

The Brooklyn Paper

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RATNER WINS A BIG ONE

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner won an important court victory against nine property owners inside the project's footprint who had argued that the state Constitution bars the use of eminent domain for any development that includes luxury housing.

But **Bloomy says**

no more city money

SEE PAGE 11

Ratner revealed in last Thursday's unanimous decision by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, saying it would allow construction on the long-awaited basketball arena to begin later this year.

"We're thrilled," Ratner said in a statement. "The world has changed significantly since we announced this project in December 2003. But one thing has never changed — [our] commitment to bringing the Nets to Brooklyn and building an arena and residential community that will make

See **YARDS** on page 11



Clean streets

Christina Ewald and Fritz Donnelly, owners of the new Williamsburg art space, Hi Christina, found an old-fashioned way to promote their business: put a woman in a bikini — in this case, for a bike wash on Sunday on Grand Street.

AL ABOARD!

Extended **G** train hits the spot

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The G train will be extended to Church Avenue in July, creating the first direct link between trendy Williamsburg and posh Park Slope.

The service boost, scheduled to go into effect on July 5, became necessary because of planned track work along the elevated section of the F and G lines in Carroll Gardens and Park Slope.

It was approved on Wednesday by the board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority as part of the \$257.5-million renovations — a price that leaped \$70 million last year.

Riders said that the MTA had finally hit the G spot. "This was great. I'm always going back and forth," said Park Slope resident Caroline Bell, who owns Café Grumpy in Greenpoint (and an eagerly awaited second branch of the coffee shop in the Slope). "I don't know why they haven't done it before."

The change will simplify the commute for Bell and others. Currently, the only line that does not enter Manhattan terminates at the Smith-Ninth street station. But upon commencement of major renovations to the Culver Viaduct, the G will not be able to turn around until reaches Church Avenue.

That means it will begin making stops at Fourth Avenue, Seventh Avenue, 15th Street, and Fort Hamilton Parkway, before reversing course at Church Avenue. The work is expected to last until 2013.

The MTA said The Brooklyn Paper's G-train enhancements would shave three precious minutes off the commutes of 8,500 daily riders.

MTA New York City Transit President Howard Roberts touted his agency's work. "Riders utilizing the line between Church Avenue and Fourth Avenue will benefit from more frequent service," he said.

Despite the improvement, politicians said the G train is still unsatisfactory because it's shorter than other subway trains and because the MTA eliminated almost all of its service in Queens, a neighboring borough.

The MTA must cut down on wait times and run the full number of cars for each G train and restore full service to Queens," said Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint).

The Culver Viaduct project does entail an inconvenience for some of the straphangers who rely on the Smith-Ninth street station. From the moment this project was first announced in November, 2007, the MTA made it clear that the work can't be done without completely shutting the key hub for nine months.

It will get a sprucing up — but not until 2011 or 2012, when the station will be closed. During that time, the transit agency will provide a shuttle to either Fourth Avenue or the Carroll Street station.

And other parts of the plan have changed for the worse. At one point, the MTA promised to install windows with breathtaking views at the Fourth Avenue platform, but shelved that element due to cost.

That station will remain decrepit for years.

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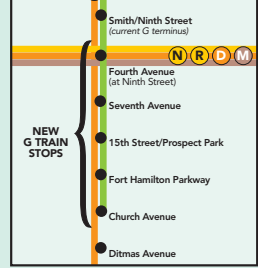
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THE GREATER G

The MTA plans to add five stops to the G line in Park Slope and Windsor Terrace.



Record loss

Eviction ends four decades of selling vinyl in P'Slope

By Evan Gardner
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's nearly the day the music died in Park Slope.

The Record and Tape Center, a dusty, cramped record store that has occupied the same spot on Fifth Avenue, near Ninth Street, for the past 38 years, will be shuttered by May 31, the result of an eviction notice that store owner Tony Mignone said came out of the blue.

"I've never

even been late on my rent!" said Mignone, who opened his store on Fifth Avenue and Sixth Street in 1965, and moved to its present location in 1971.

According to the letter, the landlords, a family that owns several grocery stores in the neighborhood, including the Deli and Smoke Shop next door, wants to use the space for itself.

Mignone, who spends his

See **VINYL** on page 13



Tony Mignone's four-decades-old store on Fifth Avenue will close.



SIT DOWN AND PROTEST: One of the protesters made it clear what he thinks of Markowitz's Asser Levy plan.

CONEY ISLAND CLUSTER

Rally against Markowitz's 'Potato chip' plan

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

More than 100 protesters rallied on Sunday in Coney Island to protest Borough President Markowitz's plan for a \$64-million amphitheater to replace the band shell in Asser Levy Park.

The protesters claim that Markowitz's plan violates city law, which forbids amplified music within 500 feet of religious institutions, courts and schools. Two synagogues are within 300 feet of the planned 8,000-seat theater.

Markowitz said the amphitheater is necessary not only for his own summertime concert series, but to lure beach band business away from concert venues at Jones Beach and in New Jersey.

"The renovation of Asser Levy Park will only enhance the surrounding community," Markowitz said in a statement. "Residents will benefit from a new playground, park house and community facilities, in addition to upgrades throughout the park."

"Replacing Asser Levy's antiquated band shell with a state-of-the-art one will ensure that free cultural programming remains in Coney Island," he added.

But Ati Turk, president of the 45-year-old Temple Beth Abraham, which is on Sea Breeze Avenue across the street from the proposed theater, complained that Markowitz's amplified sound would violate city law — and ruin the Jewish Sabbath every Friday night in summer.

"Ask him this," Turk said, "why does he think he's above the law?"

Markowitz said he is not trying to skirt anything.

"No one is above the law," he told The Brooklyn Paper in a statement. "As the project moves forward, it will be within the law."

The amphitheater, called "The Potato Chip" because of its sloped

roof, would be part of a larger city government plan to change the use of public park land they must go through the land review process," Siegel said.

"We will fight to make sure that the city and the borough president and the mayor follow the law."

That said, civil rights activist Norman Siegel supports the opposition.

Joe Sitt's Dis-Astroland

Developer's bazaar plan drawing no one

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Joe Sitt's much-hyped "Festival by the Sea" didn't live up to its name.

The Coney Island land-owners temporary amusement park of rides, side shows and a sprawling flea market was completely canceled in its opening weekend despite a promise by his company, Thor Equities, to have 25 rides and carnival acts on the former site of Astroland amusement park, plus a Still-

well Avenue bazaar for food, crafts, and souvenirs.

But both "attractions" were a ghost town of idle employees and few customers. Workers said that the bazaar and rides would now open over Memorial Day weekend instead, according to Amusing the Zillion, a new anti-Sitt blog.

The total shutdown was even worse than what was expected. Last Wednesday, a Thor spokesman had told The Brooklyn Paper that half the rides would be open.



THIS AIN'T ASTROLAND: Joe Sitt opened his "Festival by the Sea" last weekend, but our photographer didn't find much festivity.

Chess is easy — elections are hard

He came. He saw. He kicked my butt.

Now, if running a third-party political campaign was as easy as beating an editor with an eighth-grade aptitude for chess, David Pechefsky would be cruising to victory in the free-for-all success Councilman Bill DeBlasio.

Chess is "a bit of a gim-



By Gersh Kuntzman

den-Windsor Terrace district where there are probably more dead registered voters than Republicans, Pechefsky realizes he has to get his name out there quickly.

And chess accomplishes a few things quickly: It shows that Pechefsky is a geek (which helps you in Park

See **ANGLE** on page 12



CAUGHT IN THE WEB: The Brooklyn Paper's "Net" geonuses (Sylvan Migdal and Vince DiMiceli, center) get a Champagne salute from adoring colleagues. The Champagne was real.

Paper Web site No. 1

The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Paper won two more awards this week — this time new honors for our already-award-winning Web site, BrooklynPaper.com.

The Suburban Newspapers of America, a nationwide trade group, just awarded us the title of "Best Local Community Web site" in the intensely competitive category of non-daily newspapers with a circulation under 100,000.

The same group also gave our Web site first prize for "Best Site Architecture and Overall Design."

The awards follow what many readers are already discovering: Brook-

lynPaper.com is the best Web site in town. Thanks to lively features, such as our hard-news stories on development, our intensely local neighborhood news, our arts and entertainment coverage, our interactive and searchable calendar and nightlife sections, our peerless dining listings, columns such as Smart-moon, Dooley Noted and the Brooklyn Angle, and even our regular podcasts and video segments, we're now routinely hitting 650,000 page views per month.

Publisher Emeritus Ed Weinroth, who sold The Brooklyn Paper to News Corporation in March, took particular

See **AWARDS** on page 11



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Pols want permits

But Bloomy doesn't back Dan's street parking plan

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

State lawmakers from Brooklyn have drafted a bill that would forever change the way New Yorkers drive—and park — by forcing car owners to buy permits to legally park in the neighborhoods, but the Bloomberg Administration says the plan is dead on arrival.

The proposal, offered by state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Carroll Gardens), would allow the city to sell the residential parking permits to motorists, but would keep commercial streets open for metered parking. The money raised from the permits would be transferred to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to use on subway and bus improvements.

"We can accomplish two vital goals at once: reducing traffic congestion and funding mass transit," said Squadron. "Residents will be able to park near their homes without circling endlessly for a space, and eight million New Yorkers will benefit from a new funding stream for subways and buses."

Boston and Washington, DC have comparable programs. But here, free parking is as much of a birthright of being a New Yorker as good bugs and the best tap water. Still, the idea of pay-to-park system has been popular in many of Brooklyn's most-congested neighborhoods, where easy access to mass transit has encouraged some Manhattan-bound commuters to "park and ride," forcing residents of Brooklyn Heights and Boerum Hill to compete for spaces.

Data compiled over the last few years suggests some validity to residents' concern. In 2007, a Transportation Al-

ternatives study revealed that nearly half of the cars on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope at any one time are looking for parking. And a study commissioned in 2006 by the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership revealed that at any given time, Fort Greene has 1,759 cars trolling for 1,089 spots, while Boerum Hill has 1,996 cars looking for 1,769 spots.

That said, the residential parking permits would not guarantee a space, but would bar non-permit-holders from parking on some streets, reducing competition for the limited number of spaces.

Though the Squadron bill did not put a price on the permits, prior proposals have said that residents might be charged between \$75- and \$125-a-year for the place and.

Mayor Bloomberg would have delivered relief from this alleged vehicular plague last year as part of his congestion pricing plan. But that proposal failed, and the administration says it does not support implementing the permit system by itself.

"Any residential permit parking program should be part of a larger congestion reduction strategy, such as what was proposed alongside congestion pricing," said Seth Solomonow, a spokesperson for the Department of Transportation. "Without such a plan, we don't believe this bill will actually solve neighborhood parking problems."

On a technical level, Squadron and Millman's bill is a necessary first step towards parking permits, which would require state approval. The bill has the support of Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), who has long sought residential permits.

Man falls from tallest tower

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A construction worker fell several stories early Wednesday morning in Downtown Brooklyn, bringing work to a halt on what will become Brooklyn's tallest building.

The unidentified man survived the fall around 9 am and was rushed to a hospital, according to co-workers, who lingered outside the site at 111 Lawrence St.

"He fell a few stories and wasn't killed," said one hard hat who declined to give his name.

Another laborer told The Brooklyn Paper that the man did not fall to the street, but landed on one of the lower roofs or scaffolding.

A spokeswoman for Bovis Lend Lease, the construction company building the 514-foot tall residential tower, told The Brooklyn Paper that the man was conscious after the accident and suffered only minor injuries. His identity was being withheld until his family is notified.

The site is being developed by the Cluett Group and will eclipse the Williamsburgh Savings Bank building by two feet at the borough's ceiling.

An investigation is ongoing.



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Rupe's open wallet

By Nathan Duke

Community Newspaper Group
News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch just handed \$5.5 million to a Harlem charter school.

Murdoch joined Harlem Village Academy students — and former Giant running back Tiki Barber — at a fund-raiser earlier this month at the legendary Apollo Theater, and said he was donating the cash for construction of a high-school building for the current fifth- through 10th-grade academy.

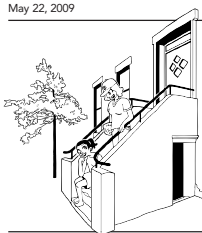
"They're setting higher standards for schools in the whole community," Murdoch said of the school.

The benefit concert was hosted by Academy Awards emcee Hugh Jackman and featured Patti LaBelle and John Legend.

News Corp. is the parent company of this newspaper.

Correction

In last week's article, "Dragnet! Cops nab bikers in red-light sting" (May 15), we under-reported the fine bicyclists received for pedaling through red lights. Bikers who were ticketed, said the penalties started at \$150.



THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

PARK SLOPE

Bike path hits bump

But city pushes ahead with P'PWest lane

By Ben Muesel

The Brooklyn Paper

A Park Slope group voted on Wednesday to support a revolutionary proposal for a two-way bike lane on the park-side of Prospect Park West that would be protected from traffic by a row of parked cars — but demanded that the city delay the project and separate the bikers from the parked cars with a raised median instead of the less-protective painted buffer.

Community Board 6 first voted 18-9 to add the bike path — and take away one lane of car traffic — on the three-lane thoroughfare between Grand Army Plaza and Bartel Pritchard Square.

Then the board voted 16-14 to ask the city to delay the construction of the lane until further study could be done.

Essentially, the board disputed the city's contention that a four-foot-wide painted median between the bike lane and parked cars on the eastern side of Prospect Park West would sufficiently protect cyclists, motorists, and walkers.

"We don't like the paint idea and feel that a curb would add more safety for pedestrians — having a physical separation is an important component," said Craig Hamerman, the district manager of the board.

The city's current plan calls for raised concrete islands to provide refuge for pedestrians crossing the bike path, but the board would like to extend the concrete islands into lengthy sidewalks that might prevent drivers from encroaching on the cycling lanes, and protect car passengers — especially children — who are accustomed to exiting vehicles beside the park without crossing a bike lane.

Board member and bike lane opponent James Bernard focused on this portion of the debate.

"This is a crazy idea that doesn't make any sense," said Bernard, who fears that children might exit cars and dash towards the park — and into the cycling path — without looking both ways.

"People want to do something good for bikes, but you are robbing Peter to pay Paul — and Peter in this case is safety of the children," he added.

Department of Transportation spokesman Seth Solomonow told The Brooklyn Paper that the painted buffer would adequately protect cyclists, motorists, pedestrians — and even car passengers.

"We definitely took into account that people would be exiting on the curbside — that's why we put in the four-foot buffer," noted Solomonow, who added that his agency would look into the board's suggestions.

"We want to make sure the project works, and we want it to work in the best way possible," he said.

The city maintains that constructing the bike lane and eliminating one lane of traffic on the 49-foot wide street — where 58 accidents involving motorists, cyclists and pedestrians were reported between 2005 and 2007 — will make the road safer for all users.

Department of Transportation officials claim that mixing one lane of traffic could also have the benefit of slowing drivers on Prospect Park West, where more than 15 percent of drivers roared down the straightaway at speeds exceeding 39 miles per hour — nine miles per hour above the speed limit, according to a Department of Transportation study in March.

After the second vote to delay the lane construction, bike lane boosters were baffled.

"It's safer to have bike lanes on Prospect Park West than it is to have bikes on the sidewalk, which is what we have now," said Jeff Strabone. "If we believe that this will make our lives safer, why delay safety?"

The board's vote to delay the bike lane was meaningless anyway because the Department of Transportation said it did not plan to install the cycling routes until September.



Lest we forget

Memorial Day was marked a week early at Green-Wood Cemetery. See page 7 for our full coverage.

BOERUM HILL

Exodus!

Homeless church keeps wandering

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A Lutheran congregation that has been locked out of its Boerum Hill church since January by the denomination's governing body was driven deeper into the wilderness last week as church members were blocked from taking their complaint to an assembly of regional congregations.

The New York-area Lutheran Church's Synod Assembly did not seat churchgoers from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at their convocation on Long Island over the weekend, silencing members of the Pacific Street church from addressing the assembly about their plight.

"It was supposed to be the place



Muriel Tillinghast is leading the flock at Bethlehem Lutheran against the Lutheran Synod.

where we could petition for redress of our grievances," said Muriel Tillinghast, former president of the congregation (and a one-time vice-presidential candidate for Ralph Nader). "We're being blocked from any redress process, so we'll have to seek other remedies," suggesting that another lawsuit in a long battle could be imminent.

The simmering intra-faith struggle goes back to at least 2003 when the Synod appointed an unpopular pastor to the 1874 temple. But the battle escalated in January when the Synod shut the church, saying it was in disrepair.

Tillinghast, along with a visiting priest and a handful of other church members, contend the Synod seized their enormous place of worship to sell it.

They have held weekly services in the Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Heights and have turned to a pastor from another branch of Lutheranism to lead them.

Tillinghast is a controversial figure herself, having received a salary for her past work as church president — which Synod sources say most congregation presidents do for free — and proposing a fundraising plan to demolish the existing church and build a smaller chapel with additional space for offices and artist studios.

Tillinghast would collect fees for herself under this plan, too.

CARROLL GARDENS

Downzoning hits new heights

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Group building planned for Court Street, that popped up in the predominantly low-rise enclave during the last real-estate boom.

"We've been hearing concerns for some time from this community about out-of-context development," said Jen Posner of the Department of City Planning. "We recognize the need to put contextual height limits in these neighborhoods."

The plan, shown to Community Board 6's Land Use and Landmarks Committee on

Thursday night, would impose a maximum building height of 50 or 70 feet on dozens of blocks in South Brooklyn. One exception was the one block long Tiffany Place, where cutting taller buildings led the city to place an 80-foot limit.

In a neighborhood where activists are not shy about lambasting city policy, many members of the audience in PS 58 on Carroll Street literally applauded the City Planning officials.

The latest plan goes beyond a smaller rezoning that

redefined some wide streets in Carroll Gardens into "narrow" streets to prevent new buildings from exceeding the height of existing homes.

Meanwhile, the city is also engineering a rezoning plan on many of the manufacturing blocks around the Gowanus Canal. There, the city is planning for buildings around 12 stories tall. A number of developers showed interest in building in the area until the federal government announced it might declare the putrid puddle a Superfund site.

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—Obama Education Secretary Arne Duncan discussing NYC schools

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84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

Boorum Hill-Downtown
A knife-wielding man mugged a girl as she was walking home from the subway on May 15.

The 14-year-old girl told police that she was on the corner of Pacific Street and Fourth Avenue at 7:30 pm when a man walked up to her and said, "Give me a kiss!"

The creepy criminal then snatched her \$600 cellphone. When the girl tried to take it back, the perp produced a dagger and slashed her across the left hand, causing a deep gash, before running off.

Laptop

Someone broke into a van on Clinton Street on May 12 and stole a laptop.

The owner returned to the Chevy van, which had been parked between Pierpoint Street and Cadman Plaza West, at 10:30 am to discover that the passenger-side window had been smashed and his \$1,500 computer was missing.

Three to one

Three men mugged a pedestrian on Wyckoff Street on May 13, kicked and punched

him, and stole his wallet. The victim told cops he was walking between Court and Smith streets at 3:30 pm when the three perps attacked him. After beating him up, they stole his iPod and a wallet containing \$58.

Take my wife!

Someone stole a car from the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Clinton Street on May 16, but he probably didn't have too hard a time of it.

The owner's wife told cops that she had accidentally left the car's doors unlocked, and had left a spare ignition key inside the car overnight. When she returned to her husband's parking spot at 11 am, she discovered the car missing.

The thief also got children's clothes, a small bicycle, a car seat, books, CDs, and other items totaling \$5,575.

Purple pirate

Someone broke into a Jay Street office on May 11 and stole a brand-new computer while the owner was in the bathroom.

The victim told cops that he had left his office, in a building near John Street in DUMBO, at 7:30 pm for a 10-minute bathroom break.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at **BrooklynPaper.com/blotter**

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Hungry thieves
At least four eaters were hit by thieves last week. Check below to see if your favorite restaurant was on the list.

• On May 11, two men approached the Lemon-grass Grill on Seventh Avenue between Lincoln and Berkeley places at around 9:15 am and told the landlord that they were there to "check the pipes." The landlord, whose English is limited, let them inside — and 45 minutes later, the handies were gone, taking a safe that held \$30,000 with them.

• A thief pried open a rear window at Get Fresh, a restaurant on Fifth Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, sometime between 11 pm on May 12 and 9 am the next morning.

The burglar didn't take anything — except the sense of security of Mark Simmons, the former "Top Chef" contestant who cooks there.

• A Seventh Avenue diner was cleaned out of \$180 and the cash register itself overnight on May 15. The owner of the Grecian Corner, which is at Fourth Street, told cops that he was not there between 11 pm and noon the next day.

• Everyone loves Joe's Pizza, including thieves, who broke in overnight on May 16 and stole \$200. The crime was discovered when the owner returned to the eatery, which is between Fourth and Fifth streets at 10:30 the next morning.

Bike bandit

A thief on a bicycle snatched a woman's handbag on Union Street on May 9. The 6 pm roll-and-robs took place on the block between Third and Fourth avenues at around 4 pm. The woman said she never saw the bicycle thief — until he was rolling away from her, handing in his possession.

She lost a phone and \$150.

Sickening

A woman being treated at New York Methodist Hospital had a cellphone stolen

from under her bed, police said this week.

The crime actually occurred on March 15, but was not reported until last week.

Interrupted

A Lincoln Place homeowner scared off a would-be thief on May 14.

The 40-year-old man told cops that he was in the living room at around 2:15 pm when he heard noises in the bedroom. He quickly found the source of the commotion: a burglar slipping into the apartment, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Upon seeing the tenant the burglar fled without saying a word.

Car crime

And, of course, it wouldn't be Park Slope without a thick welter of car-related crimes. Here's a roundup:

• A Daily News employee should probably learn to lock his car better. The photographer had just finished a job at the Prospect Park Zoo at around 5 pm on May 9 and discovered that nearly \$10,000 in photographic equipment had been stolen.

• A Toyota Camry was swiped from Second Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park west overnight on May 12. The owner told cops that he last saw his car at 9:15 am, but it was gone when he returned at 2:10 pm the next day.

• A shopper at the Lowe's hardware store on Second Avenue returned to his car at about 3 pm on May 14 and discovered that it had been ransacked. He lost a laptop computer and other equipment — all of which was valued at \$2,650.

• A 2003 Toyota SUV was swiped from Third Street between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West sometime between May 11, when it was parked, and May 17, when its owner hoped to use it. — **Gersh Kuntzman**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Fast friends
A thief stole a woman's wallet near the doorway of a Smith Street bar on May 17, but two of her friends witnessed the dastardly deed and

police were able to arrest the suspect.

The apprehended man, 38, pinched the wallet inside of Angry Wade's, at the corner of Butler Street, at 12:30 am. The wallet held the victim's health insurance card and two credit cards.

Angry Wade is owned by the ex-husband of the owner of the Sweet Melissa Patisserie one block away, an interesting neighborhood tidbit.

Carted off

A woman shopping in a Mill Street grocery had her pocketbook stolen on May 9.

The victim, 41, said her purse was in her shopping cart at 5 pm, but a fleet-fingered thief stole it when she wasn't paying close attention inside the market between Henry and Hicks streets.

The stolen bag contained \$43, a debit card and a pawnshop receipt for a gold chain.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Phone prong

There was a rash of robberies by teenagers stealing cellphones from other teens throughout Fort Greene and Clinton Hill last week.

The spree included:

• A young hoodlum with a switchblade mugged a 16-year-old on Fort Greene Place on May 8 at 5:30 pm, taking the homeowner-bound student's Sidekick phone.

• Police apprehended three 14-year-old boys who stole a cellphone from another 14-year-old at the corner of Carlton and Atlantic avenues on May 12 at 9 am.

• Later that day, cops cuffed an 18-year-old girl who nicked a mobile phone from a 12-year-old girl outside the Bruce Ratner-owned shopping mall at the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Fort Greene Place. The suspect's accomplice, another young woman, escaped.

• A trio of troublemakers grabbed a cellphone and iPod from a boy, 15, inside the G-train station at Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street on May 13 at 3:15.

• Minutes later, a 16-year-old who lifted a phone from an 18-year-old in the stairwell of the same station at 3:20 pm. But in this case, the fleeing mugger knocked down a school security officer and was ultimately arrested.

• Later that night, at 9:15 pm, three women allegedly beat up a 19-year-old woman at the corner of Carlton and Myrtle avenues. The victim told cops the trunks punched her and even bit her face in the gruesome attack.

Lock or lose

A thirsty thief raided a parked delivery truck on Fulton Street on May 11 from a Fort Greene liquor store.

The driver, 30, acknowledged that he did not lock the doors to the Greene Grape's van when he parked between South Oxford Street and South Portland Avenue at 2:20 pm.

When he returned almost half an hour later, he discovered that someone filched a case of Absolut vodka, Maker's Mark bourbon and In-terpid Aspirin wine.

Adelphi oracle

A marauder burst into a locked Adelphi Street apartment on May 14 and stole a laptop and two digital cameras.

The victim, 22, told police he left at 7:45 pm to dine with friends, when he returned to his apartment between Lafayette and Greene avenues, his front door had been damaged and the electronics were gone.

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

Grab and run

A 71-year-old woman was shoved to the ground and robbed of her purse during a lightning-fast exchange with a mugger on Ridge Boulevard on May 12.

The woman told cops that she was near 82nd Street just after midnight when the thief attacked her, grabbed her purse, which contained \$100, then jumped into a white sedan.

Delivery rob

Police are looking for two gun-toting goons responsible for mugging a delivery man for a restaurant on May 17.

The 24-year-old told cops that he was dropping off an order on 72nd Street at Eighth Avenue when the two masked suspects pulled a gun and raked the slide.

They then punched the victim in the mouth, and ran off with his wallet, cellphone and \$600.

Tired out

Thieves broke into an Infiniti parked on Gelston Avenue last week, taking a wallet and the vehicle's pricey two front tires on May 12.

The car's 23-year-old owner told cops that he had parked near the foot of Gelston Avenue at 2 am and

returned four hours later to find that the windows were broken, his wallet gone and two wheels missing.

Boiling over

Thieves heisted two boilers and a furnace from a 70th Street home on May 9, police said.

The perps used a dolly to cart out the three big pieces from the home, which is near Eighth Avenue, at about noon.

Ridge raid

Thieves with fancy tastes took a Sterling silver tea set, a Cartier watch and a Lalique vase from a Ridge Boulevard home on May 5.

Cops said that the thief opened an unlocked front window between 9:30 am and 4 pm to swipe the luxe goods from the house, which is near 94th Street.

The perps also got away with a television and two computers. — **Thomas Tracy**

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Kidnapped!

A pair of armed mugger abducted a 33-year-old in Greenpoint and held him nearly three hours while they cleaned out his bank account in a horrifying May 11 robbery.

The terrifying kidnapping began when one of the crooks pulled a black handgun on the victim, who was walking to the L train near the corner of North Ninth and Willets streets at around 10 pm.

After showing off the heater, the thug dragged the victim to a nearby alleyway where an accomplice was waiting in a black four-door sedan — possibly a Dodge Charger.

The thugs cleaned out the victim's pockets — snatching cash, an iPod, a cellphone, and a debit card — and shoved him into the back seat of the car, forcing him to sit on his knees with a jacket pulled over his head so he couldn't ID his captors.

The robbers then drove the victim to at least one ATM, where they withdrew money from his bank account before kicking the victim to the curb at South 11th Street and Wythe Avenue at around 12:45 am.

Checks cashed!

A brazen gunman disguised as an armored truck driver heisted \$39,560 from a Manhattan Avenue check cashing business on May 16.

The costumed crook was welcomed into an office in the U.S. Money Express near the corner of Milton Street at around 10:20 am because the business was expecting an armored pick-up that day.

Once inside the office, an employee asked the perp to identify his name in a logbook of armored truck drivers, but the gunman dropped the book and pulled a silver handgun from his holster.

"Shut the F— up and give me the money bag," the crook demanded.

The employee walked over to the safe, which was already open, and handed the gunman a clear bag loaded with cash.

The thug hid the cash in a black bag and fled the scene.

Not so Noble

An armed mugger stuck up a 32-year-old woman and her boyfriend on Noble Street on May 16.

The robber confronted the couple from behind at the corner of Franklin Street at around 5:15 am and demanded their cash.

"Give me all you got," the thug ordered, revealing a black firearm.

The victims forked over a pocketbook, credit cards, cash, a camera, a pearl ring, and a cellphone, and the mugger fled towards a red SUV, which contained two accomplices.

L train pain

A subterranean thief grabbed an iPhone from a 27-year-old straphanger's hands as the L train rolled into the Bedford Avenue station on May 13.

The crook snatched the fancy phone just before the train doors closed and fled from the station, which is at Bedford Avenue and North Seventh Street, at around 3:15 pm.

Good timing

A lucky Humboldt Street resident scared off a burglar who was attempting to make off with her Mac laptops and iPod on May 16.

When the 37-year-old victim returned to her home with her boyfriend at around 11:20 am, she spotted a thief exiting her building, which is near Skillman Avenue, hauling off her belongings. The pair chased the would-be burglar towards the Cooper Park Houses, where the perp dropped the valuables before fleeing into the houses.

Off the cuff

A cop who responded to a May 13 call about a knife-

See COPS on page 13

OUR OPINION

the parking problem

There is no question that parking is a problem in residential neighborhoods around Downtown Brooklyn. There have been many proposals for fixing the problem, but one idea keeps coming back: charging residents for permits that would allow holders the exclusive right to seek a parking space in their neighborhoods.

Boosters say that a small street-parking fee would free up spaces for residents. But it would not. Support for permits is based on a belief that the root cause of the parking crunch is an influx of out-of-neighborhood residents who drive from further-flung portions of the borough to Park Slope or Carroll Gardens, and then take the subway into the city from there.

But this simplistic assessment misses larger truths about parking — and runs the risk of driving public policy towards a simplistic response. Here's why.

• The number of "outer-Brooklyn" drivers who "half-commute" by car and

Think residential parking permits are the answer to gridlock and the death of spaces? Think again.

then finish with a short subway ride is not what is tipping the essential balance here. Studies have repeatedly shown that neighborhood car-owners alone would still not have enough spaces for their cars even if other drivers weren't even in the mix.

• Residential parking permits, which typically cost \$100 per year in other cities, do not reflect the market value of the parking spaces themselves.

Only a true market system would create enough revenue to make a parking permit system actually worthwhile while also serving the larger public policy goal: discouraging residents of Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Carroll Gardens and Fort Greene — neighbor-

hoods with the best subway service in Brooklyn — from owning cars in the first place.

If people in those neighborhoods still choose to own cars, they should stop complaining about limited parking.

• There will always be flaws that render such a system useless. Cops, fire fighters, city officials and others have access to places that allow them to park anywhere with virtual impunity. And drivers who show no compunction about registering their cars out of state to reap insurance or tax benefits would certainly lie about their address to secure a parking permit.

• Owning a car means assuming the responsibility for that vehicle. The city is under no obligation to ensure a parking space — an entitlement with a market value in the thousands of dollars — for a resident who insists on owning a car.

With so many flaws, it's hard to see how residential parking permits solve the problem.

ALL DRAWN OUT



WEB CHATTER

Lots of talk about the bicycle crackdown

We received an overwhelming response to our Web version of the story about the NYPD crackdown on "rogue" bikers ("Drag-net Cops nab bikers in red-light sting," online, May 12). Here's a fair synopsis of the debate from our Web readers:

"Traffic laws should be enforced. I'm a cyclist, but as a pedestrian, I've also been clipped and injured by a law-breaking cyclist."

Publius, Brooklyn Heights

"As the article says, 'But most cyclists are like red lights are stop signs, halting just long enough to see that intersections are clear of traffic.' Of course I do it. It's safer that way. If I wait for the green light, then I will have an armada of cars accelerating behind me. It's clear, I go through the red light and get a head start, then I can safely ride to the next intersection without drivers tailgating my bicycle."

Big W, Carroll Gardens

"It must be very easy for cops to ticket bikers since they always park their cars in our bike lanes."

Chuck, Boerum Hill

"So if the bike lane is blocked its OK to go through the light? Strange

thinking. What if the cars started doing the same thing? There is no one coming its OK to go through the red light. Cars would ensue. Personally I think it's safer for bikes to go against traffic, but that isn't the law either. And I can't tell you how many times I have almost gotten hit as a pedestrian by bikes going through lights and almost hitting me as I am crossing the street with the light and coming in the wrong direction (when I am jaywalking)."

Sid, Boerum Hill

"This just in: Drivers of cars break laws and get tickets, too!"

Nellie Bly, San Simeon

"I think the law should be enforced. Too many times have I seen cyclists pull dangerous moves crossing illegally on red. They are going to get someone killed. I've even thought about the possibility of putting in the red light cameras. Of course that brings up a whole new debate about the validity of these cameras, but something needs to be done."

Gant, Williamsburg

"Most of the bikers don't have manners they are the only ones driving, if a driver is beeping with horn to prevent of happening an accident

they just give you the finger. Bikers should remember that if they can't handle it, just stay out of the kitchen, and get yourself some money and use public transportation."

Lee, Greenpoint

"Bicyclists are getting out of hand. They act like they're in Cape Cod instead of Brooklyn."

Liz, Clinton Hill

"Wouldn't it be nice if more people relaxed as if they were on Cape Cod? Bicyclists are getting out of hand? Yes, they cause so much destruction. Just one crazed bike can inflict hundreds of dollars in aesthetic damage to a car. I mean can you just imagine the toll dents and chipped paint can take on a man not to mention possible guilt over the dead cyclist under their tires."

Eric, Greenpoint

"I consider myself one of the safest and most considerate bike riders I know (12 years of city biking and zero incidents). After reading this article I decided to count how many red lights I purposely rode through on my commute home from the West Village to Carroll Gardens. It was 12."

Big Man, Carroll Gardens

LETTERS

Fight filth? Speak up!

To the editor,

I saw your article about the filthy streets of Bay Ridge ("Bay Ridge trashiness is caused by you!" May 8) and I couldn't agree more.

As a resident of Bay Ridge Avenue, I am appalled at how easily residents discard their small parcels of garbage on the sidewalk, even when there is a trash can in plain sight. I constantly approach litterers and give them back what they have discarded. Most of the time, the person sheepishly takes back the refuse. Most of my friends and family know that I'm crazy and it's just a matter of time before I approach the wrong person. By running a blind eye to the issue, it

lently makes it acceptable.

Why can't a resident comment on how disgusting it is to see someone throw a half-eaten sandwich, candy wrapper, or used Q-Tips (I swear I've seen this one) onto the street?

There are several people in our neighborhood who rummage through the plastic/glass recyclables looking for deposit returns. Unfortunately, most do not take the time to open the bag gently, instead tearing holes into it. When the sanitation workers come for collection, some of the contents fall to the ground, through the ripped hole. The workers don't seem concerned with the mess left behind. Broken glass is a hazard for bicyclists, skateboarders, children, and animals.

When I read that there was a movement to remove garbage cans from certain parts of the neighborhood, I thought, "What a dumb idea!" The explanation was that a couple of cans had been removed and on those corners, the trash issue was greatly improved. Follow-up: that's true, if we weren't ALL the cans, ALL the garbage would go away. Really?

At the heart of the entire issue is civics. We have come to be afraid to speak up for what's right. We allow others to litter, curse, stare, nudge, and speed recklessly because we don't think it's our place to comment on another's actions. Little by little, we've allowed unacceptable behavior to become the norm.

Next time you see someone litter, have the nerve to point out that it's simply wrong. You'll probably be told to mind your own business, just point out that you live in the neighborhood, so it is your business.

John Clements, Bay Ridge

Save DUMBO

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Bridge is the icon of our borough, its historic span crossed by admiring Brooklynites and visitors from around the world. Jed and David Walenta's Dock Street project, an 18-story mixed-use proposal to include a middle school, would tamper with this national treasure ("Smaller Dock Street project moves forward," online, April 22).

We all agree that middle school classrooms are needed. But the Walentas' effort to foist their project on the community is as ludicrous as would be building adjacent to the Eiffel Tower.

They have used our desperation for a middle school as both a threat and divide our community, and presented us with a false choice.

This project is not about a middle school. It is about a wealthy developer who wants to make a profit at our collective expense.

The School Construction Authority, which operates in secret, has made site decisions that ignore public input.

There are many other proposals to solve the middle school problem, but the Department of Education has rejected them for reasons I believe to be unfounded. I advocate increasing the capacity of PS 8, if possible, or developing one of several other sites suggested.

Ken Diamondstone, Brooklyn Heights

The writer is a candidate for City Council.

Send a letter

By e-mail:

newscom@bkglobal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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

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MAY RECOMMENDATIONS

These are Darrin's Best Buys for May!

Gertie and Max
Here's a light, delicate and dry white wine made from an ancient, grapecalled Gutedel (rhymes with 'fruit ladle'). It's known as Chasselas in Switzerland where it is often badly handled (and usually overpriced) but here it is treated lovingly. It's crisp, lively acidity kept intact. The Blankenheim Family grow their grapes in Baden, 15 miles north of Switzerland, perhaps the best location in the world for cultivation of this varietal. Dry, slightly nutty tasting...delightful! This wine is a delicious aperitif and pairs well with lighter foods. With cheese fondue, it's a natural!

\$9.95

Arca Nova Vinho Verde
One of the best wines for seafood that I know! This crisp, bright, lively dry white wine from Portugal is so easy to like! Chill it & pour it, enjoy it as an aperitif, with shellfish (I love it with garlicky shrimp)! light fish, chicken, cream sauces, soft cheese... almost anything.

\$8.95

Mellot Sincerite Rose
DRY! DRY! DRY! This little charmer from the Loire valley is made without a trace of sweetness! There is a characteristic nose of ripe, red raspberry and blackberry. Lush and full on the palate, enjoy this, chilled, with anything from roast chicken to grilled fish to cold cuts and salad!

\$9.95

Pananroz Jumilla
90 Points from Robert Parker? Yeah, I know... I never go by other people's reviews or ratings of wines: I taste the wine and then look at the price, weighing the quality and the value. Now, in all truth, I had already ordered this wine before I saw Parker's review, so I'm still going solely on my own, but it IS nice to know that the world's leading wine critic agrees with me! Made from Monastrell, this red is a touch spicy, with flavors of cherry and licorice. Mouth-filling and rich tasting, this is a bargain you really should not miss!

\$9.95

Darrin's May Discovery Wines!

Koopmanskloof Pinotage
This is the most unique Pinotage I've tasted, ever! This is a grape unique to South Africa, a cross of the Pinot Noir & Cinsault. The wine has a deep red color that hints at the depth of the aromas of plum, mulberry and sweet prunes found the nose. Ripe and richly flavored with a smoky note, this is a complex wine with a dry, earthy finish and a ripe tannin core. Now that we're getting into barbecue season, this is one to enjoy with burgers & steaks.

\$13.95

Saint Tropez Cuvee Du Cep D'or Rose
This is the benchmark for dry Rosé wine! The folks in Provence have been drinking rosés like this since before the time of the Romans! Served chilled, it is as good as it gets with grilled fish, charcuterie of all sorts, sandwiches & salads, or an herb, roasted chicken. Grenache & Cinsault grapes give complexity and a delightful nose of ripe berries & herbs.

\$11.95

Borgo M Friulano
This used to be called Tocai Friulano, but now it's simply Tocai... and it's simply delicious! This wine comes from the northeast corner of Italy, where acres and acres of Tocai are grown on the sunny hillsides. The cool climate gives the wine a beautiful balance & makes it an ideal "food wine". There is an enticing bouquet of pears & wildflowers with bright, crisp citrus flavors.

\$14.95

May Spirit of the Month

Heart Of The Hudson Vodka
Heart Of The Hudson Vodka is a super-premium hand made vodka, produced from 100% Hudson Valley Apples. This fine vodka comes off the still at 191 proof. It is distilled three times, to ensure a deliberately smooth vodka. Bottled at 80 proof, it is Tullitown Distillery's purest, lightest spirit. It is a vodka like no other, vodka with honest character. Heart Of The Hudson Vodka IS the perfect vodka! Great over ice or with citrus garnish.

\$33.95

Come in today for our

Wines of the Week

CHOOSE THREE
SAVE 10%

CHOOSE SIX
— SAVE 15%

Selection changes every Friday



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 22, 2009

LOBSTERfest!

Summer is coming, and that means crustaceans!

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Ralph Gorham is a missionary. But he's not selling God. His entry to heaven comes from faith in only one thing: the sanctity of eating lobster.

With true missionary glee, Gorham is spreading The Word as best he can. Earlier this month, he turned a rundown storefront on Van Brunt Street into the Red Hook Lobster Pound, a simple establishment that features two large tanks, a counter and a scale.

On the curb out front is the real guts of this husband-and-wife operation: the Chevy Avalanche that Gorham drives every Thursday night to Maine, fills with hundreds of pounds of lobsters and ice, and drives back to Red Hook.

Gorham says that this unsophisticated method — drive, buy lobsters, drive back — is the only way to ensure that his customers are eating a lobster for dinner that had its own breakfast in the icy Atlantic.

"Six and a half hours from the ocean to your plate," he said. "I bet the lobsters fresh off the boats in Maine, load them up and drive like hell back here."

"I have a radar detector, of course," he added, when a grizzled reporter reminded him that it's about 300 miles to Maine, a journey that takes six hours only on paper.

The reason Gorham risks speeding tickets in Connecticut is simple: You need to eat a lobster.

"It's summer and if you ask people, they'll say that the best meal of their life was a fresh lobster, an ear of corn and a beer with their friends," he said. "People think they can't afford a lobster, but for \$30, you and your wife can eat like kings — and still have a little left over for beer."

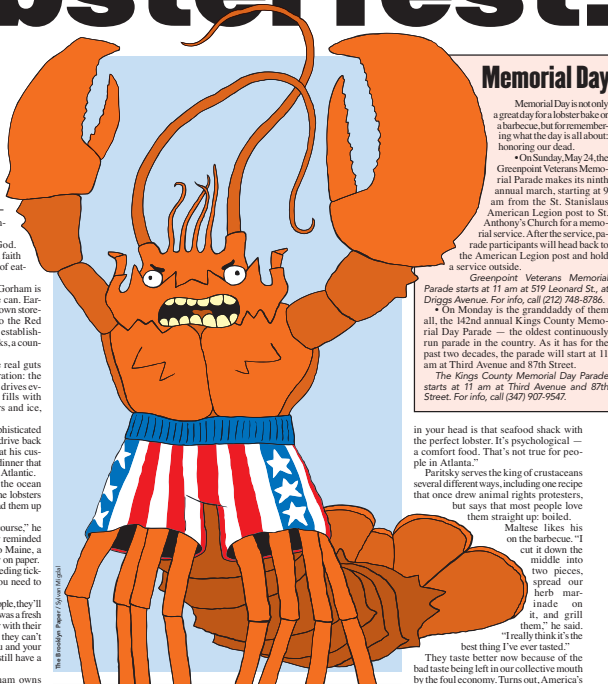
The low overhead — Gorham owns his building so there's no rent, and the main expense is the \$200 in gas for the round trip — keeps his prices relatively low, typically \$9 or \$10 per pound.

Those prices can beat the two-year-old Fairway Market down the street — except when the gourmet Goliath decides to take a bath on crustaceans and sells lobsters for \$5.95 a pound.

Not that we're complaining. "We are literally giving them away right now," said Tony Maltese, the seafood director for the five-store chain. "But that's what you do in summer: Everyone wants a lobster. I sold out in Red Hook at 4 p.m. yesterday [Tuesday]. They're moving!"

It's not just the prices that are putting lobsters on area plates (OK, those prices, which continue through May 25, help). There's just something about the first hint of summer that sets off a Pavlovian alarm bells.

"It happens for anyone who grew up in the northeast," said Michael Paritsky, who owns Blue Ribbon and Blue Ribbon Sushi on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. "To us, Maine is vacationland and the picture



The Brooklyn Paper's Ralph Gorham

The Brooklyn Paper's Ralph Gorham

Lobster challenge!

Here's a new lobsterman in town — and he's taking on Fairway. Earlier this month, Ralph Gorham (pictured) opened the Red Hook Lobster Pound just a few blocks up Van Brunt Street from the much-loved supermarket giant. He promises fresher lobsters at reasonable prices — a claim that enables us to offer our first-ever lobster smackdown:

Red Hook Fairway	Store	Red Hook Lobster Pound
Look, it's a lobster. It looks like a lobster.	Appearance of lobster	Look, it's a lobster. It looks like a lobster.
Maine and Nova Scotia	Where from?	Maine only
24-48 hours	Time from Maine to here	Six-and-one-half hours
Amazing (it's lobster!)	Taste	Amazing (it's lobster!)
\$5.95 when on sale; \$8.99-\$9.99 other times	Price per pound	\$9-10.50

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is not only a great day for a lobster bake or a barbecue but for remembering what the day is all about: honoring our dead.

• On Sunday, May 24, the Greenpoint Veterans Memorial Parade makes its ninth annual march, starting at 9 a.m. from the St. Stanislaus American Legion post to St. Anthony's Church for a memorial service. After the service, parade participants will head back to the American Legion post and hold a service outside.

Greenpoint Veterans Memorial Parade starts at 11 a.m. at 519 Leonard St. at Driggs Avenue. For info, call (212) 748-8786.

• On Monday is the granddaddy of them all, the 142nd annual Kings County Memorial Day Parade — the oldest continuously run parade in the country. As it has for the past two decades, the parade will start at 11 a.m. at Third Avenue and 57th Street. The Kings County Memorial Day Parade starts at 11 a.m. at Third Avenue and 57th Street. For info, call (347) 907-9547.

in your head is that seafood shack with the perfect lobster. It's psychological — a comfort food. That's not true for people in Atlanta."

Paritsky serves the king of crustaceans several different ways, including one recipe that once drew animal rights protesters, but says that most people love them straight up: boiled.

Maltese, who likes his on the barbecue, "I cut it down the middle into two pieces, spread our herb marinade on it, and grill them," he said. "I really think it's the best thing I've ever tasted."

They taste better now because of the bad taste being left in our collective mouth by the foul economy. Turns out, America's fiscal malaise is great for lobster lovers. Prices are down one-quarter to one-half because the demand for such expensive delicatessen has softened.

"Normally, there's a shortage of lobster, but with the economy so bad, restaurants aren't selling as many, so there's a glut for the rest of us," said Maltese.

But people still think of lobster as an impossible splurge. That's where Gorham comes in. "I'm telling everyone: come here and have a lobster," he said. On a sunny day, it is the best meal you'll ever have."

Red Hook Lobster Pound (284 Van Brunt St., between Pioneer and Verona streets in Red Hook, (846) 326-7650) will be open Friday-Sunday this weekend, but is closed on Memorial Day. Place orders in advance: Fairway Market (520 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 694-8868) is open every day; Blue Ribbon (280 Fifth Ave., at Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 840-0404) is closed on Mondays.

DINING

Life is savory

Self-described "gelato maestro" Gino Cammarata has closed his Bensonhurst ice cream shop Oro Verde Gelato — which was located within a tanning salon, oddly enough — to open a small plates restaurant and "vino bar" boasting a full menu of classical Mediterranean dishes on Fourth Avenue at 99th Street.



The new eatery, Plattini, will offer classic Sicilian entrees alongside less-known Italian dishes prepared by Cammarata, who is famous for masterfully making traditional gelato flavors like fig, ricotta cream, and pistachio, and serving them boldly — like his acclaimed bruschetta gelato sandwich.

"It's a light menu with a very fresh ingredients," said Cammarata. "The food quality is going to be high."

Thankfully, Cammarata won't abandon his bread and butter — gelato.

"There will be a gelato machine," the chef promised. "That's my signature."

Plattini (9824 Fourth Avenue at 99th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 759-0009), will have a soft opening this week. — Ben Messig

MUSIC

Camp time

Girls who rock can't do it alone.

That's why 20 bands will raise money for the Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls, a "School of Rock" for young women, by participating in the 3rd annual Willie Mae-ra-thon at four venues next weekend.

• On Thursday, May 28, the action kicks off at Union Pool in Williamsburg with noise rock band Parts & Labor.

• On Friday, May 29, the action moves to Public Assembly in Williamsburg with a show featuring experimental funk group Burnt Sugar.

• On Saturday, May 30, Brooklyn's newest venue, Bruar Falls on Grand Street between Driggs Avenue and Kosling Street, will get a chance to show off, thanks to a show featuring art punk upstairs Taiga and Pterodactyl.

• And to prove that not all great music happens in Williamsburg, the final show of the marathon, on Sunday, May 31, will be at the Bell House in Gowanus with Buke the Blue Cat, Antican (pictured) and the Last Town Chorus.

Show times and costs vary. For venue information, go to www.williemae-rockcamp.org or call (212) 777-1323. — Ben Messig

NIGHTLIFE



New space

The Gowanus Canal may not yet be clean, but the area is certainly running pure with music venues.

The latest addition to a burgeoning arts scene is Littlefield, the brainchild of owners and environmental engineers Scott Koshnood and Julie Kim (pictured). Located on Degraw Street between Third and Fourth avenues, Littlefield was built with eco-friendliness in mind, and features an interior made out of salvaged bowling alley lanes and a sound system that incorporates truck tires.

The paint is also recycled and energy comes from wind turbines upstate.

Koshnood, whose location joins the Bell House, Ibeam and the Issue Project Room in the canal area, said he also hopes to add a greywater system, which recycles rainwater for future use, and a green roof. His goal is to have no carbon footprint at all.

Until then, let's dance. Littlefield had a "soft opening" on May 16, and the first official concerts are on May 22 and 23.

In addition, the walls of Littlefield will highlight the work of a local visual artist. First up is Sergio Pizzo Barrale, whose massive portraits and murals stretch to dozens of feet.

Littlefield (222 Degraw St., between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, no phone but e-mail julie@littlefieldnyc.com). — Roland Li

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Our 11th annual Memorial Day concert will showcase the music of the ISO Symphonic Band, directed by Brian Worsdale, conductor, featuring select compositions by Green-Wood Cemetery's permanent residents Leonard Bernstein, Fred Ebb, Louis Moreau Gottschalk and other famous composers.

Bring a folding chair, a blanket and a picnic lunch. Cookout food, snacks and drinks, as well as books and souvenirs relating to the history of the Cemetery, will be for sale—and you can join the Green-Wood Historic Fund.

ADMISSION IS FREE and concert will be held rain or shine.

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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
 May 23



Roller girl

What could possibly be better than chilling on the Coney Island Boardwalk with an Iced Astro-Mocha and delicious Cotton-Candy-Butterscotch Muffin? How about flashdancing at Coney Island's most glamorous roller rink? Come to Lola Starr's Dreamland Roller Rink seasonal grand opening. Finally, some action in Coney!

TUESDAY
 May 26

Sex, drugs & readings

It's double-barreled rock and roll excess! Ben Greenman offers excerpts from "Please Step Back," about a fictional 1970s funk rocker, and Mike Edison (pictured) reads from "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go," his memoir of "pot, porn, punk rock..." and the most notorious magazines in the world.

7 pm. Mike Edison at BookCamp 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 623-3471. Free.

7:30 pm. Ben Greenman at Word 126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint. (718) 383-0096. Free.

THURSDAY
 May 28



Oy vey all night

Tonight, Congregation B'nai Avraham hosts an all-night Torahthon in celebration of Shavuot. In keeping with the holiday's tradition of turning Torah study into an endurance sport, speaker after learned speaker, including Rabbi Simcha Weinstein (a man so gifted that he could make an atheist reconsider — if only for the blintzes!), will offer insights.

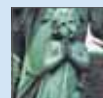
FRIDAY
 May 29

Out of this world

There's something very alluring about space travel, something that has spawned decades of comic books and posters featuring giant rocket ships, heroic men in space suits, and evil, lizard-like Communist space monsters. And that's exactly what you'll get at this show, featuring payoffs of genuine Space Race-era artwork from both sides of the Iron Curtain.

7 pm. Outer Space 2.0 at Brooklyn Frame Works 142 Fifth Ave. between Douglas and Baltic streets in Park Slope. (718) 399-6613. Free.

SATURDAY
 May 30



Only the dead...

Green-Wood Cemetery is just dead on Saturday nights, but there's really no better place if you want to explore catacombs by flashlight, accompanied by a live accordionist and the light of a full moon. You will need to bring a flashlight, and sign a waiver, for this tour. Also, we're not responsible for zombie attacks.

9 pm. Moonlight walk in Green-Wood Cemetery (25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights). (718) 768-7300. \$20.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MAY 22

DANCEAFRICA: Four American companies. \$20-\$45 (\$10-\$22.50 children). 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": Mother-daughter drama. \$20 (\$12 seniors and children). 8 pm. Restoration Plaza (1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant). (718) 636-0918. ext. 12. www.restorationplaza.org

THEATER, "THE WHO'S TOMMY": Rock opera. \$18 (\$14 children and seniors). 8 pm. Gallery Players 199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. (212) 352-3101. galleryplayers.com

THEATER, "SHOW BOAT": Classic musical. \$20 (\$18 children and seniors). 8 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 237-2752. www.heightsplayers.com

THEATER, "THE NOSEMAKER'S APPRENTICE": A comedy about a medieval plastic surgeon. \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater (375 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg). (718) 907-6189. www.bricktheater.com

NEW INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC: Signal performs Sarah Kirkland Slack's "Penelope." With So Percussion. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 222-8500. www.galapagosartspace.com

THEATER, "HAMLET": Mortals Theater version of Shakespeare's tragedy. \$20. 8 pm. Archway Theater (498 Court St. between Luger and Nelson streets in Carroll Gardens). www.theaterramnia.com

DANCE, "THE SERPENT ROUGE": Company 207 presents an erotic take on the Adam and Eve story. \$20 (\$15 students). 8 pm. 303 Bond St. between Sackett and Union streets in Carroll Gardens. (212) 668-4444. www.company207.com

THEATER, "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)": Cynthia Hopkins's multimedia adventure. \$30-\$40. 8 pm. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO). (718) 254-8779. www.stamswarehouse.org

MUSIC, JESSICA RYLAND: \$10. 8 pm. Issue Project Room (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus). (718) 330-0313. www.issueprojectroom.org

MUSIC, PIANO AND PERCUSSION DUETS: \$25 (\$20 seniors, \$15 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street, and Furman Street in DUMBO). (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org

CLASSICAL CONCERT: The Grammy Trio performs works by Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven. \$25-\$100. 8 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (58 Seventh Ave. between St. Johns and Lincoln places in Park Slope). (718) 622-3300. www.bqcm.org

FRI, MAY 22

DISCOVERY TOUR: Meet birds and other wildlife, guided by a naturalist. Free. 3 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park). (718) 267-3400. www.prospectpark.org/audubon

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDWATCHING: Free. Noon. Prospect Park Grand Army Plaza entrance (Grand Army Plaza and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Park).

CANOE THE GOWANUS: Self-guided trip. 1-5 pm. Gowanus Canal (Second Street, near Bond Street in Gowanus). www.gowanuscanal.org

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY TROLLEY TOUR: Tour the gardens. Reservations required. \$20. 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 86th Street in Sunset Park). (718) 768-7300. www.green-wood.com

OUTDOORS AND TOURS PROSPECT PARK BIRDWATCHING WALK: Led by the Brooklyn Bird Club. Free. 8 am. Prospect Park Grand Army Plaza entrance (Grand Army Plaza and Eastern Parkway in Prospect Park).

PERFORMANCE THEATER, "THE WHO'S TOMMY": 2 and 3 pm. See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 3 and 8 pm. See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "SHOW BOAT": 8 pm. See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "THE NOSEMAKER'S APPRENTICE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "HAMLET": See Friday, May 22.

DANCE, "THE SERPENT ROUGE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)": See Friday, May 22.

CIVIC CALENDAR
TUES, MAY 26
 Gowanus Superfund discussion. Federal and local officials discuss proposal. 6:30 pm. PS 23 (137 Hoyt St. between Union and President streets in Carroll Gardens). (718) 634-3027.

THURS, MAY 28
 Kings County Republicans annual Lincoln Dinner. Tickets, \$200. 6:30 pm. El Caribe (2545 Rockland Ave. in Mill Basin). (718) 332-5796.

FRI, MAY 29
 State Senate Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions. Hearing held. "Atlantic Yards: Where are we now, how did we get here, where is the project going?" 1-3 pm. Pratt Institute (61 St. James Pl. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill). (212) 222-7315.

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Missa's Brooklyn Backyard BBQ Sauce

1 tablespoon whole coriander seeds
 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 2 small red onions, peeled, stemmed, quartered
 10 garlic cloves, halved
 2 tablespoons kosher salt
 1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
 1/2 cup clover or orange blossom honey
 1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
 1 chipotle pepper in adobo
 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
 1/3 cup whole grain mustard
 1 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 Freshly grated zest and juice of one lemon

In a heavy-bottomed medium-sized saucepan, dry toast the coriander seeds over medium-low heat until toasted and fragrant. Add the olive oil, red onions, garlic and salt. Cook over medium-high heat stirring occasionally, developing deep dark color, browning without burning. The onions and the garlic should be brown and soft, and falling apart.

Add the crushed tomatoes, honey, brown sugar, chipotle, vinegar, mustard, cumin, black pepper, lemon zest and juice. Bring to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes, stirring often. Remove from heat and carefully ladle the sauce into a blender. Puree until smooth.

Return the sauce to the saucepan over low heat and simmer 10-15 minutes more, stirring often until a deep rich color is reached and low slow bubbles are formed (you may place an offset cover over the simmering sauce to keep the mess down). Taste and add additional salt and pepper if desired. Makes one quart of sauce which can be refrigerated up to two weeks or frozen up to three months.

Note: Marinate chicken in some of this sauce overnight and then bake it 3/4 of the way in a 375-degree oven to prevent scorching. Before serving, mop it with tons more BBQ sauce and finish it on the grill.

Melissa Murphy is the chef/owner of Sweet Melissa Patisserie (725 Seventh Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (718) 788-2700, 276 Court St., between Butler and Douglas streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-3410).

Sweet & savory

Melissa's BBQ sauce is a summer classic

By Melissa Murphy
 for The Brooklyn Paper

The other morning, I typed into the bedroom and shook my slumbering fiancé. "Babe, wake up. I want you to taste my barbecue sauce." He was still groggy, but he nonetheless asked a valid question: "Why are you making barbecue sauce?"

Making barbecue sauce, indeed, isn't that like reinventing the wheel?

Nothing wrong with that if the wheel is busted. I realized this the other day, when I was at the supermarket and found myself standing before the Great Wall of Condiments. I began reading various lists of ingredients — artificial smoke flavor, caramel color, sodium benzoate.

"That's enough!" I thought. "I'll just make my own." I went to bed thinking about the BBQ sauce. I dreamt about the tiny kitchen at Home restaurant in the West Village years ago, where we made our own everything, including ketchup and BBQ sauce.

At the time, I abhorred those blackening onions on the flat-top griddle, the vinegar reductions burning my sensitive nasal passages, the smell of nearly burnt garlic on my clothes and on my skin. The smoke was aggressive, and got in the way



Sweet and smoking: Melissa Murphy grills up some chicken using her sweet and spicy barbecue sauce — a recipe now available to Brooklyn Paper readers.

of my sensitive pie baking and pastry making.

At the same time, I fondly recalled the grunts and the groans of pleasure from Home's

customers as they chewed on chicken legs and baby backs, stopping only to signal their server — with stained fingers — for extra napkins.

But now I know the trick: browning of the onions and the garlic, and cooking the BBQ sauce nice and slow until it is a deep glossy cherry wood red.



Sharlene Frank at her bar, which replaced Mooney's on Flatbush Avenue near Seventh Avenue in Prospect Heights.

Eclipsing Mooney's

Sharlene's replaces old man watering hole

By Mike McLaughlin
 The Brooklyn Paper

Fans of Mooney's can stop crying in their Buds — a new bar has finally filled the gaping hole on the Prospect Heights side of Flatbush Avenue.

Sharlene's Bar opened last week — and an initial fact-finding (bump) mission by The Brooklyn Paper revealed that Mooney's regulars will like some things and not like some others.

On the plus side: The bathrooms are clean and functional. The staff is friendly. The beers are cheap. The decor is stylish without being annoy-

ingly Yuppie. And somehow, they got rid of the omnipresent cigarette fumes (probably by not smoking, come to think of it).

On the minus side: No TVs. "We made a conscious decision not to bring back the television," said Sharlene Frank, a former bartender at Commonwealth on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope who owns the joint with Ray Gish and Rory Dwyer.

"Not having a TV forces people to talk to each other. People spend too much time disengaging from people and looking at their computers and the TV. But when you go out, you should be out among people. There are plenty of bars with TVs."

Frank said her goal is to create a "comfortable, neighborhood place where women can come by themselves and neighbors feel like they can leave a spare set of keys."

She admitted that some Mooney's regulars miss their old place, but others have been favorable. "They're happy it's a bar and not a GAP Kids," said Frank, who grew up in Windsor Terrace.

Also nice are the specials: Happy hour is 1-7 pm every day (51 off every drink), there will be \$2 Buds and Yuenglings during lunch. Sharlene's (353 Flatbush Ave., between Sterling and Park, (347) 350-8225). — Mike McLaughlin

Mussel-ing in!

Finally, there's a kick-ass menu to go with the beautiful setting and creative cocktails at one of our favorite DUMBO watering holes, reBar.

The bar, once most famous for its girly grapefruit-juice-and-ginger-vodka cocktail named after its biggest fan, Brooklyn Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman, now serves a full "gastropub" menu that includes big salads, pressed sandwiches, pizzas, crepes, entrees such as whole roasted trout, Moroccan tagine, hanger steak and pork tenderloin, and bowls of steaming mussels.

Actually, come to think of it, stop reading right now and go to reBar for a bowl of those mussels (I won't be offended).

The immaculately prepared, stunningly fresh bi-valves (\$16) come in teeny bowls and are served in three styles: a standard Provencal, a hard cider and fennel version, and a coconut curry-covered classic.

The coconut curry mussels are the stand-

out — the sweet meat of the shellfish perfectly balanced against the heat and richness of the curry. Paired with a lager or pilsner, there may be no better summer dish.

And the pairings are part of the fun of this new menu. Owner Jason Stevens, bar manager Luke Wheeler and chef Lori D'Agostino picked wines and beers that matched the plates — and the results are fantastic (only a fool would argue against a hanger steak paired with a Cono Sur Cabernet — the wine perfectly matched to the crusty char on the fatty steak).

It's been a full paragraph since I mentioned the mussels, and I am reminded of them anew. Please go to reBar and order them right now. I'm done here.

reBar (147 Front St., between Pearl and Jay streets in DUMBO, (718) 766-9110) is open Monday and Tuesday, 11:30 am to 2 am; Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 am to 4 am; and Sunday, 11 am to 2 am. — Mike McLaughlin



'Cuing up for Greenpoint BBQ

By Mike McLaughlin
 The Brooklyn Paper

This Saturday is the "Great Greenpoint BBQrawl," and five bars will serve complimentary 'cue and discounted draught beer

from Brooklyn Brewery in an effort to attract more drinkers to their neighborhood, inconveniently accessible only by the G train. This pub-crawl follows in the great tradition of the seminal Mac

Off in Greenpoint in March. "It's essentially to expose the Greenpoint to people outside of the neighborhood, because it's hard area to get to," said Allen Welch, co-owner of t.b.d., on Franklin Street.

The four other participating bars — the Black Rabbit, Brouwerij Lane, the Mark Bar and the Van Gogh Radio Lounge — will each serve a different item from the grill and an accompanying Brooklyn beer. The Great Greenpoint BBQrawl is May 23, 3 to 8 pm at Black Rabbit (91 Greenpoint Ave., between Manhattan and Franklin avenues, (718) 349-1595); Brouwerij Lane (78 Greenpoint Ave., between West Street and Franklin Avenue); The Mark Bar (1025 Manhattan Ave., between Freeman and Greer streets, (718) 349-2340); t.b.d. (244 Franklin St., between Eagle and Freeman streets, (718) 349-6727); Van Gogh's Radio Lounge (147 Franklin St., between India and Java streets, (718) 701-4004).

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Apple of his eye!

New Adam and Eve play is sexy romp

Maybe I wouldn't have been so bored in Sunday school if they had taught me the story of Adam and Eve like Company XIV does in "Le Serpent Rouge."

I certainly got a big rise from this stripped-down, satirical depiction of the Fall of Man, which featured a first couple writhing nearly naked.

The best thing is that the play, running through June 6 on Bond Street in Carroll Gardens, is not faithful to the Biblical version of how the so-called "greatest story ever told" began.

Instead of just dealing with Adam, Eve, a snake and the forbidden fruit, "Le Serpent Rouge" adds Lilith into the mix. According to some legends, Lilith was Adam's original bride, but refused to submit to him, making her an early feminist heroine (or villain, perhaps).

If the play loses momentum at all, it's because almost all of the dialogue is delivered by a narrator. That's not to say there isn't action; a grating drag queen invades the audience's sets and ethereal, and the soundtrack is filled with fantastic oldies like James Brown and Peggy Lee.

The time-honored man-woman dynamic and divisions endure in this



Eve's garden: Company XIV's seductive show "Le Serpent Rouge" runs through June 6.

The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension
By Mike McLaughlin

new gal pal with the apple, thus driving them from Eden and ruining their lives.

From there, Adam, Eve and Lilith, back in human form, sink through parables of the seven deadly sins. The message counters the old saw that the wages of sin are death.

But this isn't some pure hedonistic romp in which reckless self-indulgence has no consequences.

The characters in Austin McCormick's play experience pain and agony after breaking the allegedly divine rules.

But there's joy in expulsion, too—especially for Adam, who gets to experience Earth's first menage a trois.

"To fall is to know the intricacies of life's deepest joys and sorrows," the play's narrator said. Indeed.

"Le Serpent Rouge" runs through June 6 at Company XIV (303 Bond St., between Union and Sackett streets, 212 88-4444). Tickets, \$20.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

THEATER, "THE WHO'S TOMMY": 3 pm. See Friday, May 22.

DANCE/AFRICA: 3 pm. See Friday, May 22.

FRANK HOER AND ROOTS N RUCKUS: Part of Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition's pier show. 3 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, www.bwac.org.

THEATER, "THE HIGH PRIESTS OF DARK ALLEY": 4 pm. See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE OR THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER, "HAMLETT": See Friday, May 22.

SALES AND MARKETS PS 321 FLEA MARKET: See Saturday, May 23.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See Saturday, May 23.

BROOKLYN FLEA INDOORS: See Saturday, May 23.

BROOKLYN INDIE MARKET: See Saturday, May 23.

OTHER

TALK, "NEW YORK CITY'S HIDDEN HISTORY": Free. 11 am. Fort Greene Park, Visitor Center (Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, 718 725-3218).

ICE CREAM PARTY: Music, barbecue and milkshakes. Free. 2 pm. Bushwick Country Club (618 Grand St. at Lorimer Street in Bushwick), www.freecream.net/events.

ART OPENING: Art by Timothy Buckwalter. Free. 5 pm. Bar Oliverio (899 Fulton St. between Clinton and Vanderbilt avenues in Clinton Hill).

FILM, "COMING TO AMERICA": Outdoor movie screening. Free. 8 pm. Habana Outpost (757 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, 718 858-9503), www.aacoutdoor.com.

MON, MAY 25

MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT: With the ISO Symphonic Band. Free. 2:30 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, 718 768-7300), www.greenwood.com.

DANCE/AFRICA: 3 pm. See Friday, May 22.

HUMAN-POWERED AMUSEMENT PARK: Rides that run on human muscle and clever tricks. Plus live music, sidewalk and more. \$10 (suggested). 6 pm. H. Christina (650 Grand St. between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg), hchristina.com.

TUES, MAY 26

READING, MIKE EDISON: Author of "I Have Fun Everywhere I Go: Savage Tales of Pot, Porn, Punk Rock, Pro Wrestling, Talking Apes, Evil Bosses, Dirty Blues, American Heroes, and the Most Notorious Magazines in the World." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, 718 875-3677), www.bookcourt.org.

READING, BEN GREENMAN: Author of "Honey Sea Back." Free. 7:30 pm. Word 126 Franklin St. at Market Street in Greenpoint, 718 383-0090, wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com.

THEATER, "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE OR THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS": \$22-\$35. See Friday, May 22.

FILM, "THE GANG WHO COULDN'T SHOOT STRAIGHT": Based on Jimmy Breslin's novel about the Gallo gang. Author Tom Folsom introduces screening. Free. 8 pm. Jajopy (315 Columbia St. at Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, 718 395-3214), www.jajopy.biz.

SLUTTY PUPPETS: Adult puppet variety show. \$7. 8 pm. Calapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, 718 222-8500), www.calapagosartspace.com.

WED, MAY 27

BROOKLYN BUSINESS SUMMIT: RSVP required. Free. 9 am-5 pm. Institute of NTU's MetroTech Center at Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn, 212 289-8500. www.brooklynbusinesssummit.com.

FILM, "ALIENS": James Cameron's supercharged sci-fi sequel. \$11. 4:30 pm, 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (50 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, 718 636-4100), www.bam.org.

TALK, DUTCH BROOKLYN: Dr. Sean Sawyer speaks about Brooklyn's Dutch past. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at East 4th Street in Park Slope, 718 230-2100).

TALK, "FORGOTTEN BROOKLYN": Kevin Walsh talks about the guide book. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at East 4th Street in Park Slope, 718 230-2100).

READING, GABRIEL COHEN: Author of "Neptune Avenue." Free. 7 pm.

BookCourt (163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill, 718 875-3677), www.bookcourt.org.

HOW TO TALK TO KIDS ABOUT SEX: With sexuality educator Amy Levine. Free. 7 pm. Babaland (442 Bergen St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, 718 638-3800), www.babaland.com.

THEATER, "A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF FORT GREENE": Workshop performance of oral history project. \$10. 7:30 pm. Ironside Center (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, 718 488-9233), www.ironside.org.

THEATER, "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE OR THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS": See Friday, May 22.

FILM, "DARE NOT WALK ALONE": Civil rights documentary. \$11. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (50 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, 718 636-4100), www.bam.org.

ART OPENING: "Artists in Brooklyn," a group show. Free. 5-9 pm. The King Richard Carriage Houses (91 King St. between Van Brunt and Richards streets in Red Hook).

DANCE, SUSPENDED CIRQUE: Aerial troupe in site-specific, acrobatic event. \$15. 8 pm. Calapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, 718 222-8500), www.calapagosartspace.com.

See 9 DAYS on page 11

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Boomy to Bruce: Enough already!

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg dealt Bruce Ratner a blow on Wednesday, saying that the city would not subsidize the Atlantic Yards project with additional public funds.

The city has already pledged \$230 million for infrastructure and land-acquisition costs at the embattled arena and skyscraper project—but Bloomberg dashed Ratner's hopes for more.

"We've done everything," he said in response to a reporter's question at his daily availability on Wednesday. "We're going to have a tough time balancing our budget."

The mayor did add that the city

needs the project, but said, "We're not putting money in. We're going to invest our money in better schools and in safer streets and in better parks and everything else."

The mayor's shrillness is bad news for Forest City Ratner, which in recent months had been lobbying for more taxpayer aid from the city and state to help revive construction on the \$4-billion complex in Prospect Heights, where work has been stalled since December.

Ratner's speaking at a "topping out" ceremony at his 80 DeKalb Avenue project, claimed he will start the basketball arena this fall.

"We don't need anything more [from the city and state]," he said.

YARDS...

Continued from page 1

The lawsuit was actually against the Empire State Development Corporation, which plans to condemn the nine properties and then transfer them to Forest City Ratner, which owns many properties within the 22-acre project site in Prospect Heights and has a deal to acquire development rights over the rail yard at the core of the development.

At issue was a claim by the nine landowners that the state Constitution forbids eminent domain on a

project that includes luxury housing because the Public Use clause requires that "the occupancy of any such project shall be restricted to persons of low income."

The opponents also said eminent domain could not be used because the project confers a huge benefit to Ratner yet only an "incidental" one for the public.

But the court disagreed. "It cannot be said that the public benefits which the Atlantic Yards project is expected to yield are incidental... in comparison to the benefit that will be bestowed upon the project's private developer," wrote Justice Randall Eng, referring to benefits of the overall project that

include the proposed basketball arena and development over the scar-like rail yard.

The plaintiffs said they would appeal the ruling.

"We're optimistic that the Court of Appeals [the state's highest court] will see the importance of setting clear boundaries between constitutional and unconstitutional uses of eminent domain in New York State," said Candace Carpenter, the legal director for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

Despite the good court news, Ratner is still facing his largest hurdle: lining up financing for his \$4-billion project during a historic credit crunch.

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Experts: One operator can save Coney

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg's hand-picked panel of amusement industry experts is urging the city to find a single operator to run a proposed new theme park for Coney Island, a controversial suggestion that would radically change the nature of the People's Playground, once the domain of a multitude of independent carnies and ride owners.

"The time is now to identify and select a single industry operator/developers to oversee the development," the "Coney Island Amusement Advisory Panel" said a statement issued last week.

The city did not fully embrace the idea. "Whether it is one development partner, two or five, the key is to keep the diversity... to keep Coney Island, Coney Island," said Seth Pinsky, president of the Economic Development Corporation, which hopes to transform Coney Island into a year-round tourist destination of rides, hotels and attractions.

The city has waffled on whether it would hire only one company for its proposed 12-acre theme park. Recently, the city has shifted its focus on protecting remaining individual amusement businesses, like the family-owned Deno's Wonder Wheel park—and local honky-tonk businesspeople were pleased.

"We think the public is best served by a variety of attractions," said Ken Hochman, a spokesman for Deno's.

But before work on a new park could even begin, the mayor must acquire land from Joe Seitz, who owns 10-1/2 acres and wants to build a \$2-billion Vegas-style, 24-7 amusement Canada that includes hotels, rides, entertainment venues and, most controversially, retail stores.

AWARDS...

Continued from page 1

pride in the award.

"The achievement of building BrooklynPaper.com from the ground up is an extraordinary one," he told the staff in an impromptu, Champagne-fueled celebration in The Brooklyn Paper's Downtown newsroom last Thursday. "You have created something that multi-layered staffs, teams of consultants, and outside vendors haven't."

Weinroth also praised the BrooklynPaper.com production team—Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli, webmaster Sylvan Migdal and Art Director Leah Mich—for keeping the spirit of the 31-year-old print product. The Brooklyn Paper, while also showing a way forward for the entire newspaper industry.

"We certainly are contributing to the current debate over the future of newspapers," he said. "Our formula is a model: Do it. Fix it. Fix it again. Stay ahead of the competition, which is everywhere. And do it always with determination and integrity."

Judges in the best Web site category said BrooklynPaper.com provided "the most comprehensive offering of multimedia, interactive and innovative features" that "engage the audience and provide hyper-local news." They also praised our Brooklyn Wire—our all-Brooklyn, all-the-time Web aggregation feature—for putting a wealth of "relevant and interesting" information at our Web readers' fingertips.

In the Web site design category, the judges said that our "simple design, clean features and colorful content prove that even America's largest city is still a collection of small communities. [This site] shows that hyper-local works even in big cities."

James Spielman, vice president of marketing and operations for the Community Newspaper Group, which now includes The Brooklyn Paper and sister publications in Brooklyn and Queens, said the latest awards live up to the CNG slogan, "Your neighborhood, your news."

"The judges' comment about providing 'hyper-local news' is a testament to the success of our overall strategy of providing the best local neighborhood coverage," Spielman said.

The Suburban Newspapers of America, which represents nearly 2,400 daily and weekly newspapers in both urban and suburban markets, has certainly been a believer. Earlier this year, we won five editorial and design awards from the group. And in 2007, the SNA named us "Newspaper of the Year."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

GROUP READING: Joseph Kertes, author of "Gratitude," and Jennifer Crayton, author of "The Rowing Lesson," will read from their books at 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

READING: JAMES FREY, author of "Bright Shiny Morning," will read from his book at 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

ART OPENING: "Busted," a group show. Free. 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

THEATER: "A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF FORT GREENE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER: "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 8 p.m. See Friday, May 22.

DANCE: "LE SERPENT ROUGE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER: "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)": See Friday, May 22.

FILM: "PIZZA! THE MOVIE": Documentary about the U.S. Pizza Team. Free. 8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

THEATER: "A GATHERING": Metaphysical thriller. \$18 (\$15 students). 8:30 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

SHAVUOT TORAHOT: An all-night reading of the Torah. Congregation B'nai Avraham (177 Rensselaer St., between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights). (718) 954-4840. 11:30 p.m. For info, e-mail: rabbis@shavuot.com

FRI, MAY 22
MUSIC: ART LILLARD'S ON TIME QUARTET: Outdoor performance. Free. Noon. MetroTech Commons (Myrtle Avenue and Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn).

FILM: "CAIRO STATION": Part of the "Visual Culture Initiative." \$11. 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:15 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org

ART OPENING: "All Roads Lead to Coney Island": A group show. Free. 6 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

ART OPENING: Outer space-themed prints, posters and ephemera. Free. 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

THEATER: "A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF FORT GREENE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER: "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 8 p.m. See Friday, May 22.

NEW INDIAN CLASSICAL: "The New Indian Classical": A group show. Free. 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

DANCE: "LE SERPENT ROUGE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER: "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)": See Friday, May 22.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Wind quartets by Klughardt and Schoenberg. \$40 (\$20 students). 8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

SAT, MAY 30
OUTDOORS AND TOURS: Introduction to Bird-Watching. See Saturday, May 30.

DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, May 30.

TOUR GREENWOOD AT NIGHT: Special tour includes accordion music and visit to the catacombs. Bring a flashlight. \$20. 9 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

PERFORMANCE: "THE HIGH PRIESTESS OF DARK ALLEY": 8 p.m. See Friday, May 22.

GYPSY SWING JAZZ: With Manhattan Jazz Club. \$10. 5 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.

THEATER: "A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF FORT GREENE": See Friday, May 22.

DANCE: "LE SERPENT ROUGE": See Friday, May 22.

THEATER: "THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE (OR, THE FAILURE OF SUCCESS)": See Friday, May 22.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. \$35 (\$20 students). 8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Museum, 1220 Avenue of the Americas, at 5th St. and 5th Ave. Tickets: \$15. (718) 624-6000.



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No kids? No problem!

The grass is always greener. Ain't that the truth? Smartmom has spent plenty of time convinced that friends and strangers have a better life than she does.

But who's to say? What makes one person's life better than another? Money? Looks? A published book? A husband who makes the bed and fills the dishwasher?

In her new book of essays, "It's Not That I'm Bitter (or How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Visible Panty Lines and Conquered the World)," Gina Barreca writes about envy, finding a bit that fits, and life as a childless woman. In her sharp essays, she shows

that maybe the grass is green enough no matter what choice you make because it's how you think about things and laugh about them that matters.

Smartmom knows all about grass-is-greener syndrome. When she was toting baby Teen Spirit to Mommy and Me classes 16 years ago, Smartmom envied her twin sister Diaper Diva, who was right person and have a baby.

Meeting the right person was easy enough. Diaper Diva married Bro-in-Law in 2000. But the "having a baby" part wasn't as easy.

The newlyweds moved into a lovely two-bedroom co-op on Prospect Park West and fantasized about furnishing



By Louise Crawford

married-with-childless life. She was eager to meet the right person and have a baby. Meeting the right person was easy enough. Diaper Diva married Bro-in-Law in 2000. But the "having a baby" part wasn't as easy.

Diaper Diva felt a pang of sadness and anger whenever she saw a pregnant woman walking down Seventh Avenue. It seemed like every conversation at Connecticut Muffin was about bedtimes or breast-feeding. She felt like every woman in the world — every woman except her, that is — had a baby.

Law tried and tried and tried. Finally, they made the best decision of their lives and adopted Ducky, the almost-5-year-old redhead who is about as smart, spunky and adorable as they come.

But in Barreca, a professor of English and Feminist Theory at the University of Connecticut, has a different take. In the essay, "Why Childless Women Make Good Mothers," she deals head-on with the fact that she didn't have children: "I look like somebody's mother and, heaven knows, I act like everybody's mother. I advise, I worry, I scold, I nag, and then I worry some more."

As a professor, she mothered 150 kids every year.

"They line up outside my door at all hours as if I were some kind of emotional ATM," she writes. Usually, she admits, she's asked about matters pertaining to the English department or the university. "But I also hear stories about family difficulties, relationship problems and financial predicaments. I am given fashion advice ('Don't pierce what can't easily be unpierced') is my latest mantra," she writes.

Barreca calls what she does "incidental parenting," and she writes about how much she enjoys the motherly relationship she has with students and the children of her friends.

Smartmom knows that there are many such women who would make fantastic moms, but never got the chance. But Gina's humorous and analytical take on things helped her overcome whatever emotional pain, whatever grass-is-greener worrying she might have faced in the face of her own childlessness. Indeed, without kids, she can be as neurotic as she wants to be without fear that "a mine under my aegis will carry life-long scars."

Smartmom can totally relate to that. She's often modeled less-than-exemplary behavior, particularly when she's fighting with Hepcat about his clutter in the living room.

Sure there's pain, but there's poignancy, too. "If childless women make good mothers to the young, we also make dandy mothers to mothers," she writes. Just ask Best and Oldest. Unlike Smartmom, Gina doesn't judge or evaluate B and O's parenting skills against her own. She listens and she thinks: "Please let everybody be OK," she writes. "And thank you for allowing other women to accept the burden of motherhood while I just get to teach about literature and the inherent dangers of piecing."

So much for grass-is-greener syndrome. Barreca humorously hammers home the idea that the choices we make do add up to something. Barreca could have adopted. Diaper Diva could have decided not to. Every one chooses a different path, and with a lot of insight and humor, it leads to different, but equally rich, lives.

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ANGLE...

Continued from page 1

Slope, that he's smart, and that he's got some flair (and "never give the 'Cheesecake Schools' program, either).

Last weekend, he took on all comers by setting up a chess board at the Ninth Street entrance to Prospect Park. The meet-and-beat went well enough that Pechesky has put aside more time for chess this Sunday, which is why I summoned him to our Downtown Brooklyn office to take the measure of the man (Pechesky, the myth that a Green candidate can't get elected) and the legend (my chess skills).

First, Pechesky. Despite being a former City Council staffer, the 41-year-old Pechesky is no company man. In fact, whenever he talks about his three stints on the legislative side of City Hall, he talks about all the "institutional reform" he'd seek if elected. When reminded that voters tend to

nap whenever a candidate talks about institutional reform, Pechesky said his priorities would be getting more pre-K seats in the district (good luck, cleaning the Gowanus Canal [hopefully not personally] and finding a long-term fix for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority [actually, a state responsibility]).

Then, the myth. There's a reason why there are no Green Party — or any real third party — members of the Council. One's brand recognition, of course, but the liberal Pechesky is facing an even greater challenge than convincing Park Slope Socialists to abandon the Democrats to vote for a Green: he has to get on the ballot.

Arctane state rules require him to collect 2,700 valid petition signatures between mid-July and mid-August. If you know anything about the residents of New York's tony neighborhoods

in the summer, you know that there aren't many residents of New York's tony neighborhoods in the summer.

Worse, anyone who signs a petition for a Democratic candidate — who collect their signatures a month earlier — can't sign for Pechesky.

If he gets on the ballot, it'll be a miracle. Less miraculously, of course, is that he beat me had in chess. I'm not going to say I didn't challenge him — at one point, I was one move away from check-mating him (but what move was it??). But I let him slip away. First, his Avella took two of my Fideles. After that, his Quinn and Wepkin continually outflanked my Bloomberg until I finally splintered after move 29.

Man, I have to do a better job protecting my Yassky. Play chess with David Pechesky on Sunday, May 24 at the Ninth Street entrance to Prospect Park (Ninth Street & Prospect Park West in Park Slope) from 10 am-1 pm. For info, visit www.pecheskyforcitycouncil.com.

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FAMILY CALENDAR



SNAKES ALIVE! See Fantasia, the beloved python at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

FRI, MAY 22
11:30 am Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710].
6:15 pm Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot [see venue info above].
SAT, MAY 23
11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about chess. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400].
12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp." \$8 (kids, \$7). Puppetworks [138 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391].
1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400].
1:30 pm: Science Fun. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center [see venue info above].
1 pm: Sing-along. Brooklyn Repertory Opera's lecture-performance series for children. \$10. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816].
4 pm: Sing and dance with Rolfe Polle Guacarnio. \$15 (25+ singing, adults free). Cumbo [493 Atlantic Ave. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 855-7608].
SUN, MAY 24
11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about chess. See Saturday, May 23.
12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. "Aladdin." See Saturday, May 23.
1 pm: Nature Crafts. See Saturday, May 23.
1:30 pm: Science Fun. See Saturday, May 23.
To list your event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/sunlist

3 and 7 pm: Puppet show. "The Calovine." \$15. Brick Theater [575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-0399].
MON, MAY 25
11:30 am Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710].
11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about chess. See Saturday, May 23.
TUES, MAY 26
11 am: Sing Along with Lloyd Miller. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710].
WED, MAY 27
1 pm: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710].
THURS, MAY 28
11 am: Dance Around with Nat. \$2.50. Movie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710].
FRI, MAY 29
6:15 pm Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot [see venue info above].
SAT, MAY 30
10 am-4 pm: Kids market. Special kid-themed version of Artists and Fleas in McCarran Park. With music by the Diesel Diesel Diesel. Free. McCarran Park [Bedford Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg].
11 am-5 pm: Family carnival. With music lessons, art, games and food. Fundraiser for Willie Mae Rock Camp for Girls. (163 Plymouth St. between Jay and Pearl streets in DUMBO, (212) 777-1323). www.williemae-rockcamp.org.

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Oyster experiment ends in death

By Ben Muesig

The Brooklyn Paper

Answers to slacks.

A plan to repopulate the filthy waters off Brooklyn with oysters was foiled — or soiled — by the harbor's abundant silt, which clogged baskets that housed the bivalves and claimed the lives of hundreds of mollusks. Poorly designed oyster containers allowed salt and aquatic crud to cover the mollusks over the past five months, bringing a sad — if not ironic — death to the shellfish spat that were deposited off Sunset Park last year in hopes that they would one-day clean the filthy waters.

"As water flowed through the basket, the silt in the water settled," explained experiment organizer Bart Chezar in a written statement after his crew's April 25 die. "I do not think the seed oysters and oyster spat survived."

So much silt accumulated that the containers that were supposed to float along from the shore to the open water — but the scientist remains confident that the so-called "Bay Ridge Flats"

might one-day host a thriving oyster bed. "The design [failure] doesn't answer the question of whether the oysters would have [survived]," wrote Chezar, who added that mollusks seemed to be thriving on the sea floor beside the silt-filled baskets.

As a result, Chezar and his team aren't giving up. The researchers are planning to build two new baskets with larger openings that will house seed oysters about eight inches above the sea floor, as well as an exposed wire contraption upon which spat oysters on shells will be attached with plastic ties.

"These designs shouldn't restrict the flow of water as much," said Chezar, who is planning a May 31 die to recover the original containers and deposit the new cages.

News of the benthic catastrophe comes just months after divers discovered what seemed to be encouraging signs from the shallows near the shore. In the Gowanus Canal, where Chezar's team observed that some mol-

luskus had grown a whopping five millimeters in a single month. The researchers hope

their experiment will prove that oysters can again thrive in the Bay, where they once played a critical

environmental — and culinary — before over-harvesting and over-pollution reduced their dominance.



Tony Mignone will close the Record and Tape Center at the end of the month.

VINYL

Continued from page 1

days amid rows of records and cassettes, don't know what to do. "I don't even have a Plan A," said Mignone. "I wish I had a Plan B."

"I don't even have a Plan A," said Mignone. "I wish I had a Plan B."

Cruiser still, perhaps, is Mignone's store itself. Look back, where they once played a critical

environmental — and culinary — before over-harvesting and over-pollution reduced their dominance.

CRIPS

Continued from page 4

wielding pepper-sprayed a fractured hand while attempting to cuff the suspect.

The arresting officer spotted the perp shooting obscenities from Newel Street between Meserole and Norman avenues at around 10:40 pm, but when the cop attempted to subdue the 24-year-old suspect, the crotch began to fail wildly. The ensuing scuffle left the cop with a broken right hand, but cops eventually cuffed the suspect — who was found to be in possession of marijuana.

Barroom brawl

A greenpoint drinker shattered a fellow reveler's nose in a scuffle over a table in a popular Manhattan Avenue bar on May 16.

Before coming to blows at around 2:30 am in the East, which is at Driggs Avenue, the assailant and the victim shared words about the attacker's girlfriend, cops said. After the exchange, the perp unleashed a series of punches that left the victim with lacerations and a fractured nose.

McGoons

Thieves heisted \$7,500 from a McGuinness Boulevard apartment near the corner of India Street.

The crooks got into the residence without damaging the door between 3:30 pm on May 13 and 7:45 pm the following day and grabbed the cash — and an iPhone — while the 42-year-old victim was at work.

Bayard raided

Burglars clowned at a Bayard Street apartment on May 15 while the victim was out shopping.

The crooks forced their way through the front door, damaging the lock, between 2:30 and 5 pm and snatched jewelry and a laptop from the apartment, which is near Graham Avenue.

Jackson jacked!

Crooks ransacked a Jackson Street apartment near the corner of Humboldt Street on May 14.

The thieves booted open the front door — damaged the door and the door itself — between 11 am and 7:15 pm. Once inside, the crooks grabbed jewelry, a watch, perfume, camera, and bags, fled from the residence.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Ouch!

A Queens man ended up getting pinned between his own Ford El-50 and another car — and his would-be car-jacker ended up getting arrested — on May 18.

The victim said in his vehicle at the corner of Metropolitan Avenue and Catherine Street at around 4 pm when a man stepped up, put a knife to his neck and ordered him out of the car.

After a struggle, the thief pulled the 44-year-old man out of the car, threw him in reverse, and caught the victim by the leg between the Ford and the other car.

Cops charged the suspect with robbery and assault.

Gang of four

Four muggers held up — and beat up — a man on Driggs Avenue early on May 16.

"What's up?" one of the thugs asked their victim before another suspect punched the victim in the face, knocking him to the ground.

The gang made off with the credit cards and \$200 as well as the victim's New Zealand passport in the 3:15 am attack, cops said.

— Thomas Tracy

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