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Suit: Marty ran the Beep's office like a frat house

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Markowitz turned his office into a macho frat house featuring sexist jokes, double standards and possible violation of campaign regulations, bombshell court documents revealed this week.

New details about the inner workings of Markowitz's top staff have emerged from the sex discrimination suit brought by Markowitz's former communications director, Regina Weiss, which portrays a work environment filled with chauvinist wisecracks and even "volunteer" work for Markowitz's re-election campaign.

The descriptions of the goings-on come straight from Markowitz himself, along with former chief of staff, Greg Atkins, in depositions the

two took under oath. Both lengthy interviews — conducted in late February — hint at Weiss's claim that Markowitz ignored "inappropriate sexual activity" — though the activity itself is never specifically addressed.

But the interviews do address at length how other problematic Borough Hall staffers were fired or forced to resign — an aspect central to Weiss's claim that she was unfairly forced out of her job despite having done it well.

A complaint by a former staffer mentioned by Atkins in the deposition provides an example of the macho humor at Borough Hall that contaminated the workplace. In the deposition, Atkins, who was chief of staff from 2003 to 2008, recalls a male staffer's inappropriate "joke about a sausage" that of-

See MARTY on page 10



CHURCH OF HOOPS

Barclays Center to have a 'meditation' room

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it Zen and the art of basketball. The Brooklyn Paper has learned that the Barclays Center will be the first sports arena to feature a meditation chamber — an intriguing element that is one of the few unreported details of the widely covered home of the future Brooklyn Nets.

The concept was envisioned by the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, the fiery pastor of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church on Atlantic Avenue, who has played a behind-the-scenes role to acquire various "community benefits" from developer Bruce Ratner.

This meditation room appears to be one of them. "The idea is to say to people there are values in reflection, contemplation," explained Daughtry, who gave



There'll be a "meditation" room inside the Barclays Center. You can pray for anything in there, even the Nets!

the convocation at the groundbreaking ceremony for the arena last month.

"Whenever you're in the arena, you can go to meditate."

Daughtry added that the "meditation room" was a watered-down version of what he initially wanted in the arena: a chapel.

"I got plastered for that," he said.

See CHURCH on page 10

Lock up your daisies!

There's a flower thief on the loose in Park Slope

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper



Cherry Blake of St. Marks Avenue can't leave her tulips outside because they get stolen.

A green-thumbed burglar is on the loose in Park Slope, striking fear in the roots of plants, and forcing owners to safeguard their property by any means necessary.

Victims say that the bandit has been stealing buds and bulbs for some time

in and around Sixth, St. Marks and Flatbush avenues.

And the thief isn't discriminating, snatching all manner of flora from stoops or front gardens, and forcing owners to safeguard their property by any means necessary.

Every spring, those of us with

front yards have to chain our plants," said Pauline Blake, who lives on St. Marks Avenue and is also president of the 78th Precinct Community Council, a civic group that meets monthly with cops.

Blake said her household has been victimized by the flower fiend for years — indeed, last week, the

kleptomaniac nabbed Blake's sister's red flowerpot — but left behind the small pine tree that once called it home. "We figured the next thing is that they're coming for the plant," she said. Last year, the thief made off with the Blake's azaleas.

"They just come in and help them-

See THIEF on page 10

This really stinks

Stalled construction project smells disgusting

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The Great Recession really stinks — and for one Park Slope family, it's literal.

Sue Shepard, who lives next to a troubled construction site on Fourth Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets, says that a feld stench from gasoline and oil overwhelms his co-op apartment and can be smelled from as much as a block away.

"It smells like a refinery! It gives me my wife headaches and a sore throat," said Shepard.

The continual downpour of last week only made matters worse. Shepard now worries that hot weather will create a Biblical plague of putrid odors.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Environmental Conserva-



tion said that the odors were tied to "small amounts of petroleum floating in some standing water."

The spokeswoman, Lori Severino, also noted that the site has been on the city's radar since 1989 as being possibly contaminated. Clean-up proposals were first made by BP in 2007.

A year later, developer Isaac Katon proposed a 12-story, 107-unit building

that would have remedied the contamination while building a six-story structure next door to another luxurious condo building on Fourth Avenue, the Novo.

Some excavation took place, but the recession put the full plan on hold. But the smell continued.

To top it off, the company in charge of the project, Tona Development, took three feet of the Shepards' porch to make room for "construction" on the former gas station.

A secretary at Tona Development referred a Brooklyn Paper reporter to Vito Cardinale and Nick Ponzio, whom she said were the owners of the troubled site.

When reached by telephone, Cardinale said, "I don't know why Tona referred you to me, I'm only an investor. You should talk to them." Ponzio



A site on Fourth Avenue has become a stinky cesspool.

did not return several calls. Unfortunately for Shepard, it doesn't look the stinky situation will be remedied anytime soon.

"More-permanent [odor] solutions will be discussed as part of the remedial action plan being developed now,"

said Tom Mueller, a spokesman for BP, which remains on the hook for the clean-up. "The plan will assume that the construction project will not move forward."

Messages left at Katon Development were not returned.

TISH-GRACE ENDS!

By Stephen Witt
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilwoman Letitia James has quietly dropped her much-mocked personal injury lawsuit that sought unspecified damages

from an itinerant laborer because she bumped her leg on a legal trailer hitch on the back of his legally parked car.

James told The Brooklyn Paper on Tuesday that she dropped the case because it had become "a distraction from important issues like firehouses closing, police being laid off and daycare centers closing."

Before dropping the suit, the Democratic lawmaker, who makes \$122,500 a year as the people's representative in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill, sought damages for wounds she claims to have sustained on July 11 when she walked into a four-inch hitch protruding from David Day's parked car.

James told this newspaper the bump caused a seven-inch scar on

See TISH on page 10



Big cover-up at Brooklyn Bridge Park

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The metallic orbs in the funky playground in the new Brooklyn Bridge Park are literally scalding the children!

The cries of the little tykes and sizzling of burning flesh got so bad in Wednesday's 86-degree weather that workers in the Pier 1 segment of the proposed park installed festival tents above the 125-plus-degree steel mounds to shade them.

"When we came the first time it was nice, until he got burned!" said Lisa Bruno, the nanny for a sensitive young 3-year-old named,

appropriately enough given the heat, August. "Now I won't even let him get near the toys. What were they thinking when they installed them?"

A little later, park-goers used a new fangled digital thermometer on the unsalvageable half-orbs, revealing that the temperature was a whopping 127.9 degrees — just 30 degrees less than the frying point of an egg!

The workers had posted signage earlier this week warning parents and caregivers of the dangerous play equipment. "Steel dome play structures can be hot," the sign said. "Once the tree canopy fills in we expect the shade provided will allevi-



With temperatures exceeding 125 degrees on some blazing-hot metal play pieces at the new playground at Brooklyn Bridge Park, workers installed a tent to cool things down.

ate this condition."

But the trees didn't grow fast enough to muffle the screams coming from the foot of Old Fulton Street. Festival tents were put up at about 1 pm Wednesday to shade each of three climbing domes.

Park developers said the

Parks Department says Pros. Park lake is clean

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The lake in Prospect Park was given a clean bill of health by the city's environmental agency — but the findings were immediately criticized by wildlife lovers who believe that the waterway has become toxic and deadly after two weeks of mysterious dumping of chicken heads and animal entrails.

The fortnight of terror climaxed with the death of John Boy, one of the lake's beloved swans, though Park officials have said she was killed by a rival waterfowl, not by the foul conditions in the lake.

"Injuries are our worst fear — that's why we've put up the tents," said Beth Mitchell, spokeswoman for the Empire State Development Corporation. "The trees will fill out early in the spring and get really leafy. They will help a lot."

Those shoes are big, green and hard to fill.

The city is undertaking a nationwide search to replace the Prospect Park administrator Tupper Thomas, who spent the last 30 years turning the park from a once-great urban oasis marred by syringes, graffiti and crack vials into one filled with dog



FLASHBACK: What really happened to John Boy?

"Samples from Prospect Park Lake were normal and there was no indication of any substances that could endanger wildlife in or around the lake,"

said Eugene Patron, a Prospect Park spokesman.

The tests — carried out separately by the Department of Environmental Protection and a team from Brooklyn College — "confirmed a healthy ecosystem," according to Patron.

Some swan-lovers remained skeptical of the results, and insisted that the tests — which were carried out after the torrential downpour of last week — were not indicative of the filthy state of the lake.

"The city has effectively taken samples of the rain water out of the lake for

See PARK on page 10

Park's Tupper Thomas retires

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Those shoes are big, green and hard to fill.

The city is undertaking a nationwide search to replace the Prospect Park administrator Tupper Thomas, who spent the last 30 years turning the park from a once-great urban oasis marred by syringes, graffiti and crack vials into one filled with dog

runs, bucolic green meadows, millions of visitors and...the occasional crack vial.

Thomas, 65, joked that her successor's resume will have to be much more impressive than hers when she landed the gig back in 1980.

"If I'd been offered today's job [of park administrator] when I was 35, I wouldn't have been qualified," she said. "I would have been qualified."

See THOMAS on page 12



Tupper Thomas with Mayor Koch in the 1980s.



How to cope with a zombie invasion
Advice from an expert. GO Brooklyn: Page 5

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'Sal the Barber' is dead

Smith Street fixture for four decades was 70

By Claire Glass
for The Brooklyn Paper

George Zucco, a staple at his Smith Street barbershop for decades, died on Sunday, ending 40 years of old-school dedication to his craft and his neighborhood. He was 70.

Zucco, whom everyone called "Sal the Barber," died in the emergency room of Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan after a stunt that had been put in his stomach several years ago failed to contain a growing aneurysm.

The death ends nearly half a century of hair styling and story telling on Smith Street between Union and Sackett streets, where Zucco had been in business since the 1970s.

George Zucco left his native Pozzallo, Sicily, when he was 13—but rather than heading for the fruitful offerings of America, he set sail for Venezuela, where he learned to cut hair.

"His family sent him all



George "Sal" Zucco, a fixture on Smith Street, has died.

alone to make money for himself," said Zucco's son, Michael Zucco. "That's when he learned to be a barber—and he was one ever since."

Zucco first worked in a different Smith Street shop

—one that he eventually purchased before moving the entire operation in 1979 to 299 Smith St., where he also lived.

His clients were many—and loyal.

"When he was cutting my hair he got this far away look," said Aaron Hillis, a customer of Sal's for six years. "It was a half-smile. You knew he was entranced by what he was doing."



The barbershop where Zucco worked since 1979.

Hillis said that Zucco's personality was as unforgettable as his haircuts.

"He was friendly and gregarious," said Hillis. "I always admired him for his bluntness and the way he told stories."

The shop's window displays pictures of Sal doing what he loved—sitting in his barbershop and, in another, dancing with his late wife, Maria.

Zucco is survived by Michael and two other children: Carmela Alicia and Peter.

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Electric horsepower

Emission-free car hits city, though not the market

Is the electric car the future of transportation as we know it—or just a new form of snake oil, albeit with a green hue?

I had a chance to consider this question first hand last Thursday when I hopped behind the wheel of a sweet little no-emission ride called the THINK City super car—an all-electric car that can go about a 100 miles, yet cost just two cents in fuel. The manufacturers gave the press test drives on Pier 7 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue as part of a roll-out campaign timed to the New York Auto Show in the city.

This is no putt-putt golf cart. This is a real car with real pickup (35 green horses under the hood, baby) and more space than its miniauto predecessor, the Smart Car. The makers even put the car inside a plastic bubble so

that we could see that it creates no emissions (I'll admit, I was not the first volunteer inside the bubble).

But here's the catch: There's no pricetag, yet.



The goal right now is to convince local governments, like the East Coast's biggest car buyer, New York City, to toss away those Chevs and Priuses and switch over to an all-electric fleet.

That would jumpstart the market, which would encourage entrepreneurs to set up charging stations.

The Department of Transportation is already on board—to a point.

"We're very supportive because electric drive could play a significant role in the city fleet in terms of



The makers of the Think electric car let our reporter drive it around in a bubble—to prove that there's no exhaust.

cost saving and emissions," said Mark Simon, spokesman for the agency's alternative fuels wing. "We're definitely

looking at making it available and seeing where it fits with all city agencies."

THINK officials said

they're looking at 2012 or 2013 to put the cars—already a hit in European countries where gas prices reach \$8 per gallon or more—on the New York market, but there are still some huge hurdles to tackle.

First, there's the battery. Barry Carr, spokesman for THINK, said it'll cost \$15,000 for a replacement after the 12-year warranty is up. That's like buying a whole new car every decade—though the company is talking about some sort of recycling-rebate program.

Next comes an even bigger problem: where to plug in when you've parked two blocks from your house and the longest extension cord you have is 12 feet.

THINK is working with Clean Cities—a city group dedicated to lowering greenhouse gas emissions through alternative fuel sources—to come up with easy-to-install power sources in parking garages, hotels and parking stalls citywide. Eventually, charging stations will be everywhere, we're told.

Maybe, but it's 2010. We're not all supposed to be driving electric cars—that fly!—by now?



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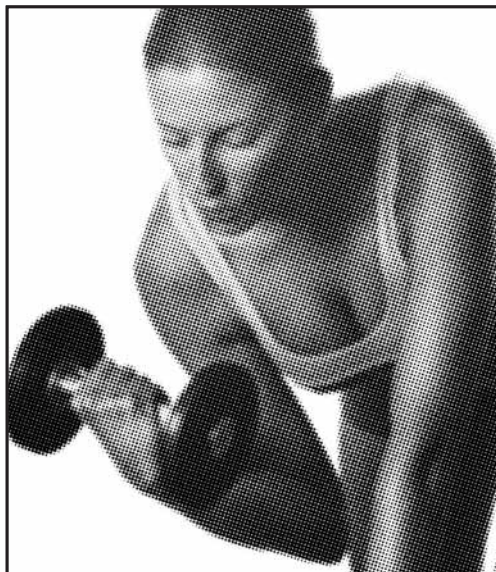


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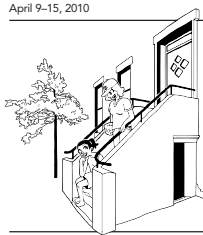
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THE SLOPE

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

RED HOOK



Triacini Botta's wine store is about to open, thanks to a license granted by the State Liquor Authority.

War is over!

Van Brunt liquor store finally gets its license

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

La guerra di vino in Red Hook è finita!
After a month of opposition from a nearby competitor, a new Red Hook wine store has finally received its license from the State Liquor Authority.

The epic wine war on Van Brunt Street between the owners of the two stores, Dry Dock and Botti di Vito, climaxed not with a bang but with a whimper—a quick, unanimous and quiet hearing by the liquor authority.

"No one showed up [to oppose it]. Case closed, that was it," said a relieved Triacini Botti, one of the owners of the store that bears his name.

Now, Botti hopes to open Botti di Vito next week. The uneventful denouement is a far cry from late February, when the war of the wine was at its peak.

The owners of the new Dry Dock at Van Brunt and Wolcott streets, Ron and Mary Kyle, had opposed the Botti's application on the grounds that the neighborhood could not sustain two high-end wine vendors in such close proximity.

To add a little resentment to the mix, the Botti's push store was built on the Discovery Channel's dime as part of an upcoming reality show called, "Construction Intervention."

And just to add a few more sour grapes, a "bullet-proof" liquor store is only one block from Botti di Vito, which is between Wolcott and Dikeman streets.

That meant three wine vendors within only four blocks of each other.

In the end, the liquor authority chose to ignore the Kyle's claim—though the couple did successfully delay the Botti's license by raising a last-minute objection over a sentence on the Botti di Vito Web site that suggested that customers could enjoy a glass of wine in their courtyard.

All that did was delay the Botti's license for two weeks. But in the end, the board approved the application—though one of the commissioners offered a parting word of advice.

"Anything you're not sure you should do, ask your lawyer first," said Commissioner Noreen Healey.

Botti, who was eager to open her store, said that Red Hook had grown weary of the showdown.

"I think the consensus in the neighborhood is that small businesses are a good thing and should support each other," she said.

The Kyle's did not respond to a request for comment.

WILLIAMSBURG

After squawk, less 'Walk'

Group trims Bedford pedestrian mall

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Williamsburg Walks has been shortened to a crawl. Bowing to pressure from some business owners, organizers of the Bedford Avenue street festival agreed to condense the summertime pedestrian mall from six Saturdays to one weekend, June 26 and 27.

The festival originated as a pilot program two years ago which shut down Bedford Avenue to traffic for four Saturdays in July and August. The event doubled foot traffic, according to a Transportation Alternatives study, but retailers complained of lost profits on their busiest day of the week.

As a result, Neighbors Allied for Good Growth was forced to make the change.

"Thank God they've seen it," said Jill Goldhand, the owner



Madeline Virbasius, the manager of Jumelle boutique on Bedford Avenue, said the cut in Williamsburg Walks is a "fair compromise."

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PARK SLOPE

The plane truth

Feds not going to do anything noise

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Federal aviation officials faced a barrage of complaints last Thursday night from Park Slope residents, who fervently described an incessant barrage of aircraft noise that they say will only get worse.

The heated meeting featured a stunning dichotomy: As much as Federal Aviation Administration and Port Authority officials relied on technical jargon, aircraft noise opponents relied on their passion for the subject—even going so far as to read a letter from a sympathizer who said that her cancer was exacerbated by low-flying airplanes.

But the officials from the FAA, as well as the Port Authority—which operates La Guardia airport—were unmoved. While not disputing any of the opponents' basic data on low-flying airplanes, they said their hands were tied when tweaking the flight patterns of the most cluttered airspace in the country.

"All these flight patterns are tightly maintained," said FAA representative Stephanie Branta, while standing in front of a complex map of flights sweeping over Park Slope and Prospect Park. "We have guidelines that must be followed."

But Jim Williams of Brooklyn Against Aircraft Noise wasn't sympathetic. "We can't sit on our deck anymore," Williams said. "Every minute—whoosh Whoosh! We can watch them fly over our heads."

The anti-aircraft noise activists cited data that they had acquired through a Freedom of Information Law request,

along with their own sound readings, which they said proved that flights were bombarding the neighborhood with roaring turbines.

But many of the anti-noise advocates' proposed solutions were quickly rebuffed by the government officials.

One suggestion was that air-traffic controllers at La Guardia send more planes to a runway that is neglected compared to the one that receives planes flying over Park Slope roughly every 30 seconds—to which Branta gruffly replied: "Does anyone understand how runway selection is made?" (As it turns out, runways are selected by ideal wind conditions.)

Another suggestion was that planes follow the path of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway instead of the route stretching from Bay Ridge,

through Park Slope, and straight to La Guardia.

"It's not safe," said Ralph Tamburro of the FAA. "Aircraft can't navigate that precisely."

But without any reforms in air traffic management—and with advances in technology making landing more efficient—Park Slope will be even noisier, according to Jeffrey Starn, a licensed pilot.

"With this next generation [navigation] technology they're rolling out—if you think it's bad now, just wait. Things are not going to be pretty," Starn said.

Things certainly don't look like they'll change for the better. By the end of the meeting, held by the Park Slope Civic Council at New York Methodist Hospital, aviation officials weren't promising anything.

In a moment that highlighted how heated the debate had become, Civic Council President Ken Freeman asked if any members would like to take the lead on further dialogue.

There were no volunteers.

COBBLE HILL

Barneys coming to Atlantic

By Michèle De Meglio
The Brooklyn Paper

Hold on to your Manolos, fashionistas! Barneys is coming to Cobble Hill!

OK, it's only Barneys Co-op, an offshoot of the upscale Manhattan apparel retailer, but shoppers can't wait for the Atlantic Avenue boutique.

"This is so awesome!" squealed Jeannie Chan, who works near the store, which will open in September next door to Trader Joe's. "I'm going to be there on my lunch break searching for Juicy Couture stuff."

Barneys' spokesperson Dawn Brown said the cutting-edge co-op shared the enthusiasm.

"We're super excited," she said. "Tons of our customers already live in Brooklyn so this is bringing Barneys closer to them."

Barneys Co-op focuses on



A Barneys Co-op is coming to David Valent's building on Atlantic Avenue behind the Trader Joe's.

young emerging designers crafting cutting-edge wares, which may be slightly less expensive than the Manhattan outpost. There are several such Co-op stores throughout

the country.

Shoppers are jazzed, but not everyone is singing the praises of Barneys—especially those who could lose business.

"I'm not wary, just indifferent," said Danielle Lissance, manager of Diane T, a boutique on Court Street between Congress and Amity streets in Cobble Hill.

CLINTON HILL

Rapist caught

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Police say that they have arrested the man wanted for two rapes in and around Clinton Hill last month. Cops announced last Friday that they had arrested Dupree Nicholson, 26, of Fort Greene and charged him with rape, sexual assault and robbery stemming from two alleged attacks.

The first incident was on March 16, when a 56-year-old woman was raped at gunpoint at around 1 a.m. near Fulton Street and Franklin Avenue. Police say that the creep forced the woman into a nearby park, where he then sexually assaulted her and struck her in the head with his gun.

Seven days later, a 42-year-old woman was brutally attacked in Clinton Hill.

According to police, the victim was on Gates Avenue between Classon Avenue and Irving Place at around 4:30 a.m. when the hooded brute dragged her across the street and then raped and sodomized her in a vacant lot between two buildings.

Police did not reveal any details about the arrest of Nicholson, who lives on Hanson Place, but the arrest itself was enough to earn praise from Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), who has sometimes been critical of the NYPD.

"I applaud both the 79th and 88th precincts for... a speedy arrest, though I remain concerned that this individual seemed to be conscious of the gap that exists in these few blocks between Bedford-Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill," she said.

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78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

A perp tried to steal \$150 worth of soap and shampoo from a Ninth Street store by shoving the products down his pants on March 30.

Security guards at the store, which is between Fifth and Sixth avenues, noticed the suspiciously well-endowed shopper and stopped him at the door.

The perp began fighting with the guards, injuring one so badly that he was sent to the hospital.

Officer Jerry Galante arrived and slapped cuffs on the unruly rougher.

Unfair trade

A thug broke in through a back window of Cafe 474 and ordered \$450 instead of a cup of coffee on April 3.

The worker at the Fourth Avenue coffee shop told cops that she knew the perpetrator seeking a caffeine fix when he entered at around 10:45 a.m. Rather, he just grabbed the cash and fled from the cafe, which is between 10th and 11th streets.

Retail ride

Two thieves lifted \$1,5574 worth of clothing from a store in Brooklyn—and were caught on tape doing it on April 3.

The store owner told cops that two perps entered the bike store, which is on Bergen Street between Flatbush and Fifth avenues, at around 5 p.m. and got away with the load of clothes.

Nighttime nab

A perp broke into Sunshine Golden Store in the middle of the night on April 2 and got away with \$430 worth of goods.

The shop owner told cops that the perp got to her store, which is on Ninth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 11 a.m. and found that the door was locked and everything looked normal.

But upon further inspection, she realized that the items were missing.

—Claire Glass

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Strike out

An amateur thief tried to

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

hold up the bank on the corner of Myrtle and Vanderbilt avenues on March 29, but ended up fleeing without a dime.

The teller told cops that the man handed her a note demanding a wad of cash at around 4:30 p.m. Before any tough changed hands, though, the premature perp ran for the door and managed to get away before police arrived.

Another tech-savvy swindler grabbed a MacBook from a Clinton Avenue apartment on March 31.

The victim told cops that she and her roommate had left the apartment, which is between Myrtle and Park avenues, at around 2 p.m. and returned later to discover the digital disaster.

Macbooked

Careful computer owners, your electronics may not even be safe in your own homes. Two apartments were stripped of their Macbooks last week. Here's a roundup:

• Someone stole two of the prized laptops from a Greene Street apartment on March 29 and disappeared. The victim told cops that she dis-

covered the crime when she returned to the unit, which is near Adelphi Street, at around 7:30 p.m. Closer inspection revealed that her roommate's computer was missing, too.

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The victim told cops that she and her roommate had left the apartment, which is between Myrtle and Park avenues, at around 2 p.m. and returned later to discover the digital disaster.

Target trickery

A fast-handed offender stole a woman's wallet from out of her purse while she was shopping at the notorious Target in the Atlantic Avenue Terminal on March 29.

The victim told cops that the purse was on her shoulder the entire time that she was in the store, which is near the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, but when she got to the checkout line at around 4 p.m., she noticed that the wallet had been picked.

Brazen thief

A perp got away with a woman's bra, plus \$100, after he approached her with a knife on Ashland Street between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street on March 30.

The victim told cops that she was walking down the street at around 11:30 p.m. when she heard a man yell from behind her, "Don't walk away from me."

When the insistent thug caught up to her, he began rummaging through her pockets to find her cash.

Once he got his hands on the money, he flashed a knife and told her to take off her bra and give it to him. Once he got the support he needed, he fled toward Fulton Street.

Sidewalk shots

A chat turned violent—and then to gunfire—on Waverly Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street

on April 3.

The victim told cops that he and his son-to-be shooter were talking at around 4:15 a.m., but when the conversation got heated, the man pulled out a gun and shot him in the leg.

Officer Christian Delacruz made the arrest.

Park perp

A greedy thief stole \$500 and his son-to-be shooter were talking at around 4:15 a.m., but when the conversation got heated, the man pulled out a gun and shot him in the leg.

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90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

JCD punch

A hot-headed jerk punched a man in the face and stole his cash on Humboldt Street on March 28.

The victim told cops that he was approached by the perp near Grand Street at about 10:30 p.m. The crook punched him in the face, apparently at random, and made off with CDs he was carrying and about \$200. The man was left with a bleeding face and nose.

Faux-po

A woman posing as a cop stole \$1,300 from a man on Graham Avenue on April 3.

The woman, wearing a fake black badge, approached the victim near Devoe Street at about 7 a.m., told him to freeze and frisked him, stealing the cash and fleeing by car.

Game time

A sneaky burglar entered a man's Hope Street apartment and stole his video game system on March 27.

The victim told cops that he left his basement apartment — which is between Roebbing and Havemeyer streets — for only 15 minutes, but came back at 10 p.m. to find the window ajar and his wallet and system gone.

Laptop thief

A thief slipped into a woman's

doors.

Both cars were unlocked at the time, the owners admitted.

A 48-year-old told police that someone entered his 2008 Toyota Highlander on March 28 as it sat outside his home on 11th Avenue between 73rd and 74th streets sometime after 8 p.m.

The Dyker Heights resident was obviously singing the blues, but he didn't have any instruments on which to play his sad song — his \$1,200 trumpet and a \$500 saxophone were stolen, he said.

Four days later, a 39-year-old man was foolish enough to leave his car unlocked as it sat behind his home on 7th Street between 10th and 11th avenues.

Later that day, someone sneaked inside the Honda, taking five credit cards and some documents.

Narrows pain

A 28-year-old woman was shoved to the ground and robbed on Narrows Avenue during a clash with a purse snatcher on March 30.

The woman told police that she was between 78th and 79th streets at around 3 p.m. when she felt something tugging at her bag.

She turned to find that a halving stranger had latched on.

The thief then threw her down and ran off with the bag to an awaiting white vehicle, police said.

The woman sustained a

cut to her wrist, but was otherwise unharmed.

—Thomas Tracy

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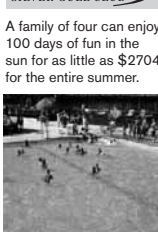
A thief slipped into a woman's

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Region 2

Announces

LETTER OF INTENT FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

Gowanus Canal Superfund Site

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 2 (EPA) HAS RECEIVED A LETTER OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AT GOWANUS CANAL SUPERFUND SITE FROM "FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS OF GREATER GOWANUS" AND "RIVERKEEPER, INC.". BY LAW, ONLY ONE GRANT FOR UP TO \$50,000 MAY BE AWARDED TO A CITIZEN'S GROUP AT ANY ONE SITE ON THE NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST. BECAUSE OF THIS LIMITATION AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ALL COMMUNITY VIEWS ARE REPRESENTED IN RECIPIENT GROUPS, EPA ENCOURAGES ALL CITIZENS' GROUPS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AT THE GOWANUS CANAL SITE TO CONSOLIDATE WITH "FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS OF GREATER GOWANUS" AND "RIVERKEEPER, INC." AND FILE A JOINT APPLICATION. WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, GROUPS THAT WISH TO JOIN "FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS OF GREATER GOWANUS" AND "RIVERKEEPER, INC." FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS GRANT APPLICATION MUST NOTIFY:

RIVERKEEPER, INC.
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TARRYTOWN, NY 10591

FROGG
268 SMITH STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11231

GROUPS WISHING TO FILE SEPARATE GRANT APPLICATIONS MUST, WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE, SUBMIT TO EPA A LETTER OF INTENT TO FILE AN APPLICATION, CLEARLY IDENTIFYING THE SITE(S) FOR WHICH YOU INTEND TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE FILED WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE. GROUPS THAT HAVE SUBMITTED A LETTER OF INTENT TO EPA WITHIN THE REQUIRED TIME PERIOD DESCRIBED ABOVE, BUT WHO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TIME TO FILE AN APPLICATION, MAY SUBMIT A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF THIS TIME TO EPA



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

April 9-15, 2010

Zombies attack!

Well, not really. But if they do, here's how to fight them off

By Meredith Deliso
for The Brooklyn Paper

What are you going to do when — not if, but when — the zombies attack? Luckily, Roger Ma has figured it all out. As the author of "The Zombie Combat Manual" (Penguin), the native Brooklynite teaches you how to fight the living dead mano-a-mano, if, like most civilians, you lack a handy firearm. From hand-to-hand combat to non-lethal weapons like customized crowbars, the Windsor Terrace resident spoke to us about where his fascination with zombies comes from, and what's the best way to fight the terror from below.

Meredith Deliso: So why the interest in zombies?
Roger Ma: In the 1970s, my dad took me — at my request — to see George Romero's "Dawn of the Dead" on Coney Island Avenue. At 8, I was way too young to see that movie. Ever since, it's been something that I've been afraid of... and fascinated by.

MD: Why do you think this movie still resonates?
RM: When something touches you that young, it inevitably sticks with you. Every year, I have four to five dreams where I'm being attacked by zombies. Those are the most horrible, but most enjoyable, dreams that I have. The psychological aspect is what really intrigues me: when push comes to shove, what do people do in those crazy situations?

MD: How did you see a zombie attack happening today?
RM: There's the difference between the 20th-century zombie and the 21st-century zombie. In the 20th century, there's a ra-



Undead heads: Author Roger Ma reads from his book, "The Zombie Combat Manual," on April 9 at the Park Slope & Noble.

so that's out. They don't have big brains, they don't have farming equipment. You need to go to a toolbox — most people have that, and most have a screwdriver or a claw hammer. Those are good options. We also like to play our sports — there's sporting equipment that might help out. A really popular one is a baseball bat. It's a short-term item — they tend to fall after a lot of zombie attacks, but most know how to use one.

MD: What kind of audience do you see for the manual?
RM: There are fans of the genre who are going to like and appreciate the book. Also people who like martial arts and self-defense. What I tried to do is be very authentic. I had a lot of martial arts consultants work with me on the book. Even though we're talking about zombies, it's not going too far off in terms of technique. The third front is people who like satire. It's a parody at its core. I'm a fan at heart of the zombie genre and wanted to write a book that I as a fan would enjoy and contribute to the genre.

MD: Wait, are you saying that there aren't really zombies?

BOOKS

Roger Ma reads from "The Zombie Combat Manual" at the Park Slope Barnes and Noble 1267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, (718) 832-9066, April 9, 7:30 pm.

have a gun, what am I going to do? It took off from there — using a leg of chair, crowbar, handbar.

MD: What's the best defense against zombies?

RM: There are two decisions that form that answer. One depends on what kind of person you are. If you have this huge battleaxe, but you're a slight person, it's not going to be such a great defense. The other question is whether you have the weapon handy. Say you have a sword, but it's behind the winter clothing at the back of a closet when the zombie attack occurs. What good is that? In the book, I go through all kinds of weapons, one called improvised weapons. I go through the different parts of the home — garage, toolbox, farm — where you might encounter everyday found objects and discuss how they could they be transformed to use in an attack.

MD: What's the best defense for people in Brooklyn?
RM: Brooklynites don't have garages,

diological disaster — a nuclear fallout, or a meteor comes to the Earth and the dead start to rise. In the 21st century, we do this to ourselves. It's getting back to what happened in reality — avian flu, swine flu, some flu variant. A biological weaponized virus breaks out that feels very close to home. It's maybe not the dead rising, but us dealing with some sort of pandemic.

MD: How did you get started on a manual?

RM: Three years ago, I was looking to get a handgun in New York and realized, wow, this is really difficult. You have to jump through a lot of hoops to do so. I thought, if the zombies do come, I'm not going to be in such great shape. If I don't

Call him Ahab

Matt Kish's Moby Dick is "Moby Dick." In your typical blog-a-day fashion, the modest librarian has given himself a truly ambitious task: draw an original artwork from a page of the Herman Melville classic every day.

The project is made even more ambitious by the fact that his version of the novel is, at 522 pages, nearly twice as long as most editions. Quickly approaching the halfway mark, though, he is committed, even if it drives him mad, like a captain with whom he's become quite familiar.

"What in the hell have I gotten myself into?" asked Kish. "The further I get into the project, the more I identify with Ahab — it's becoming an obsession."

Jamie Hook can identify with that. As the curator behind the lecture series Open City Dialogue, he invited Kish to share his work at Pet's Candy Store in Williamsburg on April 19.

"The subject of the lecture series is the na-

ture of an obsessive compulsive and an obsessive compulsive way of going about doing things," said Hook.

Kish's varied drawings, a mix between colored pencil, crayon, collage and pen and ink, are vibrant interpretations of the classic — his favorite book, which should come as no surprise — ranging from the abstract (such as the rainbows-on-a-murderer's-bloody-heart collision on page 206) to the charmingly straight forward (the battle scene on page 109).

Peter's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. between Richardson and Frost streets in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770, April 19, 7:30 pm.

— Meredith Deliso

MUSIC

'Rain' man

Finally, Freedy Johnston has some new songs.

The supremely underappreciated singer-songwriter with the odd first name and the haunting voice has put out his first original album in eight years, and will ditch the covers and play his own tunes at Southpaw next Saturday.

That's not just a big deal because the new album, "Rain in the City," is so good, but a tipse Johnston fans who have been wondering why their favorite singer was more likely to play "Wichita Lineman" than his own classic, "Bad Reputation."

"I don't know why I was in that phase, but I am certainly through it," he said.

It doesn't take a psychiatrist — just a rock fan with a good ear — to know what was going on. In the eight years since his last studio LP in 2001, Johnston got married and then got un-married, and even had trouble with the IRS. There were times when his fans valued him more than he valued himself.

"Part of it was probably me saying, 'There are so many great songs in the world, why even write any songs?' But I got through that," he said.

So there you have it, fans — the wait is over.

Freedy Johnston at Southpaw 125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236, Saturday, April 17 at 7 pm.

— Garsh Kuntzman

MARKET

Indie wares

Farmers markets are coming out of hibernation all over the city, and so is the Brooklyn Indie Market — a fashionista's farmer's market, if you will — which opened last Saturday.

The fourth annual Indie Market will include booths manned by 20 Brooklyn artists every Saturday and Sunday under a red and white circus tent on Smith Street in Carroll Gardens.

Kathy Malone, who founded the market, attracts experienced designers from all over our stylish borough, hawking silk-screen linens, handmade jewelry, soaps, and housewares.

"Every year we have our anchor regular vendors, but we get a whole new crop of designers to keep the market fresh," Malone said.

Most of the vendors are up-and-comers, so who knows, you might get your hands on the next name to land in Barneys or Anthropologie at bargain prices.

And for cupcake fanatics, the Columbia Street-based bakery, Nine Cakes, will be hawking what are easily the best mini-treats in the borough.

Brooklyn Indie Market Smith Street at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 499-2102, on weekends through Christmas.

— Clare Glass

BOOKS

Red diaper

Said Sayrafzadeh's debut memoir, "When Skateboards Will Be Free," has garnered considerable acclaim for its grace and humor as he detailed a not-so-common childhood — being raised by ardent Socialists in Pennsylvania.

To celebrate the paperback edition, the Fort Greene native will read at powerhouse Arena in DUMBO on April 15.

Sayrafzadeh holds back nothing in the retelling of his childhood, complete with an Iranian father who abandoned him as an infant, a mother who was so committed to the Socialist Workers Party that she would drag young Said to meetings, and poverty so bad that even the longest-for skateboard of the book's title was forever out of reach.

As an adult, Sayrafzadeh rights materialistic desires, and is proud to say that he overcame a case of kleptomania, kicking a habit of stealing office supplies (which isn't really stealing, is it?).

Said Sayrafzadeh at powerhouse Arena 37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049, April 15, 7 pm. For info, visit www.powerhousearena.com.

— Meredith Deliso

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

| SATURDAY April 10 | SUNDAY April 11 | TUESDAY April 13 | THURSDAY April 15 | SATURDAY April 17 |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Pick up this Chekhov Russian giant Anton Chekhov would have been 150 this year, and for a 19th-century guy, he really knew how to write about being broke, drunk, and in the midst of a mid-life crisis. To celebrate the date, BAM is putting on "Uncle Vanya," a drama about love and wasted youth. You'll be transported back to the old country, especially because the play will be in Russian with English subtitles.</p> <p>7:30 pm. "Uncle Vanya" at BAM Harvey 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.</p> | <p>Silent but deadly You probably weren't around in the days when silent films were innovative, or when live bands were the only way to hear music, but the Brooklyn Public Library is hosting a screening of "The Cameraman" to recall the days when a movie wasn't powerful only because it was loud. The film stars Buster Keaton trying to impress a girl — and it's accompanied by a live pianist.</p> <p>1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Plaza in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).</p> | <p>King Arthur Before you rush out and buy an iPad, come hear a real live author — in this case, the great Cobble Hill bard Arthur Phillips — read. Phillips' "The Song is You," now out in paperback, centers on the idea that every life (even Pkay) has a soundtrack. In a nod to modernity, Phillips' iPod will play some of the songs mentioned in the book.</p> <p>7:30 pm. Arthur Phillips at Word 126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096. Tickets are \$15.</p> | <p>Ancient evening You're almost out of time to catch the outstanding Brooklyn Museum exhibit about ancient Egyptian burial rituals — a timely reminder that humans are just as obsessed with (and ignorant of) death as we were 5,000 years ago. The exhibit runs through May 2 — and unlike the Egyptians themselves, it doesn't have an after-life, so catch it now.</p> <p>11 am-5 pm. "To Live Forever" at the Brooklyn Museum 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000. Museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.</p> | <p>It's tree-mendous It's that time of the year when everyone wants to show off his green credentials. With Earth Day near, the Fulton Avenue Business Alliance will actually be giving away trees — and tree "adopters" will even get a coupon for a meal. Meanwhile, Habana Outpost will have its traditional springtime kickoff to a summer of mojitos and movies!</p> <p>10 am. Free trees at the Putnam Triangle (Fulton Street and Grand Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 643-6555). Habana Outpost 127 Fulton St. at 5th Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 858-9500.</p> |

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI. APRIL 9

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: Annual blooming of the amazing Japanese cherry trees. 11 am-5 pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden 1000 Washington Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7230. www.bbg.org.

THEATER, "UNCLE VANYA": Chekhov's classic. 5:30-5:55. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

ART OPENING, "NOTHING & NOTHING": Part of the Jean Renoir retrospective. 5:30-6:30 pm. BAM Harvey 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

FILM, "TONY": Part of the Jean Renoir retrospective. 5:30-6:30 pm. BAM Harvey 651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

READING, ROGER MA: Author of "The Zombie Combat Manual." Free. 7:30 pm. Barnes and Noble Park Slope 260 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-9046.

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (College Humor) and Jason Sane (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. Cocola 64 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, (718) 807-6045. www.myspace.com/cocola64.

THEATER, "SAMUEL AND ALASDAIR — A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE ROBOT WAR": In an alternate global history, the Cold War is decided by massive robot invasion. Among the survivors, a team of Russian radio hosts broadcast a story of brothers' love drawn apart from the American heartland. 5:18. 8 pm. Brick Theater 575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6181. www.bricktheater.com.

MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY: Performing selections from Boccherini, Shostakovich, Paganini, Frank.

Swingers: Dancers from the STREB Lab in Williamsburg will brave moving cinder blocks in the company's latest production, "Run Up Walls," running April 16-May 23.

8 pm. First Unitarian Church 300 Monroe Pl. between Pierrepont and Clark streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718. www.brooklynchambermusic.org.

MUSIC, THE DISCLAIMERS: 8 pm. Spillie Hill Tavern 184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737. www.spilliehill.com.

THEATER, "COPIES": Serial drama about a best cop and a detective on a stake out. \$10 donation. 8 pm. Storefront Space 94 Norman St. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 218-9737. www.spilliehill.com.

MUSIC, QUEEN AARINAH: Neo-soul. Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4000. www.bam.org.

MUSIC, ERNE VEGA: 9 pm. Jolop 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214. www.jolop.biz.

SAT. APRIL 10

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: See Friday, April 9.

8 pm. First Unitarian Church 300 Monroe Pl. between Pierrepont and Clark streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718. www.brooklynchambermusic.org.

MUSIC, BLIND BOY PAXTON: Flips banjo, guitar, harmonica and several other instruments in the pre-war American style. 5:10. 11 pm. Jolop 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214. www.jolop.biz.

THEATER, "COPIES": Serial drama about a best cop and a detective on a stake out. \$10 donation. 8 pm. Storefront Space 94 Norman St. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 218-9737. www.spilliehill.com.

MUSIC, QUEEN AARINAH: Neo-soul. Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4000. www.bam.org.

MUSIC, ERNE VEGA: 9 pm. Jolop 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214. www.jolop.biz.

CIVIC CALENDAR

MON. APRIL 12
Propped Park West Lake Line. Stakeholders gather to talk about the issue. 6 pm. Congregation Beth Elohim 274 Grand St. at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 643-3027.

Community Board 10 Youth Services, Education and Libraries Committee: Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office 8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827.

TUES. APRIL 13
Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway information session. 6:30 pm. Red Hook Recreation Center 155 Bay St. at Clinton Street in Red Hook, (718) 522-0193.

72nd Precinct Community Council: Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Marion Heim Center 4520 Fourth Ave. between 55th and 56th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 965-6311.

Dyker Heights Civic Association: Monthly meeting. 8 pm. St. Philip's Episcopal Church 1072 80th St. between 106th and 118th avenues in Dyker Heights, (718) 748-1797.

WED. APRIL 14
Bay Ridge Lions Club. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Hunter's Steak and Ale House 19402 Fourth Ave. between 94th and 95th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 619-5109.

Community Board 6: Monthly full board meeting. 6:30 pm. PS 321 317

Hoyt St. between Union and President streets: (718) 643-3027.

Community Board 10 Traffic and Transportation Committee: Monthly meeting. 7 pm. St. Ephrem Old School 74th Street between Fort Hamilton Park and 10th Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827.

61st Precinct Community Council: Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Call for location, (718) 627-6847.

THURS. APRIL 15
Community Board 10 Police and Public Safety Committee. Monthly meeting. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office 8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827.

To let an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Calendar@bkglobal.com.

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n vino veritas

Three new wine bars demystify drink

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

Wine may be a sometimes daunting beverage, but three brand new Brooklyn wine bars are here to get even the most intimidated novice over their fears.

Meet The Castello Plan in Ditmas Park. The Bodega in Bushwick and La Casita, a wine bar-yarn shop in Cobble Hill. These three newbies join favorites like Park Slope's Brooklyn as vanguards of a new brand of wine bars that break down the laughiness of wine and make it as accessible as a \$3 Bud.

"Wines have a real snobbery. We wanted to start getting out of the wine-speak, which turns people off, and show people that wine can be really exciting," said Ben Warren, co-owner of The Bodega. Warren focuses on wines that are organic, holistic and sometimes a little out there, like his 2008 La Mothe (\$9), a funky, apple-y wine that he describes "as the craziest white wine I've ever had."

There may be crazy wines, but you'll find no lifted pinkies here. Warren, an amateur wine enthusiast turned pro, does out generous tastings from behind the bar himself, encouraging folks to try before they buy. He's been known to go on and on about the unique qualities of each particular bar, justifying it simply: "Wine can be just as nerdy as beer."

At the Castello Plan, too, owner Benjamin Heemskerk instructs his staff to have customers sample two, three, even four wines until they find the one they like.



DINING

The Bodega Wine Bar (24 St. Nicholas Ave. at Troutman Street in Bushwick. No phone yet). **The Castello Plan** (1213 Cortelyou Rd. at Angelle Road in Ditmas Park, 718-856-8888). **La Casita Yarn Shop Cafe** (253 Smith St. between Douglass and Degraw Streets in Carroll Gardens, 718-963-0369).

"Everyone's taste is different," said Heemskerk. "We have stuff on the menu that I don't even like, even though I know it's good wine. There's nothing more intimidating than promising to pay for \$35 for a bottle of wine and then finding out

you hate it. That's why I want people to taste."

La Casita has none of the usual wine bar fixtures. Walk into the honey, slightly cluttered storefront and find customers lounging comfortably, knitting away. The walls are stacked with bright yarns and owners Jennifer Lopez and Amanda Greenhagen dart between sales, advising knitters and dishing out vino and empanadas in a tiny bar tucked in the back.

"We wanted to be accessible, to have something for everyone. We want people to be able to work on a project, have a glass of wine, relax," said Greenhagen. The shop even stocks a wine made by a customer

Grape expectations: Benjamin Heemskerk (above) has opened the Castello Plan, a wine bar on Cortelyou Road in Ditmas Park that is named after the original map of the city. (At right) There's even a wine bar in the back of the Smith Street yarn shop, La Casita.

in South Africa, the 2004 Lielveld Wine Estate Field Blend—the price is set at \$9.

La Casita and The Bodega in particular focus primarily on wines from the Spanish-speaking world—particularly because it allows them feature more affordable offerings.

At each, every glass is under \$10, with many offerings in the \$7 range. While that's not exactly dirt cheap, by focusing all their effort on more inexpensive offerings, each has managed to craft a wine list with a lot more bang for buck.

The Castello Plan is a bit more upscale—with glasses ranging from \$7 to \$14, bottles well into the hundreds and beautifully curated cheese boards that would make any cheese lover's heart skip a beat. All the same, Heemskerk takes extra care in selecting his \$7 offerings, ensuring they rival every other wine on the list.

Cheers to that.

Tasty gossip!

The latest from the dining scene

Foodie-in-Chief
By Kristen V. Brown

It's been a booming fortnight in the foodie world. Here's the latest gossip and news from our gourmet desk:

• **Longer 'Mile':** The instantly insanely popular smoked meat delicatessen Mile End tells us that it will expand to full dinner service this month, once a bigger warehouse is arranged to store the tons of meat the shop goes through every day.

• **Bahn mi for Clinton Hill:** Brooklyn is getting yet another Vietnamese sandwich joint—though the bahn mi at Tigerlily, coming soon to the corner of Greene and Classon Avenues in Clinton Hill, may not be your average sandwich. The owner, a Vietnamese-American Pratt graduate, plans to include influences from her Texas upbringing. Vietnamese-Tex-Mex, anyone?

• **Heating up in Bed-Stuy:** Craig Samuel and Ben Grossman bring us yet another hit—the pair recently opened Peaches HotHouse in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a similiar, but more casual approach to southern fare as Bushwick's Peaches. Expect rare southern favorites like deep-fried Nashville-style hot chicken and creamy rice balls made with heirloom rice.

• **Fla food:** The folks at the Brooklyn Flea have finally taken the bite—coming this month, a much-expanded line of food vendors. Among the most promising new additions: Pochetta, Montreal-style bagels and lox from Mile End, and Stropswafels from Good Batch.

• **Border beer:** The desert that is the Gowanus-Park Slope border just might be Brooklyn's new craft beer destination—on Friday, Mission Dolores, the highly anticipated craft beer garden from the folks



Keller instinct: Is America's most celebrated chef looking at Brooklyn?

at Bar Great Harry, opens on Fourth Avenue and Carroll Street. The bar joins Lowlands, a bar that opened last week on 14th Street and Third Avenue by the crew at Abilene in Carroll Garden, not to mention craft beer heavens Draft Barn and The Bell House.

• **The shutter:** Park Slope said good-bye to teeny sandwiches (and late-night snacking) with the closing of Reis 100, the miniature sandwich factory attached to Fifth Avenue's Bar Reis. Free pret, the bar still stands—your 'I just have to stumble elsewhere for your drunken munchies.

• **New neighbors:** The long-shuttered OTS on the corner of Court and Sackett has a whole new set of plywood—and Internet buzz suggests there just might be an oyster bar in the works. Department of Buildings permits are issued to James McGown, the owner of P1 Hanley's. Could the Brooklyn pizza man be ditching pizza for shellfish?

• **Now this is kosher:** You'll have a tough time getting a Friday night reservation at Basil, Crown Height's new wood-oven pizzeria—the pizzeria and wine bar closes to observe the Sabbath. But good news for pizza loving Jews: Basil is the first kosher wood-oven pizzeria in Brooklyn.

• **The Foodification of Bushwick:** Bushwick is well on its way to becoming Brooklyn's new "it" culinary destination with the a new sushi spot slated for May from the people at Williamsburg sushi favorite Bozu. The restaurant, Momo Sushi Shack, bares no relation to the David Chang franchise, but expect at least some confusion when Chang moves his Momofuku Milk bakery operation to Williamsburg.

• **Keller for Brooklyn?** Last week, iconic Per Se chef Thomas Keller told Feast that a Bouchon Brooklyn may be in the cards. Plans for a branch of the celebrated bakery across the river are by no means finalized, but we're sure the move would make for a lot of very happy Brooklynites.



8 o'clock 'Mile': Sure, Noah Bernamoff's smoked meat is great for lunch, but now it's finally dinner time at his Mile End deli on Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill.



Sarah Haas bakes for and mans the coffee bar at Crop to Cup, the new java joint on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Heights.

Bumper 'Crop'

Buyers, beware—you may enter the new Crop to Cup Cafe in Brooklyn Heights seeking nothing but your morning coffee, and find yourself leaving with an antique armchair.

In the tradition of the antique shops of Atlantic Avenue, at Crop to Cup, everything's for sale—from the cafe's luxurious Victorian chairs to tables, mirrors, and yes, that giant armchair in the corner.

"It was quite a wacky store when we found it," said co-owner Taylor Mork of the space on Atlantic Avenue between Clinton and Henry streets. "There was all of these old furnishings inside. We wanted to bring the space back to life."

The shop is filled with antiques that Mork reclaimed from the build-

ing that houses the cafe. As pieces are sold, more will rotate in from a warehouse filled with even more goodies. Of course, the real gem here is the coffee. A regular feature of the Brooklyn Flea, Crop to Cup beans all come from small family farms in Uganda.

At the cafe, you'll find your usual espresso and drip along with single-serve cups made with contraptions like Lever Coffee Drippers and Hario drippers from Japan. The spot will also serve as the exclusive retailer for Kumquat Cupcakery.

Finally, we can get our coffee and cupcakes on weekdays, too. Crop to Cup Cafe (139 Atlantic Ave. between Clinton and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights. No phone yet.

—Kristen V. Brown

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Voices carry

Little Regina Opera celebrates 40 years in Dyker Heights

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

The fat lady still hasn't sung for the beloved Regina Opera House.

The shoestring Dyker Heights company has for 40 years been an operative proving ground for opera lovers: Pavarotti, as well as a reasonably priced, home-grown venue for lovers of "Madame Butterfly," "Carmen," and other classics.

Opera lovers from Boro Park, Bay Ridge—and even from as far away as New Jersey—still flock to the school auditorium-turned-opera house every month and regularly leave space for standing room only.

"The company is older than a good portion of the singers on stage," said one of the Regina's founders, Fran Garber. "We run on a shoestring budget—it's a labor of love."

And over the 40 years, Gar-



Aria code: Former opera at Regina included (left to right) Sandra Alessi in the 1980 production of "La Traviata," Charles S. Brown in the 1984 production of "Carmen," Gil Fajargal and Arturo Spinetti in the 1989 production of "Otello."

ber, the producer and executive vice president, has seen it all. "We've had sets collapse on singers," Garber said with a laugh. "Costumes have ripped on stage. One time a zipper broke during a performance and the woman

sung the whole opera holding up the front of her dress."

But the opera house—which allows auditions for any hungry singers looking to make it—is not just some fly-by-night operation. The more popular op-

eras draw big crowds of around 300 people, and the Regina has even seen some budding stars take the stage.

Dolores Zajick, one of the most famous living mezzo-sopranos, passed through the Regina Op-

era back in 1980, before it even featured a full orchestra.

"She is the mezzo at the Met," said Garber. "She wouldn't have sung with us if we were crappier."

But the Regina isn't just no-

table for the celebrities that have sung there—it is also a vital resource for hungry opera singers getting their start.

Professional singers come from all over because the people at Regina are wonderful and you have the chance to sing with a full orchestra in a full production," said Margaret O'Connell. "She is the mezzo at the Met."

And the Regina does professional-quality productions," O'Connell added. "Productions we can be proud of."

Fortunately for the opera house, the surrounding neighborhood boasts a built-in fan base.

Opera remains a fundamental part of the community for many longtime residents of Dyker Heights, which was historically an Italian neighborhood.

"Every Saturday morning, my mother and I would listen to 'Live from the Met' on the radio—this was in the 1930s," said Marie Cantoni, the president of the Regina. "My mother would translate the singing for us. I was 6- or 7-years-old, and I enjoyed the music. It was exciting, and could be touching."

Now, Cantoni and her cohorts—who are not paid for their dedication to the Regina—extend the same courtesy to the audi-

ence that her mother extended to her.

"During the operas, 'superlatives'—unofficial English translations done by the company—are projected above the stage so that the audience will not be left in the dark as the drama unfolds."

The idea for the opera house first came about after Cantoni overheard one of her neighbors on Taber Court in Dyker Heights singing beautifully every morning. Eventually, the idea evolved into the Regina Opera House.

MUSIC

Regina Opera's 40th Anniversary Gala featuring selections from numerous classics, at Regina Hall (65th Street and 12th Avenue in Dyker Heights, (718) 259-2772), April 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

among her and some friends to organize a few performances of operatic selections—but not a full opera.

"We start an opera company," said Cantoni. "I thought it was crazy, I can't even read music! But I loved it and I was willing to work hard."

Though there were rough spots in the 1970s and 1980s when the opera house was on the verge of closing—Cantoni said the formula for success remains quite simple.

"You do a show where you sing Italian opera in an Italian neighborhood—the people just come."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 778-7900. cnyec.org.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. PS 321 schoolyard, Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope. www.park321flea.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. Noon-5 p.m. Artists and Fleas (12th St. between Bedford Avenue and

Berry Street in Williamsburg). www.artistandfleas.com.

OTHER

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY PARADE: Celebrate the coming of spring and crack of the first bat as the Brooklyn Little League and their parents march through Park Slope, with the ceremonial first pitch thrown at the Prospect Park Bandshell. Free. 10 a.m. Prospect Park (Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street in Park Slope). (718) 965-8944.

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WAGS & MURDER MOST FOUL: Visit some of Green-Wood's most nefarious residents. \$10. 1 p.m. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 22nd Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-7300. www.gwcemetery.com.

MUSIC CONCERT FOR CHILE: Performances by Chris Baran, Jerry Joseph, Jonah Smith, Craig Greenberg and more. Suggested donation. 6 p.m. Brooklyn Bowl (61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg). (718) 963-3369. www.brooklynbowl.com.

THEATER, "SWINGIN' AT JACKS": Suspended Circa was a series of 1940s-themed dance music and circo acts. \$25. \$20 for students and those in costume. 8 p.m. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 222-8500. www.galapagosartspace.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. See Saturday.

GREENMARKET AND MARKERS MARKET: Crafts and produce under the same roof. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Old American Factory (232 Third St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus). www.greenmarket.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 p.m. See Saturday, April 10.

POETRY READ ALOUD: Pick your favorite poem to read or hear one of your own. RSVP required. 11 a.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-2972. www.brooklynethicalculture.org.

FILM, "THE CAMERAMAN": The classic silent film starring Buster Keaton, with live piano accompaniment. Free. 1:30 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope). (718) 230-2100.

FILM, "THE RIVER": Part of the Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12. \$8 members. 2:45, 4:50 and 9:15 p.m. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4129. www.bam.org.

READING, WILLIAM LACH: Author of "My Friends the Flowers." Will also teach a hands-on gardening lesson. Free. 4-5 p.m. Power House Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 666-3049. www.powerhousearena.com.

MON, APRIL 12

READING, ZETTA ELLIOTT: Author of "A Wish Along the Midnight." Free. 5 p.m. Barnes and Noble Park Slope (267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street in Park Slope). (718) 832-9066.

FILM, "EARTH 2100": Film about global climate change, followed by a roundtable discussion. Free (donations welcomed). 7 p.m. Park Slope Methodist Church (493 Eighth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). (718) 788-2260. www.parkslopecatholic.org.

READING, "Aurora of Don't Cry": Free. 8 p.m. Franklin Park 618 St. Johns Pl. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights). franklinpark-brooklyn.org.

MUSIC, TONY SCHERR AND SPECIAL GUESTS: \$5. 9 p.m. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodluff Street in Columbia Street Waterfront). (718) 395-3214. www.jalopy.biz.

MUSIC, CHICHA LARIN: Latin rhythms, surf music and beach-themed songs by Peruvian music from the Amazon. 9:30 p.m. Barbès (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). (718) 965-9177. www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

Street Gallery (155 Grand St. between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg). (718) 388-8257. easystreetbrooklyn.com.

SUN, APRIL 11

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: See Friday, April 9.

TOUR, "SCANDALS, SCALARS & MURDER MOST FOUL": Visit some of Green-Wood's most nefarious residents. \$10. 1 p.m. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 22nd Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-7300. www.gwcemetery.com.

MUSIC, QUARTET STRING: Playing selections by Mozart, Shostakovich, Beethoven and Romyo Petrowsky. Free. 4 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope). (718) 230-2100.

MUSIC, CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: See Friday, April 9.

COMEDY NIGHT: Free. 8-9 p.m. Puppet's Jaz Bar (481 Fifth St. at 11th Street in Park Slope). (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

FILM, "LA CHIENNE": Part of the Jean Renoir retrospective. \$12. \$8 members. 6:50 and 9:15 p.m. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). (718) 636-4129. www.bam.org.

MUSIC, BACK REFORMED: \$10. 8 p.m. Green-Wood Cemetery (25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights). (718) 768-7300. www.greenwoodcemetery.org.

MUSIC, SLAVIC SOUL: Party! Fiery gypsy brass, soulful Balkan anthems and hip-grinding American funk. 9 p.m. Barbès (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). (718) 965-9177. www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

WED, APRIL 14

CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL: See Friday, April 9.

TOUR, HISTORIC TOLLEY TOURS: Explore Green-Wood's history and life. \$10 for Historic Fund members. 1 p.m. Green-Wood Cemetery (25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights). (718) 768-7300. www.greenwoodcemetery.org.

TALK, "PINK ELEPHANTS AND BLACK HOLES": Ethnoscologist Cult. To Fringe discusses how African-American contributions to classical music. Free. 1 p.m. City Tech (300 Jay St. between Jay and First streets in Downtown). (718) 260-5201.

READING, "DISRUPTED LIVES": Reading group by scholar Morris Dickstein. Free. 2 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope). (718) 230-2100.

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION: Brooklyn Public Library's PowerUP! competition session. Free. 6 p.m. Bedford branch (496 Franklin Ave. in Bedford-Stuyvesant). (718) 623-0013. brooklynlibrary.org/business/powerup.

READING, DAVID CONLEY: Author of "Elsewhere, U.S.A." Free. 7 p.m. Power House Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). (718) 666-3049. www.powerhousearena.com.

HEALTH, "DIABETES & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW": Learn how to care for your aging parent. Free. 6:30 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope). (718) 230-2100.

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ART, "MUSE FUSE": Artist tour featuring speaker Ed Winkelman of Winkelman Gallery. Free. 7 p.m. New York Art Gallery (229 Leonard St. between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights). franklinpark-brooklyn.org.

READING, "LOOK LEFT": Explores contemporary South Asian identity with the South Asian Women's Creative Collective. Free. 7-9 p.m. BRIC Rudine Gelpi (133 Clinton St. at Pier-point Street in Brooklyn). www.bricnyc.org.

MUSIC, ROOTS AND RHYTHM: Latin American folk showcase. \$5. 9 p.m. Jalopy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodluff Street in Columbia Street Waterfront). (718) 395-3214.

COMEDY NIGHT: See Friday, April 9.

THEATER, "SAMUEL AND ALASDAIR: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF THE ROBOT WAR": 8 p.m. See Friday, April 9.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Featuring Schubert and Dvorak selections by the Raphael Trio. \$35. \$30 seniors. \$15 students. 8 p.m. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO). (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org.

MUSIC, JAZZ KAYE AND HER TRIO: Jazz, blues, pop. \$10. \$5 kids. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope). (718) 768-2972. www.brooklynethicalculture.org.

MUSIC, THE LONG ANTHEM: Folk, blues. \$14. \$12 advance. 8 p.m. The Bell House (49 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus). (718) 443-6510. www.thebellhouse.com.

MUSIC, NAKED & SHAMELESS: Resonated drum-billy duo. Free. 8 p.m. Hark's Saloon (164 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill). (718) 625-8003. www.wetvibe.com.

THEATER, "COP PICE": 8 p.m. See Friday, April 9.

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 778-7900. cnyec.org.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. PS 321 schoolyard, Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope. www.park321flea.com.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-5 p.m. Artists and Fleas (12th St. between Bedford Avenue and

Berry Street in Williamsburg). www.artistandfleas.com.

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FLUSH



Minutes before the Best Buy on Bay Parkway opened on Saturday morning, a throng of techies — OK, just Tom Kiser, Bryan Halpin and John Cusumano — was on hand to get their iPad.

iPad 'mania' hits Brooklyn shops

Nerds wait hours to buy a device that they admit they don't need

By Joe Maniscalco
for The Brooklyn Paper

People who don't need the iPad lined up for hours to get one last Saturday, the first day that touch-screen media player went on sale nationwide.

Some waited on line for three hours at the Best Buy on Bay Parkway in Bayside shopping area — one of only two Brooklyn locations that was selling the cool, but apparently not so vital, device.

"Basically, I'm buying it because Steve Jobs told me I need it," Bay Ridge resident Brian Halpin said. "There really is no reason why I need this."

About 12 other Mac enthusiasts — all men — greeted IPS drivers with rock star cheers as they rolled up to the Bayside shopping store with 13 boxes stuffed full of factory-fresh iPads at about 9:10 a.m.



Tom Kiser, a minister and 20-year Mac user from Sea Gate was first on line.

"I'm tired of hauling my 17-inch PowerBook all the time," he said. "I've got an iPhone 3GS that does phenomenal stuff, but I can't do presentations with it and I see the iPad as filling that niche in the middle."

Capturing the prevailing mood, Benhur resident John Cusumano admitted that

he wasn't interested in owning an iPad — until the hype took over.

"When the time comes, it's exciting, and you want to be the first one to have a new product," he said.

Asked if he feared being burned given Apple's history of quickly slashing prices and adding additional features to new products, Halpin said absolutely not.

"I've got an iPhone and I thought the other day, 'Wow! This looks like a cool damned thing to get. So I'm just going to buy it,'" he said.

Brooklyn's other Best Buy located inside the Gateway Center mall near Starrett City was the only other place in the borough offering buyers their first crack at the dandy device.

YOU and grab?

University wants more than just Polytech

By Stephen Brown and
Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

First they got their sciences, now they're coming for the arts! New York University is plotting a huge, long-term expansion that goes far beyond the merger that brought the Polytechnic University engineering program under its wing — and may now look to the Brooklyn Academy of Music to collaborate for its next venture in Downtown's growing collegiate community.

Two NYU officials confirmed that they'd look at performing arts as an option for one of the new sites and will also likely focus on beefing up its science offerings, due to Polytech's proximity.

BAM representatives said they hadn't heard of any plan to collaborate with NYU, but said the two entities have worked together on music education programs and that a more formal agreement is not out of the question.

Until that time comes, NYU will look at growing its Downtown campus.

"We'll probably look at a combination of academic, administrative buildings, and student housing [in Downtown Brooklyn]," said Alicia Hurley, an NYU spokeswoman.

But first, the acquisition — and



Polytech students hung out on the Downtown "quads" this week as NYU plots a deeper expansion into Brooklyn.

renovation — of Polytech's current facilities on Jay Street and Myrtle Avenue. Once NYU fully takes over the 150-year-old engineering program by 2013, it'll have the option of using Polytech's "air rights" for the rehabilitation, meaning devel-

opers can build vertically or even transfer those rights to an adjacent building.

It's all part of NYU's long-term plan to expand by a whopping one million square feet by 2031.

Beyond plans for expansion, spe-

cifics are unclear — Hurley said new sites haven't even been determined yet. She noted, however, that developers have been coming to the university with proposals since the news broke last week.

"There certainly have been a lot of sites brought to us," she said, though the developer details were not released by any anything-but-academic deadlines.

Hurley added that despite being concentrated in Greenwich Village, NYU's purple tentacles stretch well into other parts of Manhattan. (Full disclosure: Stephen Brown, a reporter on this story, attended grad school at NYU.)

"[Therefore], the university would be very flexible in our growth in Brooklyn," she said.

It's not the first time planners have looked to Downtown as the new college hub of New York City — indeed, 35,000 students attend classes in the neighborhood — but it's certainly the first formal step in that direction.

NYU has sought to portray the major expansion in facilities as an effort to give proper space to its student body. NYU's "square feet per student" lags far behind when compared to other major universities.

Still, a major change in the demographics of Downtown may be in store. While NYU's student body is estimated to only increase by roughly 4,000 through 2031 — Polytech's student body has grown by 66 percent since 2005, bringing it close to 4,000. A Polytech spokeswoman said the school's growth is "stabilizing," but that it is still working "to determine optimal enrollment for the long term."

Despite vote, Weiner toasts McMahon

By Thomas Tracy
for The Brooklyn Paper

So much for all that talk of bad blood between city Democrats and Rep. Mike McMahon over the freshman's "No" vote on health care reform.

On Wednesday night, Rep. Anthony Weiner — as loud as a "Yes" vote on the measure as McMahon was a "No" vote — was the key note speaker at a \$250- to \$1,000-per-plate fundraiser for McMahon's re-

election. The event also brought out a slate of Democratic politicians to the Tony Westwood Tower Kitchen in Manhattan, America's official congressional ATM.

Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) co-hosted the event with Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) and Domenic Recchia (D-Bensonhurst).

Weiner was substituting for Council Speaker Christine Quinn, who dropped out after McMahon voted against the measure on March 23.

Unlike Quinn, Weiner said that McMahon's vote did not require him to be drummed out of the Democratic party.

"He [McMahon] asked me to come and speak and I was glad to do it," Weiner said. "He's going to be around a long time. I think he's a good congressman, even though we drew different conclusions about this vote."

McMahon has said that he voted against the reform bill because he believed it would result in cuts to hospitals in his district. Weiner disagreed, supporting the bill because it would cut costs.

"There are times he and I are going to disagree," Weiner said. "But overall, he's doing a good job."

Weiner is being more understanding than the Working Families Party and a handful of labor unions, which pulled support from McMahon in the wake of the health-care vote. The Working Families Party says it will seek a progressive Democrat to run against the centrist McMahon.

On the other hand, two GOP candidates are fighting to take on McMahon in November: Policy adviser Michael Aligretti and former FBI agent and Gulf War vet Michael Grimm.

For now, neither has raised enough money to denounce McMahon's \$1-million-plus war chest — a stack of cash that will get still bigger on Wednesday night, thanks to the help of some Democratic friends.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Sisterhood of the 7th Ave coffee

Smartmomm and her sister Diaper Diva love talking to each other about their kids. Whenever they get together for coffee on Seventh Avenue, at CommMurfCo or Sweet Melissa, it's a non-stop debriefing session about the latest, breaking news on Teen Spirit, the Oh So Feisty One and Duck.

Without a doubt, it's what they talk about more than anything else.

More than their husbands. And they talk about them plenty.

More than their parents. And they talk about them plenty.

More than their friends. And they talk about them plenty.

More than their careers. And they talk about them plenty.

So what do they talk about when they talk about their kids? In a word: everything. No detail is too small, no sub-

ject is too big. They both seem to be intensely interested in each other's children. And that's a good thing because otherwise they'd be bored to death.

Over skim lattes, Diaper Diva fills in Smartmomm on the minutiae of 5-year-old Duck's day. What time she woke up, how she jumped into her parent's bed for a big snuggle, the occasional she ate for breakfast, what she'll have for lunch.

Diaper Diva tells Smartmomm how Duck insisted on wearing her red tutu to school and her multi-colored Mary Jane sneakers; that "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" is her current favorite video; that "The Magic Schoolbus" is her favorite book series, and Magenta is still her most cherished stuffed animal.

Lately, they've been talking about how to get Duck to stop sucking her thumb. Smartmomm was a thumb-



By Louise Crawford

sucker until she was 10-years-old, so she knows how hard it is to quit. When she was in fifth grade, her mother offered her \$10 to stop sucking and that's when she finally "joined the unhooked generation."

"Ducky says, 'My thumb is so delicious,'" Diaper Diva tells Smartmomm.

"I remember how good it tastes," Smartmomm says, sticking her thumb in her mouth for old time's sake.

"But I want her to stop," Diaper Diva tells Smartmomm. "Don't worry, she'll

stop eventually. I did," says Smartmomm, pulling her thumb out of her mouth.

In an informal way, they both get equal kid-talk time.

When Diaper Diva finishes with Duck's morning, Smartmomm starts on OSFO.

"Her alarm went off at 5:30 a.m., but she didn't wake up until 7. And then it was rush, rush to get her hair, makeup and outfit together in time to leave by 8."

Smartmomm tells Diaper Diva before launching into Teen Spirit's late-night shenanigans.

"Teen Spirit came in late and stayed up even later watching 'Breaking Bad' on Hulu," she tells her. DD knows the size of Teen Spirit's skinny jeans and the

lyrics to many of his songs. She knows about his propensity for sleeping late into the day, his college applications and his road trip to Austin, Texas.

Diaper Diva knows the names and faces of OSFO's friends and all the latest gossip. She knows the brand of OSFO's favorite eyeliner, her shoe size and that she still likes playing with her American Girl dolls.

Needless to say, she knows about other things, too. Smartmomm can brag a blue streak and not worry about sounding cocky around her sister. She told her in excruciating detail about the performance of Teen Spirit's band Bad Teeth at Van Pelt last October. "He was really great," she told Diaper Diva. "And I'm not saying that because I'm his mother. He's REALLY talented."

Diaper Diva believed her. And it's not just the good stuff that Smartmomm tells her sister. She also shares her worries, her insecurities, her deep dark fears. She can say things she would never say to anyone else for fear of judgment or even Child Protective Services. Diaper Diva knows all the really dumb things Smartmomm has done and all the near misses (like the time Teen Spirit nearly drowned in the bathtub).

She knows things Smartmomm would NEVER EVER write about in her column so just forget it.

Likewise, Smartmomm knows about all the times Diaper Diva loses her temper or spends too much money on Duck's overly loud or let's her get away with murder. She knows her proudest parenting moments and the stuff she's embarrassed about.

The sisters like to think that their conversations are judgment-free. But the truth is, they do occasionally eat mean and judgemental. They are sisters after all. Smartmomm really had a fit when Diaper Diva told her she should have NEVER let OSFO dye her hair blue.

"But she wanted blue," Smartmomm said.

"You don't have to do everything that she wants," Diaper Diva spit out.

Ouch.

Of course! Well, Smartmomm hates it when Duck gets into someone's hair.

"I hate to hear her cry in her room," Smartmomm told DD.

Diaper Diva thinks Smart-

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FAMILY CALENDAR

FRI, APRIL 9
11:30 a.m. Storytime with Emily. Weekly event. Free. Prospect Park (Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street in Park Slope, (718) 945-8954). www.prospectpark.org

SAT, APRIL 10
10 a.m. Little League opening day parade. Celebrate the coming of spring and crack of the first bat as the Brooklyn Little Leaguers and their parents march through Park Slope, with the ceremonial first pitch thrown at the Prospect Park Bandshell. Free. Prospect Park (Seventh Avenue at Carroll Street in Park Slope, (718) 945-8954). www.prospectpark.org

SUN, APRIL 11
Noon. Freestyle Repertory Theatre presents an improvised show. \$8 children (Adults free). Gallery Players 199 14th St., between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 595-2547 x33, galleryplayers.com

TUES, APRIL 13
10:45 a.m. Babies and books. Free. Clinton Hill Library (380 Washington Ave. between Lafayette and Greene avenues in Clinton Hill, (718) 398-8713). www.brooklynlibrary.org

WED, APRIL 14
1 p.m. Storytime with Emily. See Friday, April 9.

THURS, APRIL 15
11 a.m. Dance around with Nat. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). theboxofficepot.com

MON, APRIL 12
1:30 p.m. Baking and books. Free. Dyker Library (8202



The Dirty Duck Funtime Band will play on April 11 at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

13th Ave. at 82nd Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 748-6261, www.brooklynperformingarts.org

FRI, APRIL 16
11:30 a.m. Storytime with Emily. See Friday, April 9.

SAT, APRIL 17
9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Earth Day planting. Get your hands dirty and enjoy making the neighborhood greener. Free. Pratt Area Community Council (15 Quing St. between Classen Avenue and Downing Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 923-2613, (718) 1030 a.m. Story time for kids. See Saturday, April 10.

SUN, APRIL 18
12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. "The Secret Garden of Monsters" Live theater. \$5. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4836).

To list your event, visit calendar@brooklynpaper.com

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CHURCH...

Continued from page 1
 "You can't use public funds for religious purposes."

A spokeswoman for Ellerbe Becket, the arena's architecture firm, was able to confirm that a meditation room was in the blueprints — and that it is likely unprecedented.

"To our knowledge, the meditation room at Barclays Center will be the first meditation room to be included in a new NBA arena," said the spokeswoman, Sara Cz-

io.

One close follower of the sports industry was initially taken aback by the spirit-soothing revelation.

"It seems so odd," said Robert Boland, a professor of sports management at New York University. "It's like, 'I'm going to put a scuba diving tank in my arena, too.'"

Upon reflection, however, Boland noted that the room could serve many different purposes.



And it was all Rev. Herbert Daughtry's idea, apparently.

"Increasing the potential use of an arena is smart," Boland said. "I can see this space being a place for a Sunday morning mega-church. It could open the door to that community."

He added that the room could potentially be a revenue generator if it could accommodate a large congregation.

And that's a big deal at the Barclays Center, where the main tenant only needs the space for 41 games (and possibly a few more if your prayers are answered and the team makes the playoffs).

"This arena is going to have an issue over what its second, third and fourth tenants are going to be," Boland explained. "A mega-church could be a potential renter of the facility — there isn't a lot of basketball played on Sunday mornings."

Sports and prayer have been linked as long as there has been athletic competition, but a recent USA Today story noted a "faith surge" in professional sports. But that trend is mostly limited to players. A meditation room could bring prayer to the people in the cheap

seats, too.

For now, all observers can do is speculate. A spokesman for Forest City Ratner would not reveal the design of the room, or whether it would be open during hours when the arena is not hosting an event after it opens, slated for the 2012-13 basketball season.

Of course, there is at least one likely benefit to the room: it could serve as a sanctuary for spiritually devastated fans and basketball players if the Nets continue their role as the whipping boy of the NBA.

PARK...

Continued from page 1
 Titz, a professor of Literature at Hunter College who visits the park daily. "Is there no shame? The test does not measure the conditions at the lake when we discovered the dead animals."

Titz, along with her companion, Ed Bahlman, has recently become an outspoken critic of the park as a bizarre series of animal deaths, fires, and disgusting animal guts have swept through the western edge of the lake.

"The lake was tested two weeks too late to save the animals," said Titz, referencing the opossums, turtle, fish, and ultimately, one of the park's celebrity swans — John Boy — which all met their demise in roughly one week, all in the same area.

Bahlman added, "It took what happened to John Boy and the other animals to spur action."

But after two weeks of inaction in response to at least two fires that burnt swathes of reeds along the lake, as well as the appearance of chicken heads and other assorted viscera floating on the edge of the lake, the park said it would be ramping up security in the area.

"Parks Department personnel and the New York City Police Department

have heightened their surveillance of the lake and adjacent areas of the Park," Patron said.

In addition, Patron promised that any other animals that turned up dead in the lake would be tested — a clear change in policy from previous weeks, when a dead duck, along with many other creatures, were thrown in the trash. John Boy, whose cause of death remains highly debated, was cremated before a thorough autopsy could be carried out, fueling additional conspiracy theories.

That's a major positive change in policy," Bahlman said.

Despite all the unanswered questions, Patron reiterated that the grisly goings-on were in line with the normal course of events as winter gives way to spring.

"The recent death of a swan ... is thought to have been the result of injuries the animal sustained during a fight with another swan — swans are highly territorial birds, especially during the spring mating season," Patron said.

He added, "Similarly, the remains of a few other animals found in the park in the last few weeks ... are in keeping with the normal course of wildlife mortality in a large, urban park at the end of a difficult winter."

MARTY...

Continued from page 1
 fended a female employee, Brigitte Geary. Despite having recently attended a "staff-wide class on a safe workplace and all that stuff," — in his own words — Atkins failed to file the proper paperwork related to the incident.

Despite handling the matter without documentation, the joke apparently disturbed Geary a great deal: she "started calling the borough president in the middle of the night over the weekend and leaving voicemails," Atkins said.

A nickname Markowitz gave to one of his staffers follows a similar vein. In the deposition, Markowitz admits referring to a former press secretary, Regina Afram, as "Tinkerbell," due to her tendency to leave various items scattered about the hallowed offices of Borough Hall like "pixie dust."

"Wherever she would go in the building, she would have a habit of dropping off her things sort of like dust here, dust there — that's what Tinkerbell did," Markowitz said in the deposition.

But the Bep quickly added that he meant nothing insulting about his possibly demeaning characterization.

"Tinkerbell was not a bad character, she was a loving character," he testified. "But just dropping off stuff, forgetting all of her stuff everywhere ... you could follow her [track] by where she went in the building ... I certainly would not announce in the whole building, 'Tinkerbell is here. Come on, it's in the family here.'"

In the deposition, Weiss's lawyers frequently try to unearth evidence of unequal treatment depending on gender. Reinforcing this is the handling of one of Weiss's predecessors as communications director, Michael Kadish.

According to Markowitz, Kadish failed to show up for work on occasion, and when he did appear, he looked "like he didn't go home at night anymore."

Nevertheless, he continued getting paychecks despite his poor performance until he resigned and left the country and — in the words of Markowitz — "decided to

follow love somewhere in Venezuela."

Another central claim in Weiss's suit is that Markowitz used his paid staff for work on his 2005 reelection campaign — a possible breach of regulations.

Markowitz admitted that Weiss "may have" helped prepare him for debates. But the Bep added, "It's completely appropriate for members of the staff to prepare their principal in terms of public policy that the office of the borough president has been involved in."

Atkins also touches on the same subject, saying Weiss may have examined campaign press releases, but only in her capacity as a volunteer — a claim that she disputes.

In response to the new revelations, Diana Goell Voigt, a city lawyer who represents Markowitz, said that Weiss's claims "are baseless."

Another of the Bep's lawyers, Jason Otaño, sought to debunk the notion of an immature boy's club at Borough Hall.

"Our staff is majority-minority, and 62 percent of our staffers are women. Of 12 management-level employees, two are under age 40, and seven, including the deputy borough president, are women," Otaño said.

But one final detail hints at the rampant machismo at Borough Hall. Markowitz's testosterone-fueled staff was so full of bluster that it even had lengthy internal discussions on how best to pick a fight with The Brooklyn Paper because the Bep had become irked with the paper's hard-hitting, award-winning coverage of the Atlantic Yards project.

"At a staff level [there were] numerous discussions about how they [The Brooklyn Paper] were going about their ... unfair and unbalanced coverage of Atlantic Yards," Atkins said, adding that the staff discussed cutting off The Paper from the borough president's regular press releases.

"I was not sure if it was ever agreed upon," he said. "I certainly wished it."

Brooklyn Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman declined to comment.

THIEF...

Continued from page 1
 now taken matters into her own hands, locking up the center's pots with formidable steel cables.

Stealing a pot or flowerpot would likely be considered petty larceny, which is the theft of property valued below \$1,000. As such, it would not typically show up in our weekly police blotter in a precinct's CompStat statistics.

The situation might not be exclusive to Park Slope. In front of Breeze Demolition on Bay Street in Red Hook, the trunk of mid-sized plants are kept safe by Guantanamo Bay-sequestering barbed wire.

A worker declined to discuss the high security measure.

Cherry Blake said the thief — or thieves — treats the neighborhood like his own personal nursery.

"If they see anything they want, they just take it," she said.

She now keeps her plants imprisoned behind an iron gate, confident that one day, plant owners will get some re-leaf.

"Eventually, he or she will get caught," she said.

TISH...

Continued from page 1
 her leg.

"The doctor said it was a deep laceration and he wanted to give me stitches, but I said no," said the courageous councilwoman, who refused to provide this newspaper with her medical records.

Day, who was leading recumbent cycles in his 1993 Chevy Astro van at the time of the

accident, said the scratch was no more than three inches and not very deep.

James sued, claiming in court papers she sustained "serious, severe and permanent [injuries] to her limbs and body."

How serious her injuries were is a matter of contention. The alleged accident occurred weeks before her re-election campaign last year, a

fight she waged with her customary vigor. Additionally, several of James's Council colleagues told this newspaper that they did not recall James limping or using crutches during the summer.

After this newspaper broke the story of the councilwoman's lawsuit, everyone from Internet commentators to bloggers to the editorial page of the Daily News openly mocked James.

"[She is an] idiot who is

using a man because she bumped her shin," posted "Bob." "The people who agree with her are part of the problem with New York City."

But until last week, James was not dissuaded from her bump-and-scratch suit, saying that she would only drop the case if Day removed the hitch — but the feisty 61-year-old Texan refused, noting that new law allows such automotive appendages.

But something changed, though with little public fan-

fare. In fact, Day said he only found out that the lawsuit was dropped because he ran into James herself near her on Clifton Place near his apartment.

She just got out of her car and came over to me, shook my hand and said, "You won the case. Congratulations," said Day.

The laborer said he doesn't hold any grudges against the lawmaker. But when James again suggested that he remove the hitch, he shook his head.

"It's part of my work. It's my livelihood and I paid to put it on there," he said.

For her part, James said she could have handled the issue differently.

"I wanted him to remove the hitch when not in use, but he refused," James said. "I did file the suit, but he's the one who brought it to the media."

"But in the end, the Texan wins," James added. "I'll focus on the issues that really matter to my constituents, and we'll all move on."



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LEGAL NOTICES

State University of New York Notice to Bidders

The State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center will receive Qualifications from Consulting Firms to provide architectural design and construction administration services for Project No. 08-174, SUFC #14802 "Basic Science Building Sheet Metal Shop Safety Initiative" until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on May 14th, 2010 at 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203, Box 113.

Minimum Mandatory Requirements:

Candidates shall fulfill the following minimum criteria through submissions:

- 1) Minimum five (5) years experience in the design of metal fabrication facilities projects of a similar size, scope and complexity.
- 2) Primary firm shall have a minimum of five (5) years experience as a professional practice.
- 3) Professional staff with NYS Professional License(s) (i.e. Architect, Engineer).

All work on this Contract is to be completed within 337 calendar days starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller.

A complete set of documents for this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained from: Ray Selvidy, Purchase Associate Contracts and Procurement Department, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Telephone number: (718) 826-4943, email: ray.selvidy@downstate.edu. There is no cost for the RFQ documents.

Five (5) complete sets of Qualifications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions contained in the Request for Qualifications.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

NOTICE OF FORMATION

of limited liability company
OF KINGS, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT TRUST, 2006-4
Plaintiff: DONALD HAYNES, ET AL., Defendants: Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale dated 4/9/2008, the undersigned Referee will sell the public the premises located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to Assume the name of ADRIAN K. CHAN, my present address is 812 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Seoul, Korea. My date of birth is November 14, 1973.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF KINGS, U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT TRUST, 2006-4
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Plaintiff: DONALD HAYNES, ET AL., Defendants: Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale dated 4/9/2008, the undersigned Referee will sell the public the premises located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me the right to Assume the name of ADRIAN K. CHAN, my present address is 812 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Seoul, Korea. My date of birth is November 14, 1973.

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Toilets on the way for Brooklyn Bridge Park

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

It looks like the park won't be piss-poor after all. Hours after this newspaper published an online story noting the lack of restrooms at Pier 1 at the foot of Old Fulton Street in DUMBO—the one with acres of fresh new lawn, a kiddie park and awesome views on the water—the president of the park's development corporation contacted our staff.

"We will have the bathroom up and running [by the end of April]," promised Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer.

The announcement will certainly come as something of a relief, not only to park-goers, but to area businesspeople. Since it opened in March, the park has attracted plenty of visitors, yet given them no way to answer nature's call—except to head to the nearest restaurant.

That restaurant happens to be Pete's Downtown, across the street from the pier. Owner Pete Thristino has a situation on his hands.

"Now I've got my own customers



Pete Thristino, owner of Pete's Downtown, has installed a sign telling Brooklyn Bridge Park-goers that his bathroom is for "patrons only."

lineup to use the bathroom," said Thristino. "I have to spend money to man the door now, all because a multi-million-dollar park doesn't have a pisser."

Thristino said the facilities' absence paired with a lack of transportation out of the area can make for some messy situations in his territory. He noted, of course, that the pier created a new, wider customer base for him, but that "people buying a soda and lining up to use the bathroom" is unacceptable.

When told about Myer's promise to install portable toilets by mid-April, Thristino said his "prayers have been answered," and that he'll take the hurdle in stride.

He and other restaurant owners in the immediate vicinity have been touting the park as an easy business puffer. With six acres of free, open space, the warm months approaching and the opening of Pier 6 in the near future, it's easy to see why DUMBO businesses—the posh River Café, No. 1 Front Street, and Grimaldi's Pizzeria among them—are thriving (as if Brooklyn Bridge didn't have tourists in the first place).

"It's a lot more beautiful than the trucking facility that was in its place," said nearby Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory owner Mark Thompson. "It's great to see all these people out so early in spring."

THOMAS...

Continued from page 1

said. "I grew into it." Now she's leaving the biggest power—and park—in vacuum since the retirement of Robert Moses.

Finding a replacement will be difficult because of Thomas's achievements, which restored Olmsted and Vaux's 19th-century vision of a natural haven of rolling hills and wooded areas, a vision that had been lost in the fiscal crises of the 1970s.

Today, the park is a vibrant public area considered the heart and lungs of Brooklyn. Many believe that Thomas's indefatigable effort actually stopped the rotation of Olmsted and Vaux in their respective graves.

"I wanted to make sure people from every income level and every culture felt welcome in the park," Thomas told The Brooklyn Paper on Tuesday. "And I feel we've done that."

One key to Thomas's success was the establishment of the Prospect Park Alliance in 1997, which opened the door to money from corporations, grants, and wealthy residents along the park's edge, especially annually to nine million—including one regular visitor who was there every step

of the way. "Tupper came to our borough as a shy and retiring small-town Minnesotan, but quickly became a real Brooklyn character with 'charisma,'" said Borough President Markowitz. "[She] successfully transformed our \$26-acre 'green' marvel into a model upon which all urban parks are measured."

Others praised Thomas for coming up with off-leash hours for dogs—an idea that eventually became popular throughout the city.

"The park was horrible, you used to risk your life going into the park," said Tony Chappelloni, the president of the dog advocacy group, FIDO. "The only people that went in were dog walkers and crack addicts. She saw that once people went in with the dogs, others would follow."

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Another of Tupper Thomas's achievements was steady fundraising to restore park resources like the Bixen Bridge, seen in this before-and-after shot.

of things, but there was no maintenance, no programs."

Thomas said, "We had to stop this horrible spiral of 'fix and drop'—having the ability to bring in private dollars—was great."

And Thomas is still on the hunt for those private dollars—\$20 million of them—to secure the remaining funding for the Lakeside project, which involves new skating rinks and a more natural look for the eastern shore of the lake, before she steps down in January.

Thomas was fundraising and marketing giant, adding events such as an annual ball, but if there was one knock on her, critics say she is a bit slow to respond to negative news inside the park, as with last year's reports of tardy park clean-ups after busy week-

ends or this year's reports of dumping of animal parts and ritualistic slayings near the lake.

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