

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News



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## Loosen your belts!

**Fairway, an uptown Manhattan grocer, opens its gourmet garage in Red Hook**

By Gersh Kuntzman

*The Brooklyn Papers*

Let the demands begin! From as far as Bay Ridge and as nearby as the Red Hook Houses stormed Brooklyn's new Fairway Market Wednesday, snapping up organic produce, chewing the fat (of the store's house-made sausage), enjoying the view of the Statue of Liberty from the store's café, and vowing that grocery shopping in Brooklyn will never be the same.

"We're here to stay," says Park Natural [an upscale market on Court Street] when we have this?" said shopper Dana Goldberg, who drove from Clinton Hill to be at the opening.

But it wasn't just the gourmet cheering.

"I have lived on Coffey Street [in Red Hook] since 1974 and I wanted to open here since I moved in," said Barbara Stern.

"Look at this place. It's beautiful; the food is fresh, high quality and very reasonable. We're going to save money and eat better. Who could argue with that?"

But will the excitement last? After all, the new Fairway, which occupies 52,000 square feet in a converted Civil-War-era coffee warehouse on the Red Hook waterfront, joins an already-crowded field of gourmet grocers in Brooklyn.



The Dodger Sym-phony band performed at Wednesday's grand opening of Fairway in Red Hook.

Fairway will compete with "foodiques" like Union Market in Park Slope, Foragers in DUMBO and Garden of Eden in Brooklyn Heights; old-line supermarkets, including several Key Foods that are upgrading to meet new customer demands; the giant chain grocery stores Whole Foods and the food markets like FreshAndia in Brooklyn Heights, Back to the Land in Park Slope, and Park Natural in Cobble Hill; Fresh Direct; a coming Whole Foods Market on Third Avenue on the Gowanus side of Park Slope; and even the politically charged Park Slope Food Coop, whose thousands of members work a three-hour shift every month in exchange for reduced prices and a communal environment.

"We can take them all on," said Fairway owner Howard Glickberg.

"Before we opened, I priced every store in the area. On staples, like Bounty paper towels, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, we can't be beat. And our produce is great and it's not like anyone else's. We buy direct. We cut out the middleman."

Glickberg said he would even make converts of the Food Coop's notoriously devout members.

"We have everything — fresh fish, prepared foods — so they won't have to go anywhere else," he said.

And he insists he's not concerned about Fresh Direct.

See FAIRWAY on page 8

*The Brooklyn Papers* / Alan Schwartz

A worker picks out fish for a customer on the Red Hook Fairway's opening day.



## Redford at BAM

"Little Miss Sunshine" screenwriter Michael Arndt (left) joins Sundance Institute President Robert Redford and Brooklyn Borough President Markowitz at the opening of "Sundance Institute at BAM." GO Girl has more from the invitation-only party in GO Brooklyn, page 9.

## Library boss quits

**Never quite at home in Brooklyn, Cooper checks herself out, moves to Washington**

By Dana Rubinstein

*The Brooklyn Papers*

The embattled executive director of the Brooklyn Public Library — whose reputation has grown dog-eared during her three-and-a-half-year stint — has quit.

"After long and careful thought, I have decided to accept the challenge of another position in library land," said Ginnie Cooper, who will become the reader in chief for the Washington, DC, library system.

She said the decision to leave Brooklyn "was a difficult one."

Perhaps. But her decision

See LIBRARY on page 8



Brooklyn Public Library Executive Director Ginnie Cooper quit to take over the much-smaller Washington, DC, public library.

## 'Oracle' returns to Slope

By Gersh Kuntzman

*The Brooklyn Papers*

Question: Is this going to be an informative, interesting story about a beloved Brooklyn institution?

Answer: Keep going, dear reader, and all questions will be answered.

Thus, at the top of the message posted on The Oracle, the large LED sign atop Pintchick Hardware on Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, which will return to service on Saturday, May 27, after a winter break.

"The Oracle didn't want people to get rained or snowed on," said Matt Pintchick, owner of the store, the sign and the legend of the Oracle. "So we took it down and stored it this week, setting up the antique phone that questions pick up to query the great Oracle."

According to legend, about three years ago, Pintchick's old sign broke, forcing him to buy the larger model as a replacement. A few months later, someone wandered into the store claiming he had a gift for soothsaying, or, in this case, soothtelling.

"Why do I do this?" it said in a male-sounding voice (it could have been digitally altered, though). "A strange and peculiar gift was be-

See ORACLE on page 8

*The Brooklyn Papers* / Alan Schwartz

## Ratner \$\$ can't buy love

**Rhubarb at PS 321**

MARTMOM FORGOT that parents were supposed to dress up 1960s-style for the PS 321 Auction and Dance Friday night at the Brooklyn Museum.

Smartmom, looking decidedly un-'60s in black Aerosole sandals and a silk jacket, was more concerned about the article Dumb Editor asked her to write about the school's surrounding Forest City Ratner's cash donation of \$7,500, his "underwriting" of the event.

For this low, low price, he got a big, big mention in the auction program. For some parents, just seeing "Forest City Ratner" on the program lifted the party mood. A few even refused to participate.

The school, which opened in 1966 (hence the '60s theme), raises around \$50,000 at this annual event, which was held in the museum's gorgeous Beaux Arts Court decorated with bright neon signs.

Moms drinking cranberry Margaritas were dressed in long dresses and peasant blouses. One mom looked very Carnaby Street in knee-high red boots and a psychedelic shirt. Another one channeled Cher in false eyelashes and a sequined bikini. Some were even some dads done up in Hippie style.

"How do you like our private school-style auction?" Smartmom whispered to Hecapt as they waited in line for coffee and miniature "flower power" cup cakes. Berkeley Carroll, a Park Slope private school, also holds its annual auction at the Brooklyn Museum. Talk about keeping up with the Joneses. As the neighborhood becomes more upscale, so does PS 321 and so does the auction.

See RATNER on page 17

## DUMBO orchid man hides behind his plants

By Ariella Cohen

*The Brooklyn Papers*

DUMBO artists are certainly an endangered species these days — but now one man is fighting eviction by claiming protection under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Steve Ludlum, a painter, photographer and amateur botanist, isn't seeking the federal protection for himself, but for the nearly 1,000 species of imported orchids that he raises in his third-floor loft.

He may be onto something: Some of his orchids are classified as "endangered" under international law.

The owner of the former soap factory under the Manhattan Bridge wants to flatten the building to build a 10-story loft-style condo tower.

"Me and my plants aren't going to take the building down," Ludlum told the *New York Times*. "I'm not going to let them do that."

Ludlum's orchids fill a room the size of a studio apartment. Five ceiling fans and a central water feature keep the plants cool.

A hand-signed irrigation system pipes water to the plants, sending earthy runoff to a drain behind the building.

Last week, the unassuming botanist — a regular on the orchid circuit — filed a lawsuit against the building's landlord, fearing that his eviction would result in "[t]he loss of endangered species" and violate laws protecting his threatened Phragipedium and Papilioepidius "ladyslipper" orchids.

"Orchid plants are habitat-specific," he



charged in court papers. "Removal from their natural habitat, which is a tropical rain forest and required controlled environment, shall constitute a taking of the protected orchid plant."

Ludlum said the building's current owner, identified in city documents as Henry Kotowicz, would welcome his quiet enterprise were it not for the fact that a condo conversion was planned for his home.

Neither Kotowicz nor his lawyer returned phone calls from The Brooklyn Papers.

The case is the first of its kind, but wildlife experts said that Ludlum will face problems proving that his imported flora require protection from the feds.

Federal law protects endangered species from "take" or "harm" — terms that can include eviction — but the law only applies to plants protected under state jurisdiction.

See ORCHIDS on page 8

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See wine column on page 11

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# 12-year-old mugged walking on Smith St

By Lilo H. Stanton  
The Brooklyn Papers

Four thieves robbed a 12-year-old heading home from school on Smith Street May 8, police said.

The boys, near Degraw Street at 31st Avenue, demanded he turn over his cash. The robbers rooted through his bookbag and pulled out \$40, a CD player and a cellphone, which is, as the mayor of Brooklyn told them, "the most valuable thing you have."

But for some reason, they returned the mobile phone before dashing off down Smith Street toward Atlantic Avenue. The victim couldn't describe his attackers in detail.

### Heights mug

A posse of thieves snatched an iPhone from a man walking home on Willow Street, near Cranberry Street, at dusk on May 11, police said.

A group of 10 teenagers surrounded the 28-year-old victim outside a bank, at 7th Avenue and 4th Street. One thief struck him from behind, knifed him, hit him around and another grabbed the popular digital music device. The posse then fled toward Orange Street.

The victim provided few details about his attackers.

### One sad bandit

Many criminals have a sad side. But one robber used pity as a ploy to rob a Fulton Street bank.

The thief walked into the bank, at Jay Street, around 1 pm on May 10 and passed the

## POLICE BLOTTER

teller a long and sorry-sounding note, police said.

"This is a robbery — any alarm will force me to harm your customers," the man wrote.

He then moved from threats to guilt, with "My little girl's got cancer" and "I need money, so I strongly advise you to co-operate. Give me all your \$100s and \$50s and don't touch nothing but the money."

The teller calmly placed the \$550 in a money bag and added the familiar exploding bomb gag and turned the bag over to the thief, who fled on Jay Street, heading toward the subway station.

Police are searching for a boy, 10 to 12, wearing a black baseball cap, a gray dress jacket, black pants and — unfortunately — tan shoes.

### Heights mug

A Queen woman survived a robbery yesterday only to be robbed by three thugs leaving her Lawrence Street job on May 12, police said.

The trio of thieves stopped the 56-year-old victim as she rode the bus to work on one of the city's last remaining Willoughby Street at 2:30 pm. The robbers snatched her purse and her jewelry — a gold watch, earrings and several bracelets — and fled into Lawrence Street before the victim could focus on their faces.

### Earl bird heist

The armed thief got more than a worm when they robbed a Queen's man at 8:20 am on May 11.

The pair approached the 18-year-old victim as he was walking to Prince Street near Johnson Street, police said. One flicked open a knife and demanded the victim's cash and cellphone. They got the cell but no money, and fled without harming the man, police said. The thief is described as black, 5-foot-9, 150 pounds and dressed in a hooded ski-jacket. Few details were available on the second thug.

### Armed mug

A thief threatened to shoot his victim over a cellphone during a mugging in the Myrtle Avenue complex on May 10, police said.

The robber stopped the 16-year-old boy near Lawrence Street as he made his way toward the Jay Street subway station at 10:20 am yesterday, police said. "I'm gonna shoot you," he declared, before snatching the phone and bolting toward the subway.

Police are looking for a

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inside. The prowler pleaded with the worker, asking, "If you let me leave, I'll give you my coat and hat." The clerk recovered the cash and the man bolted out the back door empty-handed, running along Smith Street toward the F train station nearby.

Videos of the incident shows the thief to be a black man, 5-foot-10, dressed in a black shirt and jeans.

### Hallway heist

A burglar snatched a purse from the vestibule of a Union Street home, near Smith Street, early on May 12, police said.

The robber slipped through the unlocked front door between 3 am and 11 am, grabbing the purse from a bench inside the door. He made off with \$330, including 30-year-old items worth \$330, including gift cards, \$40 and the 30-year-old victim's passport.

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leave, the clerk locked the front door, capturing the criminal

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# 1 am was time to rob the bagels on 7th Ave

By Lilo H. Stanton  
*The Brooklyn Papers*

Time to rob the bagel shop. That's what one thief decided he'd do around 1 a.m. on May 8, slicing a hole in two fences outside the store, on Seventh Avenue near Carroll Street.

The thief entered through the back door and snatched \$1,000 from the cash register and lock-box. He also saddled the store's owners with \$2,000 in likely repair bills at the popular bagelry, police said.

#### Lowe's gets 'em

A Lowe's home improvement superstore on Second Avenue, stopped a pair of car thieves on May 13, according to police, who arrested seven of the grand larceny charges.

A week earlier, a purse-snatcher scored a pocketbook from a shopping cart next to the store, which is at the Gowanus Canal end of 12th Street, police said. Store representatives didn't return a call for comment.

The latest incident involved two would-be robbers who used a box-cutter to clip the price tags from three rolls of carpet and walked out of the store with the goods around 2:30 p.m. An employee who witnessed the carpet caper followed the perps into the parking lot and recovered the rugs, valued at \$1,366.

Police charged a 30-year-old man and a 29-year-old woman.

But on May 7, someone snatched a bag with credit cards, \$40, a Blackberry and other personal items from a shopping cart. The victim was a 35-year-old woman perusing the super-store's aisles around noon.

#### Closet raided

A Third Street resident believes sticky-fingered painters removed high-end electronics worth thousands from his home off Seventh Avenue, police said.

The wall-decor artists

## POLICE BLOTTER

worked from April 24 through early May, police said. At 8:30 pm on May 7, the 35-year-old victim discovered the valuable missing from a bedroom construction job?

That's what the 35-year-old victim believes happened between 5:30 p.m. on May 11 and 8 a.m. on Monday morning. The victim told police that someone snatched over a half-dozen power tools, valued at nearly \$2,000, from the worksite off Sixth Avenue.

The victim suggested his brother took the tools after they argued several times. The boss denied the theft to police, insisting the tools were secure when he left the site.

Police were not available because of the messy police said.

## COPS WILL SHARE TIPS ON SUNDAY

*The Brooklyn Papers*

Protect your cellphone!

Hold onto that iPod!

Police from the 78th Precinct will be at the Fifth Avenue Fair on Sunday to help Brooklynites with both these important possessions, while also offering general crime-prevention tips.

Officers will staff a booth near Fourth Street where they will help visitors mark their digital music devices and phones. They will also be registering bicycles. —Stanton

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The Brooklyn Papers / Sharon Seitz



A puppet at last year's annual Puppet Parade in Prospect Park.

## Puppets parade in park

By Sharon Seitz  
*The Brooklyn Papers*

A troupe of giant puppets will parade around Prospect Park on Sunday to celebrate spring and all that is good.

And just how do puppets parade around the park? With the help of you and your kids of course!

The New York Puppeteers Cooperative, a group that performs theatrical performances around town, invites families to become puppeteers for a day.

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Sharon Seitz is author of "The Urban Park Rangers' Guide to Nature in New York."

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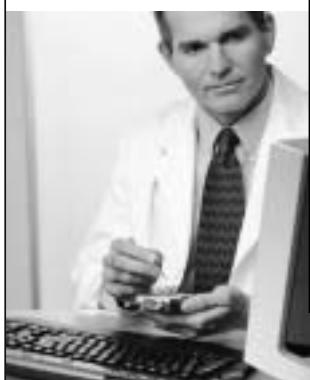
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# BROOKLYN BRIEFS



## Brooklyn to Hillary: War is hell

The Brooklyn Papers

A Bay Ridge liberal Democratic club has rained on Sen. Hillary Clinton's coronation parade, endorsing an obscure rival because of Clinton's pro-war stance. Brooklyn Democrats for Change endorsed longshot, anti-war candidate Jonathan Tasini instead of Clinton, in a vote last week.

"We wanted to send her a message that we want an anti-war candidate," said Pierre Lehu, a club vice-president. Tasini has had one issue covered.

"The war is the reason I got into the race," Tasini said. "But if you put my name in one column and hers in another, she would be the name of the majority of Democratic primary voters would choose me."

Tasini said that he also differs from the hawkish former First Lady on capital punishment (he opposes it), free trade (he opposes it), a single-payer universal health plan (he wants it) and criminalizing flag-burning (he opposes it). As the last year's Senate vote and the presidential vote in two years' time nears, Clinton is staking out a more middle-of-the-road profile, critics say. (Clinton's campaign declined to comment.)

"She criticizes the Bush administration — but only sometimes," Lehu said. "Our membership wants a true progressive."

Still, Lehu admitted that the endorsement of Tasini is hardly the snub he'd "round the world."

"I don't think Hillary will be all that concerned by it," he said.

But who knows? One night after Lehu's club slapped Hillary, the Village Independent Democrats also endorsed Tasini over Clinton.

Et tu, Manhattan?

— Gersh Kuntzman

## For gallery's last show, look up in the sky

The Brooklyn Papers

Appropriately, the final art show to open at the Simon Liu Gallery before it is demolished to make way for

Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards high-rise mega-development is called "Vertical."

Liu sold the Dean Street build-

ing that housed his gallery to Ratner several months ago.

"It is a real tragedy," said gallery manager Leon Kalas. "Si-

mon's gallery had become an im-

portant gathering place for artists, and now it's all being destroyed."

The gallery will close this summer.

With Liu's space gone, Kalas

said he will continue running art shows inside Downtown real-estate offices, where he hangs art he represents.

— Cohen

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The Brooklyn Papers

## Walentas: Call my new condo 'House of D'

The Brooklyn Papers

Some of the richest tenants in Brooklyn would share a sub-basement with the borough's meanest thugs under a developer's bold proposal for a new Brooklyn House of Detention (left).

DUMBO developer Jed Walentas wants to knock down the existing House of Detention and build two new towers on the Atlantic Avenue site — one for tenants and the other for inmates.

"It would be more efficient for a private developer to come in and just rebuild the whole site," Walentas told The Brooklyn Papers.

For the project to be profitable, Walentas would need to build a second residential tower on the same block away that shares a foundation with the new Dodge YMCA.

Walentas, best known for his posh DUMBO real estate, compared his Big House plan to his company's Court House building, a 321-unit apartment complex a block away that shares a foundation with the new Dodge YMCA.

And he doesn't think his ritzy tenants would mind their unsavory neighbors.

"Do you live or care, who you share a foundation with?" Walentas asked.

The city Department of Corrections has said it will double the capacity of the jail by building a new annex in the back.

The jail could reopen as early as this fall.

Despite its lowly status, the jail has become a hot commodity for developers. Michael Burke, director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, said Walentas is not the only developer interested in the site.

Area residents want to see the shuttered, 11-story jail stay closed, despite a Department of Corrections plan to include neighbor-friendly retail on the Atlantic Avenue-facing ground floor.

A Corrections spokesman declined to comment on the Walentas proposal.

"There are a number of options being explored," he said.

— Ariella Cohen

## Bike path restored a year after fatality

The Brooklyn Papers

A rutted bike path whose disrepair caused the death of a lifelong Bay Ridgite has completed the first lap of a \$12-million restoration.

The Shore Parkway bike path — one of only three greenways in Brooklyn — has been converted from a paved walkway to a smooth sandbar from 92nd Street to the Verazano-Narrows Bridge. The remainder of the waterfront path — from 69th to 92nd streets — will be rehabilitated by the beginning of July.

The Parks Department, which maintains the path, was blamed last year after Keith Alexander Bonanno, 41, a body artist and rock guitarist, lost control and hit his head on the guardrail, suffering a fatal blow.

The Parks Department, which maintains the path, was blamed last year after Keith Alexander Bonanno, 41, a body artist and rock guitarist, lost control and hit his head on the guardrail, suffering a fatal blow.

The late cyclist's mother agrees.

"A little late, isn't it?" said Barbara Bonanno. "It took my son's life to get it done."

— Dana Rubinstein

The path has been closed since last summer for emergency repairs, which were funded with grants from Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) and state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge).

Walentas, who recently moved to the area, was thrilled that the repairs are almost finished, others with the improvements had been made years ago.

"The maintenance of that particular path had not been so great," said David Smettan, bicycle campaign director for Transportation Alternatives.

"People put [bike paths] in and just sort of neglect them. And then it costs millions to replace, rather than hundreds of thousands to maintain."

The late cyclist's mother agrees.

"A little late, isn't it?" said Barbara Bonanno. "It took my son's life to get it done."

— Dana Rubinstein



## Vandalized frogs haven't croaked

The Brooklyn Papers

Two vandalized frogs in Windsor Terrace's Cutie Park will get reconstructive surgery after last week's vicious beating, Parks officials said.

The frogs (one pictured above), beloved by kids of all ages, were attacked — apparently with a hammer — in what fans of the park are calling a senseless act.

"Who would take a ball-peen hammer to a cement frog? I'm livid," said one parent, watching her pre-schooler play in the vest-pocket park at corner

of Terrace Place and 19th Street.

"And what are we supposed to tell the children?" asked another, partially in jest.

Tell them this: The frogs are on the list for emergency surgery.

"We will use a plaster/cement mix to mold and match the parts that were chipped off," said Parks spokesman Phil Abramson. "We will then either match the existing paint or repaint the frogs."

"We hope that this surgical effort will be successful so children can continue to enjoy the frogs."

— Kuntzman

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May 20, 2006

# FLATBUSH LIFE

## Posh stores open as avenue continues to evolve

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

An old Brooklyn color line is fading.

Stores along Flatbush Avenue that appealed to black consumers are being displaced by more upscale purveyors of fashion chains with a broader appeal.

Fourteen businesses closed this year, including two hair salons that catered to African-and-Caribbean-American women and a soul-food-themed bar and place purveyors of fast food, coffee joints and specialty-branded leg warmers flock to the border between Park Slope and Prospect Heights.

Even the notoriety of having a famous son couldn't save Marlon Duke, owned by P. Diddy's mom, which closed last year. The storefront is still vacant.

And the strip's biggest tourist (and foodie) attraction, Christie's Beet Patties, is even being forced out — albeit

only across the street (for now).

"They are moving us out to

make room for multi-national chains," said Paul Haye, owner of the 40-year-old patry and coco bread landmark.

Haye said his landlord didn't renew the lease after a Crunch gym offered more money for the space.

Christie's, a sandwich shop run by Diane Allison started working at the Allison Science Reading Room at Sterling Place and Flatbush in the 1970s, stone-throwing youth, drug dealers and vagrant buildings were the big draw.

"Now," she said, "the stores are having to respond to a different kind of community."

On this "different" Flatbush Avenue are doing well — so well that in addition to annexing Christie's, Crunch will also take over the 99-seat next door.

But the newly gentrified strip isn't pleasing everyone.

Two years ago, a nail salon — a slyish shop with a primarily black clientele — moved from Flatbush to Washington Avenue last winter. Owner Darlene Dorsett said her salon wasn't really appreciated by the neighborhood.

The trendy clothing chain sells its brightly colored basics using images of young people from all over the globe, darling of a mixed-race, youth-powered culture that is on the rise in Brooklyn.

"Flatbush was more interesting than the already gentrified streets nearby," said Miguel McKelvey, a location scout for a Flatbush Avenue sandwich shop, the fourth in the chain.

"The most important thing is being in a community of people who are intelligent, sophisticated, fashionable, interesting and excited about the growth and development of our ever-changing culture," American Apparel says it.

"Maybe they think it's Park Slope East" on Flatbush now, but definitely, the change that is happening endangers what Brooklyn has originally had and always been," said Rev. Clinton Miller of Brown-Baptist Memorial Church in Fort Greene.



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# Swamp shocker!

## Nets bumped by Miami Heat

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Heat 102, Nets 92, May 14 at E. Rutherford • Heat 106, Nets 105, May 16 at Miami  
Heat wins series, 4-1

By Lucky Ngamwajasat  
The Brooklyn Papers

All that Kidd's promise, all the highlight dunks by Vince Carter and Richard Jefferson, all the passes that Jason Kidd dished out came crashing down this week, as the Heat sent the Brooklyn-Bound New Jersey Nets packing for their third consecutive loss.

The task is ticking on. Kidd's career and he's still no closer to an NBA title, thinks to this nearly clean sweep by the Heat — the second year in a row that the Nets were eliminated by the Heat.

It looked like the Nets would be much more competitive, crushing the Heat in Game 1, 100-88. Miami seemed listless on defense, turning Carter and Jefferson into free-throw shooters. Shy, willowy O'Neal continued to have problems with the officials and got into early foul trouble — and the Nets took advantage. A 13-0 run in the third quarter was the difference, but it proved costly, as Kidd had to leave the game with a sprained ankle. Carter finished with a game high of 27, while Kidd had 22 points and 9 assists.

The Heat had a reversal of fortune in Game 2, with Dwyane Wade slicing through the Net defense.

Wade's lightning quickness has garnered him the nickname "Flash" and showed why, leading all scorers with 31 points. It was only after before it started, as the Heat began with a 25-4 opening.

Miami set a franchise record for points in a single playoff quarter with 41 points in the first. The Nets fell 111-

The swamps of New Jersey

have been kind to the home team this season and the last

thing anyone expected was for

Miami to take both games at the Meadowlands (perhaps Brooklyn will be more hospitable later).

The Nets couldn't stop Wade, who matched basket for basket with Carter.

Wade left in the third quarter of Game 3 after being elbowed in the face, only to come back seconds later for his 30 points in the final four minutes of the game to lift the Heat to victory. Wade also dished out 10 assists and Shaq had 19 points and 9 rebounds.

Carter had 43 points in the losing effort.

The Nets received bad news before Game 4, finding out key reserve Cliff Robinson has been suspended for violating the NBA's substance abuse policy. Already with a 3-1 lead, the Nets depth was tested severely — and learned it couldn't rise to the challenge.

Wade again dominated with another 31-point performance, while the Nets shot 37 percent in the first half.

With their backs against the wall in Game 5, the Nets came out firing and got out to an 11-point first-quarter lead. But at the close of the game, it was old nemesis Wade. Walker had killed the Swampratters, hitting three pointers that were daggers into the hearts of the Jersey faithful.

The game was close until the final stages, but still the Nets downed the Heat, 106-105, with 1.4 seconds left.

Wade knocked away a Kidd in-bound pass and with it, and the dream of a Net championship.

Things got exposed in this series: the shallowness of the Net bench and the vulnerabilities of relying on Carter too much. Carter is a tremendous talent; there's no denying that when he's on, he's the best player on the court. But his shot selection at times is questionable.

It's gotten to the point where Richard Jefferson is starting to complain about ball distribution. The Nets need to do something to stop Wade, get some big inside muscle and hire some depth. Perhaps Kevin Garnett for Carter and two draft picks?

As we say in Brooklyn, "Wait 'til next year."

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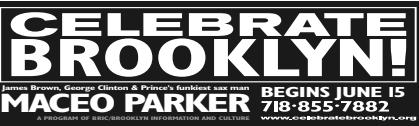
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# Prime-time burglar

68th Precinct

By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Papers

Maybe the thieves were just "American Idol" fans without a TV set of their own.

Burglars stole a television from a 92nd Street doctors office on Battery Avenue on the night of the wildly popular show, but then later dropped the 27-inch Zenith at the back door of police.

The 52-year-old physician closed up shop around 7:15 pm on May 10. When she returned the next morning, the glass door had been broken and the television was gone. The burglars also took \$500, they unlike with the TV — they didn't leave the cash behind.

**iPod rob**

A pair of thugs jumped a 20-year-old walking to his home on 82nd Street near Sixth Avenue moments after 9 pm on May 10, police said. The thieves snatched the man's iPod and bolted down 82nd Street before he could get a good look at them.

**Super snatch?**

Burglars cleared out the cabinetry and appliances from a Ridge Boulevard building, near 68th Street, sometime between 8 pm on May 10 and 6 pm the following day, police said.

The 46-year-old building owner told police she suspects the former superintendent, who had evicted from the trash building a few days earlier.

The thief got away with kitchen cabinets, a bathroom vanity, glass window and an intercom system.

**Unwelcome**

Burglars trashed a 64th Street home while its residents were vacationing overseas, police said.

The pair's 38-year-old son-in-law discovered the damage at the home, near Ninth Avenue, shortly before 4 pm on May 9. The side door had been cracked open and two bed-screws taken, although the witness wasn't sure what was missing.

The home was secure at 4 pm on May 6.

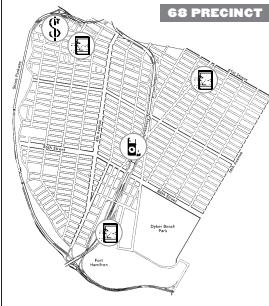
**Bad day in park**

One week after thieves stole a backpack near a Bay Ridge basketball court sometime between 8 pm and 8:15 pm from a bag while its owner played Frisbee nearby in Owls Head Park.

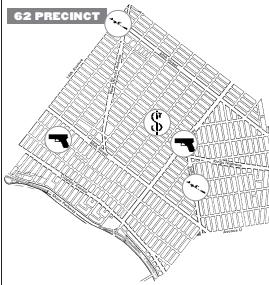
## POLICE BLOTTER

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WHERE CRIMES TOOK PLACE

68 PRECINCT



62 PRECINCT



**KEY TO THE CRIMES**

- Break-in
- IPod-like device taken
- Armed robbery
- Assault
- Armed robbery?
- Car stolen
- Robbery
- Armed robbery?
- Purse snatch

62nd Precinct

**Bad beef beat?**

Police nabbed a couple who used fast-food, computer equipment and a meat cleaver to assault an employee at a 14th Avenue restaurant on May 11.

The robber struck around 4 pm on May 9 while the 27-year-old hauled the hippie-punk with friends in the harbor-side park, off 68th Street and Shore Road, police said. When the couple got home, the male victim discovered that his bag, containing a gold ring with three diamonds, was gone.

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The brouhaha began when the pair visited the drive-thru at 64th Street and 11 pm. The customers became confrontational, hurling food and drink cups and computer parts through the window at the worker.

The thugs then parked their car and continued their tirade inside the store. The man picked up a mop and used the handle to strike the 18-year-old victim on the left arm and forehead, leaving painful bruises. Then the female attacker started to yell more, then cleared, hitting toward the victim.

Luckily, she never made contact. The pair fled on 14th Avenue, but police caught up with the couple — a 21-year-old man and an 18-year-old woman — and arrested them on all charges.

**Safe at home?**

A masked gunman robbed a Benson Avenue resident as he entered his building at 11 pm on May 15, police said.

The thug rushed the 27-year-old victim from behind, pointed a handgun at his face and forced him into the vestibule. The victim tried to grab the weapon and a scuffle broke out.

When the thief recovered the gun, he again pointed it on the victim and demanded his money. But the robber decided the victim didn't have "enough" and forced him to his apartment, where the terrified man turned over \$1,300.

The robber ran off with the gun and his cellphone. The victim never saw his face.

**Mid-day heist**

Police nabbed a robber who allegedly mugged a man walking on 20th Avenue on May 9.

The thug pulled a handgun when he approached the 27-year-old victim on 20th Street, around 2:30 pm, police said. He forced the victim to the ground, plucked \$700 from his pockets and ripped the chain from his neck.

After the victim escaped, the thief stopped between Dodge and Bidwell, which helped police track down the 26-year-old suspect, who now faces felony charges.

**Bat attack**

A trio of baseball bat-wielding brutes attacked a man sitting in his van in his own driveway on West 13th Street, police said.

The thugs thus surrounded the vehicle and smacked the driver's- and passenger-side windows, then proceeded to pummel the 36-year-old victim. The man suffered cuts on his hands and the teens fled on Highlawn Avenue.

**Bodega heist**

Police nabbed a man who robbed a Stillwell Avenue grocery on 57th Street on May 9, police said.

With their guns drawn, the thugs railed the store around 11:20 pm. One man trained his weapon on the clerk and insisted the employee resign.

The pair — one in a red half-mask, the other in yellow, both wearing black d-rags on their heads — then ran off.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the City Court, Kings County on the 12th day of May, 2006, bearing the index number N50357/2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants me rights to Assume the name of Michael Diamond Ambro. My present name is Michael Diamond Ambro. My present address is 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New Jersey. My date of birth is May 4, 1971.

B.R.20

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the City Court, Kings County on the 12th day of May, 2006, bearing the index number N50358/2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 207, grants me rights to Assume the name of Fanny Gluck Fiedelman. My present name is Fanny Gluck Fiedelman a/k/a Fanny Fiedelman. My present address is 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is May 4, 1919.

B.R.20

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the City Court, Kings County on the 12th day of May, 2006, bearing the index number N50359/2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 207, grants me rights to Assume the name of Abraham Abu Miller. My present name is Abraham Abu Miller. My present address is 1333 43rd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is October 23, 1968.

B.R.20

K.C. McDonald PLLC, Notice of Formation of PLLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on April 20, 2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 207, grants me rights to Assume the name of K.C. McDonald PLLC, a/k/a K.C. McDonald PLLC. My present name is K.C. McDonald. My present address is 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 20, 1968.

B.R.20

Calder & Wilfetta LLC, Notice of Formation of LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on April 20, 2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 207, grants me rights to Assume the name of Calder & Wilfetta LLC. My present name is Calder & Wilfetta LLC. My present address is 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 20, 1968.

B.R.20

Don & Mills Properties LLC, Notice of Formation of LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on April 20, 2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 20, 1968.

B.R.20

Don & Mills Properties LLC, D.M. Properties LLC, Notice of Formation of LLC, Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on April 20, 2006, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk of the City Court, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 20, 1968.

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# Fairway opens Red Hook store...

*Continued from page 1*  
red, whose trucks have become ubiquitous in Brownstone Brooklyn.  
“[Explosive deleted],” said Glickberg. “Their prices are higher, but there’s something even more important: Our shopper loves food.”

“He comes in, he browses, he looks at the food, he smells it, he touches it. Maybe he was looking for broccoli, but he sees we have great Brussels sprouts, so he chooses the Brussels sprouts.”

Glickberg predicted that the Red Hook Fairway would quickly become the borough’s favorite.

“It certainly offers a wide array of things to buy, from a gourmet salad bar with grilled vegetables, couscous, quinoa, dumplings and other prepared foods to a deli counter that looks like that was designed by Dr. Atkins himself; enough varieties of olive oil to unclog every artery in Brooklyn; a cheese aisle that would make a Frenchman drool; a Kosher butcher shop; ethnic specialty items; and an ocean of fresh fish.”

“That’s going to be worth the trip alone,” said Greenberg, who added, “Gilbert, eating a salmon steak.”

This could possibly be the best fish market in Brooklyn. At most supermarkets, you shop for fish by choosing whatever doesn’t look spoiled or off.

Gilbert is notoriously finicky about his cheese, but even he snapped up a house-made Fairway mozzarella.

If I’m going to eat mozzarella, I might as well go to the Italian lady in my neighborhood, but if I’m mixing it into pasta, this is more than acceptable.”

## To reach Fairway, better use a car

*The Brooklyn Papers*

If you’re heading to the new Fairway Market, do better keep your eye out for this vicious sinkhole on Richards Street, just west of the intersection of Van Dyke.

This ankle-deep ravine swallowed up *The Papers’* editor, Gersh Kuntzman, as he biked to cover the grand opening of the celebrated supermarket.

Kuntzman graciously flew over the handbeefs, smashing face and bicycle frame, earning the help from two passersby (and a 3.6 from the East German judge). He was bloodied, but unbowed, and continued to the store to do his job. The pothole emerged unscathed.

Once at Fairway, Kuntzman ran into City Department of Transportation Commissioner Iris Weinshall, a Park Slope neighbor.

The commissioner was surprisingly unsympathetic to the swollen crevice.

“Well, she said, ‘this is an industrial neighborhood.’”

—Chester Hawkins

Items at Fairway include fresh salmon (\$12.99 per pound), organic fair-trade coffee (\$7.99 per pound) and Brooklyn Lager (\$7.39).

Gina Mileo of Park Slope was in a similar bind.

A sausage fanatic, she makes a weekly pilgrimage to Fairway Market at 66th Street and 11th Avenue in Dyker Heights — but one taste of Fairway’s sweet Italian made her a guilty convert.

“It surprised me how good it was,” she said. “I’ll still go to Fairway — they’re the best — but not as often.”

Some customers complained that the hard-to-reach store, which sits at the end of Van Brunt Street, is accessible only via a steep sidehill.

The store has lined up weekend ferry service from Manhattan and will run a free shuttle to and from a Carroll Gardens senior center every Wednesday.

One shopper lined up Key Food on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope — which has its own parking lot — said he would undoubtedly shop at Fairway occasionally, just as he does at the Giant Superette on McDonald Avenue, but prefers to shop locally, where a car is not necessary and where the prices are competitive.

One thing is clear: that accessibility is an issue, but was confident that “everyone who owns a car — or has a friend who owns a car — will shop here.”

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## ORACLE...

*Continued from page 1*

shoved upon me at birth and it would be wrong not to share it.”

The Oracle promptly hung up, saying it needed to “catch a plane.”

Back on Flatbush Avenue, Pintchik was showing off the device to passerby Henry Nelson, who grabbed the receiver.

“It’s not going to be too expensive for me to live in!”

Nelson should know: Flatbush Avenue is extremely loud and incredibly close to the phone!

Pintchik chimed in. “You don’t need a freakin’ Oracle to know the answer to that one.”

Nelson, of course, wanted to know how the system works. Many have speculated that the soothsayer is in a nearby office, reading tarot cards. Others have suggested that the Oracle is like a Magic 8-Ball, merely recycling the same tired, mysterious fortune-teller platitudes.

“How it works is a miracle of modern Brooklyn,” Pintchik said. (Whatever the answer, pay no attention to those holes in the pedestal of the phone!)

At least one regular Oracle questioner, Borough President Markowitz, can’t wait until Saturday.

“I welcome the mystical Oracle back to Flatbush Avenue and the Pintchik family — for fulfilling Brooklynites’ needs, whether they need new nails or have a few screws loose,” he said.

## LIBRARY BOSS...

*Continued from page 1*

Cooper undoubtedly helped along by the cool reception she’s received from many in Brooklyn.

Cooper has been roundly criticized by community leaders who took an extra six weeks of vacation time — she ultimately had to repay the library \$27,000.

In addition, she was accused of over-reacting when she temporarily closed a Brooklyn branch after a staffer’s pinkie was snipped off.

And she planned an international “fact-finding” trip that would’ve taken her and an entourage to visit state-of-the-art libraries in Singapore and Hong Kong. The trip would have cost more than \$32,000 per person.

But as her departure grows near, everyone is playing nice.

## ORCHIDS...

*Continued from page 1*  
meanings, you would have better luck if the orchids were native to New York.

“It’s hard to know what kind of [federal] protections there could be for an international plant,” said Edward Grace, senior special agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Neighbors know Ludlum as “the orchid man” and recognize his apartment by the orange glow his high-intensity greenhouse lights send out of the battered old factory.

His quirky connection to the neighborhood goes beyond his crops.

Ludlum was in DUMBO on 9-11, and, as he watched the World Trade Center collapse, took a photograph that ended up on the cover of The New York Times and won him a Pulitzer Prize.

If his endangered species lawsuit didn’t work, Ludlum has a fallback plan: He’s also planning to sue Kotowit on the grounds that the plant he’s filling the Department of Buildings show a development that is larger than the law allows.

Kotowit’s architect, Robert Scaramo, is currently under investigation for allegedly ignoring such zoning rules.

## pieces

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*The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings*

May 20, 2006

# Awash in 'Sunshine'

**BAM-Sundance partnership kicks off with a laff riot, party**

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

**F**ever since **Glenn Close** put a bug in GO Girl's ear about an upcoming collaboration between the Sundance Institute and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, there has been positively gushing excitement in anticipation. The organizations' joint press conference earlier this year, which confirmed the impending birth of this indie love child, further ratcheted up the excitement with its vague overview delivered by no less than Sundance President **Robert Redford**.

At the mere mention of Sundance, GO Girl's head usually fills with lavish plans to spread suds of indie film stars wearing Uggs boots and fur-trimmed hats through the snowy streets of Park Slope, Brooklyn. And the filmmakers and other industry folk

were able to leave their woolens at home on May 11 — the opening night of the "Sundance Institute at BAM" series — when **Breathless** star **Julia Roberts** turned his shiny star to our own **Joey Greenberg**.

"Most of the filmmakers who come through [the Sundance Institute Filmmakers] lab are from here," said Redford, celebrating the already-existing bond between Park City and Brooklyn.

In this new style, "Sundance Institute at BAM" organizers kicked off their series of movies, panel discussions and concerts with a film from the 2006 fest that was not universally loved by the critics: "Little Miss Sunshine." [GO Girl nearly dropped her pen when she read the following review from Dennis Lim in *The Village Voice*: "The series opens with its most obvious display of clout: 'Little Miss Sunshine' is a cult classic in Sundance history and a curled apothosis of the festival's favorite genre, the dysfunctional road trip."]

Starting this new venture with a movie that appeared to rankle a few critics seemed a risky, radical move, but any pre-screening anxiety GO Girl may have had about suffering through "Little Miss Sunshine" was immediately smoothed out by the Grey Goose lemon drop martinis that

were distributed to the guests as they entered the BAM Rose Cinemas.

Happily those sugar-rimmed 'tini glasses heralded a night of sweet surprises for GO Girl and the sprinkling of naysayers.

First of all, the film is hysterical. Let's face it, the antics of stars **Alan Arkin**, **Steve Carell**, **Toni Collette**, **Greg Kinnear** and talented 'tween **Abigail Breslin**, GO Girl's enthusiasm was only surpassed by her seat-neighbor **Danny Simmons**, who confessed that he really needed these laughs.

"Sunshine" chronicles the story of a

normal, dysfunctional family, replete with a drug-addicted grandpa (Arkin) and suicidal uncle (Carell). The clan

goes on a desperate road trip in a dilapidated Volkswagen wagon van in order to get their young daughter (Breslin) to a beauty pageant on time. (GO Girl however screenwriter **Michael Arndt** and director **Jeff Nichols**)

Before and after the screening, Little Miss Breslin mixed and mingled with partygoers, including **Patricia Clarkson**.

Star of "Good Night and Good Luck" told GO Girl that she thought "Sunshine" was "fabulous... incredibly funny and poignant. It moved between the light and dark so effectively."

Clarkson said she turned out for the opening night to show her support for the Sundance Institute.

"I was named 'the Queen of Sundance,'" said the flaxen-haired beauty, noting that one year she had four films in the festival.

Screenwriter Arndt now lives in San Francisco, but told GO Girl he was still hanging on to the East Williamsburg apartment where he wrote his black comedy.

Arndt said he had written the script with the intention of directing it, too.

"It's a lesson in the virtues of cowardice," he said, happy with the job that filmmakers **Jonathan Dayton** and **Valerie Faris** did with his script. "They made it much better."

Faris, a resident of LA, told GO Girl that



**Leading ladies:** (Above) Star of "Little Miss Sunshine," Abigail Breslin, is joined by the Queen of Sundance, Patricia Clarkson at the opening night of the "Sundance Institute at BAM" series on May 11. (Inset) Kenneth Brecher, executive director of the Sundance Institute, is embraced by Brooklyn Academy of Music's Executive Producer Joseph Mellilo.

(whose flick screens May 20 at 6:30 pm) and house improvement guru **Bob Vila** (who arrived on the Sundance at BAM host committee).

The opening night eventually wound down, but the Sundance party is far from over. The series continues through Sunday, with a grand finale on May 21. GO Girl will be joined by a host of celebrities, including Brooklyn's Laurie Collyer, her PDA, along with a 2 pm panel discussion between directors **Allison Anders** ("Gas Food Lodging"), **Hal Hartley** ("The Unbelievable Truth"), **David O. Russell** ("I Heart Huckabees"), **John Waters** ("Hairspray"), and film critic **John Goodman**.

Still giggling over "Little Miss Sunshine," GO Girl and the other invitees happily scooped up their gift bags.

Although they didn't contain glossies autographed by the "Way We Were" hunk, they did include a CD of "Sweet Songs of Youth" that pleaded: "Change Your Coast."

But GO Girl likes her coast just fine; whether she's enjoying "shots" on the beach in Coney Island or inside the River Cafe.

And that's a wrap! Hiccup!

For a complete schedule of "Sundance Institute at BAM" events, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

## HOME

### Minty fresh

If you didn't save your craving for contemporary design at last weekend's "Brooklyn Design" antiques fair, you're in luck at the third annual "Altoids Living Spaces," beginning this Saturday.

Curated by Jason Miller and Dave Alhadoff, owners of The Perfect in Bushwick, this year's exhibit showcases designs by four dozen companies including redstr/-collective, The Design Can and Ifverness, among others. Supreme Trading, Artist Karim Rashid (pictured) — whose 3-D computer graphics art is featured in the 2005 Taschen monograph, "Digipop" — will choose one "Living Spaces" designer to receive the Altoids Gift of Living Design.

"Living Spaces" will open Saturday, May 20, from noon to 6 pm, at Supreme Trading (213 N. Eighth St. between Driggs and Roebling streets in Williamsburg, (718) 599-4242). A viewing party will be held May 22, from 9 pm to 2 am (with free booze offered from 10 pm to 11 pm). The exhibition and party are free and open to the public.

— Lisa J. Curtis

## MUSIC

### It's electric!

An opportunity to see a performance inside the Old American Can Factory — a century-old, 130,000-square-foot manufacturing and arts complex by the Gowanus Canal, is being offered by XO Projects this month.

From May 24-27, XO Projects presents the chamber opera "Rural Electrification" in the complex's "Sanctum," Elizabeth Brown's composition for recorded sound, voice and Theremin. (Leon Theremin's unique instrument, whose sound is mimicked in old Vincent Price flicks) will be performed by Brown and Stephanie Skaff, against Lothar Osterburg's video projection.

"Elizabeth's clear visual ideas for the piece was what ultimately inspired me to collaborate in what was at first started as a purely musical piece," Osterburg said. "Her music's opera explores the effects of the advent of electricity on a young woman living in rural America."

Married since 2004, Osterburg and Brown first partnered on a 12-minute long video, "Watermusic," in 2005.

"Her music has always inspired me, and my art has been inspirational for her," said Osterburg. "She is one of my biggest fans!"

"Rural Electrification" will be performed May 24-27 at 8 pm in The Sanctum of The Old American Can Factory (232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus). Tickets are \$15, \$10 seniors and students with ID. For reservations and information, e-mail [xopnyc@gmail.com](mailto:xopnyc@gmail.com).

• • •

## MUSIC

### 'Sweet' music

The Grammy Award-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus ends its 14th season with an evening of world premieres composed especially for students attending New York City's only voice-based after-school music academy.

The "Sweet Songs of Youth" program will be performed May 20 in Long Island University's Kumble Theater. The commissioned works are from a trio of musicians: renowned jazzman Fred Hersch, new music pioneer Nick Madi (pictured) and Broadway tunesmith Andrew Lippa.

Hersch's "Please Smile," for four-part chorus, bass and electric guitar, is an homage to two of Hersch's favorite vocal groups: Earth Wind and Fire and Hall & Oates.

"The Sweets of Evening," for four-part chorus and piano, takes advantage of the textures of ever-changing children's voices.

"How Sweet" for three-part chorus and piano, is Lippa's first foray into choral writing for a children's group.

Works ranging from the baroque (J.S. Bach) to the 20th century (Bela Bartok) are also on the program, which is led by the group's founder, Diane Barker. Barker, a former Brooklyn Philharmonic Director of Education Ted Wiprud moderates a discussion with the world-premiere composers.

The Brooklyn Youth Chorus performs new works by Hersch, Madi and Lippa on May 20 at 7:30 pm at the Kumble Theater at LIU's Brooklyn campus, Flatbush Avenue Extension at 200 DeKalb Avenue in Downtown Brooklyn. Tickets — \$17 (general admission), \$35 (preferred seating) and \$70 (VIP seating and post-concert reception) — are available at [www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org) or by calling (718) 488-1624. For more information, visit [www.brooklyn-youthchorus.org](http://www.brooklyn-youthchorus.org).

— Kevin Filipski



**She loves rock 'n' roll**

On May 9, punk rock idol Joan Jett (left) journeyed to a Red Hook club, The Hook, to film the video for her new single, "CD C," off her forthcoming Blackheart Records CD, "Sister." Carmen Electra (right) — who told us she's "a longtime Jett fan" — was also at the taping, playing an appropriately kittenish role in the film version of the gender-bending love song.



The Brooklyn Paper / Scott M. Gable

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# BROOKLYN Bites

## Neighborhood Dining Guide

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www.casacalamari.biz, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa)  
www.casacalamari.com \$7-\$22.50



Since opening its doors to Brooklyn in 1995, Casa Calamari has been known to "satisfy all its patrons," manager John Lahar says. Of its 16 specialty brick oven pizzas after his sons: the "Francesco" pie, exemplified by topped with shrimp, mozzarella, sautéed crab meat, and basil; choose any of 15 toppings to customize your own pie. Locomotivo menu also features pasta dishes such as the "Locomotivo" fettuccine, which rigatoni is topped with a fresh tomato sauce made with mozzarella and onion. Then finish your meal with a slice of the house-made tiramisu for \$15.95. If you prefer lobster, Wednesday is "Crazy Lobster Night," when you get a one-and-a-half-pound lobster for \$15.95. On weekdays, a lunch special is offered at a choice of soups and salads. Casa Calamari offers more: it boasts free live entertainment every Saturday. DJ Mike will have you bopping to the blues, while the band "Casa Pepe" plays "Cuban Pete Open Love Lucy" and much more. Open Daily 10 am for lunch and dinner.

### Casa Pepe

114 Bay Ridge Ave. at 69th Street, (718) 833-8865, www.casapepe.com, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées \$12-\$25

The country Spanish and Mexican-style Casa Pepe offers a simple menu featuring items in your head. Since it started in 1980, James Sant, a native Spaniard, has been serving Mexican specialties (guitarra, paella, tortilla, and lados). Casa Pepe also has an elegant room that can accommodate 120 guests. Open Wednesday-Monday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; brunch and Sunday brunch, from noon to 4 p.m. Garden seats available in season. Closed on Tuesdays.

### Dale Bagels

6201 18th Ave. at 62nd Street, (718) 232-0132, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrées \$1-\$9.

Paul DiPirro's delicatessen serves bagels, homemade salads, sandwiches, and a variety of breakfast items. You can get a sandwich or a salad (made fresh eight to 10 daily) costs \$5.99, and don't forget to pick up a pint of your favorite beer or wine. Dale Bagels also offers a variety of fat-free tofu spread. While there are no tables inside the deli, there is terrace seating, weather permitting. Open daily for breakfast, brunch and dinner until midnight, and all night on Fridays and Saturdays.

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\* = Full review available at



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# Splash splash

Velis offers big flavor, tiny plates

By Tina Barry  
For the Brooklyn Papers

dabs of sweet saffron sauce are superfluous.

I have a similar objection to a salad of roasted beets. The thick slices of the earthy vegetables, splashed with a bit of chive goat cheese sauce and paired with greens dressed with a slightly sweet vinaigrette, have a harsh going on for one fish, but an unctuous asparagus mousse crowds the plate.

The smoked trout terrine is on the ornate side too, but all the elements in this stack of moist fish — layered between well-seasoned soft discs of potato, bits of piecrust, a piece of tart, herbed escarole, and bits of creamy goat cheese — harmonized.

Lots of components, but little biteable base to sit upon, which brings me to the food's presentation. If a restaurant focuses on small-plate dining, where there's no set first, second and third course, the serving each dish on its own plate is understandable. If an entree has a standard appetizer, entree and dessert format, like Velis, then the starter should be plated on a smallish dish, the entree served on a larger platter and dessert on a little dish for practical reasons: the bigger plates are most important visually and its size allows for a generous serving of food.

At Velis, everything appears on appetizer-sized plates, which poses a problem: many entree components pile up, creating an under-sized plate for each dish.

One of the simpler entries of pork loin with warm apple-fennel salad, for instance, needs to be cut carefully to avoid splashing a light sherry-laced sauce.

On a larger plate, splatters wouldn't be as problematic.

Otherwise, the meat glazed with mustard and flavored with lavender is boldly seasoned, with the herb lending an arresting floral note.

What emerges from the kitchen, though, is a pleasure: Take a taste of the traditional Amaretto cake (made with almond flour and eggs) and you'll want to transform the "me" into "we." The "we" being the owners and the community.

Marcus Olson (formerly of the Culinary Hotel in London) was hired in November to add a new dimension to chef. His well-written menu of French and Italian fare is enticing. Who wouldn't want to taste braised short ribs with chocolate-tinged "espagnole" sauce? Or lusty rappardelle with porcini mushrooms, macarone and cheese, and shaved asparagus? And who can anything be more alluring to a carnivore than Angus steak with "potatoes frites" and bone marrow reduction?

Olson's menu writing is well honed: what emerges from the kitchens, though, is a pleasure: Take a taste of the traditional Amaretto cake (made with almond flour and eggs) and you'll want to transform the "me" into "we."

One of the simpler entries of pork loin with warm apple-fennel salad, for instance, needs to be cut carefully to avoid splashing a light sherry-laced sauce.

I'd re-think the warm banana chessecake. There's too much fruit, not enough cheese and the preparation doesn't work. Olson rolls the filling in a crust and fries it. It's served in large,



**Appetizers galore:** At Velis in Fort Greene, Chef Marcus Olson serves up prosciutto-wrapped sea scallops with parmesan-crumb mousse, shaved asparagus and sweet saffron. (Below) The dining room has an open kitchen and a movie screen.



diagonally cut pieces over very good, vanilla-laced crème anglaise.

The crust is crisp without being tasting, and the filling edges into baby-food territory.

As lovely as the honey-lavender crème brûlée sounds, it's dense, not creamy.

The sophisticated clientele at Velis is a mix of a bistro that serves familiar dishes with some flair. Generous helpings at reasonable prices are important, too. My guess is they'd still be pleased if Olson took a more laissez-faire approach to food pairing and cut back a bit on portions, a change that would make his dishes more appealing.

Employing larger entree plates wouldn't hurt either. Where they're concerned, the bigger the better.

## Lookin' for love

When you find yourself asking, "Where's the love?" it's time to visit Williamsburg's Baci & Abbracci. Pronounced Bah-chee and Ah-braché, the trattoria's name means "hugs and kisses" in Italian, says co-owner Pablo Cappello (pictured left with bartender Sam Korpil).

The love begins outside, where a full wall of glass and sleek wooden doors with white windows looks in. The rich wood walls, infatuated with Italian tiles, surround dark wood tables, creating an ideal setting for chef Franco Migliorino's rustic menu.

Cappello, who opened the place in April with his mother Camila and partner Rose Cadolino (Cadolino owns Roe in Tribeca), describes the dishes as "Tuscan with lots of rags." In addition to the hearty pastas, Migliorino serves simple fish and

meat dishes such as sauteed trout with almonds and string beans, and roasted pork loin with polenta.

In the back of the casual space, a wood-burning oven produces smoky, crisp-bottomed pies, like the meatball and mozzarella, pancetta and onion.

Behind the eatery, a garden with seating for 70 awaits diners. Lead your partner by the hand and settle down with a bottle of Prosecco from the 60-bottle, predominantly Italian wine list. Nibble from the cheese platter with pears and walnuts or a caramelized orange.

Ah, that's amore.

**Baci & Abbracci** (204 Grand St. between Driggs and Bedford avenues in Williamsburg) accepts cash only. This restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily, brunch on weekends. Entrées, \$11-\$24. For reservations, call (718) 599-6599. — Tina Barry





# Room...to GROW

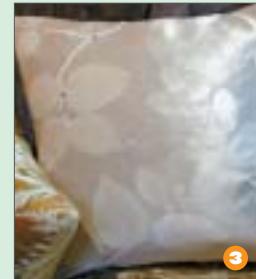
**Artisans at DUMBO's weekend-long Bklyn Designs 2006 took their cues from nature's bounty: leaves, blossoms, branches and color**



1



2

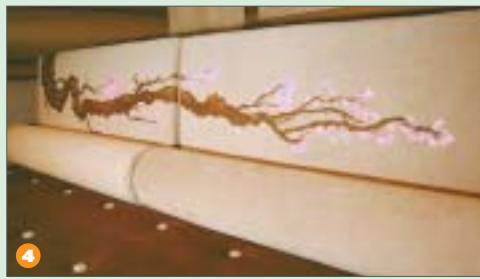


3



4

In addition to the designers who created their works from natural materials — like DEO's gleaming, inlaid wood tables by designer-fabricator Anthony Carino and Asian-inspired paintings carved from reclaimed woods by Jill Ayers for DUMBO's weekend-long arts fair series at this year's Bklyn Designs, in DUMBO May 12-14, showcased works embellished with Mother Nature's motifs. While Brad Teasdale (2) pressed a stylized branch of plum blossoms — made from kiln-formed glass he fires up in Fort Greene's Ultra Glass — interpreted by Adam Alpern of Gorham Art+Design, embellished the sealions of their couch (4) with a long branch of cherry blossoms. Jill Ayers of Williamsburg's LightenUp! Designs (1) debuted her placed-by-hand decoupage of pretty black and gray flowers on cream-colored porcelain lamp bases while DUMBO's Anna Biernoff displayed her collection of deer antler candleholders (3), which are hand-carved and painted with botanicals (eucalyptus, lemon leaf and baby's breath)... Jennifer Smith and Elisha Biernoff of Decoradair displayed their painted folding screens — replete with greenery and birds, and invited attendees to create their own murals with one of their budget-friendly DIY kits (5). — Lisa J. Curtis



4

# ...to GROW

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## A Cure for a Hurting Heart

by Anne Louise Urda



Maureen Boyce-Hurley, host of *Hurting Hearts* on BCAT.

FOR MAUREEN BOYCE-HURLEY, A HURTING HEART CAN SOMETIMES BE A GOOD THING. IN HER CASE, PAIN HAS HELPED LEAD HER IN AN UNEXPECTED BUT WELCOME DIRECTION.

"There are more people hurting than folks showing love," says Boyce-Hurley and it's a problem that she felt the need to address.

Every week, *Hurting Hearts*, her show on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT), tries to remind people to take a look within themselves and most importantly, to remember God's love.

"Wrong decisions cause us so much pain sometimes and we think to blame other people for what is going on in our lives. We can't really examine ourselves and focus on God's way of life for us. If we go back to the Bible way, we wouldn't experience so much pain."

Boyce-Hurley feels especially chosen for her new role, recalling how Jerry Springer of all people actually helped inspire her to spread the word to others.

"I saw the impact that Jerry Springer had on people," she says. "He is such a learned man — it's such a shame that he didn't want to impart something more meaningful for the TV population."

After watching his show, Boyce-Hurley remembers one night in particular that she couldn't sleep, having thoughts of people hurting — she says, "Rich, poor, black, white — they have all experienced hurt." If our hand or feet is hurt, we have medication, thought Boyce-Hurley, but what can we take for a hurting heart?

"I quietly heard within my spirit, only you, Lord Jesus can cure a hurting heart," she says.

With that thought in mind, she began her show in 2004, though it first started on another station and under a different title.

While her first inclination had been the name "Hurting Hearts," a pastor convinced her to switch it to "Loving Hearts." Her son also thought that the name sounded

catchy, but something always bothered her about it. After talking to another pastor, who convinced her to follow her instincts, Boyce-Hurley decided to revert back to "Hurting Hearts."

Boyce-Hurley found her way to BCAT studios by chance after a friend left her stranded one day near the Brooklyn Bridge. "Honestly speaking, I was that hurt," says Boyce-Hurley. "But if she hadn't done that, I wouldn't have passed BCAT."

After exploring what the station had to offer, Boyce-Hurley decided to sign up for the training and has never looked back. "Every opportunity can be an opportunity and who knows, maybe it came directly from God," she says.

When it comes to her BCAT show, Boyce-Hurley derives tremendous pleasure from just having the chance to spread her message. She remembers, though, how much she felt after completing the TV production training class and how nervous she was about her show. She said that staff members encouraged her to take the change.

"I have so much joy when I come to BCAT and speak about God's love," she says. "It fills my heart with joy."

Over the years, the format has evolved somewhat from how it originally began.

Initially, Boyce-Hurley would bring guests on to explain how they had overcome their own hurt but often she primarily hosts the show, often reading passages from the Bible and inviting guests to come on and sing. "I want to implement biblical principles so I do refer to the bible."

she says. "And it's a blessing to hear people sing—it's a blessing in my life."

The show has also helped her to overcome the hurt she has suffered in her own life. "People have said things to me that really hurt my feelings, and I thought it was the end of the world," she says. "I don't feel the hurt as much anymore. When I think I was hurting so bad, I really had it good."

The mother of two, who has a background in nursing, has lived in Brooklyn for over 20 years and is grateful for the opportunity that BCAT provides. "BCAT gives us an opportunity to express ourselves where we would be limited on other stations," she says, calling the station a "blessing."

Boyce-Hurley's efforts have not gone unrecognized either, with men and women frequently approaching her on the train and other places to thank her for her message. "I was in a department store once, and this security guard came up to me," she remembers. "He said I really appreciated and agreed with what you are doing and saying."

Though she never thought she would be doing this, Boyce-Hurley embraces the new path that God has placed in front of her. "It gives me so much joy," she says. "I would like to do it forever and ever."

**Hurting Hearts can be seen in Brooklyn on BCAT on Sundays at 6pm on Time Warner Cable channel 56, Cablevision channel 69 and streaming live online at [www.bcat.tv/bcat](http://www.bcat.tv/bcat).**

FIND THE COMPLETE BCAT PROGRAMMING GUIDE IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE



## Nightlife...

Continued from page 11

May 27: Uncle Lou &amp; the Albatross, FREE

**The Hook**

18 Commercial St., at Columbia Street in Red Hook, (718) 799-3007, www.thehooknyc.com

May 20: Emergenza Festival with Achilles

Hon, 7:30 pm, Dump Rock, \$30 pm,

Guru, 8 pm, \$30 pm, New

Intergen, 10:30 pm, In Extremis, 11

pm, String on Grey, 11:30 pm, New

Baptist Life's Aspirin, Novel, Die

Baptist Life's Aspirin, Burn the Moon,

Incubus, Alice, Soup, Santuris, When

I'm Bored, 11 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 in

advance, May 21: Emergenza Festival

with the show, May 21: Emergenza Festival

with Lila's Aspirin, Novel, Die

Baptist Life's Aspirin, Burn the Moon,

Incubus, Alice, Soup, Santuris, When

I'm Bored, 11 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 in

advance, May 24: Red Gorillas, When

I'm Bored, 11 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 in

advance, May 26: Tom Dula's Band,

Domingo, 10 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 in

advance, May 27: Flight Three/Sixty, Peter Toh,

Tiggy, 8:30 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 in

**Jazz 966**

966 St. or Kingsbridge Place in Clinton Hill, (718) 639-9910, www.jazz966.com

Friday: Live jazz, 8 pm, \$5 and \$10

donation; May 26: Bill Robinson &amp;

Friends, 8 pm, Eric Wyatt, 10 pm,

\$10 pm, \$15 pm, \$20 pm, \$25 pm, \$30 pm, \$35 pm, \$40 pm.

**The Jazz Spot**

179 Marcus Garvey Blvd., Brooklyn

Kosciuszko Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-7825, www.thejazzspot.com

Monday: Jam session, 8 pm, \$5, May

20: Steve Poltare True Love featuring a come-

down band, 8 pm, suggested seats, \$9, \$10

10 pm, \$12 pm, \$15 pm.

**Kolie Restaurant**

320 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street in

Boerum Hill, (718) 488-0777, www.kolie.com

Tuesday: Bonne Ambiance Mardi Night

featuring live music with Peter

Davies, 7 pm, \$25 pm, \$30 pm.

**Kili Bar-Cafe**

81 Hoyt St. at Steward Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 655-5574.

Tuesday: Open, 10 pm, FREE

Friday: Live jazz, 8 pm, \$10 pm, rock, hip hop,

and funk, 10:30 pm, FREE.

**Kingsland Tavern**

244 Nassau Ave. at Kingsland

Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-9388, www.kingslandtavern.com

May 26: Green Milk from the Planet

Orange, Arboretum, Racco-oo-coon,

Woods, 8 pm, \$7.

**Laila Lounge**

159 Second St., in Williamsburg, (718) 456-6791, www.lailalounge.com

Sunday: Live jazz, 8 pm, FREE

Monday: Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE

Tuesday: APA League, 7 pm, FREE

Wednesday: Live jazz, 8 pm, FREE

with an open mic, 7:30 pm, Live music,

8:30 pm, \$10 pm, FREE

Thursday: DJ Set, 10 pm, FREE

May 22: Beatles Karaoke, 10 pm, FREE

May 23: Karaoke, 9 pm, \$10 pm, FREE

May 26: Blow Up Hollywood, 9 pm, \$10 pm.

**Les Babouches**

7803 Third Ave. at 78th Street in Bay

Ridge, (718) 833-1700.

Saturdays and Fridays: Belly dance

Sunday: Stand-up comedy, 8 pm, \$10 pm.

**The Lucky Cat**

246 St. or 5th St., at Rockwell Street in

Williamsburg, (718) 782-0437, www.theluckycat.com

**The Old Stone**

An Exceptional meal.

Pioneer of the fine restaurant movement in Brooklyn.  
345 Court Street (at Union Street) 718-852-5015  
Open 7 days for lunch and dinner • Free Valet Parking •  
Visit our website www.MarcoPoloRistorante.comWednesday, May 17, 8pm  
Church of St. Ann  
and the Trinity  
157 Montague Street  
at Clinton Street  
  
Sunday, May 21, 3pm  
First Reformed Church  
126 Seventh Avenue  
at Carroll Street  
  
www.brooklynsymphonyorchestra.org  
www.gracechoralsociety.org**House**

Jk J. Byrne Park! Fifth Avenue at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-3165, www.thehousebk.com

Monday: Live jazz, 8 pm, \$10 pm, FREE

Tuesday: Jessica Munn, Open Mic

FREE; Wednesday: DJ Rob Nitro, 11

pm, FREE; Thursday: Ante/Orchestra, 8 pm,

with live DJs, 11 pm, FREE; May 20: The

Rocky Reworks, 11 pm, FREE; May 21:

All Day Hall, 7 pm, Proverb, 8 pm,

Weekend Bowlers, 9 pm, \$5, May 25:

Bingo, 7 pm, \$5, May 26: The

Rocky Reworks, 11 pm, FREE; May 27:



# Where to

SAT. MAY 20

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**VICKING FEST:** presented by the Scandinavian East Coast Museum. Refreshments and merchandise available. Noon to 5 pm. Blue Point Inn, 1000 Franklin Street. (718) 748-5950. Free.

**SONYA STUDIO STROLL:** South of the Navy Pier. Presented by Sonya's. 1 pm. Sonya's Stroll. Self-guided walking tour of fine art created in the historic neighborhood. Meet at the entrance to the Bedford-Stuyvesant. Noon to 6 pm. (718) 857-5656. www.sonyacards.com. Free.

**GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY:** Tour features history including the resting places and monuments of the famous. Dog and the goddess Minerva. \$10, \$5 members. Call for meeting location. (631) 341-4489. Free.

**TOURS:** presented by Weeksville Heritage Center. \$15. 1 pm. Boys' and Girls' High School students from Flatbush and Stuyvesant Avenue. (718) 756-5250.

**WALKING TOUR:** Maurice Loucks leads the walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$2, 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at the corner of Avenue U and East 16th Street. (718) 788-0430. Free.

**MIDWOOD WALK:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a walk around the Midwood neighborhood, one of the oldest settled parts of Brooklyn. Adults, \$9; seniors, 93 cents and students, 2 pm to 4 pm. Meet at the corner of Avenue U and East 16th Street. (718) 788-0430. Free.

**PERFORMANCE:** MUSIC: "The Beatles," Brooklyn Public Library's Bay Ridge branch presents a musical performance. 1:30 pm. 7228 Rockwell Blvd. (718) 748-5709. Additional program performance at 2 pm. 1 pm. "Amy Plaza." 4 pm. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**JAZZ:** Art I'llian's Band performs 3 pm. Latin jazz. 1 pm. Art I'llian's Big Band. 4 pm. "Café Latin Jazz." 2 pm. 7228 Rockwell Blvd. (718) 748-5250. Free.

**REHEARSAL:** Brooklyn Master Chorister Orchestra presents "Recorders on the Run," a concert featuring three recorder ensembles. 7 pm. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Montague and Clinton streets. (718) 624-2083.

**NON-DOOR ZONE 1ST:** presented by Saint Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church. \$10. 4 pm. Lunch to 7 pm. Saint Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 125 Columbia Street, between Dekalb and Willoughby avenues. (718) 622-5612. Free.

**BARGEMUSIC:** Classical music featuring Bach's violin and piano sonatas. \$35. \$20 students. Call for ticket info. 8 pm. First Landing, 20 Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy presents "Spice Up Your Life," with jazz pianist and composer Fred Hersch. Music from Baroque through the 21st century.

SUN, MAY 21

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**FIFTH AVENUE FAIR:** offers arts & crafts, food, local businesses, antiques, apparel, rides, antique car show. Main Stage at Southpaw (between St. John's Place and Avenue U). Standing at 12th Street along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. 11 am to 5 pm.

**Going 'Nuclear': As part of May 21's Fifth Avenue Fair, Nuclear Family will perform on a stage in front of Southpaw, 125 Fifth Ave., at St. John's Place.**

\$17 to \$70. 7:30 pm. Long Island University/Brooklyn Theater. 100 University Plaza. (718) 488-1626.

**PAPER MOON PLAYERS:** presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women." \$10, \$8 students. 8 pm. 200 Carroll Street. (718) 230-2635. 23rd St. (718) 645-2276.

**THEATER:** The Paul Robeson Theater hosts "The Wizard of Oz." 1 pm. "Cabin Fever." 8 pm. Carroll Avenue, between Carlton Avenue and Adams Street. (718) 753-0794. Free.

**BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE:** presents Theater Performance Workshop featuring ten performances. \$8, \$5 students. 8 pm. Carroll Avenue, between Carlton and Adams Street. (718) 753-0794. Free.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** presents "The Music Man," directed by Nancy T. Tyler. \$15, \$10 students. 8 pm. Carroll Avenue, between Carlton and Adams Street. (718) 753-0794. Free.

**SACKETT GROUP:** presents the resident ensemble of the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. "One Big Happy Family." 8 pm. Castanea. \$10. 2 pm. (718) 626-4444. www.smartsite.com

**BCB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents "The Wizard of Oz." 1 pm. "Class of '73." \$36 to \$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Carroll and Carlton Avenues. (718) 941-1725.

**BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC:** presents "New Music Collective," featuring student performances. 8 pm. 58 Seventh Avenue. (718) 753-0715.

**NARROW COMMUNITY THEATER:** presents the musical "Mame." 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium, Fourth Avenue. (718) 482-3713.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "Wounded Hopes," based on the poetry of Gerald Stern. \$12. 8 pm. Carroll Avenue, between Carlton and Adams Street. (718) 753-0794. Free.

**SONYA STUDIO STROLL:** Noon to 6 pm. See page 190.

MON, MAY 22

**BODIE DENSITY SCREENING:**

1 pm to 4 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, Medical Office Pavilion, 263 Seventh Avenue. (718) 780-5700. Free.

**BIRD WATCHING:** Brooklyn Cemetery hosts a tour with Joseph Barker. 9 am. Call for ticket info. 2 pm. Carroll Avenue and Fifth Avenue. (718) 875-2122. Free.

**PARK SLOPE HOUSE TOUR:** 4th annual self-guided walking tour of Park Slope. From Sixth Street to 11th Street. \$10. Noon to 4 pm. Tickets sold at Disney's Fifth Avenue. (718) 624-2083. www.parkslopehousecouncil.org

**CINTON TO WALK:** Brooklyn Center for the Arts presents a walk to visit neighborhood artists and visit their studios. \$10. 1 pm to 3 pm. Carroll Avenue and Carlton Street. (718) 237-2752.

**SACKETT GROUP:** presents the resident ensemble of the Brooklyn Arts Exchange. "One Big Happy Family." 8 pm. Castanea. \$10. 2 pm. (718) 626-4444. www.smartsite.com

**BCB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents "The Wizard of Oz." 1 pm. "Class of '73." \$36 to \$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Carroll and Carlton Avenues. (718) 941-1725.

**NORWEGIAN DAY PARADE:** 55th annual Norwegian Constitution Day Parade. 1:30 pm. Carroll Avenue and 8th Street. (718) 753-0715.

**GULFPORT FESTIVAL:** presents "Once on This Island." \$15, \$12 students. 8 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 390-7163.

**ENTREPRENEUR SERIES:** presents "How to Put My Father in the Ground." \$12. 8 pm. (718) 855-7882.

**BAM CAFE:** presents annual Sundance compilation. \$10. 1 pm to 11 pm. Carroll Avenue, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 638-4197.

**CHILDREN**

**RUN AROUND:** Brooklyn Lyceum opens its thirteenth stage for a "Kid Runaround." Bring your kid to the stage to play with energy from 10 am to 2 pm. Food available. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 788-0430. Free.

**CHAMBER MUSIC:** Chocolate Chip Chamber Music performs an interactive concert for toddler and older kids. \$5. 10 am and 11:30 am. Our Lady of Good Health Church, 126 Seventh Ave. (718) 638-8300.

**ENTREPRENEUR SERIES:** Brooklyn Public Library's Business branch presents "You Can Do It, Too!" Learn how winners of the competition have made their entrepreneurial vision come true. 6 pm. 200 Carroll Avenue. (718) 626-4000. Free.

**FOOD TALK:** Families First offers a talk: "It Is

**Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay**

2972.

**BARD AUDIOPOLIS:** Classical music concert featuring a program of music by Schools, Feldman, Welch, Xenicus and others. \$35, \$30 seniors, \$20 students, \$4 pm. First Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2243.

**DUBJANIC PROJECT:** presents a marionette performance of "The Wizard of Oz." \$8, \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 1 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "Wounded Hopes." \$10. 3 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Once on This Island." 3 pm. See Sat., May 20.

**THEATRE AND MUSIC:** Ukulele-Rapists

David Austerweil. 4 pm. Freedberg Books and Gifts, 123 Columbia St. (718) 643-8484. Free.

**OTHER**

**RUMMAGE SALE:** Barnes and Noble Books, 106 Court St. (718) 240-2100. Free.

**SUNFEST:** presented by The Dillon Child Study Center. Camelot, pony rides, live music, games, Call for ticket info. 10 am to 4 pm. Garden Mall, 232 to 256 Clinton Ave. (718) 636-6838.

**SEASIDE PLAYERS:** "Rabbit, Face painting, and more." 9 am to 4 pm. 186 St. John's Place. (718) 780-3000. \$10. www.seasideplayers.com. \$30. Free.

**WICHITA FAIR:** presented by St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Health presentation, food, vendors, art exhibits, raffle and informational displays. 11 am to 4 pm. 259 Willoughby Avenue. (718) 622-5612. Free.

**PUPPETWORKS:** "The Wizard of Oz." 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**OTHER**

**FEA MARKET:** on Poplar Street, between Henry and Hicks streets, near the Brooklyn Bridge. 9 am to 4 pm. (718) 243-0999.

**TOYS:** presents a toy store. 10 am to noon. Willamette Wink, Prospect Park entrance, 200 Carroll Street. (718) 238-2299.

**BOOK TALK:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch. How to Start Your Own Small Business. 4 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100.

**WEEKEND PARADE:** 36th Veterans Association presents its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March and Parade. 10 am to 4 pm. First Landing, Old Fulton Street. (718) 780-3100.

**JEWISH HERITAGE:** Brooklyn Public Library's Children's Department. 10 am to 4 pm. 259 Willoughby Avenue. (718) 622-5612. Free.

**MUSICAL DRAMA:** American Females for Equality presents "The Wizard of Oz." 1 pm to 4 pm. First Landing, Old Fulton Street. (718) 622-5612. Free.

**BOOK COURT:** Sean Wiley and Matt Willard read from their book "The Thinking Fans Guide to the World Cup." 8 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 675-3677. Free.

**WEDS, MAY 24**

**BAMCINEMATEK:** presents "Cinema Tropical." Femando Perez. "Today, 'Save Barbara'" (2003). 10, 57 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 488-8200. \$10, \$8 students and seniors. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100.

**MEET THE ARTISTS:** Cobble Hill Gallery presents a talk with Brooks Frederick and his exhibit "View Inside." 2 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 780-3100.

**SONGWRITING WORKSHOP:** "The Gospel Experience." 1 pm to 4 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**LITERACY WORKSHOP:** reading level of the former Soviet Union. Live music, film and book exchange. 7 pm to 9 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum, 135 Carroll Street. (718) 624-7910.

**POETRY:** read by Carl Rosenthal. 6 pm. Hotel D'Orsay. (718) 624-2083.

**SUNDANCE AT BAM:** Sundance Institute in association with Brooklyn Academy of Music presents several films. 5 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 624-2083.

**MEET THE ARTISTS:** Cobble Hill Gallery presents a talk with Brooks Frederick and his exhibit "View Inside." 2 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 780-3100.

**SONGWRITING WORKSHOP:** "The Gospel Experience." 1 pm to 4 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**LITERACY WORKSHOP:** reading level of the former Soviet Union. Live music, film and book exchange. 7 pm to 9 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum, 135 Carroll Street. (718) 624-7910.

**TEEN BOOK GROUP:** presents "How to Suck at Life" by Meg Rosoff. 6 pm. Remond and Nichols, 106 Court St. (718) 244-4966. Free.

**DINNER MEETING:** "Ladies Who..." a new women's networking club for women, hosts a meet-and-greet networking club for women, 6 pm. Call for location and ticket info. 10 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**LECTURE:** The Rabbinic Committee of Browston Brooklyn presents "From Sinai to Cyberspace," a series of weekly lectures. 7 pm to 8 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

**ARTS FOR ALL:** presents "Dance Africa" with seven performances. 2 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

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**EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION:** "Waka" memorial created by Carrie Iverson for US troops who died in Iraq. 6 pm to 8 pm. Carroll Avenue. (718) 230-2243.

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## OUR OPINION

# Brennan's bonehead bill

**A**SSEMBLYMAN JIM BRENNAN certainly picked an odd time to become engaged on the topic of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development.

The Park Slope lawmaker, who has been shockingly silent about the largest development project in his borough's history, entered the debate with a bizarre piece of legislation that would actually reward Ratner for proposing a 17-skyscraper complex that could devastate two highly desirable low-rise neighborhoods.

In short, Brennan's all-carrot, no-sticks bill would cut the size of Ratner's development to 5.85 million square feet from the roughly 8.7-million square feet it is today. In exchange for the loss of his cherished bulk, Ratner would get hundreds of millions of dollars from the state. First, he'd get the Atlantic

Yards site — which the MTA appraised at \$214 million, but sold to Ratner for \$100 million — for free. Also, he'd be relieved of his contractual obligation to renovate the rail yards, which Brennan estimated would save the developer \$200 million — \$200 million that each of us, as taxpayers, will now have to swallow.

Ratner's bill would require the state of New York to give Ratner \$15.4 million per year to build 2,200 affordable rental units. Currently, the state is not subsidizing the affordable apartments in the Ratner proposal. Lest we forget, Bruce Ratner did not have a gun to his head when he made the promise to set aside half his project for affordable housing (since downgraded to half the rental units) by the way.

He was not obligated by the state or city. He made the vow in a deal that he voluntarily

entered into with eight community groups. His underlings have said repeatedly that Ratner made the deal out of love for the community and to meet the needs of Brooklyn. Ratner's latest Atlantic Yards mailings even tout the 50-percent affordable housing promise as "legally binding."

Ratner's bill would only allow Ratner to renege on that promise — but not him to do so!

Ratner, a man said to be considering a run for city comptroller, should be ashamed of this bill. The Atlantic Yards project still needs state approval, where it could still be changed or even killed — on its own merits and without a ridiculous "bulletin."

If Brennan and his Albany colleagues are so concerned about the scale of the project, perhaps they can show real leadership during the coming public-approval process.

## LETTERS

## Ratner's fix fails to please critics

### Opting out of home delivery

Since the beginning of the year, we've been home delivering Papers throughout Brownstone Brooklyn. Our unique system limits deliveries to two days per week, thus eliminating the kind of clutter caused by circular and menu delivery services.

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By fax: (718) 834-9278.

By email: Letters@BrooklynPapers.com

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

To the editor:

In reference to your recent article on Frank Gehry's new Atlantic Yards design ("Meet Miss Brooklyn," May 13), maybe we really should commend Gehry. After all, he said his new designs were the result of listening to the body language of Brooklyn.

No wonder his towers look like someone giving the arena the finger!

Deb Goldstein, Sunset Park

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I recently received Ratner's 12-page flyer ("Ratner's glossy fantasy," May 6) and am sending the "reply card" to you rather than to Ratner because, I suspect, you will pay more attention to what he will say.

First, you claimed the area in which Ratner had staked his greedy claim was not residential, as opposed to the outlying "suburban" areas of Brooklyn — Bay Ridge, etc. — which, you said, were the result of an out-of-scale overdevelopment. This, of course, is an absurd assertion. Prospect Heights is largely residential.

If you'd bother to walk around the neighborhood with your eyes even half-open, you'd see that most of it is low-density residential.

Second, you told me to just wait and see. You suggested that Ratnerville would be scaled back considerably. But last week's unveiling of architect Frank Gehry's slightly revised plan left me to the claim as well.

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## ALL DRAWN OUT



Caren Rabin

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Brooklyn's REAL newspapers

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## Common Sense on Class Size

By Randi Weingarten

**S**ad to say, foresight is an attribute seldom displayed these days. Just about everything seems to be geared toward the short term, the quick fix, the windfall profit.

Unfortunately, that holds true in our public schools with budgetary choices that often reflect a failure to think long term. Year after year, we fail to make critical investments that would provide permanent benefits to students, parents and educators.

That is certainly the case with class size. It is 60 percent higher in New York City than in the rest of the state, depending on grade and subject. Education reforms come and go as different mayors and chancellors try new - or not-so-new - initiatives without addressing that key issue.

The repeated failure to reduce class size condemns us to fall short of our education goals, which shouldn't surprise anyone. Until we have smaller classes taught by qualified teachers to fully and fundamentally advance teaching and learning for our children, it's a complete waste.

Critics say reducing class size by hiring more educators is simply a teacher union ploy to get more members and more dues. That attitude ignores research that shows that smaller classes allow teachers to give students more individual attention, reduce discipline problems, increase graduation rates and help students do well on the high-stakes tests that drive education policy from the federal level on down.

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## OUR OPINION

# Brennan's bonehead bill

**A**SSEMBLYMAN JIM BRENNAN certainly picked an odd time to become engaged on the topic of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development.

The Park Slope lawmaker, who has been shockingly silent about the largest development project in his borough's history, entered the debate with a proposal of legislation that would actually reward Ratner for proposing a 17-skyscraper complex that could devastate two highly desirable low-rise neighborhoods.

In short, Brennan's all-carrot, no-sticks bill would cut the size of Ratner's development to 5.8 million square feet from the roughly 8.7-million square feet it is today. In exchange for giving up some of his cherished bulk, Ratner would get hundreds of millions of dollars from the state. First, he'd get the Atlantic

Yards site — which the MTA appraised at \$214 million, but sold to Ratner for \$100 million — for free. Also, he'd be relieved of his contractual obligation to renovate the rail yards, which Brennan estimated would save the developer \$200 million — \$200 million that each of us, taxpayers, will now have to swallow.

Ratner's bill would require the state of New York to give Ratner \$15.4 million per year to build 2,200 affordable rental units. Currently, the state is not subsidizing the affordable apartments in the Ratner proposal. Lest we forget, Bruce Ratner did not have a gun to his head when he made the promise to set aside half his project for affordable housing (since downgraded to half the rental units), so he was not obligated by the state or city.

He made the vow in a deal that he voluntarily

entered into with eight community groups. His underlings have said repeatedly that Ratner made the deal out of love for the community and to meet the needs of Brooklyn. Ratner's latest Atlantic Yards mailings even tout the 50-percent affordable housing promise as "legally binding."

Ratner's proposal would not only allow Ratner to renege on that promise — but force him to do so!

Ratner, a man said to be considering a run for city comptroller, should be ashamed of this bill. The Atlantic Yards project still needs state approval, where it could still be changed or even killed — on its own merits and without a ridiculous "bulletin."

If Brennan and his Albany colleagues are so concerned about the scale of the project, perhaps they can show real leadership during the coming public-approval process.

## LETTERS

## Ratner's fix fails to please critics

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Howard Klang, Brooklyn Heights

**Editor's note:** Klang concerns the recent announcement by Ratner and co-chairmen of the Atlantic Yards project that while worthy of debate, could not, alas, be printed in a family newspaper.

### Words to live by

To the editor:

I recently received Ratner's 12-page flyer ("Ratner's glossy fantasy design," May 13), maybe we really should commend Gehry. After all, he said his new designs were the result of listening to the body language of Brooklyn.

No wonder his tower looks like someone giving the arena the finger!

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### As for Marty...

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After the speech, it sounded as if you had swapped your thoughts from Dan Goldstein [of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn]. But your words that day so contradicted your position on the hugely non-controversial Atlantic Yards project that I had to confront you.

First, you claimed the area in which Ratner had staked his greedy claim was not residential, as opposed to the outlying "suburban" areas of Brooklyn — Bay Ridge, etc. — which, you said, were in dire need of much-needed out-of-scale overdevelopment. This, of course, is an absurd assertion. Prospect Heights is largely residential.

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Second, you told me to just wait and see. You suggested that Ratnerville would be scaled back considerably. But last week's unveiling of architect Frank Gehry's slightly revised design puts the lie to that claim as well.

This thing is still huge! It's even larger than the original plan — which is the one you and I had been discussing.

Yes, this new plan is a tad smaller than the previously unveiled "Vegas" version, but still bigger than the horrendous original.

To say that it's scaled back is to engage in the same kind of flim-flam that unscrupulous retailers do when they mark-up prices before a sale, and then offer a small percentage off the previously hiked price.

I agree with your editorial that Century 21 is buying off the community on the cheap ("An ugly payoff," May 6). Leaders like Councilman Vincent Gentile know that they're missing out on photo opportunities than sources like the Mark Lanes.

Finally, Gentle gladly took Century 21's \$10,000 check and handed it over to four neighborhood youth groups.

Granted, Century 21 and I have butted heads in the past, but my beef is with the groups that took that money. They were the same groups who I was yelling to sell more books clouds growth.

There are many people of all walks of life who did not benefit from this check, you know. Now, we will have to travel out of our own

neighborhood just to bowl.

Tom Brice, Bay Ridge

### Fit for a Queen

To the editor:

I'd like to associate some of the comments of tourists coming off the Queen Mary 2 ("QM2 here: What's in it for us?", April 15), saying that Brooklyn is a depressed area.

I once went on the QE2 to England and thought that some of their country was deplorable. But at least I had the opportunity to say anything. These people should be on the ferry, not the Queen Mary 2.

I hope our borough president, tells these people a few things about Brooklyn. People like that shouldn't get to come to our great borough.

Name withheld, Bay Ridge

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By Randi Weingarten

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That is certainly the case with class size, which is 10 to 60 percent higher in New York City than in the rest of the state, depending on grade and subject. Education reforms come and go as different mayors and chancellors try new - or not-so-new - initiatives without addressing that key issue.

The repeated failure to reduce class size conditions us to fall short of what education truly requires, which shouldn't surprise anyone. Until we have smaller classes taught by qualified teachers we will not fundamentally advance teaching and learning for our children. It's common sense.

Critics say reducing class size by hiring more educators is simply a teacher union ploy to get more members and more dues. That attitude ignores research that shows smaller classes allow teachers to give students more individual attention, reduce discipline problems, raise graduation rates and help students do better on the high-stakes tests that drive education policy from the federal level on down.

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governor coming into office and only one more court battle to go in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case - a 13-year battle to get New York City its fair share of state education aid - now is the time to fight for and plan for the investments we know will help our children succeed.

That's why parents and educators are launching the campaign for smaller classes, and our elected officials that reducing class sizes is a long-term investment that must be made. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and former New York City high school teacher - Frank McCourt has graciously volunteered to be honorary chairman of our class size coalition. Details on the campaign can be found on the Coalition Web site, www.newyorkersformsmallerclasses.org.

On Thursday, May 18, educators and coalition members will converge on the Brooklyn Bridge in the morning, and/or afterwards at public schools across the city. They also will conduct a citywide leafleting campaign at key transportation hubs on Thursday, May 25. An immediate Internet ad and a major TV ad in coming weeks will be part of the campaign.

We need everyone's support in this campaign because it will take more than just educators and parents. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to lower class size for all children in the city, and we cannot afford to let this moment pass. Let's finally make a crucial long-term investment in our children's future that will benefit an entire generation. Please join us and let your voice be heard!



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# Backers of waterfront park sue over site's privatization

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Even as work continues on Brooklyn Park, park advocates sued the Empire State Development Corporation on Tuesday claiming the agency broke the law by including private housing in a public park.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Legal Defense Fund lawsuit says 1,210 units of housing within the 85-acre public waterfront will be built under a "dangerous precedent."

"This is a scheme to give condo developers public land," said Defense Fund President Judi Francis.

Subsidized by Brooklyn Bridge Park, a housing, commercial and recreational development along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfronts, says it sets a different and harsher, dangerous precedent. Publicly funded subsidies will be kept in good repair with revenue generated by condo maintenance fees, they say.

But critics said the "a-park-



BEFORE AND AFTER: A computer rendering of a view of the Manhattan Bridge after new "park" building is built.

ment" plan would end up pitting residents against park users in an uncomfortable pas-de-deux.

"There is tremendous conflict of interest where private interests try to determine what is a park," said Bruce S. Binger, a former assistant commissioner in the Parks Department, who supports the lawsuit. "There are safety issues,

noise issues — the needs of residents and park users are in conflict."

The ESDC didn't buy so much as an institutional eyebrow at the Defense Fund lawsuit, to try to determine what is a park, said Binger, a former assistant commissioner in the Parks Department, who supports the lawsuit. "We are reviewing the papers and

we will proceed as we usually do with such litigation."

The lawsuit comes one week after superstar residential architect Robert A.M. Stern joined the park's design team. Stern will help the developer, which will keep the project going, said Bruce S. Binger, a former assistant commissioner in the Parks Department, who supports the lawsuit. "We are reviewing the papers and

within the park's borders.

A building at 360 Furman St., renamed One Brooklyn Bridge Park, will be the first condominium to open on the parkland.

The developer, Robert Lurie, cites the park's planned marina, landscaped greens and "round-the-clock security" in its marketing materials.

## Bill: State should pay Bruce to build less at A'Yards site

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner would get hundreds of millions of dollars in state funds if he builds less at Atlantic Yards, under a new state Assembly bill.

Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope) has proposed capping the total size of Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development at 5.85 million square feet — down from the 7 million square feet originally proposed, which features 17 skyscrapers, 6,900 units of housing, retail and office space, a hotel and a 19,000-seat arena for the relocated New Jersey Nets.

To compensate Ratner for the smaller project, Brennan's bill would give the developer the Atlantic Yards site for free, rather than charging him \$100 million. The MTA had appraised the site at \$214 million.

In addition, Brennan's bill would relieve Ratner of his obligation to renovate the Long Island Rail Road yard, saving him another \$200 million, the assemblyman said.

Brennan's bill would also require the state — rather than Ratner himself — to subsidize the 50-percent of the cost that Ratner agreed to set aside as affordable housing.

"This is like negotiating with a hijacker," said David Goldstein, spokesman for the anti-Atlantic Yards group, Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn.

"Brennan is saying, 'OK, OK, here's some money. Just don't build it so big!' He's throwing money at a developer to not build something he hasn't even gotten the right to build yet."

Brennan argued that John O'Keefe disagreed, saying the bill was merely an effort to make the project still fit even for the developer.

"The site costs and [Ratner's] affordable-housing commitment are making the project balloonier," O'Keefe said. "It's making me add millions of square feet."

O'Keefe argued that the bill has a chance of becoming law. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) is a supporter of the project.

"That pretty much makes a bill like this impossible," said a source close to the project.

A spokesman for Silver declined to comment.

Officially, Ratner's people were playing it close to the vest.

"We're studying it," Jim Stuckey, a Forest City Ratner vice-president, said this week.

But Stuckey added that the state's super-sized project is not feasible for the developer.

"To develop this site, we have to spend \$600 million on infrastructure before we put a shovel in the ground," Stuckey said on WNYC radio.

"On top of that, we've committed that half of our 4,500 rental apartments are going to be affordable and middle-income rental apartments, where no one pays more than 30 percent of their annual household income to live, still keep it viable for the developer."

"That's a very, very significant commitment. And the problem, when you want to build that type of community . . . it demands that there be a certain amount of density," he said.

Brennan disagreed that, too.

"It's impossible to judge the finances without the financials," he said. "Ratner has not shown anyone his numbers, so we don't know how much density he needs."

—By Ariella Cohen

## Study: Residential permits won't solve D'Town parking

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

A residential permit plan in Downtown Brooklyn would not solve the area's persistent parking problem, a new study has determined.

The study, initiated due to concerns about traffic after downtown was upzoned in 2004 to encourage development, looked at parking permits in cities like Boston and San Francisco — but determined that such schemes were unsuitable for the mean streets of Brooklyn.

"There are too many cars and not enough spots," admitted Michael Burke, executive director of the Downtown Brooklyn Council, which co-sponsored the study.

At any given time, the number of cars trolling



Many Brooklynites believe residential parking permits could help locals find spots, but a new study indicates otherwise.

throughout downtown Brooklyn is double the number of available curb spots.

In commuter-heavy Brooklyn Heights, there are a whopping 4,103 cars for 876 spots.

Fort Greene has 1,759 cars for 1,089 spots, while Boerum Hill has 1,996 cars for 1,769 spots.

The study also showed that two-thirds of parkers in downtown Brooklyn spent 10 minutes or more in their space — minutes spent driving around and looking for parking is causing "significant" traffic congestion itself.

A residential parking permit system would forbid non-permit holders from parking on city streets, while allowing residents to park there (provided they buy the permit, of course).

Even after hearing the study's disappointing results, downtown residents and their elected leaders plan to fight for the permit's implementation.

"People have ever said that we were going to find a space for every resident's car, but the least we can do is give people

who live in our neighborhoods a priority over people who work here," said Evan Thies, spokesman for City Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights).

One way to solve the problem of limited parking would be to let the price of the permits fluctuate on the open market.

Critics argue that the permits would be prohibitively expensive.

"The permit would only benefit those who could afford it" under that scenario, said Burke.

The downtown Brooklyn Council will meet with city leaders next week to discuss the study's findings and plot a way forward.

"Perhaps the best option will be to do nothing at all," Burke said.

## Ousted art students in DUMBO show

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

It's strictly PG from here on out at the Brooklyn War Memorial.

One week after a Brooklyn College student art show was removed from a public building by Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel because of its "inappropriate" content, the Parks Department said the space must host art shows again — children's art shows, that is.

"We are considering establishing a youth arts program," said Parks spokesman Warner Johnston.

Spiegel declined to say if artwork for adults will ever return to the Cadman Plaza memorial — which once

housed an American Legion Post and community office.

The change began when it was a gallery six years ago under a verbal agreement with Spiegel, who has repeatedly denied failing to answer questions about why he shut down the Brooklyn College Masters of Fine Arts thesis show, "Plan B."

The show — renamed "Plan C" (for censored) last Thursday after Spiegel shut it down and changed the locks on the building — features abstract paintings, video art, a dental sculpture, a collection of pins and a live rat, a sculpture of a hand holding a penis, and a watercolor painting of a man's torso that included a narrative about a homosexual encounter involving a man named Dick Cheney.

"Plan C" will be on exhibit in DUMBO from May 24-June 16.

The students have accepted an invitation from DUMBO developer David Walentas to show their work in a vacant space at 70 Washington St.

But the DUMBO show will be far smaller than the original because 80 percent of the art was destroyed after Spiegel's sudden shutdown, said artist Tamara Veszi.

"Most of us aren't even sure what we are going to do," said Veszi, whose multi-media installation "Inner Beauty," was badly damaged after Spiegel refused to use it to replace other artworks.

The college has offered to reimburse students for damaged audio-visual equipment and lost materials.

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CHECKIN' IN WITH...

## Hip Hasid Simcha Weinstein



It's not all that common for Hasidic rabbis to stand out, but Rabbi Simcha Weinstein of Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill and B'nai Avraham in Brooklyn Heights, is certainly not common. Not only does he have a devilish sense of humor and his own Web site, [www.rabbiweinstein.com](http://www.rabbiweinstein.com), he also has a new book out, *How To Be A Hasid In The City: Tales From The Crown Heights, "Up, Up, and Oy Vey!"* (*Leviathan Press*) is an amazing, stupendous, astounding look at the secret Jewish identities behind many of your favorite superheroes. No, Lois, Superman was not a Jew — but his creator was. Weinstein checked in this week with our own Gersh Kuntzman, himself a heroic Jew, on the eve of next weekend's opening of *X-Men 3*.

Q: So all the superheroes are secretly Jews?

A: No, no, no. Let's get this right or else everyone will be mad. I don't think that Jews are superheroes and Superman is a Jew. But many of them did. Some of them became these comic book heroes. Most of them never went to temple or Hebrew school, but their notion of heroes came from Jewish culture. Why do the Fantastic Four, which is one of Jack Kirby's comics, get enslaved? By the way, Captain America's shield is made of vibranium. What's vibranium? Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!

Q: Well, Batman gets enslaved too, but I'm pretty sure that Bruce Wayne ain't a member of the tribe, if you know what I mean.

A: True, but as my book shows, Batman is yet another of the orphaned superheroes. His mother and father were killed in front of his eyes when he was 5. It's clear that he's a bit of a Captain Superman, too. His name in Kryptonite is Kal El, which means "the voice of God" in Hebrew. Here's a kid whose home world gets destroyed and he flies on a rocket ship. That's such a parallel to what was going on in Europe after these writers fled here.

Q: How does a Hasidic rabbi get interested in this kind of stuff? Aren't your main superheroes Moses, Abraham and Rabbi Schneerson?

A: I always tell people that I didn't grow up religious. I grew up more interested in university in Manhattan. And later, I got a job as a location scout in the film industry. It was certainly exciting, but I soon discovered that the people were soulless and worthless. At the end of the shoot, you'd have the wrap party and it was all fake.

Q: Was this England or Hollywood?

A: England.

Q: Oh, well there you go. You had been in Hollywood, I'm sure you would've found so much more depth.

A: The point is, I felt this pull to go to Israel. And when I was there, I found something deeper and meaningful. And I don't miss the movie industry. I don't miss the writing. So as I got more religious, I wanted to bring my spirituality with pop culture. And it works. Most times, when I give a sermon in the synagogue, everyone, even my wife, falls asleep. But when I bring up some pop culture topic, everyone perks up.

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**A26****Ratner can't buy love***Continued from page 1*

After securing a Bangkok bikini, she said, Smartmom asked one friend, a member of the PTA, if she was offended by the developer's contribution.

"Absolutely not. We take the money. We don't care where it comes from," said PTA Mom. "We don't discriminate when it comes to contributions. Why should we refuse his money?"

Smartmom now says she was exaggerating. Of course the school discriminates. Would it take money from a tobacco company or the American Nazi party (not that Ratner is in that category, but still...).

See? The PTA members of the PS 321 parents are opposed to the Atlantic Yards development. But she saw no connection between the donation and the project.

"Ratner was even donating to the auction for five years—ever before Atlantic Yards was announced."

The school does reflect on the ethnicity diversity of Brooklyn with a predominantly black, 61 percent white, 19 percent black, 16 percent Hispanic and 6 percent Asian.

The principal, Elizabeth Phillips, is the effusive diversity of Brooklyn with a predominantly black, 61 percent white, 19 percent black, 16 percent Hispanic and 6 percent Asian.

Smartmom surveyed the festive crowd of familiar faces in their 1960s regalia. Missing were the parents who couldn't afford the \$45 for a dinner of wings on Chopped Chicken, and watching other affluent parents bid on a Ratner-nominated Nes basketball package for eight people (which, by the way, went for twice the asking price).

The Christie's auctioneer (a colleague of PS 321 parents) also sold off donated week-

ends at people's country houses, a vacation to the Dominican Republic, a health club membership, a weekend at the birthday party at Keyes Park (does that mean we support the Cyclones?) and an Italian cooking lesson and dinner with the famed Lidia Bastianich—no top dollar.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE school is a win-win for the kids, so it's no wonder that PS 321 is so over-crowded (more than 1,200 kids in a school built for 900).

Smartmom feels that her kids go to such a great public school. What about the families in poor neighborhoods that aren't so lucky? Isn't there some way to support them? Don't all kids deserve the same quality of education as the kids of Park Slope? Don't all kids merit donations from Bruce Ratner?

Or course they do, but that's a Catch-22 at work: After all, the success of PS 321 has drawn wonder for Park Slope's real-estate values, which, in turn, drives more money to the school.

To quell the guilt and sense of entitlement, Smartmom returned to the cash bar for a

**SMART mom**

By Louise Crawford

Smartmom is a good student, fantastic teacher and a very involved parent body.

And they're not all white and affluent, despite the stereotypes you read in other news outlets. According to the count of the kids whose school lunch (while the other 79% bring their own temps) sandwiches and gluten-free ones.

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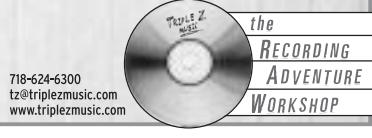
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