when he tried to spark some romance).

"Jamie," he told his wife. "I'm yours now, that's what matters."

• Markowitz also mentioned his beloved Atlantic Yards project — but did not utter the name that often draws catcalls: Bruce Ratner.

Markowitz raved about the housing, shopping, and jobs the project will allegedly generate, claiming the 16-tower area, hotel and office space development "will help create the new center of city life that our borough of 2.6 million residents deserves."

But he also promised to be responsive to the concerns of those in the area surrounding Atlantic Yards, and to make this project one of all Brooklynites are proud of for generations to come.

But he didn't explain how he would do that, given his overwhelming support for the project and the fact that it has already been approved by the state.

Where some politicians mix the sacred and the profane, Markowitz mixed the celebrities with the man on the street.

One picture showed the Beep standing arm and arm with Ravish Bishara, the "esteemed chef and owner of Tanoreen," a Bay Ridge restaurant famous

ly not a certain corporate pizza giant that recently tried to cash in on our borough's hipness. We don't need Domino's when we've got Domenic's."

• Coney Island: "In July, we hit up Brooklyn's Earle Tower — the Parachute Jump — for all to see. That was just phase one — and the real bling-bling is in the works."

• Holiday Inn Express (opened) on Union Street, just a block from the scenic Gowanus Canal.

• Prospect Heights: "Atlantic Yards will help create the new center of city life that our borough of 2.6 million residents deserves."

• Fulton Mall: The pedestrian mall should "maintain its bustling shopping atmosphere [while] add[ing] new restaurants, nightlife, and offices to create a vibrant 24-7 live-work environment."

• Fort Greene: Brooklyn Academy of Music's cultural district is "a cutting-edge, mixed-use arts hub."

Council speaker Christine Quinn introduced Markowitz.

its mousaka. The next picture showed Markowitz dwarfed by a towering Magic Johnson, an investor in the conversion of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank into luxury condos.

The crowd roared to its feet when Markowitz read the names of seven soldiers — Brooklyn natives — who died in Iraq last year.

Beyond talk of his nascent mayoral run, Markowitz managed to remain bipartisan. But the Democratic borough president received huge applause for noting that in "699 days, to be exact, President Bush will turn to his ranch in Texas." But his praise for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, another Republican, was also well received.

— with Gersh Kuntzman

## Beep's plan for Coney Island is far from a done deal

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz unveiled a flashy plan for a new "state-of-the-art" performing arts venue in Coney Island last week — but not everyone in the rundown Riviera is cheering.

Markowitz said the old bandshell in Asser Levy Park should be turned into a \$35-million amphitheater to "attract top entertainers" and restore Coney Island's status as a major venue.

The idea drew applause at Markowitz's state of the borough address last week, but it faces many hurdles before becoming a reality.

"I got some phone calls after the speech from people who didn't like the idea because a bigger amphitheater means taking up more park space," Chuck Reichenbach, district manager for Community Board 13.

"It is a quiet place now, with benches," he said. "People use it for dog-walking and their own walking. They get sun. Families go there. Kids run around. [Markowitz's] plan would change that."

The community board has not come out with an official position on the Beep's still-budding plan to convert the small



In his "state of the borough" speech last week, Borough President Markowitz vowed to build a \$35-million amphitheater in Coney Island. The plan faces numerous hurdles.

those few acres all the more valuable," said the organization's director, Cheryl Huber.

The city's Economic Development Corporation, which is working with the borough president on the project, declined to comment.

But days after his state-of-the-borough speech, Markowitz defended the project.

"The Coney Island center will be a state-of-the-art recreation facility for local residents as well as New York City's first covered, outdoor performance space for concerts and events," he said in a statement.

"In addition to my hope of making Brooklyn a top-tier summer concert circuit that includes Jones Beach, Westbury, and New Jersey, I will be working with the local community and the Parks Department to ensure that this project works for Coney Island and all of Brooklyn."

That any parkland that is lost be replaced with new green space in the area.

"Brooklyn has the least amount of park space of any of the borough and that makes

those few acres all the more valuable," said the organization's director, Cheryl Huber.

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### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of February, 2007, bearing Index Number 06000002006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 607, grants me the right to Assume the name of: **James Polaris**. My present name is: **James Polaris**. My present address is: 515 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11215. My place of birth is: Jamaica, My date of birth is: December 31, 1966. **PS06**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 31st day of January, 2007, bearing Index Number 06000002007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 607, grants me the right to Assume the name of: **Bernice Polaris**. My present name is: **Bernice Polaris**. My present address is: 3900 Kings Highway 1, Brooklyn, New York 11234. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is: November 10, 1968. **MD06**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 18th day of January, 2007, bearing Index Number 06000002007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 607, grants me the right to Assume the name of: **Alfonso Polaris**. My present name is: **Alfonso Polaris**. My present address is: 148 North Portland Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11215. My place of birth is: North Hempstead, New York. My date of birth is: August 21, 1975. **PS06**

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# Kruger's right! Let's stop iPod oblivion!

THESE PEOPLE ARE A menace to society. These people must be stopped. I'm talking, of course, about the iPod people.

You know these people (in fact, you're probably one of them), people who put in those tell-tale earbuds and suddenly drift away on a stupor-inducing cloud of music. They're not even aware you (of course, I mean, I) exist.

Yes, I'm talking to you — you in the parka standing in the middle of the subway car who can't hear me as I squeeze into the car. Excuse me, I said, "Excuse me!" I said: "EXCUSE ME! Would you move your butt out of my way?"

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And some people text-message while trying to hold a cup of hot coffee as they ride their bicycles on Atlantic Avenue.

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Finally, I'm not the only one angry at these anti-social people who live in their own world and shut you out of theirs.

## THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

I have an ally in state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Bensonhurst), who wants to make it illegal for you to use an iPod, cellphone, Blackberry or any other electronic device while crossing the street (pacemakers are, apparently, exempted).

Kruger said he was moved to act after the completely avoidable deaths of two pedestrians in his district in the last five months.

In both cases, the victims were listening to (cue the horror movie organ theme) music on their iPods!

Kruger called it "iPod oblivion." "People are turning on their equipment and turning out the world around them, and it's dangerous," said Kruger, who is pushing for a \$100 fine. "People are oblivious."

He knows he's fighting a tough battle — but then again, so was Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (D-Sunset Park), whose bill made it illegal to talk on the cellphone while you're driving.

On the other hand, that cellphone law is probably the most violated, and least-enforced, law on the books (with the possible exception of adultery).

"Once we educate people that this is a public safety issue, we'll get it passed," said Kruger.



This young woman listening to her iPod would be in violation of a proposed law that would make it illegal to tune out when you walk around. Good, says our columnist.

Yeah, right. Seconds after Kruger put out his press release on Wednesday, the story had bounced off the Internet like a piñata — with most of the coverage mocking our beloved lawmaker.

I wanted to defend King Kruger, so I sought out the man on the street. Problem was, most people couldn't be bothered to stop and talk because they were listening to their iPods.

"That proposal is ridiculous," said Erin Shaw, as she crossed Ninth Street the other day while listening to Regina Spektor through her earphones. "It's absurd because you should have the freedom of listening to whatever you want. Just because some people are stupid doesn't mean it should be illegal for everybody."

Some diehard wearers were willing to acknowledge that Kruger's bill could save some

lives — but most thought it was unnecessary.

"What's next?" asked Nicola Behrman, who was listening to Elton John's "Tiny Dancer." "Are they going to make hoodies illegal because you can't see as well?"

Now slow it down there. We have to give Kruger some time before he can take on such a huge issue! — with Josh Saul

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Fri., February 10, 8:00pm

# D'Town 'Wal-Mart' site sold for \$125M

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

The site of a Downtown Brooklyn mall that was re-

portedly eyed by Wal-Mart was sold this week — and the new owner says that the behemoth of Bentonville is not moving in.

Acadia Realty Trust and its development partner Paul Travis bought the aging Gallery at Fulton Mall from Thor Equities for a reported \$125 million last week — and promptly told Wal-Mart opponents not to worry about seeing the chain's yellow happy face on their property.

Rather, the partnership intends to demolish the home of Toys "R" Us, Forever 21, and a number of smaller retailers to make room for a 1.8-million-square-foot office, residential and retail tower called "The Center at Albee Square."

Thor Equities paid just \$25 million for the site in 2001.

"We received a letter from the developer this afternoon saying that he is not putting a Wal-Mart at the site," Pat Purcell, an organizer of Wal-Mart Free NYC, told The Brooklyn Paper on Wednesday.

Purcell, who is also a spokesman for the union that represents city grocery workers, said he hoped the developer would also be willing to talk about including affordable



This Albee Square tower will no longer be built.

housing in the tower, which will rise on the site, which is bordered by DeKalb Avenue, Willoughby Street and Flatbush Avenue Extension.

"He was very open-minded about what should be there," Purcell said. "The fact that Wal-

Mart isn't coming is a victory for us and the developer has already said that he will have a meeting to discuss other issues."

And issues there are! A separate group of activists was planning to storm a public hearing on Thursday, when the city's Industrial Development Agency was set to consider developer Travis's request for \$1.7 million in tax breaks.

"It is unreal that the city is considering giving this developer a tax break when you have people right here needing homes," said Beverly Corbin, a Downtown Brooklyn resident and board member of Families United for Racial and Economic Equality.

The subsidy would be awarded in exchange for including three floors of offices in the building, according to documents submitted to the IDA by Travis and obtained by The Brooklyn Paper.

In the application for the subsidy, the developer estimated that the offices would accommodate 500 "tenant jobs" and generate nearly \$13 million in direct and indirect city tax revenue.

The one-time exemption is routinely awarded to companies who build offices in areas that

the city wants to maintain, or strengthen, business districts.

The city will get a cut of Thor Equities' \$125 million sale price because it owns the land beneath the mall. The land's public ownership also means that Mayor Bloomberg must approve anything built on the site, even if it complies with the zoning.

Craig's New York Business reported the Gallery's sale on Tuesday.

The high-rise plans for Albee Square — a bridge between Fulton Mall and Fort Greene — are certainly no surprise, given that the city upzoned the area in 2004 to encourage just such development.

So far, the upzoning has failed to attract the office tenants and commercial developers the city had hoped — leading fiscal watchdogs to worry that tax breaks will be demanded every time a developer proposes building offices in Downtown Brooklyn.

These critics say that the city should not be handing out tax breaks to developers who are already taking advantage of the upzoning, which freed developers to build as high as 400 feet — and include profitable residential development in areas traditionally reserved only

for offices.

"The city has created a situation where developers can build very profitable residential towers," said Dan Steinberg, a spokesman for Good Jobs New York. "And so it must use incentives to get the offices and jobs that taxpayers were promised would come with the Downtown Brooklyn Plan."

Janel Patterson, a spokeswoman for the city's Economic Development Corporation, defended the incentive as a necessary aid for developers who are building costly office space for tenants that they do not yet know exist.

"The incentives being requested minimize the developer's exposure to financial risk for developing commercial space prior to securing tenant lease," said Patterson.

Patterson also highlighted the symbolic importance of the project.

"It will be the first major commercial project constructed in accordance with the city's Downtown Brooklyn rezoning," she said.

The Gallery was previously owned by Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner, who sold it to Joe Sini's Thor Equities after it failed to attract enough high-dollar tenants.

# TOP TEN REASONS

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## 2007 Water Quality Summit

Gowanus Canal  
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Gowanus Canal Water Quality Summit is intended to inspire dialogue among participants concerning a variety of issues related to the canal's water quality. The summit will consist of a series of four evening workshops followed by discussion. Speakers will address contaminated sediments, sewer infrastructure, land use, green district planning and other related factors affecting water quality.

# SAVE THE DATES

Session 1: Introduction to Gowanus Canal Water Quality  
Wednesday, February 21

Session 2: Causes & Potential Solutions to Water Quality Problems  
Tuesday, March 6

Session 3: A green district in Gowanus?  
Thursday, March 29

Session 4: Green Gowanus Charette  
Tuesday, April 10

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Polytechnic University; Dibner Library, Room LC 400; 333 Jay Street, Brooklyn

Gowanus Canal Conservancy 509 Court Street Brooklyn, New York 11231-3927 718.858.0557 tel



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### THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Josh Kruger LEGIS-ELATION

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"Are they going to make hoods illegal because you can't see as well?"

## Early morning blaze kills two children on 73rd

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Two little girls died when a massive fire tore through their Bay Ridge home Thursday morning and trapped them in a second-floor bedroom.

More than 130 firefighters battled the early morning blaze, which consumed the three-family structure on 73rd Street near Fifth Avenue.

The two sisters, ages 2 and 4, were trapped together. One news report said the mother tried to rescue them, but was unable to reach them.

She escaped with minor injuries.

The roaring fire broke out around 5 am Thursday morning and was so hot that it buckled the siding of the building next door.

Firefighters fought the devastating blaze in frigid temperatures and high winds, finally bringing it under control by 7:30 am.

According to reports, neighbors tried to comfort the mother of the two girls and restrained



A three-alarm blaze filled two children on 73rd Street on Thursday morning.

her from returning to the burning home.

"The mother came out ... she tried to go back in to get them," a witness told Newsday.

"She was screaming and it was awful."

Preliminary reports indicate that more than a dozen people

suffered minor injuries. Most were treated at nearby Lutheran Medical Center, while two were sent to Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. FDNY officials said, but it did not initially appear to be suspicious.

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## Big Egypt find for Museum

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

You can hide your car in a garage, but you can't hide your garage in your house.

It's a simple lesson that Boerum Hill resident May Moshulu has learned the hard way — with three orders from the city to stop building, one mysterious incident of vandalism and plenty of angry stares from neighbors now that she's removed the construction fence that had long shrouded her undercover garage.

"I always knew the garage was in there behind the fences," said neighbor Grant Pezeszki, "but when I finally saw it, I was bothered."

And he wasn't the only one.

Garages mean curb cuts and curb cuts mean the loss of a valuable parking space for all the other drivers who don't have their own lot.

"The competition for parking is more and more acute on a daily basis and the more curb cuts there are, the harder it gets," said Jo Anne Simon, a Democratic district leader and Boerum Hill resident.

"So, it's not about someone else having a parking space and not us, but the larger combination of issues. The garage is illegal and you are taking away legal spaces to put it there."

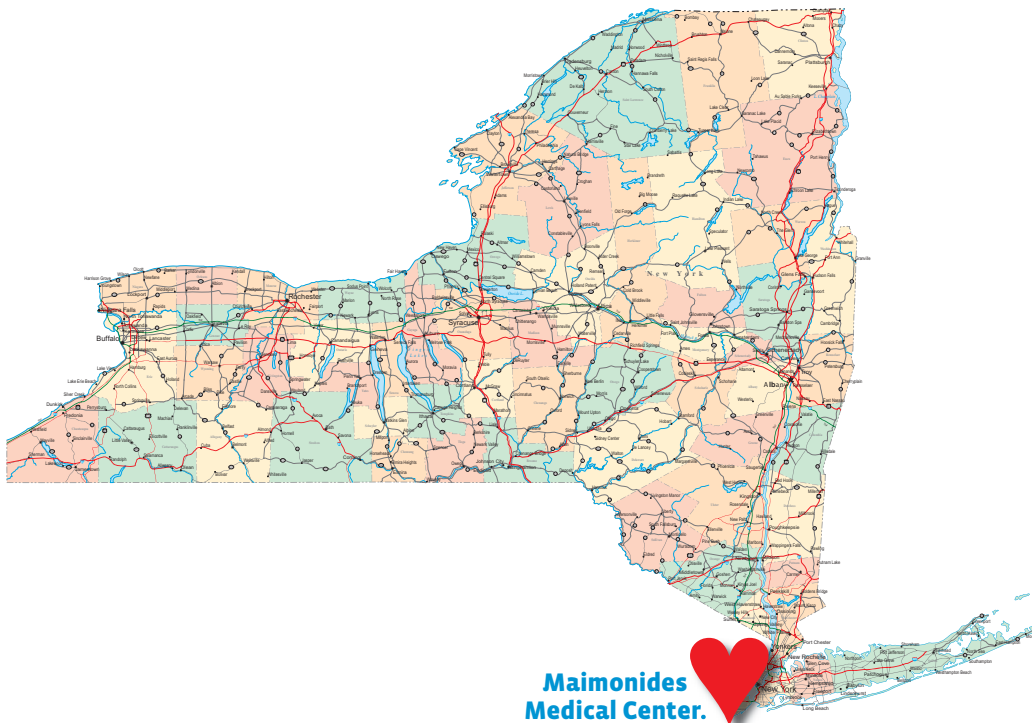
The neighbors aren't the only people complaining about the cut, and the short driveway leading to Moshulu's secret garage. The Department of Buildings hit her with a violation, citing the zoning code that forbids curb cuts on properties its size.

Moshulu did not return phone calls from The Brooklyn Paper. Buildings officials said this week that she remains in violation of code and has "10 days to provide the Department with plans to bring the property into compliance with the zoning regulations."



This ancient Egyptian lintel was found last month in Egypt by archaeologists from our own Brooklyn Museum.





# The #1 rated hospital for Cardiology Services in New York State is in the heart of Brooklyn.

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