

Experimental teen justice program brings 16 & 17 year-old youths to Red Hook instead of to jail

by Matt Graber

For the past decade, the Red Hook Community Justice Center has offered rehabilitative services of all kinds to people arrested within its immediate catchment area of the 76th, the 78th, and the 72nd precincts. Now, the Justice Center has opened its doors to 16- and 17-year-olds throughout Brooklyn, who have access to more social services as part of a state-wide experiment in criminal justice reform called the Adolescent Diversion Parts (ADP) pilot.

Sending youth offenders from all over the borough to Red Hook

On a recent Wednesday afternoon at the Kings County Criminal Courthouse at 120 Schermerhorn Street, Judge Joseph Gubbay demands silence in the courtroom, and a few prosecutors promptly desist from chattering. The judge wants to address the young man before him and get his undivided attention. He wears a stern expression and speaks firmly.

"You're lucky," he tells the Alex (pseudonym for confidentiality), whose uncle stands next to him. "Not everybody has the good fortune to have a family member come with them. Our goal - we all share the same goal - is for you to get stronger and wiser, more mature, more responsible," he says. "I'm expecting a lot from you."

Alex had been arrested for threatening his high school dean. The prosecution has offered a reduced charge of disorderly conduct, which is a violation and not a crime, under the condition that he pleads guilty. After talking with his defense attorney (supplied by the Legal Aid Society), Jessica Kay (a social worker representing the Center for Court Innovation and the Justice Center), and his uncle, Alex decides to plead guilty. Judge Gubbay gives him two days community service and two days social service to be completed in Red Hook.

Alex is not old enough to vote, enlist in the army or buy cigarettes; but in the state of New York, he is old enough to be sent to prison for committing a low-level crime. He is a good candidate for the ADP pilot because he is at risk of

getting caught in the revolving door of the criminal justice system. A criminal record would block his chances of getting students loans, access to housing and employment - not to mention the psychological consequences of being immersed in the adult prison system.

Alex is now legally mandated to show up at the Justice Center the following day and complete his four-day program. Jessica Kay has recommended an anger management course to meet his social service requirement, and negotiates with Judge Gubbay on which days he can come to the Justice Center. If Alex goes on to complete his program, he will most likely be given a six-month ACD (Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal). That means that if he stays out of trouble for six months, his case will be closed and the record sealed.

Once Alex volunteers to participate in ADP, he becomes a client, not a defendant. After Judge Gubbay gives his disposition, he instructs Alex to wait for someone from the Justice Center to talk to him before leaving the building.

On this Wednesday afternoon, Jessica Kay, who oversees the Center's Clinical Department, is there to conduct a brief intake and to give him instructions on how to get to Red Hook. She takes down basic information - his school and employment status, his address and other demographic information. Given how inconvenient it can be to travel in and out of Red Hook, the Clinic gives clients a full day's credit just for showing up on day-one.

A push for more "problem-solving justice" and research-based policy

The ADP program was initiated by the state's Chief Justice Jonathan Lippman, who put juvenile justice reform at the top of his recent State of the Judiciary Speech. Citing that upward of 50,000 16- and 17-year-olds are arrested and processed in adult criminal court in New York each year (the vast majority of these cases are for low-level offenses like marijuana possession and petty larceny), Lippman proposed expanding "problem-solving courts" and "imple-



Clinical Coordinator Jessica Kay and District Attorney Bureau Chief Gerianne Abriano work tirelessly to achieve better outcomes for troubled youths.

menting scientific and social research in areas such as juvenile justice."

The ADP pilot, designed largely by the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) with the collaboration of the District Attorney's office, the Sentencing Commission and other agencies, represents a highly collaborative policy experiment that Judge Lippman hopes will "demonstrate that this approach makes sense."

It is too early in the game to evaluate the pilot's success, but the people involved are clearly enthusiastic. Assistant District Attorney Anne Swern regularly takes time out of her Wednesday afternoon to sit in and watch the cases at 120 Schermerhorn, which are free and open to the public. "Law students are being indoctrinated to a new 'problem solving justice' philosophy," Swern says. "We want the same things as everyone. We want safe communities, and less victims."

A collaborative effort

It is unusual for two judges to work together on the same case. "This is where the case is heard and promises are made," Judge Gubbay explains, clarifying his role in relation to that of Judge

Calabrese at the Justice Center. "But it's in Red Hook that the kids progress is assessed."

Julian Adler, Project Director at the Justice Center, says he is heartened by the element of collaboration that appears to be strong in every stage of the process. He gives credit to the District

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Special April Fools Section



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Growing Up Red Hook

Happy Guano Day!

by Danette Vigilante



Recently, I read an article about celebrities and their use of rather unconventional everyday items as beauty treatments. I read with interest how one beautiful celeb mixes coffee grinds in with her shower gel to prevent cellulite. Another, a gorgeous celeb who appears to be younger than her years, enjoys facial treatments made with bird droppings in order to get her skin squeaky-clean.

I know you're probably thinking these women have lost their minds, right? That's what I thought until ... I collected bird droppings from my winged friends' right in my own backyard. Can you say free facial?

From his window, my neighbor watched in alarm as I used a cup to collect every speck of money saving bird poop I could find. Having conveniently just hung two birdhouses the week before, it was easy work. Before he had a chance to ask what I was up to, I filled him in. "A girl's got to do what a girl's got to do, don't you think?" I didn't really expect him to understand and by the way his eyes bugged out of his head like a bullfrog in mid croak, I was right. His window may have slammed shut, but I could see him peeking from behind the curtain. I wondered if the bird poop could do something to encourage hair growth on top of his large and bumpy shiny bald head.

Finally, when I had gathered enough for an invigorating facial, I headed inside to work the magic.

It's hard to believe but the odor wasn't as bad as you'd think. I mean, I wouldn't use it as perfume because that would just be disgusting, but as something that would be used then washed away, I could do. And did. For fifteen minutes.

When all was said and done, I looked like someone who had just played an *April Fool's* joke on you.

Big grin

Danette Vigilante is a children's author living in New York City with one husband, two daughters, Mr. Noodle, her love hog Yorkshire terrier and Daisy, a cat with a seriously bad attitude. Her newest book, *The Trouble with Half a Moon*, is in local bookstores and available for purchase online at Amazon and other booksellers.

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The Red Hook Star-Revue

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ADP program seeks to stave off life-long criminality by treating youthful offenders as clients rather than criminals

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Attorney's office and to particularly to Gerianne Abriano, who serves as the D.A.'s Bureau Chief at the Justice Center.

"We have not felt the operational strain the way we would if we were dealing with a much less organized and collective effort," he says. "We're able to have conversations with Gerianne, talk about operations, ways to make things more efficient. Gerianne in particular, she is very concerned with process outcome and substance. For a prosecutor to take such an interest in the substantive outcomes is very special."

For Abriano, it is common sense that the various players should be working toward the shared goals reducing crime and especially recidivism among young people. "For me one of the most important things is that it's not assembly line justice," she says of the ADP pilot. "We are not social workers, but we are prosecutors with compassion."

Social workers instead of prison guards

The caseload at the Justice Center - which has three social workers on staff - has increased substantially since the pilot began, and clinic staff are discovering that a high volume of cases from the expanded jurisdiction call for more in-depth and longer-term treatment.

A good candidate for long-term treatment, Kay explains, is someone who has been in and out of the system from an early age and who "verbalises a strong

desire" to change course. The first step of the "long-term track" is a Youth Assessment. During this stage, clinic staff speak to the client's parent or guardian and go over issues and concerns, looking specifically at things like mental health, trauma, substance abuse, education, and their family situation.

The social workers also focus on what the client's interests are, on where clients would like to focus their energy in a positive way. "We take a strength-based perspective to working with our clients," Kay says. "We try to steer away from negativity and find out what's working, what's going well and on getting them involved in their own growth."

The clinic provides the assessment and monitors each case, but it doesn't provide long-term services at the Justice Center. Instead, clinic staff refers clients to the appropriate service providers in a location that is convenient for them to get to. This assures higher rates of compliance than if someone who lives in Queens but happened to be arrested in Brooklyn is mandated to travel

back and forth to Red Hook several days a week.

Kay suspects that the higher volume of cases requiring long-term treatment might reflect the lack of social services offered in other areas of Brooklyn. "Kids that are coming through here now have a lot of different types of challenges," she says. "Young people growing up in Brownsville may not have received the same access to services that kids in or near Red Hook do, even though they need them desperately."

"A work in progress"

The need for a more "social service-rich" approach to juvenile justice is apparent to an increasing percentage of the people who work in the criminal justice system in New York. But the pilot is still in its early stages; there is still much to learn.

The clinical staff continues to fine-tune their approach week by week. "We initially had clients start their program the following Thursday," Kay explains, "but we've found that the probability of compliance is much higher when you have clients come

to the Justice Center the day after their disposition at 120 Schermerhorn."

Kay also mentions that social workers quickly realized that they should bring parental consent forms to court on Wednesdays, so that the parent or guardian of a client in need of long-term treatment can sign it. "Even though the legal system sees these 16- and 17-year-olds as adults," she says, "they are still minors and as clinicians, we still need consent to speak to them." This seemingly trivial efficiency measure is actually quite significant when the goal is to get clients started on their program as soon as possible.

"When I hear the word 'pilot' I think 'work in progress,'" Adler says. "This is not the final model, this is the first attempt at something that can hopefully be refined."

One surprising revelation that Adler hopes will inform future policy is that while the Family Court model which the pilot takes a lot from is very valuable, there are aspects of the traditional Criminal Court model that are worth keeping. Specifically the rights of due process to each defendant.

"I think there's something powerful when you take the Family Court approach and add in the due process in Criminal Court," he says. "You have great outcomes where you don't have to choose between problem solving justice and traditional justice - what you have is justice."

"Law students are being indoctrinated to a new

'problem solving justice' philosophy," Swern says.

"We want the same things as everyone. We want safe communities, and less victims."

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News From the Street

written and collected by the Star-Revue editorial staff



Columbia Street Connector discussed at public meeting

The Columbia Connector is a proposed upgrade of Columbia Street beginning at the Red Hook Houses stretching down past IKEA to the NYC car pound at the end of Columbia Street. The Regional Plan Association (RPA) in conjunction with the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative has created a plan to improve this stretch of roadway. Adding vegetation and shade will provide a more comfortable walking and bicycle path and bring non-car traffic to IKEA. The connector will enhance the enjoyment of the Erie Basin and will include fishing opportunities.

In April 2011, community members pro-

vided their input at a meeting and the result of these suggestions was presented on March 19th at the Red Hook Initiative. Representatives from Velmanette Montgomery and Nydia Velazquez's offices, along with community leaders and key people from the NYC Department of Transportation were shown a slideshow of artists' renderings prepared by the RPA.

At the meeting it was disclosed that the next step would be to seek out funding to begin to make these proposals reality. Parts of the proposal are available at the Greenway Initiative's website: www.brooklyngreenway.org.



On Sunday, March 24th the Gowanus Canal Conservancy held a tree giveaway, courtesy of MillionTreesNYC and New York Restoration Project. The Red Hook Star-Revue was given tree 97, out of 100 given away. Publisher Kimberly Price is pictured above with councilmember Steven G. Levin (pictured above holding a local newspaper). A large crowd gathered before the official opening at 11:00am to get the best trees. Price is shown at right with a Winter Tree Hawthorne.



Softball fields closed

Four softball fields in Red Hook were closed last week after elevated levels of lead were detected in the soil beneath fields 5-8. The NYC Parks & Recreation Dept placed signs indicating the softball fields will be shut temporarily already effecting the local sports season.

Viviana Gordon of the Red Hook Community Justice Center, which coordinates the The Red Hook Youth Baseball League told the *Star-Revue* that the season is postponed as they scramble to find a place to play.

"The Parks Department reached out to us right away last Thursday when the fields were closed, and we are hopeful we'll be able to get permits to some of the other ballfields in Red Hook, as #'s 1-4 and 9 across the street are not closed," said Gordon.

The Dodge YMCA adult league is also scrambling so that their season, scheduled to begin April 9th, can start as planned. They are working with the Parks Department to either use the Red Hook baseball fields, which have passed the lead testing, Prospect Park or Commodore Barry Park fields located in Fort Greene, according to Jake Pittari, league coordinator.

The danger of playing on fields with lead contamination comes from children accidentally ingesting dirt that gets on their body during the course of the game. The city has covered the soil, reseeded parts of the outfield and added clay to the infield

Smith and 9th Street re-opening delayed once more

For the second time the MTA has delayed the reopening of the one subway station closest to Red Hook. The Smith and 9th Street station has been closed since June 2010 for reconstruction. It was originally scheduled to re-open this March, then delayed to April, and now to September. An MTA spokesman acknowledged the difficulty of reconstruction due to the height and age of the station-both of which presumably were already known when the construction, (known as the Culver Viaduct Rehabilitation Project), was being planned. An MTA spokesperson was quoted as saying "We regret the inconvenience."

It was reported in the NY Daily News that the owner of the 9th Street Luncheonette-which operates right under the station-has asked for and been refused a temporary rent reduction, noting that the street traffic that justified his rent has been decreased by 80% due to the station closing.

Greenway Initiative celebrates their new office with a party



On March 22nd, The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, the force behind a planned 14 mile bicycle pathway along the Brooklyn waterfront hosted an open house at their new offices, which will double as an art gallery. Co-founders Brian McCormick and Meg Fellereth flank board members Michael Cairl, President, Park Slope Civic Council, and Tom Fox, founder of NY Water Taxi.

Falconworks holds successful benefit at Kidd Studios



Falconworks, the Red Hook non-profit that allows sixth graders to write and act their own plays, among other things, held a successful fundraiser on Monday, March 26th at Kidd Studios, 133 Imlay Street. With food, drink and music donated, the event did not only raise funds for a worthy cause but was fun for the many locals who came in support.

Falconworks founder Reg Flowers belts out a song, accompanied by Adam Armstrong on bass. The event was organized and sponsored by H/m.



Red Hook community comes together to take care of Home/made after fire

by Kimberly Gail Price

This is not a story of tragedy; it is one of hope, hands and hearts that distinguish a community. A tale we want to hear when we read the morning paper or tune in to the local news. In legitimate adversities, life gives us back what we have invested in the world. In mid-March, two extraordinary women discovered how much they have contributed.

On Monday, March 19, Robin Gomen called 911 as waves of black smoke poured out of a well-loved Red Hook establishment. At the same time, Erin Norris was calling Monica and Leisha of home/made. Within five minutes, four other phone calls had been made to the owners. When the couple arrived, firemen had broken in the door and extinguished the fire. What remained was devastating.

The fire originated with the stove sometime between 4:45 and 5:30 pm. Within that 45 minutes, enough damage has been done to close the location. "We were numb, scared and defeated," Leisha writes in a letter to the *Star-Review*. But, she adds, "we were going to get through this. It was a giant mess, but we built it once, we can build it again."

What happened next shocked the couple. People from around the community stepped up to calm their fears, offering hugs, food and drink. Derek Dominy and Denise Carbonell owners of Metal and Thread, showed up with tools in hand to secure the building after the metal gate had been cut and the door broken in. The owner of Bait and Tackle, Barry O'Meara,

brought shots of whiskey to soothe their anxiety. Michael Prettyman and Chris Hammett brought flashlights and lanterns to provide light for the darkened building. Pete Ascolese at Hope and Anchor sent over dinner. Within three hours of the incident, dozens of others had contributed with kindness.

Over the course of the next few days, as Monica and Leisha worked through emotions and strategies, a barrage of contributions were made. Topping the list of blessings they counted were the people who were eager to help, a fund-raiser organized on home/made's behalf and restaurants offering kitchen space. "Everyone has been involved; it would be impossible to name them all."

The couple built and opened home/made more than five years ago. Since that time, they have added an impressive wine list, either freshly baked or local pastries, and full brunch and dinner menus that tempt even the most selective diners. Home/made is known locally for its inviting appeal to sit and have afternoon coffee in house or enjoy a meal in the friendly back garden. But a great many other things happen out of their small kitchen. The couple caters weddings and other large events. They organize and supply food for profit and non-profit fundraisers and parties. And they contribute to the community in silent unnoticed ways that may have seemingly gone unnoticed.

In the midst of this plight, Monica and Leisha were busy organizing a fundraiser for the local theater group, Falconworks. Instead of focusing on their own com-

motion, they continued forward, making plans to support and cater for an outside group as dear to their hearts as their own. "One thing remains true about this little hamlet by the water...we take care of our own." Leisha writes in her letter to the *Star-Review*. Despite the fire, they continued on with their next event.

This is not the only event home/made contributes to. In their time in Red Hook, they have sponsored and organized dozens of events over the years to connect and build the community. The outpouring of dedication is apparent in a short visit with them. They are passionate about their neighborhood and its people. And in the worst of times, their effect on the community and the passion they inspire is evident because of the outpouring of compassion their neighbors have shown.

On Wednesday, March 28, the official cleanup began. Many people came out to assist; even strangers unfamiliar with the restaurant dropped in to offer helping hands. By 5 pm upon my arrival, interior painting was nearly finished and new dry wall behind the offending stove had been installed. And Monica and Leisha, along with a few remaining helpers were covered in plaster, paint specks and smiles. I was assured that cleanup would resume every day until the finishing touches are complete.

Monica and Leisha are taking the process in stride. On my visit with them, they laughed and reminisced with me. Monica fought through tough parts of the story, as Leisha laid a comforting hand on her



Home/made will reopen soon

shoulder. And they spoke eagerly about the future, expressing a desire for a much larger space to be able to offer more possibility of good-will in the community. I was given the grand tour throughout the entire venue and lovingly welcomed back. They told stories of building before the fire and how they would continue to rebuild no matter what obstacle came next. Most touchingly of all, despite their predicament, they offered their very last sandwich and a bag of Rice Crispy Treats to accompany me back to the office. When there was nothing left to give, they gave anyway.

Monica and Leisha hope to have home/made open within 2-3 weeks. When renovations are complete, they have promised to thank their neighbors with a party to celebrate this very unique community. Cleanup is continuing during the day at 293 Van Brunt Street. All support is welcome, and more than likely, they will have delicious treats as special thanks.

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Reg Flowers

The Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), came to Red Hook last week to talk about the Gowanus Canal. According to the EPA, years of storm water runoff, sewage release and waste disposal have made the canal one of the nation's most extensively contaminated bodies of water. One look at the murky canal's oily surface is enough to see that, but only after being added as a national "Superfund" site and a costly investigation does the government agree cleanup is needed.

The EPA was at the Miccio Center on March 22 to announce Red Hook as a potential processing site for waste being removed from the canal. For all the technical jargon used in the course of an hour, it might have been a meeting of scientists and engineers. The three paragraphs that appear on the Superfund Web site would have been enough to open a discussion and allow the community time for questions. I left the meeting a little confused and extremely exhausted. Many didn't make it through to the end.

The Red Hook fields are also contaminated. That news came as a side note at the meeting. Elevated levels of lead found in Red Hook's fields motivated closing of the parks while officials decide on action. Youth have lost another of the very few options for summer recreation leaving them to the streets. The closing of the ball parks accompanies concerns in the community about encounters with youth and law enforcement which are sure to increase. Young people with nothing to do are open targets for police officers who have quotas to meet.

Local organizations that serve youth in Red Hook might find ways to connect these issues—the EPA's proposal for Red Hook as a "staging" site, the contaminated playing fields and the lack of opportunities for young people in the community. It might be time to develop programming to educate young people and their families about the affects of contamination on health in the community. The EPA in Red Hook demonstrates the existing opportunities for green jobs improving and protecting our community and our planet. These issues and the opportunities they presented here make obvious the importance of the environment as a standard of public education.

It's good the government has taken an interest in the Gowanus, although one might wonder exactly how these Superfund sites are chosen. It seems to have been randomly placed on the list as a priority contamination site. Our EPA experts offered nothing to explain why, after years of existing as a health threat to thousands of middle and low income residents that continue to use the canal for fishing and recreation. It is certainly of interest that now, as the area is becoming gentrified, we have seen two nearby subway stations remodeled and now the cleanup of this long neglected waterway.

Something needs to be done to remove the contaminants in the canal and in the park that are poisoning us and our children. We have some say in how the EPA proceeds in Red Hook. We can also direct our collective power at those who would gain financially from a government project. The EPA doesn't offer community benefits agreements, but there are others involved who can. We might make a clear plan to take advantage of this rare opportunity. Without being adversarial, we might collaborate with local developers. We should proceed with caution, and perhaps legal advisers, to avoid repeats of the past. We might, at least, get it in writing.

For more info, visit :<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanus/>

Curtis Skinner

On Politics

Next Classroom, Please:

A report released last Monday by Councilman Brad Lander, (Democrat—Park Slope area), showed that despite an increasing New York City Department of Education budget, classroom overcrowding in public elementary schools has gotten worse... three times worse in fact.

"In the 2008-09 school year, there were 9,756 students in first through fifth grade classrooms with 30 or more students," read the report. "Today, that figure has ballooned to 31,079 students." And that doesn't take into account kindergarten through third grade classrooms with over 20 students or fourth and fifth grade classes with over 28—those numbers were listed in the Department of Education's yearly enrollment report as being "target capacity." The National Education Association states 15 students per classroom as being the optimal, according to a 2008 report on class size.

Lander's report suggested that teacher attrition is primarily to blame for the increase. With more students entering public schools and fewer teachers to teach them, overcrowding is inevitable. The report—which is full of school data—is available on the councilmember's website.

Considering the success that Councilman Lander has had in affecting policy by publishing shocking reports, (The "Next Bus Please" report on Red Hook's B61 bus line led to the restructuring of lines around Brooklyn.), perhaps this could change the way the New York City Department of Education allocates funds. Though this reporter isn't holding his breath.

Redistricting Battle Settled... For Now:

Last week, New York Governor, Andrew Cuomo approved the state legislature's new redistricting map. Only two seats were actually lost, one in the mid-Hudson Valley and another in Queens. Much of the hubbub over plans that would completely reshape city districts have settled—that is until the Justice Department rules whether the maps respect the Voting Rights Act, which outlawed plans that would "deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color." For now, Brooklyn voters can prepare for voting as usual in the upcoming elections.

But a more relevant—and likely more bitter—battle is set for this spring when the City Council is scheduled to reshape city lines in accordance to the 2010 Census. Those maps will have to be approved by spring time next year. The upside is that after the city redistricting, New Yorkers will not have to deal with these debates again for another decade.

Update on PCBs:

At a City Council hearing last Monday on the New York City Department of Education and School Construction Authority, Councilmember Steve Levin, (D—Brooklyn), took the opportunity to ask the Kathleen Grimm, deputy chancellor of the New York City Department of Education's operations division, about PCBs in Brooklyn schools. PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are carcinogenic substances that were found in certain lighting fixtures around New York City schools. The *Star-Revue* reported the a few issues back, and this April the department will release the first of its annual reports.

As it is, 148 schools are currently undergoing replacement procedures to remove the contaminated lights. The DoE projected that removing all PCBs from the schools would take a decade, a point that did not escape chairman of the committee on education at the hearing.

"I, along with most of my colleagues at the Council, believe ten years is too long," he said in his opening remarks. "PCBs are too great a health risk to our children to delay remediation."

New York State Senator Eric Adams is Trayvon Martin:

When Geraldo River said on Fox and Friends a few weeks ago that "[Martin's] hoodie is as much responsible for Trayvon Martin's death as [the shooter] was," outrage that had been shared by Americans and the media over the slaying of the unarmed, Black Florida teen was fomented into a veritable frenzy. Marches have taken place across the nation and a campaign encouraging people to tweet pictures of themselves dressed in hoodies to show solidarity with the slain teenager and his family was started. Last Monday, State Senator Eric Adams (D—Brooklyn) along with seven other New York lawmakers joined the movement by holding a press conference while draped in hoodies.

"He dressed like the children of today," said Adams. "Where do we find in the greatest country around that legal clothing apparel can cause you to be criminalized and in many cases cause you to be incarcerated and, in these cases, cause you to lose your life?"

But this is a departure from Adams' more accusatory rhetoric of late toward another urban style—namely sagging pants.

"The communities I represent are ground zero for sagging," he wrote in an op-ed article for the New York Post a few weeks ago. "It is symbolic of the erosion of basic, normal decency."

To be sure, exposing "pubic hairs", as Adams puts it, is different from wearing a hoodie that obscures one's eyes. But it does beg the question: when is urban fashion representative of moral decay and when is it something that kids just do to look cool for their friends?

OPINION: Irrational Choice

by Michael Racioppo

On March 20th, there was a special election in New York's 27th senatorial district. The seat, which includes Brighton Beach and Sheepshead Bay, was held by Carl Kruger until he resigned at the end of 2011 following his felony conviction. Both candidates, David Storobin (Rep) and Lew Fidler (Dem) declared victory on election night, but the actual winner is still to be determined. The reason for this is that with a Storobin's lead of only 120 votes, all absentee ballots will still need to be counted and certified.

Regardless of which candidate wins, the loser is already determined. With a scanty 15% voter turnout the loser is democracy. Turnout at such levels is the norm. As an editorial in the *NY Times* pointed out, miserable turnout has become 'a cottage industry in New York' with neither party looking to change things.

That makes sense. Incumbents rarely lose. To push for increased voter participation would risk what is in many elected officials rational self-interest. But why do voters behave in such a way? Some would argue that the current state government

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Racioppo
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is what the people want and if not voting gets them what they want they will not suddenly start voting. This is an application of what is known as **Rational Choice Theory**.

Rational Choice Theory is most famously associated with American Economist Mancur Olson. In his 1965 work “Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups” Olson explains that it is not rational for people to participate in collective action of civic engagement if they can receive the same benefits without participating. So if 15% of people voting is all it takes to get a state government people want, it would be irrational for more people to vote.

The problem is that people do not like the state government but still they do

not vote. In New York we have the application of Irrational Choice Theory. This is a dangerous reality that allows public services that people want and other policies the public supports from being altered and eliminated with no real consequence for those who are responsible. We have unintentionally given the same legislature-the legisla-

of being voted out of office needs to remain a possibility at all times if we want any semblance of accountability. If one did a lot of things that the boss did not want done, Suffering no consequence, would one change? Probably not. The voting public must realize they have firing power and they must learn to exercise it by voting. How can we

“If one did a lot of things that the boss did not want done, suffering no consequence, would one change?”

ture that has allowed fire houses, police precincts, and schools to close-the legislative equivalent of tenure.

Doing unpopular things is not necessarily a reason an elected official should be voted out of office. But the threat

make this happen? How can people come to realize that is a rational action? The answers require an incentivized voting system that I will tackle in my next column.

Michael Racioppo teaches Political Science at Brooklyn College



Criminal Activities

written and collected by Elizabeth Graham
MARCH 16-23

Clutch move

A woman was paying for her Metrocard at 7:10 a.m. at Smith and President Streets when a thug snatched her clutch purse out of her hand and ran out of the station. The quick-thinking victim ran after the thief and notified nearby police officers, who quickly arrested a 44-year-old man just outside the train station.

Knocked silly

A man told police he was struck in the face by someone at the corner of Huntington and Columbia Streets about 12:30 a.m. The victim, 58, couldn't provide any details about his attacker.

Expensive taste

A 46-year-old man was charged with larceny after trying to shoplift \$156 worth of merchandise from American Apparel on Smith Street around 1 p.m. Police caught up with him on the corner of Baltic and Bond Streets, where they also found a crack pipe in his underwear.

Armed robbery

A teenager told police he was robbed of his iPod Touch 4G while he was walking to meet his sister on the corner of Court and Baltic Streets around 3 p.m. The victim, 14, said a black man who looked about 18 pulled out a black handgun before demanding the device.

Angry

A 21-year-old man was shot in the shoulder by someone who fired two rounds at him, then slashed him in the face with a razor before fleeing, cops said. The attack took place in the walkway of a residence at 79 Lorraine St. at 10:55 p.m. A 45-caliber shell casing was found at the site.

Open windows

Someone snagged a laptop in the 200 block of Baltic Street sometime between 8:30 p.m. and 3 a.m., but left something behind. A man told cops he came home to his Macbook missing, and the power cord dangling out the window.

Thief gives advice

Two young thugs scared another teenager into giving up his iPhone and expensive headphones while the victim, 18, was playing basketball on the 300 block of President Street. The victim told cops that two black teens approached him about 9 p.m. One of them pulled out a knife and forced him to hand over the goods, while the other, who was sporting blond dreadlocks, warned him “Just give him the stuff, he’s crazy.”

Nano crime

A woman told police she was walking north on 3rd Place at its intersection with Clinton Street about 9:20 p.m. when two teenagers approached her, showing her a gun. The pair took her iPod Nano and fled toward Court Street. The teenagers were black, about 17 years old, wearing black jackets and jeans.

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Fifth Annual Crit attracts throngs to Red Hook

by Kimberly Gail Price

On March 22, 2008, local Red Hook resident, David Trimble, threw himself a unique birthday party. Known as an “alley cat” race, the Red Hook Crit began with a handful of amateur cyclists in 2008 and has continued to expand. This year’s event drew thousands of spectators, professional and non-professional athletes from around the world and incorporated a 5K foot race.

According to the website the Red Hook Crit, (RHC), is “an unsanctioned race held at night featuring a fixed gear criterium and a 5km running race held over multiple laps of a short technical circuit. The RHC was born in the post-industrial Brooklyn neighborhood Red Hook. This unique event combines the underground art of street racing with the intensity of high level competition.”

It is a common misconception that

road bikes. What made Trimble’s race unique was the use of track bikes. Since the origination of the RHC, other track crits have been established world-wide.



Dan Chabanov’s winning time was 43:53.56

Bicycles must be “fixed gear”, meaning the pedals are locked with the wheels. These bikes have no gears or brakes, and the rider must maintain pedaling with the rotation of the tires. Turning steep corners on the course requires competitors to anticipate turns and resist the spinning of the pedals to slow the bike.

In 2008, the Crit originated on the streets of Red Hook and drew very little attention. No permits were applied for; no sponsorship was sought. Kacey Manderfield from Pennsylvania won the first Crit title as well as bragging rights against all male competitors.

The race continued in 2009, drawing three times the number of spectators. An after party was added to the lineup. The NY Times covered the event among other media, photographers and filmmakers. Neil Bezdek from Colorado took the title.

On March 20, 2010 the Crit continued to grow amassing more than 500 spectators who came out to watch 60 skilled athletes. The race acquired its first sponsors and was covered by other national cycling media. Russian native, Daniel Chabanov, won his first Red Hook Crit title that year.

On a frigid stormy night at the Erie Basin Pier, the race continued to grow. Cyclists from thirteen states and six



A pack of bicycles making one of 25 laps through the cruise terminal.

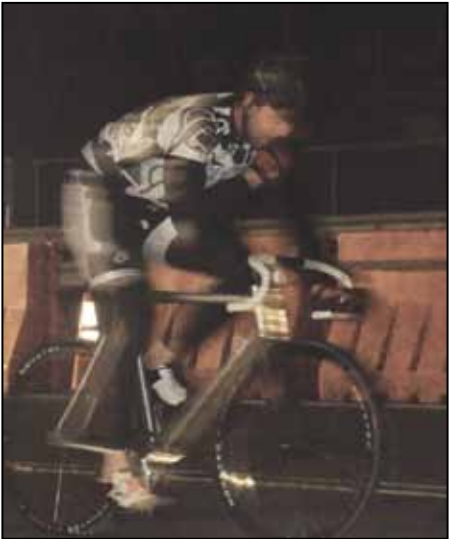
Despite the windy evening, thousands surrounded the course waiting in anticipation for the action to begin. People of all interests showed up to support the event, bringing their children, pets, cell phones and cameras. Friends of the race clad in orange vests policed the track keeping the audience distanced and out of harm’s way. Pop up stores and food vendors were set up in and around the NYC Cruise terminal.

The 5K run began at 8 pm incorporating both men and women. Runners made the 1.25 km circuit four times. An immediate awards ceremony followed, recognizing the top men and women competitors separately.

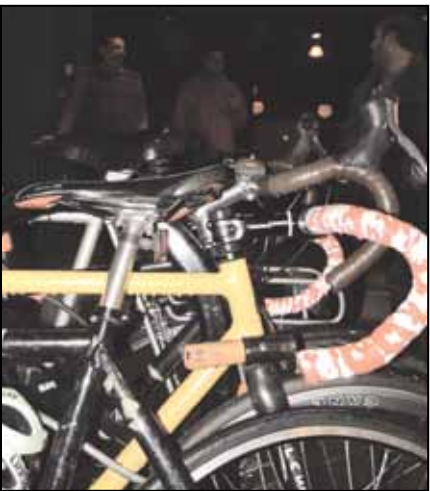
verance, but also because his is able to compete and conquer mentally. His entire life is centered around cycling and racing.

Kacey Manderfield, the top – and only finishing – woman contender, finished 9th. After finishing first in the original Crit, Manderfield has placed in the top ten every year except 2010 when a flat tire forced her out of the race. She now races professionally and is also a national track champion.

In addition to the Red Hook Crit, Trimble has taken his race international. First launched in 2010, a sister race runs every year in Milan, Italy. It is aptly named the Red Hook Crit Mi-



the Red Hook Crit began as an “alley cat” race. An alley cat race is held on an open course consisting of several checkpoints. The competitors can navigate anyway they choose as long as all checkpoints are crossed. The Red Hook Crit was never an alley cat race. It was begun as a criterium race and still holds that status. Criterium is a style of racing that incorporates a set number of laps around a short technical circuit. Standard crit races were mostly run with



Crit winner Dan Chabanov accepts award from David Trimble

countries entered the competition while 1,000 frozen spectators cheered them on. On March 26, 2011, Chabanov won his second championship with the Red Hook Crit.

This year on March 24, Trimble organized the event for the fifth time. In addition to the cycling race and after-party, a running race was offered as well.



The bicycle race was preceded for the first time this year with a 5K footrace.

At 9:20 pm, Trimble led the band of bicycles in a preliminary lap, and shortly after, the contest began. Clustered in tight packs, the bikers began their first lap flying by enthusiastic onlookers. A frontrunner quickly emerged, lapping many. With a time of 43:53:56, Chabanov won his third consecutive title in the Red Hook Crit, finishing almost ten seconds ahead of his nearest rival.

Chabanov, a professional cyclist, credits his ability not only to a physical perse-

lano and will be held in early October.

An after-party was held at the Bell House in Gowanus. Cold beer, club music and candle light welcomed the crowd of weary athletes and enthusiastic fans. The party went well into the night as people celebrated not only the event, but also Trimble’s birthday. “I knew the Crit this year would either be a huge success or a massive failure. Nothing in between.”



Elizabeth Demitriou works the SBDIC pop up booth.

1	Dan Chabanov	Brooklyn	USA	43:53.56
2	Rainier Schaefer	San Francisco	USA	44:02.85
3	Evan Murphy	Ridgewood	USA	44:03.02
4	Zac Felpel	Banner Elk	USA	44:03.17
5	Colin Strickland	Austin	USA	44:03.35
6	Aaron Bradford	Santa Cruz	USA	44:03.53
7	Scott Piercefield	Tempe	USA	44:03.57
8	Raffaelei Maccari	Novellara	Italy	44:03.60
9	Kacey Manderfield	Kutztown	USA	44:03.76
10	Craig Streit	Tempe	USA	44:04.70

	Place	Name	City	Country	Finishing Time
	1	Mengsti Nebesi	New York	Ethiopia	13:57.79
	2	Jon Phillips	Brooklyn	USA	14:18.44
	3	Fikadu Lemma	New York	USA	14:28.04
	4	Austin Ramos	Manhattan	USA	14:44.04
	5	Jason Lakritz	New York	USA	14:46.52
	Place	Name	City	Country	Finishing Time

by Elizabeth Graham

Lesley Ware, a fashion blogger, credited her time working at a non-profit with turning her life around. Ware told the girls she was a young teenager hanging



It was an inspiring evening at the Red Hook Initiative (all photos on this page by Elizabeth Graham)

Inspired by the friends she made there, Ware went to college, eventually getting her graduate degree in public administration. She landed a job with the Girl Scouts before realizing that what she really wanted was to devote her time to her blog by teaching young people about fashion and sewing their own clothes. Confidence and perseverance, she said, are the keys to finding a satisfying career path.

"I felt so locked in because I wouldn't open my mouth. I really thought I had no voice," she told her audience, encouraging the girls to share their stories with her for inclusion in a book she's writing titled "Speaking to be Free."



Panelists take turns telling their story. Star-Revue columnist Danette Vigilante sits second from the left

Red Hook Star-Review Page 9

Letter:

(send yours to letters@redhookstar.com)

March 27, 2012

We would like to thank the Red Hook Star Revue for choosing to do a story about the Red Hook Initiative (RHI) and for featuring it on the cover in the March 1 – 15 edition. For readers unfamiliar with our work, RHI works to create social change to overcome systemic inequities through youth empowerment. In partnership with community adults, we nurture young people in Red Hook to be inspired, resilient, and healthy, and to envision themselves as co-creators of their lives, community and society. There were a few facts misrepresented in the article that we would like to correct.

RHI does not employ 62 residents of the Red Hook Houses

When the Red Hook *Health* Initiative (then a project of Long Island College Hospital) began in 2002 we were a small program focused on improving women's health in Red Hook. The first 10 employees (besides me) were women who lived in the Red Hook Houses. The project was born out of the idea that if given training and the opportunity to learn, people from within a community can create their own social change. At that time, the

"community" was defined as the Red Hook Houses because that is where the disparities in health were greatest. As the organization expanded in scope—transforming from a singular health focus to a holistic model that included education and employment—we also expanded in size. More people were employed in order to meet the wide range of needs we were serving. In 2006 we added a layer of community organizing to our work based on the premise that people can only be as strong as their environment will allow. As we expanded our work to address issues like air quality and public transportation, we started to define our "community" more broadly to include all of Red Hook, not just the residents of public housing. In order to truly work for a better, stronger Red Hook, we could not continue to contribute to the invisible line between the "front" and the "back". This practice would only perpetuate the gap between the "us" and "them" that exists on either side of the neighborhood.

And so, to state correctly, RHI has 65 employees and 62 of them live in or are *from the Red Hook community*, not solely the Red Hook Houses. Some of our young people live on Dikeman Street, West 9th Street, Coffey Street, and

(continued on next page)

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Letter:

(send yours to letters@redhookstar.com)

(continued from previous page)

Columbia Street, yet the challenges they face are the same as the challenges facing young people who live in public housing. Tanya Wilson, RHI's Social Worker, is a good example. She grew up here from birth until she left for college. She went to PS 27. She does not live here now (as the article stated), but she is from Red Hook. She can relate to our participants in a way that a social worker from somewhere else may not be able to. She, like many of our other adult staff, is an ideal role model for our young people because they are able to see someone who came from a similar background, who overcame similar inequities, and is now leading an independent and self-determined life. This is what RHI strives to achieve—to have members from a community working together to create positive change and to instill hope.

RHI is a community center cre-

ated by many

Although flattering, the headline of the article could be misleading to someone who does not know RHI. It implies that the Red Hook Initiative is my own personal project or I own the organization. This is not the case by any means. There have been many hands, many hearts, and many minds that have built RHI. This includes the hundreds of staff members, current and past, who have poured months and years into creating programs, addressing inequities, developing an idea to meet a need, believing in young people and pushing themselves toward a higher standard of excellence. It includes youth who realize they can be leaders and inspire change. It includes parents, seniors, spouses, and children who have volunteered, spread the word, donated clothes for interviews, baked a birthday cake, or simply offered an extra set of hands. It includes the dozens of Red Hook businesses who have generously contributed to *A Taste of Red Hook*, or to a block party, health fair, or a youth event.

RHI was created in amazing collaboration with other nonprofits, churches, and social service agencies that strive toward similar goals. We were built with a dedicated and passionate board (all volunteer)—some from Red Hook and some not, who give of their time to keep us on track toward a stronger future. And RHI was built with the financial support of hundreds of people, many from both sides of Red Hook, who have believed in the power of our work and the vision that we have for a whole community.

On April 26, 2012 at 6pm RHI will have an open house to celebrate our 10th anniversary. We are celebrating the success of the many, many people who have built RHI and the milestones we have all reached as a team. We invite your readers to join us to celebrate. We encourage people who are curious about our work to drop in for a visit. We offer an ongoing opportunity for individuals to get involved. Ten years from now, as RHI is celebrating its 20th anniversary, we can't wait to see the hundreds of Red

Hook residents, from a unified neighborhood, who all offered a hand along the way.

We thank the Red Hook Star Review for their supportive courage of news that matters to the community.

Jill Eisenhard



Art by Ramsey

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Last Issue Answers

1	P	O	C	O	N	O	S	2	T	I	B	U	R	O	N	
3	S	A	I	L	O	R	S	4	O	P	E	R	O	S	E	
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41	A	T	M	S	42	Y	A	R	D	43	T	O	W	E	L	
44	B	45	A	46	R	I	O	47	A	48						
49	S	O	M	E	T	I	M	E	S	50	A	T	I	K	E	A



Art by Ramsey

Photo Credit: Etienne Frossard

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Mostly real words this time

by Fiala

ACROSS

- 1. 76th precinct chief
- 10. Where pigs live
- 13. Scary monsters
- 14. Small quantity
- 15. Kind of skirt
- 16. Places
- 17. Horses do this
- 18. Baldwin
- 19. ___ and Seek
- 20.
- 21. Cultural dna
- 22. Number of little Indians
- 23. Living or Bed
- 24. Too many wants
- 26. Extra pay
- 27. John Entwistle nickname
- 28. Cattle ropes
- 31. 2 words following not cool (urban slang)
- 35. Swimsuit brand
- 36. Basket maker
- 37. People who take
- 38. Local politician
- 39. Perot started this company
- 40. Exploding hot springs
- 42. 70's super group
- 43. Kind of organic compound
- 45. Wild craziness
- 51. Either ___
- 52. ___ George Gershwin (2 wds)
- 53. A traveling exhibition
- 59. Old Lucky Strike slogan
- 60. George's editorial in this issue (2 wds)
- 61. Something for the trash

DOWN

- 1. Land at the fringe of Red Hook
- 2. Concur
- 3. Smoothe feathers
- 4. Wood for some furniture
- 5. Donkey
- 6. Used by some dentists
- 7. Biblical word for bowl (plural)
- 8. Part of a molecule
- 9. Has nine lives
- 10. Made a heap
- 11. Foe
- 12. Not mean
- 15. Auntie of Broadway fame
- 20. Lone Ranger sidekick
- 23. One travels on these

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9			10	11	12
13						14						15		
16						17						18		
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52							53		54	55	56	57	58	
59							60							
61														

- 24. Some Vikings came from here
- 25. Kind of account
- 26. German for beer (pl.)
- 28. Home of the Bayou Bengals
- 29. Architectural part of many churches
- 30. Orchestra section
- 32. Underworld
- 33. Turn aside
- 34. Frugal with words
- 38. Disfiguring disease
- 40. Both Van and Jim sang this song
- 41. Roebling's wife
- 44. A person with oars
- 46. Britsh slang for 54 down
- 47. African staple food
- 48. Handle

- 49. German for duck
- 50. Dr.
- 54. Derriere
- 55. Sharon Jones & the ___ Kings
- 56. Place for trains (abbr)
- 57. Is current
- 58. Iron comes in this
- 60. Modern TV

Our April Fools Gift

by Mary Ann Pietanza

Born outside of Brooklyn, she came to capture Brooklyn when she fell in love some twenty years later. A six-pound bit of nothing when she entered the world on April Fool's Day—a surprise to us all—she became the center of attention almost immediately when her hospital cap came off and we discovered that she was a redhead! That was our second surprise. The third was that she was a girl! It was the hat trick of any April's Fool's Day ever for my husband and me.

Her two doting older brothers quickly became her armor against the world, but in time we discovered her bronze crowning was only the visual surface of the fire she held within that protected her in their absence. A fire that has remained her companion through the years as she championed underdogs and endured her life with many medical challenges. Her name is Amy, the French derivative meaning greatly beloved, and she is my very beloved, exceptional daughter whose pristine skin and penetrating hazel eyes have mesmerized most people who meet her.

Amy spent most of her April Fool's birthdays in the suburbs and according to her, having an April Fool's Day birthday was like dealing with a double-edged sword. It was special because it was sort of a "holiday," but it was trying as a little girl when other children didn't know how to treat the birthday/

fool's day whole heartedly; receiving birthday cards beaming with both best wishes and childish puns from her elementary grade classmates. Then, there was the giddy excitement from the innocents who squealed in delighted envy that she was lucky to have an April Fool's birthday, only to be overturned by the abundance of April Fool's jokes from the more wise and scheming students. As a middle school student, she claims, the worst experiences were being kidded as an April Fool "tween," especially from the boys. But by high school, she recalls, it was almost a dead issue since the focus shifted to social issues as maturity took over. On occasion she met someone who shared her birthday and, together, they expressed some discontent of their 4/1 status, but laughed at some of the jokes they were subjected to hearing in school.

Gradually, through college and pursuing personal interests, the "Fool's Day" went up in smoke as the image of her development as an extraordinary young woman appeared, a specialness which became the real celebration of her April 1st birthday. And a specialness that caught the eye of her soul mate, who reared from South Brooklyn himself. A chance meeting with a Brooklyn Waterfront Artist's Coalition representative landed her in the Hook and as new opportunities awaited her at the BWAC for a period, Red Hook became the mecca of her art world. But as a couple, Brooklyn became their landscape of love and fun,

and a leap into a world of self discovery. A little old habit that Brooklyn has had its way with for many generations.

April Fool's birthday or not, I felt blessed when Amy came into my life. She was, after all, the driving force that led me back to Red Hook with her unbridled enthusiasm and spirit. I wish her much love and happiness on this upcoming birthday, because she is among other things, a very special friend to me.



Amy in front of the abandoned trolleys

Red Hook's War on Drugs

by Mary Anne Massaro

I was just a kid growing up in Red Hook, Brooklyn during the 60's and 70's. I was just a kid growing up like any other kid growing up on the streets of New York. I went to school. I played out on the street or back in the yard. Life was simpler back then, a tight knit community where everyone knew each other. And I was able to feel safe there. As I recall, it was around 1972 when life in my neighborhood began to change. Drugs found our neighborhood, our homes, our families and our lives. People in the neighborhood dealt with the situation in the only ways they knew how. Many took the fight or flight response that occurs in crises. So many families fled their homes in Red Hook in search of a safer place to raise their kids. My family chose to stay because my father had a business there that he felt would never survive the uprooting. I grew up there with my mom, dad, and three brothers. My father tried his best to shield us from the evil that was now living amongst us. Dad would encourage my brothers to play their music. And so one brother took to the guitar, another took to the drums.

My baby brother never found any hidden musical or artistic talents, and so when the drug war entered our home, life was never the same. My youngest brother was just one of the kids lost to the war on drugs back then. I threw all of my energy into schoolwork and writing. I began reading and writing everything that I could get my hands on. My father tried to shield me from the plague by putting me to work in his store. My afternoons and Saturdays of playing on the street were gone. But through the glass doors and windows of dad's store I could still see it.

(continued on page 14)



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- ▶ Well Baby Care
- ▶ Immunizations
- ▶ Adolescent Medicine
- ▶ School, Camp and Working Paper
- ▶ Physicals

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- ▶ Prenatal to Postpartum Care
- ▶ Female OB/GYN'S
- ▶ Birth Control/Family Planning
- ▶ Breast Exams
- ▶ Pap Smear
- ▶ STD's
- ▶ Teen Family Planning

DENTAL SERVICES
Free Dental Screening

- ▶ Free Dental Screening
- ▶ Gentle Dental Exam
- ▶ Preventive Dentistry
- ▶ Cleaning, Fillings and Extractions
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- ▶ Bonding
- ▶ Root Canals
- ▶ Periodontal Treatment
- ▶ Prosthetic Dentures (removable and fixed)



Bar: Columbia Street's Moonshine Bar is ably replaced by friend and neighbor Jalopy by Eric Ruff



Jalopy Tavern joins their eponymous neighbor in bringing life to Columbia Street (photos on this page by Graham)

Six years ago, Geoff and Lynette Wiley opened Jalopy Theater & School of Music. It soon became a mecca of roots music in Red Hook and south Brooklyn. Next door was the funky, musty Moonshine Tavern. Boisterous and booming, it acted as Jalopy's green room and adjunct bar. When it went up for sale last year, Geoff and Lynette jumped at the opportunity. Last week the all new **Jalopy Tavern Bar & Grill** opened its doors.

Outside and in, Jalopy Tavern is warm and inviting; the front window is framed by red lights, echoing the stage next door. Inside the restored wood floors and walls accent the old mahogany bar, unchanged from the Moonshine days. The bar chatter is light and convivial. Musical instruments are stuck in corners, under tables, reminding all of the musical gem next door. Indeed, most of the patrons are, in some way connected to activities next door — either players, singers, or audience. Mandolin student Mike Frank enjoys the opportunity to sit with his teacher and fellow students after his lesson, relaxing over a beer or two before biking back to Manhattan. Geoff comments, "It's nice to finally have our own green room!"

Like the atmosphere, the food is also comfortable. "We plan to do nice family suppers: chicken and mashed potatoes, spaghetti and meatballs, a pot roast with all the trimmings, solid and fresh. Food like Grandma used to make," says Jody Ford, Chief of Cookery. "There aren't any chefs here. We're all cooks!" She continues, "And of course there will be dishes based on the musical headliners next door, such as jambalaya on Cajun nights and barbecue to go along with the country folks."

The quality of the food? "We are very proud that all of our meats are from grain fed animals raised on organic farms. As much as possible, we local source our vegetables from folks like the Added Value Farms, but when local sources are not available we rely on the best organic produce. Tell folks to get here early 'cause when we're out of the Daily Family Supper, we're out for the night. Not to worry, though, there will be plenty of everything on the regular menu." Jody would also like people to know that if they taste something they like, ask and she will spill her secrets and trade recipes.

The backyard is a pleasant surprise, liberally strewn with picnic tables. It is an amenable and easy place to sit, smoke, drink and chat with your neighbor, make new friends, or just get a breath of fresh air (if nobody happens to be smoking, that is). Nadja Paton and her equally blond friend were certainly enjoying the early spring evening discussing the new venue. Paton commented, "I love it! The Moonshine was nice but this is wonderful!" Her friend replied, "I hate it! I want my old Moonshine back!" There's one in every crowd.

With \$3 cans of Tecate and Rolling Rock, \$3 Yuenglings on tap and nightly drink specials, Chloe, the bartender,



Geoff and Lynette Wiley are the masterminds of the rebirth of their block on Columbia Street, bringing their cool musical sensibility from their Chicago roots.

tends to the customers' needs with humor and aplomb. Dorina Favela, her counterpart, manages to keep everything running smoothly. The beer menu is extensive, and Chloe and Dorina probably have degrees in mixology (ask about the Salty Dingo).

So, when you're in the mood for some handmade music, good home cooking, a tall and frothy cold one and pleasant

company, mosey on down to Jalopy's. If you notice the stylized flowers burned into the floor, as Geoff about them. He might tell you the truth.

Jalopy Tavern, 317 Columbia Street, Open every day 4-4. Kitchen open from 6-11 pm Wednesdays through Sundays. www.JalopyTavern.biz



Friendly local Maureen Ferry hoists one with her friend Nadja Payton (left) at the brand new Jalopy Tavern.

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Star-Revue Restaurant Guide

Red Hook

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BOTANICA 220 Conover St (at Coffey St), (347) 225-0147.
DEFONTE'S SANDWICH SHOP 379 Columbia St., (718) 855-6982.
DIEGO'S RESTAURANT 116 Sullivan St., (718) 625-1616.
F&M BAGELS 383 Van Brunt St., (718) 855-2623.
FORT DEFIANCE 365 Van Brunt St., (347) 453-6672.
THE GOOD FORK 391 Van Brunt St., (718) 643-6636.
HOME/MADE 293 Van Brunt St., (347) 223-4135.
HOPE & ANCHOR 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276.
IKEA One Beard St., (718) 246-4532.
JOHN & FRANKS, 367 Columbia Street, (718) 797-4467
KEVIN'S 277 Van Brunt St., (718) 596-8335.
MARK'S PIZZA 326 Van Brunt St., (718) 624-0690.
NEW LIN'S GARDEN RESTAURANT 590 Clinton Street, (718) 399-1166
RED HOOK LOBSTER POUND 284 Van Brunt St., (646) 326-7650.
ROCKY SULLIVAN'S 34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050.
STEVE'S AUTHENTIC KEY LIME PIE, 204 Van Dyke St, (718) 852-6018
SUNNY'S BAR IN RED HOOK, 253 Conover Street, (718) 625-8211

Columbia Waterfront District

ALMA 187 Columbia St., (718) 643-5400.
BAGEL BOY CAFE 75 Hamilton Ave- next to Chase, (718) 855-0500.
CALEXICO CARNE ASADA 122 Union St., (718) 488-8226.
CASA DI CAMPAGNA 117 Columbia Street (718) 237-4300.
CASELNOVA 214 Columbia St., (718) 522-7500.
FERNANDO'S FOCACCERIA RESTAURANT 151 Union St., (718)855-1545.
HOUSE OF PIZZA & CALZONES 132 Union St., (718) 624-9107.
JAKE'S BAR-B-QUE RESTAURANT 189 Columbia St., (718) 522-4531.
KOTOBUKI BISTRO 192 Columbia St., (718) 246-7980.
LILLA CAFE 126 Union St., (718) 855-5700.
MAZZAT 208 Columbia St., (718) 852-1652.
PETITE CREVETTE 144 Union St., (718) 855-2632.
SUGAR LOUNGE, 147 Columbia Street,

718 643-2880

TEEDA THAI CUISINE 218 Columbia St., (718) 643-2737.

Carroll Gardens/ Cobble Hill

ABILENE, 442 Court Street, 718-522-6900,
ANGRY WADES, 222 Smith Street, (718) 488-7253
BAR BRUNO, 520 Henry St., 347-763-0850,
BAGELS BY THE PARK, 323 Smith Street, (718) 246-1321
BAR GREAT HARRY, 280 Smith Street (718) 222-1103
BOMBAY DREAM, 257 Smith Street (718) 237-6490
BOURGEOIS PIG, 387 Court Street, (718) 858-5483
BROOKLYN BREAD CAFE, 436 Court Street (718) 403-0234
BUDDY'S BURRITO & TACO BAR, 260 Court Street, 718-488-8695,
BUTTERMILK CHANNEL, 524 Court Street (718) 852-8490
CASA ROSA, 384 Court Street, 718-797-1907
CHESTNUT, 271 Smith St., (718) 243-0049
COBBLE GRILL, 212 Degraw Street, (718) 422-0099
COBBLE HILL COFFEE SHOP, 314 Court Street, (718) 852-1162
CODY'S ALE HOUSE GRILL, 154 Court Street, 718-852,6115
COURT STREET GROCERS, 485 Court Street, (718) 722-7229
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CUBANA CAFE, 272 Smith Street (718) 718-858-3980
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GOWANUS YACHT CLUB, 323 Smith Street, (718) 246-132,Closed til spring
HANA CAFE, 235 Smith Street, (718) 643-1963
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PALO CORTADO, 520 Court St, 718-407-0047
PRIME MEATS, 465 Court Street, 718-254-0327 or 0345,
PALMYRA, 316 Court street, 718-797-1110
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SALS PIZZA, 305 Court Street, (718) 852-6890
SAM'S RESTAURANT, 238 Court

Street, 718-596-3458
SAVOIA, 277 Smith Street, 718-797-2727
SEERSUCKER RESTAURANT, 329 Smith Street, (718) 422-0444
SMITH & VINE, 268 Smith Street (718) 243-2864
SOUTH BROOKLYN PIZZA, 451 Court Street, 718 852-6018
STINKY BROOKLYN, 261 Smith Street, 718 522-7425
SWEET MELISSA, 276 Court Street, (718) 855-3410
VINNY'S OF CARROLL GARDENS, 295 Smith Street, 718 875-5600
VINNY'S PIZZERIA, 455 Court Street, 718 596-9342
VINO Y TAPAS, 520 Court Street, 718-407-0047
VINZEE'S, 412 Court Street, 718 855 1401
ZAYTOONS, 283 Smith Street, 718 875-1880

Gowanus

MICHAEL AND PINGS, 437 Third Avenue, (718) 788-0017

Red Hook's War on Drugs - a Reminiscence

(continued from page 12)

I could see kids who used to buy glue to make models, now buying it to get high. I could see the pain and devastation it brought to so many homes of people I had known for all of my life. I thought of the dealers as kinds of goblins with bags of demon dust that they would sell to addicted people, making them want more and more. The same baby brother I used to pillow fight with was now the brother I found myself fist-fighting with. It was the same for too many of my friends and their own families. And so Red Hook became known as one of the worst neighborhoods in New York. They began talking about it in the papers. My father, also known as Skinny was interviewed by the New York Times in 1992 for his opinion on the drug situation. And so I am both glad and proud of myself for being able to survive the war on drugs in Red Hook. Today I do still have my battle scars. I grieve for the many years I lost with my baby brother who left our home at an early age. I feel for so many families and friends who also lost loved

ones in the war on drugs either to death, jail or estrangement. As an adult looking back I know that addictions are illnesses. There are no hard feelings, we all dealt with the crisis the best way we could. As they say life doesn't hand you an instruction book. Life as a kid in Red Hook was not perfect; we saw our ups and downs, our days of peace and war. But we all saw it together and we all shared in our joys and sorrows. That is what takes a group of streets and makes them a neighborhood!





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Freelance Writers: The Red Hook Star-Revue is looking for freelance writers for both the arts and news sections. We want to buttress our news as well as local theater and arts coverage. Email Kimberly@redhookstar.com

Outside Salesperson: The Red Hook Star-Revue seeks an ambitious person who likes to walk, talk and make friends in the neighborhood to sell display advertising. Commission to start-work around your hours, no pressure. Call 718 624-5568 and speak to Kimberly or George.

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Art by Ramsey

Photo Credit: Etienne Frossard



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STAR-REVUE ADS WORK

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to place yours

THINGS TO DO APRIL 1-15

If you have an event you would like listed in the Red Hook Star-Revue calendar, please email redhook-starcalendar@gmail.com.

CHILDREN

Bethel Baptist Day Care Center 242 Hoyt St. (718) 834-9292 ACD funded Early Childhood Education Programs, Family Services, and Day Care Services for the Gowanus Community. Call for more info.

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, kentlergallery.org FREE Weekend Art Workshops for Families. Every 1st & 3rd Sat. Sat. 3/17 10-11:30am Drawing Together Family Art Workshop. FREE. Register in advance @ sallie@kentlergallery.org

CHURCH/SYNAGOGUE

Kane St. Synagogue 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1530 kanestreet.org Torah Study every 2nd Shabbat of the Month 11am-Noon. Every Fri. &/or Tues. Through 5/18 Fri. 3/23, Tues. 3/27 10-10:45 Bialy Rock: Jewish Music for kids 6mos.-3 yrs. 6 six classes. \$90 for members, \$120 for nonmembers. Registration required. Fri 3/23, Sat. 3/24 Scholar-in Residence Teaches. Services begin @ 9am FREE Pre-registration required @ kanestreet@kanestreet.org

St. Stephen's R.C. 108 Carroll St. (718) 596-7750 delvecchiorc.com & brooklyncatholic.blogspot.com Every Wed. 6:30pm Choir rehearsal, if interested contact jake@delvecchiorc.com or evelyntroester@gmx.net

Visitation of Our Blessed Virgin Mary R.C. 98 Richards @Verona (718) 624-1572 Every Thurs. 6pm Choir Practice w/ Emiliana In-Home Blessings and Masses, by appointment. Languages available: English, Spanish, Italian, German. Contact: Lori Burkhard at (917) 971-5522 HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Palm Sunday, April 1st - 9 am, meet in Coffey Park for procession that begins at 9:30; 10 am Mass, 12:30 Mass; April 5th - Holy Thursday, 7 pm Mass; April 6th Good Friday, 11:30 am Procession, Stations of the Cross, 2 - 3- Presentation of the Holy Shroud; 3 pm Liturgy of the Word; April 7th, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil 8 pm; Easter Sunday, 10 AM and 12:30 PM Mass

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Brooklyn Collective Gallery 212 Columbia St. (Union/Sackett) (718) 596-6231 brooklyncollective.com Sun. 4/15 3-5:30pm Sewing Workshop for Beginners Pt.1. Sun. 4/22 3-5:30pm Sewing Workshop for Beginners Pt.2

Brooklyn General—128 Union St. (718) 237-7753 brooklyngeneral.com Classes and Workshops for all things Sewing. Call or contact their website for more info.

Carroll Gardens Association 201 Columbia St, Sackett/Degraw (718) 243-9301 carrollgardensas-sociation.com Mon. 4/9 FREE COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES. MS Word/Excel/Powerpoint. FREE. Register at CGA office. 6 week course. Certificate of Completion in Microsoft Office.

The Gowanus Studio Space 166 7th Street (347) 948-5753 gowanusstudio.org Sat. 4/14 11am Digital Film Positive Workshop. \$35 members, \$65 non-members.

Cora Dance 201 Richards St. (Coffey St./Van Dyke St.) #15 (718) 858-2520 coradance.org New Adult Classes. Every Sun.5:30-6:45pm, Restorative Yoga w/Jolene Festa (child care available) Every Monday 10-11am Yoga w/Tessa Wright, 6:30-7:45pm Yoga w/Jolene Festa (childcare available)Every Tues 5-6:30 pm Company Class (rotating teachers) Every Sat. 10:30-11:30 Zumba w/Sarah Folland. Classes are pay-what-you-can. (Suggested donation: \$10 per class, \$15 per class w/child care.) Tues & Thur. 3/1, 6, 8, 13 & 15, 7-9pm Commit to a Healthy 2012. Nutrition & exercise for the modern woman on a small budget w/noted health care professional Pamela Nathenson. Suggested tuition for wrkshp, \$150. Or pay-what-you-can.

Ger-Nis Culinary & Herb Center 540 President St, (3rd/4th Ave.) (347) 422-0337 ger-nis.com Tues. 4/3 6:30-9 pm Fresh Pasta Spring Style: Ravioli & Tortellini. \$65. Wed. 4/4 6:30-9 pm Hot Tamales! \$65. Thu. 4/5 6:30-9 pm Middle Eastern Soups. \$65. Sat. 4/7 11am-1pm World Cuisine Series: Parisian Breakfast. \$65. 3-5pm Kids in the Kitchen: Patisserie. \$40. Tues. 3/10 6:30-9 pm Earthy Grainy Soups. \$65. Wed. 4/11 6:30-9 pm Healthy Do's & Doughnuts. \$65.

Jalopy School of Music 315 Columbia St. (Hamilton Ave/Woodhull St.) (718) 395-3214 jalopy.biz Sat. 4/7 Pat Conte Presents: Sacred Steel: Bottleneck Gospel Guitar. \$25. Sat. 4/14 Shaky Dave's Harmonica Workshop for Beginners. \$25. Sun 4/15 The Starry Mountain Singers Vocal Workshop. \$30.

Yoga Classes 201 Richards St. #15 www.tessamwright.com/yoga. Join Tessa with morning yoga for every one! Hatha style style for all levels. Mondays @10am. Suggested donation-\$10.

YWCA Brooklyn 30 3rd Ave (Atlantic Ave/State St.) (718) 488-1624 ywcabklyn.org

COMEDY

Littlefield—622 Degraw St littlefieldny.com Sun.

4/1 5pm Bay To Brooklyner w/Shonali Bhowmik's 100 Oaks Revival, Madam Trashy, House of Water & more. \$8. Fri. 4/6 7pm Krystle Warren &the Faculty \$20. Sat. 4/7 7pm The Alone Together Tour w/ Billy Martin, Sarah Neufeld, Gregory Rogrove \$15. Sun. 4/8 8pm Angel Olsen, Companion, Emily Reo \$8 adv. \$12 dos. Tue. 4/10 7:30pm Krautwerk 1-8 Condensed: Kraftwerk Covered w/Tim Harrington, Dan Friel, Julie Cafritz, & many more. \$12.50 adv. \$15 dos. Wed. 4/11 9pm Kneebody feat. Special Guests. \$12 adv. \$15 dos. Limited number of 18+ tickets available ONLY @ the door. \$12 discounted tix ONLY w/student ID .Thu. 4/12 Kneebody: Kneebody play the Music of Judee Sill.\$12.50 adv. \$15 dos. Wed. 4/11 9pm Kneebody feat. Special Guests. \$12 adv. \$15 dos. Limited number of 18+ tickets available ONLY @ the door. \$12 discounted tix ONLY w/student ID.Fri. 4/13 7:30pm Kneebody Plays The Music of and with Louis Cole & Genevieve Artadi \$12 adv. \$15 dos. Limited number of 18+ tickets available ONLY @ the door. \$12 discounted tix ONLY w/student ID. Sat. 4/14 7:30pm Kneebody feat. Special Guest. Sun. 4/15 Keith &The Girl, Bridget & The Squares. \$29 adv. \$35 dos.

EASTER/SPRING EGG HUNTS

Brooklyn Boulders 575 Degraw St. 9347) 834-9066 brooklynboulders.com Sat. 4/7 8:30am Sharp! 100's of eggs hidden! \$6 adv. \$10 dos per child.

The Annual Brooklyn Heights Spring Egg Hunt Sat. 4/7 10am @ Pierrepont Playground, Columbia Hgths./Pierrepont St-The Promenade. A bake sale will be held to benefit the Brooklyn Heights Playground Committee. Rain date Sun.4/8.

Urban Meadow 4th Annual Spring Egg Hunt Sun 4/8 10am-Noon. On the corner of President & Van Brunt St.

EXHIBITIONS

440 Gallery 440 6th Ave. (Park Slope) (718) 499-3844, 440gallery.com Gallery hrs.-Thurs., Fri. 4-7pm, Sat., Sun. 11am-7pm, or by appointment. Sun 4/1 April Fool's Party w/ The Easy Rollers. 4/12-5/13 Recent Work by Vicki Behm.

Brooklyn Collective Gallery 212 Columbia St. (Union/Sackett) (718) 596-6231 brooklyncollective.com Thurs.-Sun. 1-8pm. Over 40 artists currently on display.

Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506 bwac.orgThroug April: Wide Open 3: A Juried Art Show. FREE. Sat. 5/12-6/17 Celebrate.

Falconworks Kidd Studio 133 Imlay St. (718) 395-3218 falconworks.com-redhook-theater.org Off The Hook: Youth theater and playwrighting workshop now accepting applications. Red Hook Story Project: Community based documentary theater project open to all Red Hook residents. Donation accepted for all events unless otherwise noted.

Gallery Small New York—416 Van Brunt, (347) 782-3729 smallnewyork.com Gallery hours are Thurs.-Sun. 11am-6pm.

Invisible Dog—51 Bergen Street, theinvisibledog.org (347) 560-3641 Though 4/22 365: The Work of David Horowitz. Through 5/5 Distorting (A Messiah Project, 13C), The Artists of The Invisible Dog

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, kentlergallery.org 10th Annual Benefit: 100 Hundred Artists donate original drawing & works on paper. Fri. 4/12 6-8pm Opening & Meet the Artists. Exhibition Viewing 4/13-5/13 Thur.-Sun. 12-5pm. Benefit Event 5/19 6pm (ticket holders only). \$200 per ticket.

Look North Inuit Art Gallery—275 Conover Street, Suite 4E, (347) 721-3995, looknorthny.com Polar Light: Greenland. The Greenland photography of Rena Bass Forman and the Greenland drawings of Zaria Forman. A climate change awareness exhibition held in conjunction with Al Gore's 'The Climate Project'.

Sunny's Bar Backroom 253 Conover St. (Beard/Reed St.s) (718) 625-8211 sunnysredhook.com & Sunny's Bar on facebook. Through 4/23 Sunny's Red Hook: Photos by Bettina Magi.

FUNDRAISERS/ PARTIES

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, kentlergallery.org 10th Annual Benefit: 100 Hundred Artists donate original drawing & works on paper. Fri. 4/12 6-8pm Opening & Meet the Artists. Exhibition Viewing 4/13-5/13 Thur.-Sun. 12-5pm. Benefit Event 5/19 6pm (ticket holders only). \$200 per ticket.

MUSEUMS

Micro Museum—123 Smith Street,(718) 797-3116 micromuseum.com . Above and Beyond, a three-year retrospective of the art of William and Kathleen Laziza, every Saturday from 12-7pm, refreshments from 5-7pm.,Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2. Say you like "Red-Hook Star Revue" and

get a free gift bag.

The Waterfront Museum Lehigh Valley Barge No.79, 290 Conover Street. (718) 624-4719 ext. 11 www.waterfrontmuseum.org. Free boat tours & open hours all through the year. Thursdays 4-8 pm and Saturdays 1-5 pm in Red Hook.

MUSIC

Bait & Tackle 320 Van Brunt Street (718) 451-4665 redhookbaitandtackle.com Wed. 4/4 9pm Smitty on Steel. Fri. 4/6 9pm Izzak Mills & Paul Rosevear. Sat. 4/7 9pm.OSEI of the Woes. 10pm Chelsea Crowell (daughter of Rosanne Cash) Fri. 4/13 9pm Bridget Davis. Sat 4/14 9pm Apocalypse Five & Dime w/ Woodspider. Sun. 4/15 3pm Robby Reddy Group. 9pm Will Brant & Ben Serentan.

Hope & Anchor 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276. Every Wed. 7pm, Jazz Jam. Every Thurs. through Sat. from 9pm-1am Karaoke.

Issue Project Room @110 Livingston St. (718) 330-0313 issueprojectroom.org Wed. 4/4 8pm Artist-in-Residence: Sergei Tcherepin w/Woody Sullender FREE (\$10 suggested donation) Thur. 04/5 8pm The New Monuments, Marcia Bassett & Samara Lubelski, Lasse Marhaug-CD Release Party \$10, \$8 members. Sat. 4/14 8pm Artist-in-Residence: Hunter Hunt-Hendrix FREE (\$10 suggested donation).

Jalopy Theatre and School of Music 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Every Wed.



9pm Roots & Ruckus FREE. Thur. 4/5 8pm Berklee School of Music Show \$5. Fri. 4/6 9pm Lara Ewen/ Ellen Cherry \$10. Sat. 4/7 9pm. M Shanghai String Band & Friends. \$10. Thur. 4/12 9pm Veveritsee Brass Band \$10. Fri. 4/13 9pm Doug Hatt Big 50 FREE. Sat. 4/14 8pm The Poor Riders \$10. Sun. 4/15 8pm The Starry Mountain Singers \$12.

Montero's Bar 73 Atlantic Ave. @ Hicks St. (718) 534-6399 monteros-bar@facebook.com Karaoke w/Andy & Amber every Fri. & Sat. 10pm Same \$10 ea. Sat. 3/4 8:30pmEvery Wed. after. 8pm-Midnight. The raucous musical concoctions of The Red Hook Irregulars. All Acoustic. Guest Players invited.

The Rock Shop—249 Fourth Ave. (President St./Carroll St.) (718) 230-5740 therockshopny.com Every Sun. 8:30pm Trivia Twist FREE. Every Thur. 9pm Kings of Karaoke FREE. Sun 4/1 8pm Buxton \$8. Wed. 4/4 3pm Mil's Trills Music & Storytelling Series for Babies & Toddlers (ages 0-4) \$15. Thur. 04/5 8pm Grand Lake Islands, Robin Baciore, The Go Around \$8. Fri 4/6 8pm Josh Flagg, Von Shakes \$8. Sat. 4/7 8pm Abby Travis, Ward White \$10. Sun 4/8 7pm The N'ere Dowells, Darn Dog, The Jacobins, Gradients \$8pm. Mon. 4/9 7:30pm Amelia & The Family, Business, Lips \$8. Tue. 4/10 8pm Comedy Night: Chris Gethard, Jordan Carlos, Rob Cantrell \$8 adv. \$10 dos. Fri. 4/13 8pm. The Secret History, Summer Fiction, The Smittens, Andy & the Amethysts \$8. Sat. 4/14 8pm Neutral Uke Hotel, Golden Bloom, Michael Epstein \$10. Sun 4/15 8pm Chris Pureka \$20.

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Every Mon, Tues, Wed 8pm Live Irish Music Every Last Wed 8pm Readings By Authors.Every. Thurs. 9pm Rocky's World Famous Pub Quiz, Every Sat Live Rock 'n Roll. Fri.3/23 9pm Greg Trooper. FREE. Fri 3/30 9pm The Shirts. FREE.

The Star Theater Acoustic Jam & Hootenanny 101 Union St. btwn Columbia and Van Brunt (718) 624-5568 Every Monday Night 8pm. C&W to Jazz (with a healthy dose of Blues in the middle). Bring your Axe & Your Favorite Beverage!

The Star Theater Electric Jam 101 Union St. , Columbia / Van Brunt Every Thur. Night 8pm Hard rock, Jazz, Blues. Full Back Line. Refreshments provided. Donations accepted.

Sunny's Bar 253 Conover St. (Beard/Reed St.s) (718) 625-8211 sunnysredhook.com & Sunny's Bar on facebook. Fridays and Saturdays, live local roots music.. Every Sat. 10pm Bluegrass/Folk Country Jam.

Union Hall 702 Union Street @5th Ave (718) 638-4400 unionhallny.com Every Sun. 7:30pm Pretty Good Friends. Comedy host by Eugene Mirman \$7. Every Fri. Midnight Karaoke Killed The Cat FREE. Every Sat. 11pm CRAZY \$INCE DA 90\$ FREE.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Brooklyn Greenway Initiative 153 Columbia St., Kane/Degraw St. (718) 522-0913 brooklyngreenway.org Through 5/25 The Ceramic Arts of Kathryn Robinson-Miller. 30% of the proceeds will go to suppoet BGI's work.

Brooklyn Public Library-Carroll Gardens 396 Clinton St. @ Union St. (718) 596-6972 brooklyn-publiclibrary.org/locations/carroll-gardensKnitting Club (all ages) Every Tues 4pm mezzanine Memoir Writing (adult) Every Wed. 6pm Chess Club (all ages) Play and improve your game. Bring your own clock. Fri. 3/16 Storycraft: Listen to reading and make art. 6:15-7:45pm RIF, Earn Free Books! Sat. 3/17 10:30-11:39am Carol & Friends Storytime. Suggested ages 4-6 yrs.

Community Board 6 250 Baltic St. (718) 643-3027 brooklyncb6.org Mon. 4/12 6pm @ 250 Baltic St. Court/Ciinton Sts. Bar/Restaurant Informational Meeting.

CoWNA (Columbia Waterfront Neighborhood Asso.) cowna.blogspot.com

READING & LITERARY EVENTS

The Gowanus Studio Space 166 7th Street (347) 948-5753 gowanusstudio.org Sat. 4/14 11am Digital Film Positive Workshop. \$35 members, \$65 non-members.

The Community Bookstore 143 7th Ave. (718) 783-3075 communitybookstore.net Sun. 4/1 11am Story Time w/ Nursery Rhyme Comics. Tue.4/3 7pm Jonathan Safran Foer @ Congregation Beth Elohim. Sat. 4/14 6pm Author Reading: Magaret Overton, author of Good In A Crisis. Sun 4/15 5pm Author Reading: Jezra Kaye from The Tatooed Heart, Ellen Greenfield from Come From Nowhere.

SCHOOLS

PS 15 71 Sullivan St. (Columbia/Van Brunt Sts.) (718)330-9280 schools.nyc.gov Fridays - 11am-noon Toddler Time Programs: 1 hr of playtime & storytelling. Open to everyone. .

PS 29 425 Henry St. (718) 330-9277 ps-29brooklyn.org

Summit Academy NY 27 Huntington St. (718) 875-1403) summitacademycharter-school.org

TASTINGS

Botta di Vino—357 Van Brunt St., (347) 689-3664. Friday night candle light blind tasting. "Discuss what you smell, taste and feel with your own palate. a group forum for wanna be wine geeks" Admission requires one purchase.

Dry Dock Wine + Spirits—424 Van Brunt St., (718) 852-3625, drydockny.com

MicNik Lounge 200 Columbia St. (917) 770-1984 'Rebel! Rebel!' (Gay Night) every First & Third Thurs. 9pm-2am Cheap Beer, \$6 well drinks, friendly crowd.

THEATER

The Heights Players 26 Willow Place, heightsplayers.org (718) 237-2752 Fri. 4/13, 20, 27 8pm Sat. 4/14, 21, 27 8pm. Sun 4/14, 22, 29 2pm Sunrise At Campobello \$15 Adults, \$13 Seniors & Children under 18.

WALKING TOURS

A Tour grows in Brooklyn 1212 64th St.(212) 209-3370 brooklynwalkingtour.com A historical walking tour of Brownstone Brooklyn featuring the childhood home of Al Capone, the history of the Williamsburg Bank, and the Revolutionary War battle site The Old Stone House. Real Brooklyn Pizza Lunch included. Daily 10am-1pm, \$40

Urban Oyster (347) 618-TOUR (8687) urbanoyster.com Sat. 2/4,11,18,25 Noon-3:30, Brewed in Brooklyn Tour (Williamsburg) Brewing, Bottling, & bootlegging in historic Williamsburg. Samples, pizza and fresh lager lunch included. \$60

The Chassidic Discovery Welcome Center 305 Kingston Ave. (718) 953-5244 jewishtour.com The Daily Hassidic Walking Tour. Sun.-Fri. (Except for Jewish Holidays) 10am-1pm. An intimate tour through the not often seen aspects Hassidic life & culture. Kosher NY Deli lunch & vendor discounts included \$42, Advance purchase required. Call or e-mail for availability.

April 1, 2012

EPA Speaker Captivates Audience at Community Meeting

by Matt Graber

Hundreds of Red Hook residents turned out at the PAL Miccio Center in late March for a public information session on the Gowanus Canal cleanup project, which they had reason to believe would be riveting and truly enlightening; they were not disappointed.

The main speaker, Christos Tsiamis of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), is still drawing up the plans for removing and disposing of massive amounts of toxic sludge from the bottom of the canal.

A dynamic man and a gifted orator, Tsiamis delivered his hour-long presentation to a spellbound crowd that overflowed out of the gymnasium, filling the hallway and lobby and culminating in a line that hugged the perimeter of West 9th Street and Hamilton Avenue.

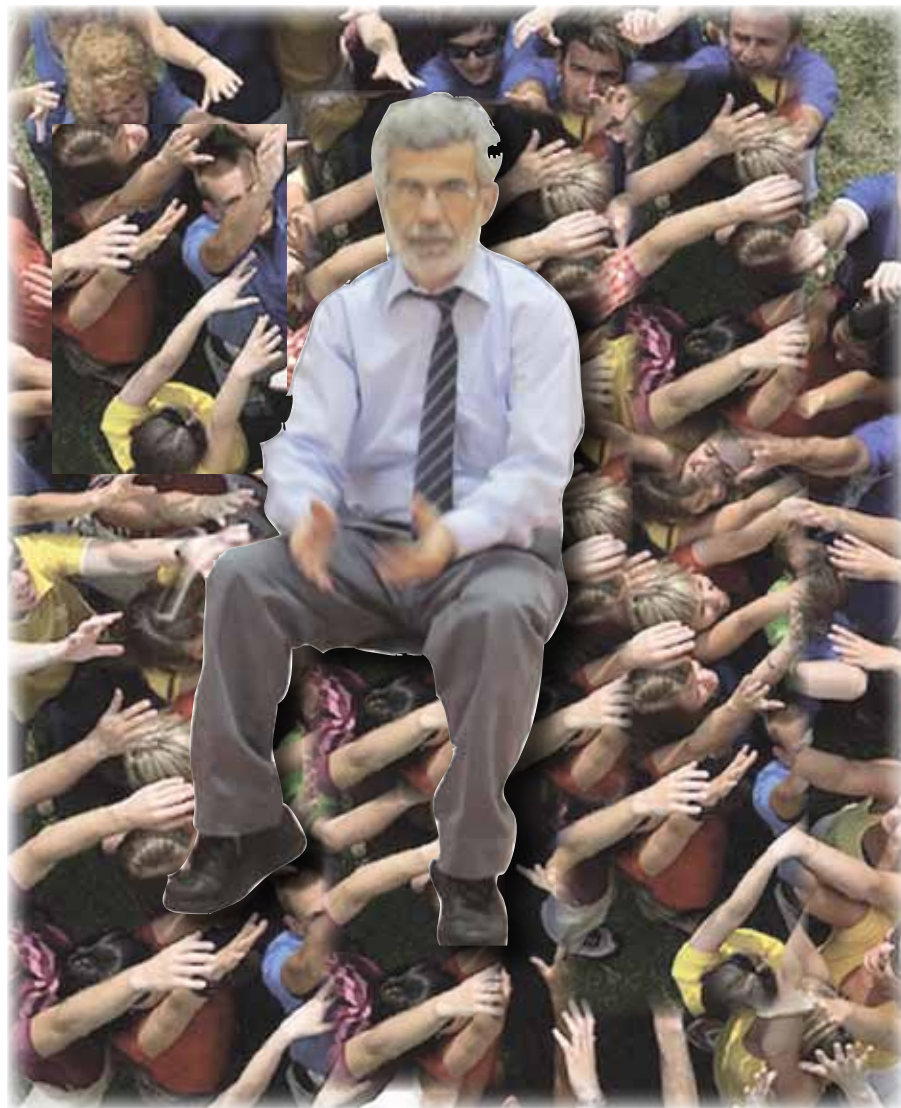
During his "presentation" - a word that some audience members might argue does not do justice to the depth, breadth, scope, and sheer brilliance of Tsiamis' performance - the speaker explained in vivid and colorful detail the myriad challenges posed by the ambitious project, which could cost up to \$400 million.

He primarily focused on the challenge of scooping up the 100-plus year-old mash of sewage, industrial waste and metals from the canal floor and figuring out what the heck to do with it all.

"Once he started talking about the difference between the soft and hard layers of sediment at the bottom of the canal," said Jaren Kapluki, a local blacksmith and part-time hand model, "I knew that I was in for quite a ride."

EPA representatives entice crowd with their futuristic gadgets

The rhetorical roller-coaster ride of facts, graphs, charts and hedged statements that followed was enhanced even further by state-of-the-art EPA computer technology, which only made the presentation more



After the meeting, thousands of cheering Red Hookers hoisted a triumphant Tsiamis on their shoulders and paraded him to Valentino Pier (photo by Spiro Agnew)

"Once he started talking about the difference between the soft and hard layers of sediment at the bottom of the canal," said Jaren Kapluki, a local blacksmith and part-time hand model, "I knew that I was in for quite a ride."

thrilling and more mind-opening to those who had arrived early enough to be allowed into the gymnasium.

Seated at a foldout table just to Tsiamas' right, a fellow EPA member, Brian Carr quietly and expertly manipulated a special "Powerpoint" computer program that, with the

help of a few wires, can actually superimpose the full-color PDF image on his laptop onto a canvas screen that everyone in the packed room could see.

"That was the kicker for me," recalls Tito Sternfeld, a resident of the Columbia Street Grain Terminal and

an environmental justice scholar. "As soon as I saw the futuristic machines that these folks were bringing to the table," he said with tears forming in his eyes, "I knew that they meant business and that I was about to have one of the most memorable evenings of the month, possibly my whole life."

This is not to say that Tsiamas in any way **needed** his savvy cohort and the fancy EPA technology to hold the audience's attention; he could have easily gotten by simply on the power of his own bellowing voice and physical gravitas.

"He didn't need all that technology," Sternfeld added. "It was just the icing on what was already a really, really sweet cake."

Tsiamis' reputation has grown since the last public meeting in January

Tsiamis gave a similar presentation back in January of this year, which helped to spread the thrill throughout the Red Hook community of this charismatic and brilliant speaker. Word of his eloquence was dispersed through the neighborhood blogs and social media, not to mention the local bars, where several audience members went after that first meeting. They were so exhilarated that they needed to have a few drinks to cool down.

All of this local hype ensured the record-breaking turnout at the March meeting.

"After being one of the privileged few who had the foresight - well, the luck, really - to attend the January meeting, I knew that I had to be here to see what he was going to do next," said Susan Menchkowskoskiano, who hosts monthly musical chairs singles mixers at her garden apartment on Dikeman Street.

Menchkowskoskiano is a recent grandmother found herself faced with a tough decision when she learned that the EPA meeting would fall on the same evening as her

(continued on page 3)

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:



Gowanus water found to have extraordinary special powers - p. 2



Artist spends six years creating art under Beard Street, comes out blinking - p. 7



Food Critic Chokes on Chicken and Dies - p. 7

Bathing season to commence at Gowanus Canal in late spring - crowds expected to partake in healing waters

On Monday, March 26, 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA), released a statement announcing their utter failure of a diagnosis on the condition of the Gowanus Canal. Despite its murky color and fowl stench, studies have proved that the canal is actually rich in cancer-fighting minerals and nutrients. Scientists are clamoring over this new discovery and are reaching out to local politicians to prevent widespread hysteria and massive chaos as ailing persons arrive in droves to partake in the miraculous waters. They predict 7 million visitors will congregate at the site this year alone, possibly depleting the life saving bacterium that has built up in the canal over the past two decades.

EPA is now scrambling to get entrance booths set up along the perimeters to control the influx of bathers. "We are hopeful that by mid-May, all borders will be secure allowing us to open the facility to local residents," says EPA spokesperson, Gerry McPowell. "We must retain the upper hand and keep hysteria to a minimum, lest we lose all of our integrity."

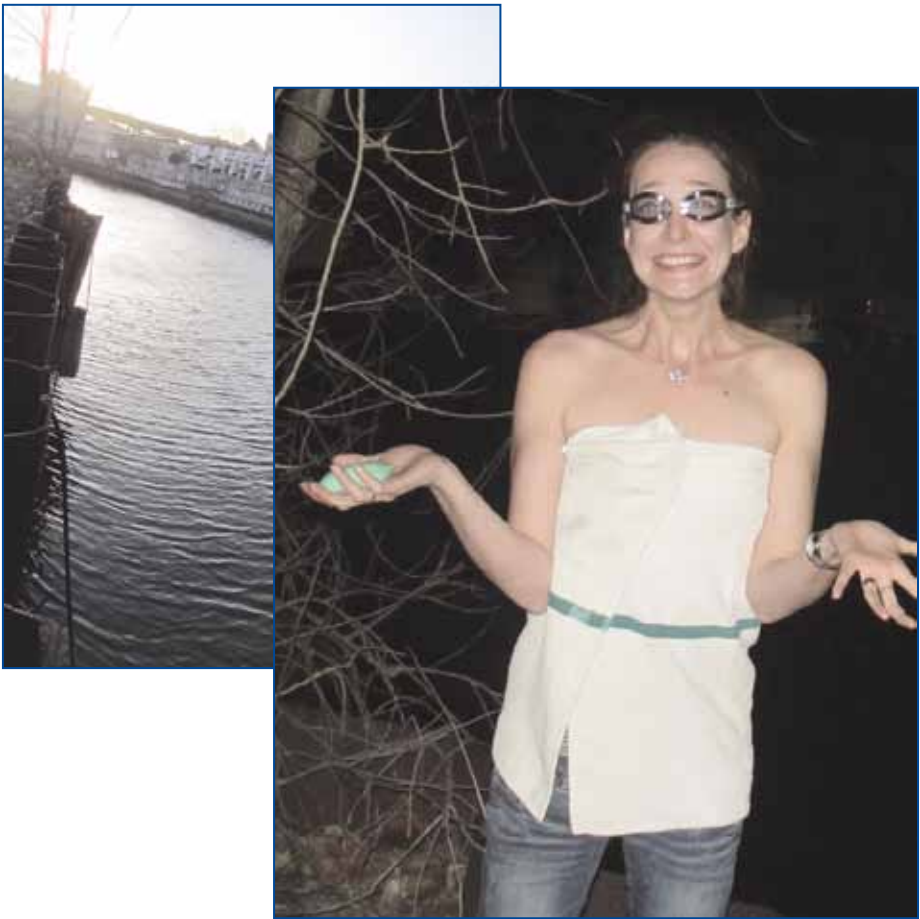
The canal will be opened for Brooklyn based bathers as early as May 21st. All borough residents are encouraged to partake whether ailing or well as the water provides preventative impacts. Special guidelines have been set by borough President Marty Markowitz for participants. "We hope that everyone will partake in this opportunity, but we cannot allow total madness to ensue. I will maintain order, espe-

cially after my harelip is healed!"

No clothing will be allowed near or around the area, and residents must make the trek nude in order to prevent the spread of cooties. Special organic soap will be distributed on site to preserve water quality; any other cleaner may cause hostility among the friendly parasites. A 20 minute time limit will be delegated for each participant to avoid overexposure which scientists agree could result in immortality. No procreating in the waters will be permitted out of fear that a superhuman may be conceived.

Local government is amending legislation to allow toleration for EPA's restrictions. No indecent exposure summons will be issued within 30 miles of the canal as long as the offender is travelling to or from the Gowanus Canal, which allows more bathers to leave their houses unclad. Off-side parking will no longer be in effect at any time on any block within a two mile radius of the proposed entrances to prevent congestion and lack of parking. MTA has also agreed to suspend any further work on the Smith/9th Street station until 2025 to allow construction to be focused solely on building a new line with seven different drop-off locations just outside the canal. According to MTA, the new stations will be up and running for the canal's grand opening - so they say.

Happy Hour will take place at the site Monday through Friday, 3-6 pm encouraging the filtiest of residents to bathe more regularly. After their scrub-down, Happy Hour bathers will receive a handle of cheap whiskey and a gallon of ice cream which

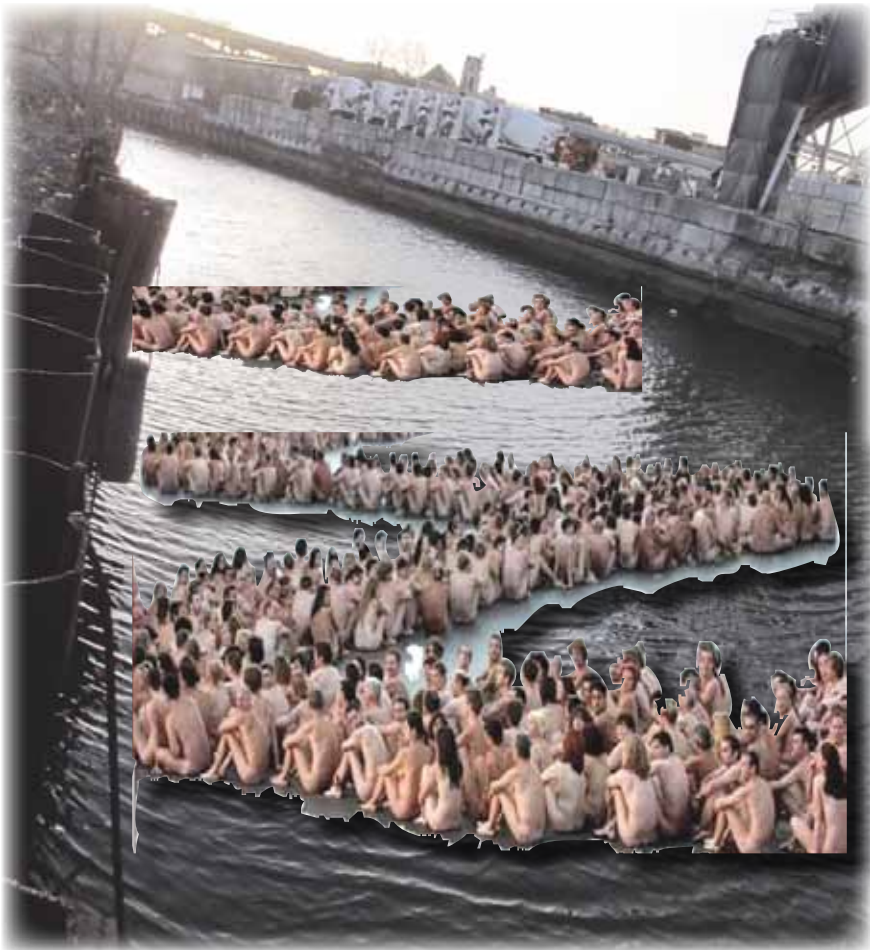


will be paid for with the taxpayer's money. Voters should not have a problem with this because according to Councilman, Steve Levin, "constituents will be healthier, needing less sick days away from work, therefore making more money in the long run. We also estimate that the human life span will increase by anywhere from 15 to 40 years as a direct result, thereby making it possible for taxpayers to work an extra ten years. When you look at it in the long run, really people will be making more money, despite these tax increases."

For those unable to bathe themselves, technicians will be available

24/7, excluding government holidays although after a brief series of bathing in the supernatural waterway, EPA believes these measures will no longer be necessary because of the healing power the canal possesses.

A local resident, Shirley Gunther, commented, "For too long this has been a government conspiracy. Now that we have honest people in charge, we all can benefit from this unbelievable resource. Someone please call the Spaniards; the Fountain of Youth has finally been discovered!"



Welcome to YOUR silly newspaper!

The Blue Pencil Lunar-Revue

The Shame of South Brooklyn Volume 1 No. 1, April Fools, 2012
Founded in 2010 by Carlos Santana and Jimmy Carl Black

Harley Man	Matt Graber
Goodwill Bell Ringer	Elizabeth Graham
Director of Candy Distribution	Angelika Mitchell
Wild West Captain	Mike Racioppo
Ghost Wrangler	Eric Ruff
Wino Expert	Mary Ann Pietanza
Fairy Godmother	Mary Anne Massaro
Self Proclaimed Lettuce Face.....	Curtis Skinner
Queen of Red Hook	Kimberly G. Price
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New Stop and Chat policy makes local minorities uncomfortable

by Matt Graber

Local police are trying out an aggressive new tactic to build better relationships with residents of Red Hook: this tactic is being referred to as the “stop-and-chat.”

The innovative strategy is being implemented most heavily in the Red Hook Houses, where “stop-and-frisks” are also highly prevalent.

Hostilities have grown in recent months over the city’s controversial stop-and-frisk policy, which advocates fiercely oppose, claiming that the practice violates civil liberties and unfairly targets Black and Hispanic young men.

Dozens of Red Hook residents - organized by Occupy Red Hook - came to the 76th Precinct Community Council meeting last month to complain about these unpleasant and sometimes scary encounters with police officers.

To counter this trend and foster a better perception of the police among young minorities, Captain John Lewis, the 76th Precinct Commanding Officer and an all around nice guy, has initiated the experimental new stop-and-chat policy.

“It’s important that young people especially feel that the police officers patrolling the streets are on their side,” Lewis explained. “We’re just like them,” he added. “Except most of us are older, and we have cool

belts with all kinds of neat doodads - like Batman.”

Young minorities are a little bit weirded out

Some local residents are uncomfortable with the new practice, which if successful here in Red Hook, might become a model for the rest of New York City. Daryl Kaplin, 17, of the Red Hook West Houses, says he has already been stopped and chatted several times this month.

According to Kaplin, who is African-American, these encounters are sometimes confusing and always



awkward. “It’s really off-putting,” he said. “I’ll be walking home from school in broad daylight, and suddenly I got two cops asking me how I’m doing, and if I’d seen the game last night or whatever. It’s weird.”

Captain Lewis attributes this negativity to the “learning curve” that applies to all professions, including police officer. “It takes time to become confident in your abilities and there is definitely a period of trial and error,” he said.

Some stop-and-chats wind up leading to a stop-and-frisk

The Community Affairs Department at the 76th Precinct recently confirmed rumors that stop-and-chats very often result in impromptu stop-and-frisks. Community Affairs Officer Vincent Marone says that 38 percent of the time, “one thing leads to another.”

But Marone is quick to point out the inherent flaw in this statistic. “If you’ve been stopped and chatted,” he says, “then how can you be stopped and frisked at the same time? You’ve already been stopped, so it’s really a matter of being frisked, since the initial stop was for the purpose of a chat.”

The high frequency of stop-and-chats turning into frisks is not surprising when you look at the criteria - as documented in a 2010 report by John Jay College of Criminal Justice - on which police officers have to base their reasons for stopping and frisking someone.

The most common criterion is “furtive movements,” or any suspicious or unusual movement on the part



A young man forced to listen to police chatter in the process of developing an earache (photo by TB Barnum)

of the suspect. Advocates contend that as a result of the learning curve, many stop-and-chats are so uncomfortable and awkward that the person being stopped often begins to move furtively. This makes the officer feel endangered, and that’s when the frisk becomes necessary.

“It’s awkward for everyone involved,” says one officer who requested to remain anonymous. “And it’s that much more awkward when you’ve been talking to someone for ten minutes and really getting to know them,” he went on. “But once they start moving around in a furtive manner, my training kicks in and I have to pat them down.”

EPA Speaker Feted

(continued on page 1)

granddaughter’s baptism ceremony. “It wasn’t really that tough at all to decide,” she said. “Not with this speaker at the head of the room.”

In addition to speaking about the ongoing EPA feasibility study, Tsiamis took several questions from audience members eager to engage in discussion with the man with his immaculately groomed salt-and-pepper beard and his ethnically ambiguous but undeniably charming and exotic accent.

Tsiamis generously fielded these questions from local residents - who were obviously way below his level of knowledge and intellect - with great patience and aplomb. On a few occasions a speaker challenged some aspect of his plan to clean up the canal. But he let these almost endearingly naive skeptics down mercifully, without making them feel embarrassed for thinking, for one second, that they had found a hole in his bucket.

An evening that will be etched in the memory of all who were present

Upon leaving the PAL Miccio Center at the end of the meeting, Nina Merkel remarked that of all the community meetings she has attended since moving to Red Hook in 2002, this was the only meeting that had ever made her feel like a true partici-

pant in a democratic society. Merkel, who grew up in East Berlin in the 1970’s, equated the feeling of hearing Tsiamis speak and witnessing his impact on the crowd with the cathartic moment of watching the Berlin Wall come down.

“Look around you and see the faces,” she said standing by the exit as a herd of elated audience members spilled out of the building. A group had hoisted Tsiamis on their shoulders and were parading him down West 9th Street. He looked like Eli Manning sitting atop a float at the Superbowl parade, albeit more regal and sophisticated.

The parade continued all the way down to Imlay Street, where artist Dustin Yellin held an impromptu after-party at his newly renovated warehouse studio. Other glamorous personalities soon joined the party, among them the magician David Blaine, who blew everyone’s mind when he chopped his own hand off, only to pull it out of the jubilant Tsiamis’ breast pocket and put it right back on again like nothing happened.

“What you are looking at are the faces of hope, of optimism, of excitement, all thanks to this man,” Merkel added. “What an evening!”



These Boots Are Not Made For Walking....

They are made for kicking meetings to order

Ask about our line of moustache brushes

Hook Fashions, 422 Beard Street, Red Hook



News That Monkeys Could Write

we won't tell you who really wrote these



MTA finally solves B61 bus dilemma

Due to overcrowding, and a lack of funding, B61 drivers will now strap passengers to the outside roof of buses once filled to capacity. Fares have increased to \$30 per ride to create a budget for ropes and tarp straps needed to ensure passenger safety. MTA estimates that an extra 50 commuters will be able to be tied down by stacking bodies. After cutting bus service and removing the B77 line in 2009, many complaints have been lodged in the area. Patty Schnider, spokeswoman for the MTA, emphasizes the importance of efficiency in hopes that, "people will be much less indignant about our services." More people will be transported on fewer buses, causing less pollution and traffic, making MTA more environmentally friendly. Schnider declined to comment on whether or not this new service is handicap accessible.

MTA is also spending exuberant amounts of money researching the possibility of implementing a new system of dragging passengers behind the buses via pulley straps. They - once again - stress the importance of safety first, maintaining this feature will not be available until further investigation determines the pulley systems will not detach, leaving commuters stranded in the middle of dangerous intersections.

"Well, I guess they gotta do something," lifelong B61 rider, Tenisha Long, affirms. "And I think if they be havin some kinda ideas, that'd be different than no ideas at all."

Snow Good

News has come down the pipeline that Red Hookers are extremely disappointed with the lack of snow this winter. As a result, many gathered in protest against Mother Nature in Coffey Park last weekend.

Some signs accused Ms. Nature of ignoring Red Hook for political reasons, while others simply called for her resignation. When asked who her possible replacement might be, one protester suggested the Tooth Fairy, since she has experience in being in many places at one time. Another put in his vote for the Sandman, since he has many free hours during the day.

When word got out of the unfairness in which Red Hook has been treated, the people of Vermont graciously agreed to assist in their plight of the snowless Hook and donated two hundred and fifty dump truck's worth of clean, crisp Vermont snow.

Doing the right thing in Coffey Park

Spike Lee announced last week a huge musical event in Coffey Park to coincide with the release of his brand new movie **It's Hot in the Red Hook**



Houses in the Summer. The concert, scheduled for Sunday, April 15th, will feature a host of Brooklyn superstars including the Bestial Boys, rapper Kay Zee, Danette Vigilante, and what's left of the Fugees. "I tried to get Denzel and Wesley, but they're still trying to figure out what they was supposed to do in my earlier movie **Mo Better Blues**. They wasn't quite ready to take part in another one of my productions," Lee told the **Star-Revue**. "Instead, we booked a klezmer band from Long Island City, The Richard Street Yishbachks. I don't even know if the fuckin' Fugees will show up, that woman Lauren Hill has gotten way too big for her britches singing that goddamn reggae music. I mean, sure I listened to Bob Marley. When I went to school we all was wearing dreads back then to be cool, but that don't make it hip-hop. But maybe she'll get her shit together and sing an old Temptation number or something. If not we'll hafta book Ben E King or somebody like that for the old fogies."

General public will not be admitted, nor will the performers be paid because Lee spent his total fortune in paying for his latest movie himself. "We will be serving leftover popcorn donated by movie theaters who had expected overflowing crowds at the opening of **It's Hot in the Red Hook Houses in the Summer.**"

Fundraiser for Valentino Pier Extension announced

Added Value, the Van Brunt Street corporation that charges people to grow tomatoes in an abandoned lot by IKEA, announced last week that it would take part in a fundraising campaign to clean up the Valentino Pier Extension Project, made necessary by NYC's decision that they would only contribute a few bushes to the proposed boardwalk.

The project, if approved, would extend the pier all the way to Liberty Island, making it possible for pedestrians to walk directly from Red Hook to the Statue of Liberty.

A spokesperson for Added Value said that they have collected a large quantity of old beer cans, used condoms and dirty hypodermic needles from archaeological digging on the lot and are planning to auction them off in a special Red Hook eBay auction. All proceeds from this auction would go to a special fund earmarked for extending the pier. It is expected that the most money would be raised by the sale of a piece of stale bread that when looked at in low light resembles John McGettrick's moustache.

Child rights

Community Board 6 unilaterally decided to reduce the drinking age in bars along Smith and Court Street 6 on Saturdays and Sundays until 6 pm. The executive board held a special meeting to declare a real power and supersede the State Liquor Authority. "We have been noticing that on week-

ends parents keep bringing their young children to bars and restaurants," CB6 District Manager Craig Hammerman told the **Star-Revue** in an exclusive phone interview. "These privileged children should be able



A bored young child has nothing to do but sleep during a recent afternoon at Rocky Sullivan's. CB 6 will soon pass a law to prevent this.

to appreciate the complete restaurant experience. Shirley Temple's are so old school. It's time that we treated our over privileged toddlers with the respect that their parents' bank accounts deserve."

The **Star-Revue** has attempted to contact the State Liquor Authority, but as of press time they have blocked all calls coming from the 718 area code.

Waterfront park to undergo "quality" facelift

Soon views of the harbor and Manhattan skyline will not be the only thing drawing folks out to Valentino Pier. If one ambitious developer gets his way, a full slate of high-end stores will line the pier, including an eatery with a menu featuring hydroponic vegetables grown in the bay alongside the pier, and salads topped with some of the aquatic greens that are now timidly taking root in the Gowanus Canal. The Manhattan-based developer behind the project says increasing gentrification of the neighborhood is creating demand for specialty stores and high-end retail. "People can look at the water anytime; this city is surrounded by it," said T.J. Holt of Holt & Colt Enterprises, which won the property from the city in exchange for its promise not to disrupt the character of the neighborhood as it forges ahead with a ritzy condo building in Williamsburg. "What's really important for the Red Hook area now is to provide new residents with quality places to spend their money." A finger-painting studio, a coffee bar offering sparkling iced brews, babyccinos and artisanal meringue puffs, and a shop peddling offbeat knick knacks, designer yard art and organic homemade paper art objects are among the stores that will line the pier.

Bloomy hoofs it to the Hook

Bloomberg is making the leap to Brooklyn! The mayor recently sank \$800,000 into a 19th-century fixer-upper on Coffey Street. The tumble-down dwelling needs serious renovations, which shouldn't be a problem for the richest man in New York. The hardy mayor says he is leaving his posh multi-million dollar Manhattan manse to live amongst the 99 percent because "you can't be a leader without really knowing who you're leading." In an exclusive interview with

the **Star-Revue**, Bloomberg said he's ready to roll up his sleeves and tear out some drywall, but more than that, he's eager to meet his new neighbors. "I want to be a part of this neighborhood. I'm hoping for a warm reception, and I'm looking forward to spending time outside the stuffy social circles of Manhattan," the mayor told us. Bloomberg also plans on carving time out of his day for the Red Hook commute to the city by taking the B61 to the subway every morning. Note - there will be no parking on Coffey Street from April 1 through the end of July while contractors gut and renovate Bloomberg's new home.

Jello Blues

The city of New York Parks and Recreation office has decided that opening day of the Red Hook pool will be celebrated in colorful style this year.

Mayor Bloomberg has put his seal of approval on the idea to fill the main pool not with the usual boring water of years past, but with Jell-o. Grumbles could be heard amongst the Mayor's staff members regarding which color would be best suitable. Ultimately, the Mayor's favorite flavor, Berry Blue, won out.

One staff member agreed to comment but refused to supply his name, "For the Mayor to push Berry Blue on the people of Red Hook is an outrage. Everyone knows that not only is Strawberry better tasting, but it washes out of bathing suits with ease. The people of Red Hook deserve better!"



Gone finally!

George Fiala has announced his resignation after 492 years of service as Janitor for the **Star-Revue**. Fiala, age 537, claims he has enjoyed his time unclogging toilets, taking out the trash and mopping floors, but feels his talents will serve him best elsewhere. He intends to pursue other interests such as sewage cleanup, lawn services and prostitution. "Of course I am grateful for all I have learned about recycling, hairballs and mice," Fiala says, "but in all my years spent here, nothing has been more valuable than the plunger. She has become my BFF." Fiala refused to comment on how he intends to spend his pension of 87 cents each month. The **Star-Revue** will be sad to see Fiala go and wishes him well.



More Monkeyshines

by the regular crew of Blue Pencil numskulls



Fairway signs huge advertising contract with the Star-Revue

Fairway, the box store supermarket that invaded the foot of Van Brunt Street five years ago, has decided to start advertising in the Red Hook Star-Revue, signing up for a double truck, (two full pages), in every issue for the next five years.

"It just makes sense to us. Why wouldn't one of Red Hook's biggest and most profitable businesses reach out to all local residents by advertising in the local paper," a Fairway representative told this newspaper.

Publisher, Kimberly G. Price, was taken to the emergency room of Lutheran Hospital when informed of this decision. She was diagnosed with a severe case of shock brought on by a logical decision by a local business.

Red Hooker uses bar experience to create amazing new product

Lou Sones, a man of many talents, including fishing and running an Atlantic Avenue taproom, has finally accomplished his long time dream of achieving fame as an inventor. He recently received a patent for inventing a new kind of adult diaper that activates itself after only six beers.



The patent for this new adult diaper, smartly perfected as the Baby Boomers generation quietly enters into the age of incontinence, was quickly bought by Kimberly Clark and Marcal, who will market this new product under the name "Park Slope Pee Protector."

The diaper closely resembles plaid boxer shorts, thereby removing the stigma at the point of purchase. It is slim and easy to slip into. Upon the first sign of urine, it's specially designed fabric expands much like higher quality paper towels and absorbs all of the stinky yellow mess.

Red Hook Secedes from CB6, Leroy Branch named goodwill ambassador

As a result of a losing hand of five card stud last week, District Manager, Craig Hammerman was forced to eliminate Red Hook proper from the oversight of CB6, allowing Assistant District Manager, Leroy Branch, to set up a duchy extending north from Hamilton Avenue encompassing both front and back parts of Red Hook. Branch declared himself Emperor and will oversee all land use and permit functions. Among his first acts was claiming for himself land formerly owned by Joseph Sitt, comprising the old Revere Sugar factory extending between Fairway and IKEA. Following the lead of real estate developer Bruce Ratner, who claimed land in Fort Greene using

powers of eminent domain to build his sports arena in downtown Brooklyn, Branch ordered Sitt to give up his claims and then exiled Sitt to Coney Island where he must pay penance by riding the Cyclone 14 times every day, resting only on Sundays.

Work has already started on the Branch Castle which will be a planned fifty bedroom executive building where he will oversee his disciples. In addition to his new title of Emperor, he was also declared Archbishop of the Visitation Church. He has already begun renovation of the Visitation basement, where he will hold "rise-up" meetings on Sundays.

Branch declared a new minimum wage in Red Hook of \$25 an hour, forcing the bigger box stores to finally pay living wages to their local employees. As a result of this, real estate developers are clamoring Branch for permission to build luxury high rises on Lorraine and Wolcott Streets to accommodate the increased spending power of public housing residents.

Branch is funding his autarky by seizing 10% of all rent monies on properties west of Van Brunt Street. Hammerman was quoted as saying "I can't believe he beat my full house!"

Hook ancestors discovered

In Red Hook a recent report issued by the U.S. Dept. of BCN, (Bull Crap and Nonsense), uncovered proof that hobbits once roamed the streets of Red Hook. This report came about after an inquiry into a series of unclaimed properties that were found in the area close to the Valentino Pier. In doing their research several small doors were found which led to underground tunnels. Further investigation reveals trolley tracks starting at the pier and ending at the entrance of the Hobbit doors, linking the hobbits directly to the pier. Legend has it that the Hobbits came to Red Hook as stowaways in the old trolleys. It is said that they would settle in underground dwellings close to the old sugar refinery as most of their meals came from foods that were baked. It is also said that hobbits would share their meals with dwarf elephants, komodo dragons and giant rats. The hobbits remained in Red Hook for a number of years. Researchers believe that they left when the old refinery changed their way of processing the sugar as the hobbits were too short to get into the newer machines. The Hobbits migrated out of Red Hook in search of a place where they could live and feast off the land. Their friends, the elephants and dragons, whom they so often loved to dine with, went with along with them. The only true hard evidence we have of the Hobbits today in Red Hook are those old trolley tracks and hobbit doors. And of course, the giant rats.

Hoffa sighting debunked

The cadaver found below the intersection of Columbia and Degraw Streets is not Jimmy Hoffa, according to FBI insiders. Bob Diamond of the Historic Railway Association discovered the body in late-March, while digging under the street in an effort to identify possible electrical lines to use in the event that the Department of Transportation has a change of heart about building a trolley line to connect Red Hook with Downtown Brooklyn.



Hobbits went through this door

In light of the well-documented history of mafia violence along this stretch of Brooklyn waterfront, several members of the law enforcement and intelligence communities were quick to jump to the conclusion that the unearthed skeleton must surely have belonged to the infamous Teamster. However those rumors have been debunked by DNA tests. "It's just some guy," remarked one forensics expert.

Charter School War

Pave Academy has declared war on Summit Academy, stating that Summit has over stepped their bounds by cultivating an abnormal number of cute cuddly caterpillars on their playground. According to CIAoP, (Central Intelligence Aliens of Pave), tensions have been rising between the two schools ever since Pave donated a mini-acre of caterpillar farm to Summit's annual science fair. Summit, anticipating the decision has begun a full scale project to install a stone wall round the entire second story perimeter as well as a historic moat to protect themselves. Neither Pave Academy nor Summit Academy has propositioned the Star-Revue to be an ally.

Entire buildings to leave Red Hook

In an unexpected unilateral financial who-done-it move, the O'Connell Organization held a meeting to announce an entire relocation scheme. The real estate company has proposed plans to uproot and move all warehouses in and around Red Hook and relocate them upstate to more conservative blasphemous neighborhoods. The empty lots will be traded and sold to the first person who arrives on the scene, in accordance with official Monopoly rules. The new landowner must pass "Go" for the new ownership to take place. John McGettrick left the meeting baffled.

Lobster Pound to change name

Workmen at 284 Van Brunt Street changed a sign that hangs outside the door of the Lobster Pound. They are changing their name to Lobster Pound Cake. We called owner, Susan B., to find out more about this somewhat unusual change to one of Red Hook most successful new businesses. She told us that she has noticed a lot of Jews walking past her storefront restaurant, taking a look inside, shaking their heads and leaving.

"I wanted to do something to attract a more diverse crowd. Lobsters are not kosher, and many Jews pass us by. So I thought about it and decided to add a pound cake and coffee to the menu. Most Jews love cake and coffee and can't resist the temptation." Susan told us. "We have added a separate section to our dining room - pound cake only. In addition we have installed extra bathrooms and supplied them with copies of the Sunday NY Times," she added.

When asked about any future plans in the lobster pot, she confided that she is contemplated adding "pound round," to catch some of the current burger craze sweeping the area.

Smith Street devoid of open restaurants

All restaurant on Smith and Courts Streets have been closed by the Department of Health. A recent development suggests a growing problem of rapid monkeys and raging antelopes in the area. Although claims have been denied by most restaurant owners, some are willing to admit the infestations in food safety area. Others claim the DoH is simply fabricating stories of overgrown ladybugs and chinchillas.

Last straw may be deadliest

Recent studies indicate that straws may lead to certain types of cancer. Throat and stomach cancers top the list. Because of the immediacy society has adjusted to, consuming liquids quickly through the contraptions is believed to be yet another tumor growing devise. Bloomberg has banned straws of and shape, size or color within all five boroughs. Cocktails and martinis will now be served with miniature balloons. In a press release by the Mayor, he states, "even if the damned things turn out to be harmless, we're protecting the people of NYC from laziness that [straws] ultimately create."





NYPD Stuff

written and collected by Blue Pencil idiots

Truck Breakdown

Norman Cox, leader of the Columbia Waterfront District Neighborhood Association, was held briefly at the 76th precinct offices after temporarily losing his mind spotting a 53-foot Phoenix Beverage truck with dust particles emanating from a faulty carburetor on Columbia Street. Cox removed his shirt and began wildly gesticulating, screaming that this is the third truck he has seen this year invading the public roadway despite promises from Phoenix management that this would discontinue. He began bawling inconsolably and was gently chatted up by Captain Jack. Police patted him down, searching for written Phoenix agreements in his pockets.

Outdated bagels

After receiving an anonymous tip, NYPD detectives were sent undercover to the giant Fairway supermarket on Van Brunt Street. They purchased a dozen bagels and found the whole wheat everything bagels to contain traces of day-old flour. In addition, they discovered an out-of-date food server wrapping paninis behind the counter. The results were sent to the Department of Health for further investigation.

Unlicensed stroller

On March 18, cops issued a summons to a stunned 22 year old single mother after she failed to provide proper licensing for her child’s stroller.

Youth crime

A 7-year old from Cobble Hill was busted for allegedly stealing a gum-ball from Van Brunt Street laundry mat vending machine without inserting a quarter. He was taken into custody for further questioning at 6:32pm on March 27.

Buttered up

Court Street Grocers was reportedly selling buttered rolls for \$4.25 each. Captain Jack was called in to charge larceny on March 24.

Missing tar

On March 18th a phone call to 311 reported missing tar between all of the cobblestones on Beard Street. In addition to the 76th Precinct, the Customs and Homeland Security were called to investigate. After a

lengthy and messy investigation, the missing tar was found in a huge ball in back of the VFW post on Van Brunt Street. Asked about the heist, member Sal Meglio told investigators “I like the taste of it!”

Bad sign

On the March 19th, the 76th Precinct received a complaint of an offensive sign located in the back room of Bait and Tackle. The Offensive Language Task Force was sent out but could only find a long rectangular dusty area above the archway. In a search on Craig’s list, it was discovered that a large douche bag sign was hurriedly placed on sale, with origins beginning in Red Hook. The case is now closed and a large painting of a record album with no scratches has been installed in its place.

Bumpy ride

On March 19, a significant number of broken down B61 buses caused an unusually slow shopping day at IKEA. Beard Street traffic was held up for 22 hours as MTA tow trucks were called to the scene to remove them. It turned out that all the axles were snapped in half as the buses encountered an unusually bumpy ride due to the lack of tar on the cobblestoned roadway.

Missing ‘stach

A search of local barbershops turned up no evidence of John McGettrick’s facial hair, which was reported missing before the most recent Civic Association meeting. The case is still under investigation. A crowd of frightened residents was reported fleeing the PS 15 auditorium as they encountered a hairless McGettrick attempting to gavel the meeting to order.

Dazed

On March 25, RHI reported a lack of initiative as the local staff showed up on a warm Sunday in a daze. A police investigation discovered the missing initiative at nearby Valentino Pier.

Dehydrated

Sam’s Restaurant was broken into in the wee hours of the morning of March 25. After finding nothing worth stealing, police arrived to find the perp consuming copious amounts of water.

Counterfeit meatballs

A major Red Hook furniture store fell under grand indictment last week for selling U.S. made furniture. Reports indicate their meatballs may not be of authentic Swedish origin.

Unightly!

An elderly woman reported an intrusion into her Henry Street brownstone at 9:22 pm on March 15. After questioning, cops determined nothing was stolen, and the offender fled horrified after seeing the resident in curlers, a bath robe and a skincare mask.



Curtis Skinner: On Politicks

Arugula vs. Iceberg?

Obama to Join New York Mayoral Race

President Obama announced today that he would be leaving the oval office to run for City Hall.

“Many just accept that lame duck status, and they hit that road,” said Obama this morning in a hastily assembled news conference. “They draw a paycheck; they kind of milk it. And I’m not going to put Alaskans—I mean Americans—through that.”

The decision comes only seven months before the early November election this year. Obama followed up by saying that he would run in the 2013 New York City Mayoral election. Despite his national clout, many are expecting the ex-president to face stiff competition from the crowd of Democratic opponents.

Political up-and-comer, Lettuce-Face (pictured above), who recently announced his bid for the City Hall seat last week, remains confident.

“Look, he isn’t just going to lett-uce win,” he said. “But if I can secure the environment-friendly Williamsburg hipster vote, this race is on ice...berg.”



EDITORIAL: From the mouth of a fool dept

Where are our Muscovy Ducks!

We have noticed with dismay the kinds of birds found in Red Hook. Walking down Beard Street one is likely to encounter a sparrow or wren foraging for a piece of grass or a worm. Up in the sky a seagull can occasionally be seen. Swimming off Valentino Pier one may be lucky to see a vacationing egret or heron. And someone pushing a baby stroller up Union Street will probably have to kick aside a pigeon.

In Prospect Park the Audubon Society will take visitors on bird watching. Their guide lists the following birds that may be seen: “Pied-Billed Grebe, American Bittern, Saw-Whet Owl, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Scarlet Tanager, Downy Woodpecker, Green Heron, Red-tailed Hawk and 18 duck species.”

We called the park asking about the ducks and were given this list: Canada Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Week Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-Winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-Necked Duck, Great Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser and Red-Breasted Merganser.

First of all, who says a goose is a duck anyway? But most importantly, where is the Muscovy? Not flying above IKEA, not nesting in the park, not wandering into Fort Defiance looking to whet his bill.

A Muscovy duck features intense eyes and would be a good alternative to noisy watchdogs. A Muscovy duck sports a brightly colored pompadour. Our stylists might take notice and create a new “Hook Hair” fashion that would take the country by storm, bringing recognition to the neighborhood.

Finally, according to Wikipedia, male Muscovy ducks “have spiraled penises which can become erect to 20 cm in one third of a second.” Red Hook needs a “destination” to boost local tourism. No longer would the hordes disembarking at Pier 11 seek immediate transportation to Manhattan in search of peep shows. Now they would stay right here, camera in hand, snapping photos of quick 20 centimeter duck erections to take home.

This **Star-Revue** is calling for the re-introduction of Muscovy ducks throughout greater Red Hook and its environs.



Art: Artist finds creative satiety in Beard Street bunker

by Mrs. Melvin Cowsnofski

In 2006, Red Hook artist Michael Coffin caught himself daydreaming. He was interrupted by the chime of a cell phone, and again by a host of daily distractions and responsibilities, but found his thoughts repeatedly drifting off into his “creative core.” Intrigued by the inner workings of his own mind, and increasingly disenchanted with the pull and tug of everyday life, Coffin conceived

“The artist, now 30, was picked up by police after someone reported a “crazy crackhead” having a seizure near the IKEA parking lot.”

of a project. “I found I could barely walk up the street or sit in my apartment without something breaking into my thoughts,; there was just this

eventually flowing onto the bunker’s walls and even onto his own skin, including his eyelids and inner ears.

“I had no internet, no phone, no people, animals or anything to do except focus on what my mind was trying to say,” Coffin said. “It got a little intense at times, especially in the first year or so. I went a little nuts, but it was part of the work, part of the journey. After all those outside voices and distractions were eliminated, that was when the real thoughts, just pure, raw creation, started to happen.”

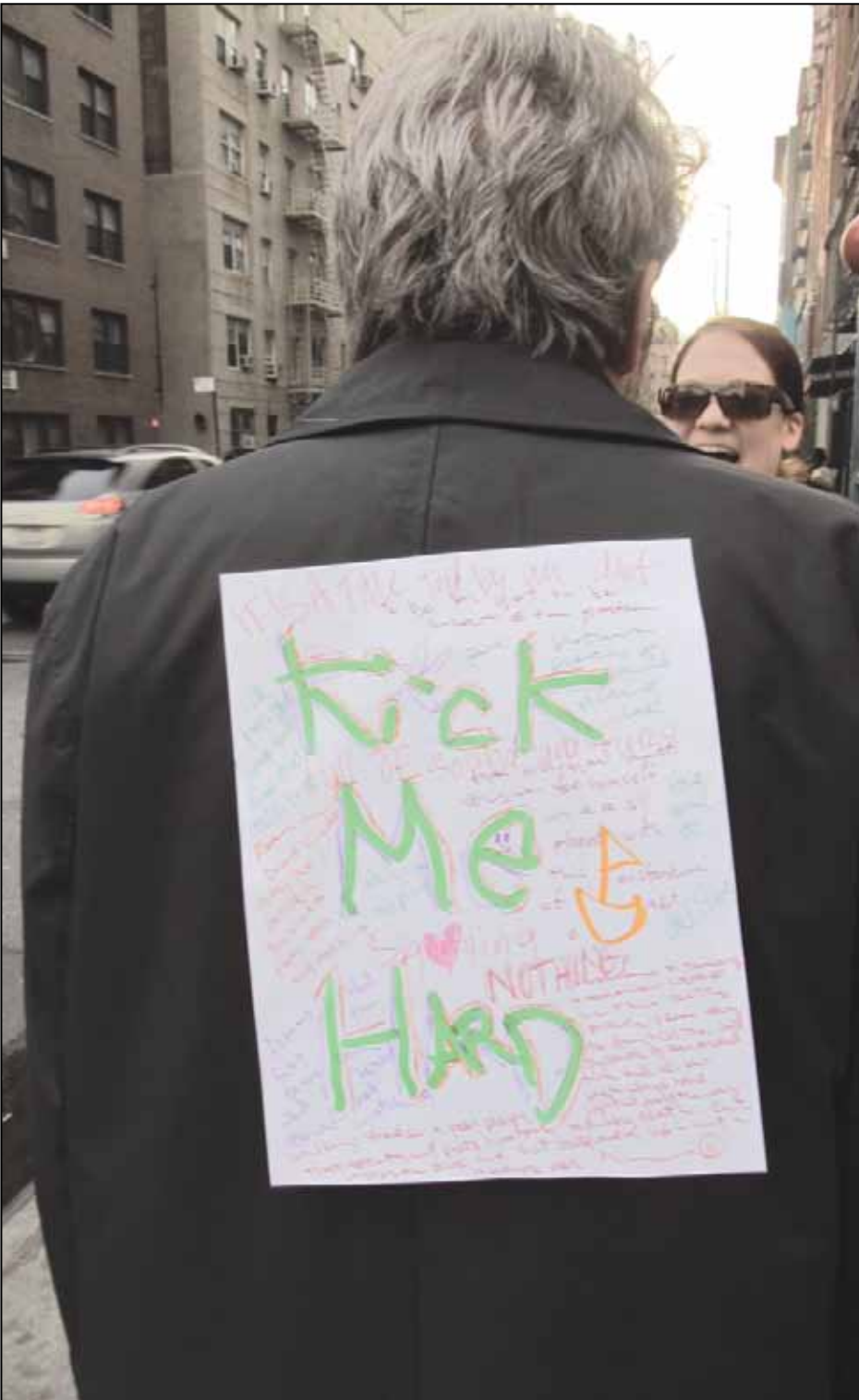
Coffin emerged from the bunker last week virtually unrecognizable – pale, shaking, with matted knee-length hair and covered



Coffin had a tough time seeing after all that time under Beard Street.

clined several well-known galleries’ offers to show the project. He says a more unconventional presentation of his work is more rad than it being hung on clean white walls.

“Telephone poles, sidewalks, the streets, strangers’ clothes – they’re just like bees spreading the pollen of my work,” Coffin said.



An unsuspecting citizen falls victim to Coffin’s art.



Alone I write, Coffin’s ephocal work, attached to a wooden post near Valnino Pier

constant need to interact,” he said. “I was getting to the point where I just didn’t want to have to deal with all these things that were drawing me away from my creative core.”

So Coffin, then 24, armed with a huge supply of paper, crayons, chalk, ink, paint and other writing instruments, descended into a bunker dating back to World War II off the waterfront on Beard Street. The mixed-media artist told few people about the experiment, hoping to avoid even the distraction of an occasional visitor to the hidey-hole. (He still declines to reveal the exact location of the bunker, in case he decides to retreat for another underground stay.)

The 10-foot by 15-foot space was stocked with food, water and basic supplies, with a narrow tunnel leading to an underground sinkhole that Coffin used for a bathroom. Beeswax candles provided the light for Coffin’s work, which evolved into a steady stream-of-consciousness opus covering sheet after sheet of paper and

with writing. The artist, now 30, was picked up by police after someone reported a “crazy crackhead” having a seizure near the IKEA parking lot. It was no seizure, but a reaction to the noontime sun that sent Coffin into convulsions, he said. “After not seeing the sun for six years – I couldn’t even open my eyes. And the noises... Really overstimulating. It was almost like a rebirth for me.”

Coffin’s work, which he has titled “Alone, I Write,” can be seen nailed to fences, telephone poles and scrawled in permanent marker on sidewalks in Red Hook and Gowanus. He’s put some pages on the windshields of parked cars, and stuck others to the backs of people’s shirts in the Carroll Gardens subway station. He has even folded a few pieces of his work into paper airplanes, launching them into the South Brooklyn breeze to let his thoughts fall where they will.

The artist, who has since returned to the loft apartment that he can barely stand to share with a group of self-proclaimed seclusionist monks, de-

BLUE PENCIL OBITUARY

Erik Penney, Restaurant Critic and Wall Street Financier, Dead at 37

Erik Penney, restaurant critic for the **Star-Revue** and business tycoon was found dead in the early morning hours Sunday March 25 after what police are calling a “day-long self-inflicted episode of extreme gluttony.” No foul play is suspected, though it is not being ruled out at this time.

Penney’s jaundiced and swollen body

and nearly 3 gallons of cheap Côtes du Rhone.

George Fiala, editor-in-chief of the **Red Hook Star-Revue**, said that Penney’s foray into food writing coupled with his gargantuan appetite was a deadly mix that precipitated the downward spiral that ultimately led to his death.

“I should have seen this coming;

the down-payment back on a 36-foot Chris Craft Corsair. “What the hell am I going to do now? I need to find 10 new customers to fill the hole he left behind. I guess its community college for the kids too, that selfish <expletive>!” Frizell punctuated his comments by spitting on the ground. Food and beverage stocks sold off on Wall Street on the Monday following, as traders expect substantially decreased earnings power out of the sector.

Penney leaves behind a loving and mortified group of friends and family, what is presumed to be one of the world’s largest collections of antique kitchen gadgetry and an OpenTable *Penney was found in this compromising position* account with over 100,000 rewards



“Penney’s jaundiced and swollen body was found lying naked in the bathroom of the Popeye’s Fried Chicken restaurant on Court Street by the night cleaning crew, surrounded by piles of half-eaten food and garbage.”

was found lying naked in the bathroom of the Popeye’s Fried Chicken restaurant on Court Street by the night cleaning crew, surrounded by piles of half-eaten food and garbage, crumpled and soiled copies of **Saveur** magazine and an autographed photo of April Bloomfield, chef and owner of trendy Manhattan restaurants **The Spotted Pig**, **The Breslin** and **The John Dory**. Ms. Bloomfield did not return calls asking for comment. Police are questioning Penney’s friends and acquaintances to try to piece together the events that led his untimely death. While official results of an autopsy will not be available for some time, a source at the Kings County Coroner’s office said that Penney’s stomach contained over 17 pounds of food in various stages of digestion

I should have noticed the signs!!” an emotional Fiala said as he sifted through a pile of resumes from amateur food bloggers eager to fill the void created by Penney’s passing. “Recently, Erik started asking me for a larger and larger expense budget to cover the costs of his meals. I figured he was bringing friends. Little did I know it was all for him,” Fiala said as he fought back tears. “Now I will have to live with the consequences of my silence for the rest of my life.”

Penney’s loss will be felt far beyond the pages of this paper. St. John Frizell, owner of Fort Defiance, a Red Hook restaurant popular with the deceased lamented Erik’s death while on hold with his boat dealer, as he tried to get



BLUE PENCIL CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

All construction trucks on Van Brunt Street. 50 cents each. First come, first serve. OBO.

Douchebag sign call Barry at Bait n’ Tackle.

Used car. Needs minor repairs, three tires, extra steering wheel, no windshield. Comes with crowbar and owners manual. Formerly used to distribute RHSR. 748,000 miles. Must pay repo fees plus \$49.95 shipping and handling.

Dead tulips for sale. Must bring own pot. Contact bulbage@redhookstar.com

Hope and ambition for sale. Must take as a set. Price: 2 cents OBO. Email realist@redhookstar.com

Sisters for sale: Emily \$5.00; Denna \$3.00, Emily is costs more because she is bigger. Offer expires 4/27/2073. Email: middlechildsydrone@redhookstar.com

Wanted

Star Revue seeks talented Janitor with long longevity. 92+ years experience; must own a plunger. Pay starting at 43 cents/hour DOE EOE email: worstjobintheworld@redhookstar.com call (718) 624 -5568, ask for George.

Seeking translator to transcribe complete Shakespearean works into Gibberish pays \$1.30/wd contact jklijprmg@rrolerz.crud for more info.

One trained monkey equipped with cymbals to carry out ridiculous tasks. Must not be able to talk back. Interviews to be held at Star Theater Monday April 1st, 1-5 p.m.

Introducing Happy Hour at Chase Bank. M-F 2:29 p.m. to 2:36 p.m. Free all you can drink stale cold decaf coffee all month long.

Now hiring bartender with a bad attitude, funny smell and intolerable personality to work without compensation. Apply in person 24/7 at 101 Union Street.

Garlic Wearing Vampire with own cross and memorabilia to sober up Star Revue staff. Desperately seeking for immediate hire.

Lady Peter, South Brooklyn’s original psychic grants wishes, gives answers and spouts bullshit while looking at your hand.

Lost carrot. Has beady eyes and green hair. If found please call (718) 624 5568. \$5 reward.

Supermodel seeks french fry for dinner. Must not be crinkled.

Creative moocher seeks new venues to burn off of. Contact neighbor, ex-girlfriend, mother or high school guidance counsler to find me.

Toilet flusher needed for immediate hire. I keep peeing on top of my old pee. Cannot reach the lever. Call (718) 624-5568 and ask for Marvin Little

Seeking filthy roommate to share 2br pigsty. Cleanliness need not apply. Cats okay. Litter boxes forbidden. Must bring all dishes. All of mine are dirty.

CASH PAID

Lazy people wanted to test out futuristic remote control designed to operate eating utensils. No experience necessary.

We’re paying cash for old discarded toenails, empty ketchup bottles and complete collections of hair shavings to be added to cremated remains.

Actress/models wanted to exploit in pornographic situations. Send body shots and resumes to that-creepyguy@redhookstar.com

Seeking nanny for infant to care for co-publisher. Must be able to change adult diapers, mix a variety of cocktails and give constant validation. Constant supervision required. Email resume to kimberly@redhookstar.com

Visitation Church hosting a used panties drive. Please donate your gently used undies at drop box in front of Visitation Place location. Lacey forbidden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The color purple is denouncing plum as it’s very distant cousin. Geneologist reports that they are in no way related. Co-publisher gets a new pencil sharpener. It is green. She is currently sitting at her desk sharpening No. 2 Disney princess pencils.

Added Value holds one-day fundraisers selling empty beer cans, used condoms, dirty hypodermic needles. Proceeds to benefit Gowanus Canal cleanup.

Tic-tac-toe is now the official board game of the Star Theater. To commemorate, advertising specialist Angelika Mitchell began wearing colors.

Giant fish caught sunning in spandex near end of Valentino Pier. Claims ancestry from 80’s pop culture.

Editor Kimberly G. Price escapes the Star Revue’s kangaroo kourt this past Wednesday unscathed after substantial evidence claiming she does absolutely nothing was dismissed.

First Annual Red Hook Soap Box Derby. April 7th. Only allowable materials used, floss, tissue paper, Fairway shopping carts, toothpicks and duct tape.

ART FOR SALE

Collection of 12 paper plates with varying degrees of multi-colored smiley faces. Sold as a set of \$12,000 OBO.

REAL ESTATE

Foreclosure: Birdhouse in Coffey Park for rent. 2brs, 9bths. No rice allowed. Pets welcome.

Super 2 ½ Motel now renting rooms by half hour. For discounts check under names John Smith and Pocahontas. Call Elliott at 1 800 HOOKER1 ext. 69

Chemical lab for rent. No roof, plenty of windows,. Discreet with meth production. Contact Gizeihmer Maltz for more details.

Girblemeyr Soap Tablets

*Mama Says
“Great for
Washing out
mouths during
Lent”*



**Available wherever
finer astringents
are sold**