

The Bronx's Number One Sports

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Parkchester garages re-staffed

BY BILL WEISBROD

The parking attendants are back.

Parkchester residents who park in the three neighborhood garages are rejoicing that the 24-hour parking attendants, who were removed this summer, have been reinstated.

Garage customers were concerned for their safety without the around-the-clock staffing. Residents said the attendants began to reappear without any advance notice over the past few weeks.

A spokesman for Central Parking System the Nashville, TN.-based company that manages the garages confirmed that they attendants had been fully reinstated during the week beginning Monday, December 5.

"I'm very pleased, and I know I speak for everyone else that parks (in the three garages)," said Deborah Mizell, a Parkchester community activist.

Mizell had collected over 800 signatures from residents who use the garages, which are located on Unionport Road, Archer Avenue and East Tremont Avenue. She helped organize two town hall meetings since October, at which frustrated customers expressed their concerns to representatives from Assemblyman Peter Rivera's office. Mizell also formed a garage

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Photo by Bill Weisbrod

TOY DRIVE HITS CO-OP CITY

Co-op City resident Justin Howell helps unload toys as Anthony's Flower Farms' Bronx-wide toy drive stops off at P.S. 176 on Baychester Avenue, where Justin is in second grade. The relationship between the florist and members of Justin's classmates began in October, when they visited the store's Halloween pumpkin patch.

SLUDGE LEAVES TOWN

NYOFCo loses bid to reopen facility

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The almost two decades-long battle by community activists to control smells emanating from the Hunts Point NYOFCo plant may be over for good.

The Department of Environmental Protection has replaced a contract with the New York Organic Fertilizer Company that was terminated in June 2010 because of increasing costs associated in processing treated sludge and turning it into fertilizer pellets.

NYOFCo's parent company Synagro had bid on the new RFP, but it was awarded to WeCare Organics, which will remove 400 tons of biosolids produced every day at the site to a processing facility in

eastern Pennsylvania, according to the DEP.

"When we ended the NYOFCo contract in 2010 because it was too costly to continue, we committed to seeking an alternative, sustainable and cost-effective way to handle the biosolids that New Yorkers generate everyday," said DEP commissioner Carter Strickland. "Our selection today fulfills that promise to process sludge in a beneficial way while at the same time using a significantly less expensive option that protects our ratepayers. Converting our sludge from waste to a valuable resources moves us closer to achieving Mayor Bloomberg's vision of a greener,

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Celebrated Bronx artist captures market's flavor

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Artist Daniel Hauben has been painting Bronx street scenes for three decades, and recently took his easel indoors to the Arthur Avenue Retail Market.

The project had Hauben stationed at the market during the first two weeks of December, capturing scenes at 2344 Arthur Avenue, which opened in the 1930s and has an old-world sensibility, in oil paint on three panels.

The Bronx-born artist lives in Kingsbridge and has a studio in Riverdale. He painted numerous scenes from the Bronx, including Bronx Vortex, a canvas that celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Grand Concourse in 2009 by highlighting its intersection with the Fordham Road.

"I am a landscape painter," Hauben said. "It just so happens that the landscapes that I paint are encrusted with the Bronx."

When he recently visited the market with his wife, he thought that the color, texture, and shapes of the market would make for an interesting painting, Hau-

ben said. He was especially pleased with the reaction of the workers in all the businesses who wanted immediately to be part of the painting.

"I love interacting with the people in the market, and having them share in the process," Hauben said. "That doesn't always happen when I am painting."

Hauben's painting captures the rear of the market where Mike's Deli and Boiano Foods are located.

"The people working in the market were curious, and then they got involved and wanted to see the progress," Hauben said. "They have their ideas about people who should be in the painting, are taking ownership of it, and feel a part of it."

Also attracting him to the Arthur Avenue Retail Market was that it was a Depression-era building with skylights that silhouette a maze of different shapes overhead, including pipes and ornaments like a wagon wheel, before reaching a colorful ground level, Hauben said.

He painted scenes from the produce and meat sales stalls, as well as people seated at a cafe area. The painting is similar to other street scenes that he has painted in the borough, Hauben said.

"Coming from the Bronx influences my paintings because there is a lot of hustle and bustle, with layers on top of layers of buildings and people," Hauben said. "The retail market reflects that hustle and bustle, and it is a place where people come together and meet one another"

The painting measures 54 inches wide and 24 inches high. Space for the project was donated by Mainland Media, which is leasing a stall in the market for the holiday shopping season.

Aside from selling the original painting itself, Hauben plans to have Mainland Media create high-quality prints and poster. It is entitled "Arthur Avenue Market." They can be purchased for a fraction of the cost of the original painting. Daniel Hauben was the first artist to be featured in Mainland Media's products,



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

Artist Daniel Hauben painted the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, and he is pictured here on Thursday, December 15.

which promote a positive image of the Bronx, said Mainland Media partner Paul Ramriez.

Hauben's work hangs in

prestigious art collections around the world, including those at The White House, New York Historical Society, Goldman Sachs, Pfizer,

Montefiore Medical Group, Pepsico, Harvard University, Rutgers University, E.F. Hutton, and the New York Public Library.

Chamber's Operation Bronx Toys delivers to less fortunate

BY VITO SIGNORILE

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is doing their part to deliver thousands of toys to children of the borough this holiday season.

In partnership with Bronx Toys, the Chamber initiated "Operation Bronx Toys" this December, a toy drive that collected over 30,000 FDNY and NYPD-themed toys to be distributed to Bronx kids on Christmas Eve.

Bronx Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Lenny Caro, along with chairman Joe Kelleher, Bronx Toys founder Bill Long, representatives of the New York Yankees, and other volunteers, delivered the toys to the Montefiore Children's Hospital, the Police Athletic League Center at 991 Longwood Avenue, and the Betances Cornerstone Community Center

at 465 St. Anns Avenue on Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16.

"It's something we took pride in this holiday season. It's obviously a time for giving and it's important that every child gets a present this Christmas," Caro said. "Our partnership with Bronx Toys is a strong one and the Chamber shares the same feelings about making kids smile in the Bronx. This is one of the biggest toy drives we were ever able to put together."

The partnership with Bronx Toys, who manufactures, distributes and retails unique, New York City-themed toys, games and gifts that are officially licensed by the City of New York, was developed in an attempt to create a stronger relationship between uniform services and children.

Children at Montefiore

were excited to receive their new toys, which included fire trucks, police cars, basketballs, baseballs, and more. Four-year-old Jesus Garcia had a huge smile on his face after receiving his present, and Meghan Kelly, director of the Child Life Program at Montefiore, could not have been more pleased.

"It's something great to see when people of the Bronx want to help the children of the Bronx," Kelly said. "The children didn't know that all of these special guests were coming today to surprise them with all of these toys. It's wonderful when they come here and you can see the reactions on the kids faces."

For more information about "Operation Bronx Toys," the Bronx Chamber of Commerce can be reached at (718) 828-3900, or about Bronx Toys, which can be reached at (718) 894-9804.



Photo by Vito Signorile

Four-year-old Jesus Garcia was ecstatic to receive new toys from the Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Bronx Toys.



Photo by William Weisbrod

Children at P.S. 176 received their presents.

Anthony's Flower Farm donates hundreds of toys to youngsters

BY VITO SIGNORILE

It's no secret that a Throggs Neck florist is all about giving, rather than receiving, during this holiday season.

The owners of Anthony's Flower Farm at 3240 E. Tremont Avenue, along with other community activists, continued to make toy donations throughout the borough to young children in the Bronx who are terminally ill or physically or mentally impaired.

After successfully donating over 100 toys to the Montefiore Children's Hospital, florist owners Bobby Jaen and Joe Imperia visited the Jacobi Children's Hospital, P.S. 176 at 850 Baychester Avenue, VISIONS, and TOTS between Monday, December 12 and Friday, December 16 to donate hundreds of more toys.

The visit to TOTS capped the florist's successful toy drive that began before Thanksgiving. Jaen said the goal of the drive, which collected over 1,000 toys, was to make sure that all children in the Bronx had something to smile about this Christmas sea-

son.

"Everybody who took part in this collection had the same intentions and we were all able to make this drive more successful than we ever expected," Jaen said. "Over 1,000 toys were brought in to our shop and we made sure that every single one of them was given to a kid who deserves it this Christmas. The smiles on their faces mean more to us than anything else."

Councilman Jimmy Vacca joined Jaen, Imperia, and others who contributed in putting the toy drive together to distribute the toys to the children at TOTS. Over 30 children who are enrolled in the daily programs were given a special present and sang popular Christmas tunes while playing with their new toys.

Nikki DiNapoli, executive director of TOTS, was touched by the florist's generosity and all of those who contributed to the drive. She said it's always a great feeling to learn what members of the community are able to do to raise the Christmas spirit.

"Anthony's Flower Farm proved that there are

great people out there who want to make a big impact in a child's life, especially during the holidays," DiNapoli said. "For this group of people to come together and collect all these toys sends a special message to the Bronx and a lot of kids have something to be happy about this Christmas."

Jaen acknowledged that because there is still time before Christmas, the florist will continue to accept donations and that he and the other volunteers will make sure that the toys are properly dispersed to kids throughout the borough.

Anthony's Flower Farm would like to acknowledge, for their outstanding contributions to the toy drive, Alexia Acevedo, Rebecca and Christina from Mommy's Mingle, Lilyanna Pekic of the Throggs Neck Merchants Association, Bronx Chamber of Commerce president Lenny Caro, Bill Long of Bronx Toys, Pastosa Ravioli, Crosstown Diner, Fusion Fitness, Schuyler Hill Funeral Home, and all other local merchants who helped make the drive successful.

Korony American Legion holds successful annual toy drive

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The combined Theodore Korony American Legion Post 253 and Joe Mazzariello Toy Drive will continue on into its third decade, with close to 750 toys distributed to nine organizations in the borough.

This year's drive was a joint effort by the entire Korony Post family, including the post members, Sons of the American Legion, and the post's auxiliary. It is co-organized by Korony members Judy Lanci, Colleen McCarthy, and Anthony Ferrara. It is co-named after a past Korony Post commander, the late Joe Mazzariello, who began the drive for local children almost 30 years ago.

The toys were picked up by community organizations from a location used by the post to store the toys on Schurz Avenue on Tuesday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 14, said co-organizer Judy Lanci.

"We have good quality toys, and we keep up with the trends for the kids,"

Lanci said. "We check out all of the organizations and make sure that they have a valid 501(c)3. Then I personally visit the organizations to make sure they are doing the right thing."

The Korony Post makes a \$300 donation to the drive in the fall, before soliciting individual members, Lanci said. Letters are also sent out to neighboring American Legion posts requesting donations for the drive, which is kept local, Lanci said.

"This toy drive helps needy kids in the Bronx," Lanci said. "We are helping kids locally."

This stands in sharp contrast to organizations that may collect toys in the Bronx but distribute them elsewhere, Lanci said.

The organizations receiving the toys are Concourse House, St. John Chrysostom School, Bible Church of Christ, Albert Einstein Medical Center, Claremont Neighborhood House, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson's toy drive, Emergency Rights Inc., Antioquia Church,

and a West Farms homeless shelter, Lanci said.

Division Three of the Bronx division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians made a \$200 donation to the cause because they knew that it would go to benefit local children, said division president Bob Nolan.

"We decided that the Hibernians did not need to start their own toy drive, because the Korony Post was having a drive that would benefit Bronx kids," said Nolan, who presented the drive with a check on December 14.

Any donations collected after all of the toys have been purchased for this year will be used to fund next year's drive, Lanci said. The drive especially seeks to help the families of veterans, and sometimes special care packages are put together for those families, Lanci said.

"Being that we are an American Legion organization, if there are veterans in need we do smaller one-on-one donations for them," Lanci said.



Photo by Patrick Rocchio

Bob Nolan of the Bronx Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians stopped by to make a donation to the Korony Post toy drive volunteers on Wednesday, December 14. Pictured are (l-r) Delores Stoltze, Anthony Ferrara, Nolan, Lanci, and Jan Salvaggi.

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Jacobi, North Central hold jewels gala benefit



The joint auxiliaries of Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital held their Jewels Gala, a benefit for the hospitals to support patient health care. The gala on Thursday, December 1 honored Patrice DeCorrevont, CEO of Chase Commercial Banking for government, non-profit, and health care, and 18 employees.

(Above) The two hospitals also honored 18 “Precious Jewel” employees for their exemplary service. They are a distinguished group of multi-faceted clinicians and care givers, according to the hospitals.

(Right) Pictured are (l-r) William Walsh, senior vice president of Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital, and Patrice DeCorrevont, CEO, Chase Commercial Banking for government, non-profit, and health care. DeCorrevont, a nationally recognized leader in banking, was honored for her work in support of the financial requirements of public health care institutions.



Photos courtesy of Jacobi and North Central Bronx Medical Centers

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Nos Quedamos co-founder, Gilberto Rivera, remembered

BY VITO SIGNORILE

A tireless borough advocate passed away before the holiday season, but his admirers are making sure his legacy is remembered forever.

The former president of the non-profit Nos Quedamos, amongst many other things, Gilberto Rivera passed away on Friday, November 25 at the age of 75 after suffering a stroke in early October and battling diabetes for over 20 years.

Rivera, who was legally blind at the time of his death, was born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, but moved to the mainland in the 1960s and would call the Bronx his home for the remainder of his

life.

In the 50 years that he lived in the borough, Rivera took part in countless events and organizations to help fellow Bronxites strive in the great borough. Not only did he co-found Nos Quedamos with the late Yolanda Garcia, but served as a member of Community Board 1, was first vice president of the 40th Precinct Community Council for 10 years, and veteran of the United States Army.

Longtime friend Anna Vincenty met Rivera as a volunteer for Nos Quedamos in 1992. Vincenty acknowledged her brother-sister type relationship with Rivera and said that their “tough love” for each other allowed them to

maintain an amazing friendship over the last 20 years.

“Gilberto was one of those men who was very adamant, tough, outspoken, and never held anything back that he wanted to say from anyone,” Vincenty said. “He gave back to others as much as he could and despite being sick he kept going out there and never stopped. Even though he was tough, he was like a gentle giant and it never bothered him to shed a tear if he was touched by someone or something.”

While working with Nos Quedamos, Rivera fought alongside Garcia to help Bronx tenants fight the city’s efforts to displace them and helped them participate in

the planning of their neighborhood’s renewal.

Rivera was also a member of Pueblo En Marcha, a social service advocacy group, where he and Maximino Rivera, who he met in 1976 while fighting the city’s plans to shut down Hostos Community College, continued to assist Bronxites.

After the fight to keep Hostos open was a success, the two remained close friends and continued working with Bronx tenants, making sure they were given the best living accommodations by their landlords.

“He just never stopped working for anybody because he truly cared for everyone. Once you knew him, you

knew that you had a friend who always had your back,” Vincenty said. “The funeral parlor was packed with hundreds of people to pay their respects for him. It’s a part of life to lose a friend or loved one, but Gilberto will truly be missed.”

Community Board 1 has unanimously voted to have the street where Rivera lived, Bergran Avenue between East 148th and East 149th streets, renamed to Gilberto Rivera Way. The board is now waiting for the recommendation to be signed off by Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo.

Rivera is survived by his wife Raquel, two sons, and grandchildren.



GILBERTO RIVERA

BY FATHER
RICHARD F. GORMAN

Yes, it’s Christmas . . . again! All of the familiar indices of this Holiday have reappeared. The Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center has been lit. The stores along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan are decorated with displays that delight the young at heart regardless of actual age. The center median of Park Avenue is decked out in an array of lights that resemble an endless column of twinkling candelabra. Department stores, shopping malls, and outlets are packed with Christmas shoppers seeking to unearth just that right kind of present for this loved one or that. Santa Claus is ensconced on his throne at Macy’s in Herald Square, attentively taking orders from anxious boys and girls determined to find just what they ordered under their Christmas tree. Christmas carols flood the airways as well as hallways, elevators, offices, homes, and houses of worship. Students at school breathe a sigh of relief as they leave the hallowed halls of academia for their first substantial vacation break since returning in September from the Summer hiatus. Traffic is abominable . . . everywhere! Holiday shoppers and people in general look exhausted . . . everywhere! Fingers ache from the never-ending assemblage and wrapping of gifts and the panicked pen-

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Community
Board #12

ning of Christmas cards. The annual lawsuits about the placement of Nativity scenes in public spaces and facilities are underway in courts across the land as some attempt, yet again, to get Christ out of Christmas and to eradicate the story of the first Christmas from our yearly commemoration of it. I wonder if some folks who so assiduously go about wishing others a Happy “Holiday” even know what holiday is being celebrated!

Yes, once more, Christmas has arrived! The decorations, the music, the parties, the shopping, the presents, the traveling, and the fine food and drink are all as they should be. We engage in these apropos rituals of the Season and subject ourselves to the insanity of holiday hubbub because it is Christmas and that’s what Christmas is all about. However, one aspect of Christmas, to which we pay due lip service each year, always escapes somehow our ability to make it as real and as much a part of our life as are our Christmas songs, trees, parties, merriment, delights, and dining.

When the angels of God first appeared to simple shepherds over 2,000 ago on the hills adjacent to Bethlehem

in order to announce the good news and the glad tidings of the birth of Jesus, they proclaimed peace on earth and good will to all. This is the quintessential message of Christmas, what Christmas is really and truly all about. Christmas is the end of estrangement and division in our lives. No more will there be rift and rupture between God and His Children and among the Children of God themselves. The Golden Rule -- “Love one another as I have loved you! Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!” -- is promulgated as the rule of life for all peoples without exception or distinction. This is the hope and the vision of Christmas. The question is why we get all tied up with the accidentals and the incidentals of Christmas -- i.e., the gift giving, the shopping, the eating, the imbibing, etc. -- and completely cast aside the essentials of Christmas -- viz., peace, fraternity, concord, decency, and justice. We are so busy with “doing” Christmas that we deny ourselves the very gifts, if truth be told, that God wants us to have each and every Christmas, nay, each and every day of our life. Isn’t it about time to make our Christmas complete?

So what should we do in this regard? How do we get to the core and the kernel of Christmas? Well, how about just starting to practice the Golden Rule in our life? One might inquire precisely how one might go about doing so,

so here is a straightforward and unpretentious rule of thumb: do not treat anyone in a fashion that you would deem detrimental or offensive to you and allow no other person to suffer such a type of indecent behavior! Sometimes, in pondering moral and ethical issues in our day and age, our thinking gets all too cloudy and complicated. We oftentimes raise more questions than we answer or give rise to more problems than we resolve. Too frequently we victimize ourselves by creating false dilemmas or, in the height of immaturity and/or arrogance, reason ourselves precisely to the conclusion that we desired all along. No wonder the world is sometimes in such sad shape. We deliberately mire and muddle our life in the confusion and the disarray of our selfishness and stupidity, preferring our ignorance to be our bliss. We time and again know what we have to do in order to rescue ourselves but lack the moral fiber and the strength of character to liberate ourselves.

However, no individual requires a degree in rocket science to follow the Golden Rule. We are all quite cognizant of what hurts us and what we would not want done to us. Such things, therefore, should not be done to anybody, either by us or by another individual. If our neighbor should transgress against us, we should not respond in kind. Why? The

great Mahatma, Mohandas K. Gandhi, would tell us that adherence to the practice of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth will result in a world of blind people who are incapable of properly chewing their food and of hungry people who are unable to see where they are going. A person treating me in a wrongful manner does not justify my visiting the same offense upon him/her. When I treat another human being in this way or that, I am telling the whole world that it is fitting and proper to treat me in the exact, same way. This, without question, is the height of wisdom. Needless to say, though, it does not take a genius to recognize the truth of this principle or to live by it.

So let’s make this unrealized Christmas hope the Christmas gift that our world has long been awaiting. Let’s begin the process of making peace on earth and bringing good will to all by living as we should and enabling our neighbor to do likewise. Again, as Mahatma Gandhi would tell us, the only problem with this core belief of Christianity is that Christians do not observe it. You know, it is never too late to begin. Wouldn’t it be great to prove even Gandhi wrong at last? It certainly would make for the best Christmas ever and, needless to say, a better world in which to live.

I wish all of my friends and neighbors in Community Board 12 and throughout our beautiful Borough

of the Bronx a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy 2009. To my Jewish friends who have begun their celebration of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, I pray that the light of the Lord’s wisdom and the warmth of His love will bring my Ancestors in Faith great peace and joy. To my Muslim brothers and sisters, who earlier this month on the Fifth of December commemorated their Holy Feast of Ashura, I pray that Allah will endow you and your loved ones with His choicest blessings. To all of my friends in the African-American community who will observe Kwanzaa this month, I send my respect, love, and sincerest wishes for prosperity and happiness. As we celebrate, each in our own way and in accord with our own tradition, let us not neglect to say a prayer for those whose sacrifice, courage, and dedication make possible our being able to mark and make merry this Christmas and Chanukah Season in peace and in security. Let’s not overlook the service of our men and women in the Armed Forces of the United States abroad and of the men and the women of the New York City Police Department and the New York City Fire Department (here at home). Because they are watching the wall, walking a beat, and responding to alarms for us, we can truly have a safe and serene Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa in a country that is free.

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40th PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 1:40 p.m. — East 149 St. and Park Ave. City officials called upon several agencies to replace a missing man-hole cover. As one officials indicated, it's a busy intersection with a city hospital on one corner. Officials from the office of Emergency Management called upon various city agencies and also private utilities to have representatives respond after the manhole cover had disappeared, apparently for several days. Thanks to the OEM staff, the problem was quickly corrected.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 12:40 p.m. — East 138 St. and Cypress Ave. An investigation was launched after an elderly woman was struck and killed by a vehicle. Specially trained police officers from Highway 1's Accident Investigation Squad were called to the crime scene to help gather evidence. The woman had been pinned under a van. Firefighters from Engine 83, Ladder 29, Battalion 14, Rescue 3, and Squad 41 were all summoned to the scene.

41st PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 1:05 a.m. — 1081 Leggett Ave. A neighborhood 7-Eleven store was robbed by four Hispanic males. One of the unknown culprits produced a knife and the team fled with an unknown amount of money from a cash register.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 4:30 p.m. — 850 Longwood Ave. Investigators are looking into an incident where a male had been grazed by a bullet. The male victim received a wound to the head and was reported in stable condition.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 5:15 p.m. — 674 Hunts Points Ave. Information was obtained by authorities that a Hispanic male robbed an auto glass business. The unidentified culprit at gunpoint fled with four-hundred in cash in addition to a cell phone. No injuries were reported.

SAT, NOV. 26th, 7:00 p.m. — 621 Manida St. Police investigators are looking into a home invasion. Officials indicated that the two unknown males were armed with what appeared to be a shotgun and one of them wore a ski mask. After pushing their way into the victim's home, the culprits fled with an unknown amount property including five-hundred dollars in cash, and two-cell phones. Detective assigned to the local squad are handling the inquiry.

43rd PCT.

TUES, NOV. 22nd, 9:25 a.m. — 2001 Story Ave. Police officers received a tip concerning a



POLICE BLOTTER

home invasion. Responding officers were able to arrest two of the three suspects after conducting a search of the building. Several K-9 units responded to assist with the search. The inquiry is ongoing.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 7:15 a.m. — 1041 Pugsley Ave. Police officers were assigned to respond after neighbors reported hearing a person screaming inside an apartment. Officers from the Emergency Service Squad were summoned to the scene along with members of the Hostage Negotiation Team and the Technical Assist Response Unit. The emotional disturbed person voluntarily surrendered to authorities. Once in custody, the individual was taken to Jacobi Medical Center for care.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 2:00 p.m. — 1065 Bruckner Blvd. Two black males were arrested after police officers recovered a 22-caliber gun. The weapon was vouched as evidence for the pending trail.

SAT, NOV. 26th, 8:30 p.m. — Story and Sound View Aves. Ambulance crews treated nine injured person as a result of a multi-vehicle accident. Those injured were transported to area hospitals.

44th PCT.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 3:25 a.m. — 135-B West 168 St. Police were dispatched to a building in the Highbridge community. Arriving officers found the body of a 34 year old Hispanic woman. Officials indicated that the victim's death was suspicious. The victim's body was released to the Medical Examiner's office so that an autopsy could be performed.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 11:10 a.m. — 1182 Clay Ave. A 29 year old Hispanic male was shot in the right ankle officials report. The injured man was transported to Lincoln Medical Center for medical care. Local detectives are handling the inquiry.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 4:25 a.m. — 1146 Ogden Ave. A 29 year old Hispanic male was taken to Lincoln Medical Center. The man had been stabbed once in the back in the Highbridge section.

45th PCT.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 4:10 p.m. — 1506 Castle Hill Ave. A suspect

was arrested and charged with attempting to bribe a police officer.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 9:45 p.m. — 2877 Barkley Ave. A person known as a volunteer within the community was arrested for operating a vehicle with a suspended driver's license.

46th PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 4:20 p.m. — 240 Echo Pl. Authorities arrested a female suspect as they looked into a shooting. A male victim suffering from a bullet wound to the shoulder was admitted to St. Barnabas Hospital in stable condition. A gun was also recovered by investigators.

MON, NOV. 21st, 4:35 a.m. — 1860 Grand Concourse. A teenager was taken into custody after being found with a gun. A 16 year old Hispanic girl will be facing charges for having an unregistered handgun. Vouched by police officers was a 357-caliber revolver.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 11:45 p.m. — 60 East 183 St. A 30 year old Hispanic man was taken into custody by police. The suspect was in possession of a 38-caliber revolver when arrested.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 5:00 p.m. — 1834 Phelan Pl. A 28 year old Hispanic male went to a Manhattan hospital seeking assistance for a bullet wound. Police were called to Harlem Hospital where the man had walked into suffering a gunshot wound to the right leg. Bronx police are conducting the inquiry.

47th PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 12:05 a.m. — 3230 Cruger Ave. Authorities are looking into a shooting that sent an Asian teenager to Jacobi Medical Center. The 18 year old male was suffering from a bullet wound to the groin area in addition to two wounds to the right leg. Local sleuths are handling the inquiry.

MON, NOV. 21st, 2:20 p.m. — White Plains Rd. and East Gun Hill Rd. Emergency personnel responded to assist an on duty traffic agent. The city worker had been struck by a vehicle. Upon investigating, police arrested the driver for operating the vehicle with a suspended license. The traffic officer was treated for a knee injury.

TUES, NOV. 22nd, 4:55

a.m. — 4201 Webster Ave. A search was conducted for a black male in the Wakefield — Woodlawn community after the robbery of a gas station on the corner of East 233 St. The armed thief entered the station's building that also houses a Dunkin' Donuts. At gunpoint he announced the robbery, but fled empty handed. The inquiry is currently in the hands of local detectives.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 6:40 a.m. — 4304 Furman Ave. Police investigators are looking into a reported stabbing of a male that occurred in the Wakefield section.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 9:20 a.m. — 901 East 217 St. A 27 year old black man was transported to Montefiore Hospital once police gained custody of the person. The emotionally upset man had an argument with his girlfriend officials indicated. He started to trash the home before jumping out of a second floor window.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 1:55 a.m. — 4007 Harper Ave. A 71 year old man was found suffering from several stab wounds. Apparently the elderly victim was attacked by three black males. The male victim was stabbed multiple times suffering with two wounds to the back and one to the shoulder area. The man was transported to Jacobi Medical Center.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 12:15 p.m. — 600 East 233 St. Police officers were called to Montefiore Hospital's Northern Division after a person walked into the medical facility seeking help for a stab wound.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 9:55 p.m. — 1801 Nereid Ave. A grocery store in the Wakefield area was robbed by three black males. At gunpoint, the team fled with an unknown amount of money. Local detectives are handling the inquiry.

48th PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 3:00 a.m. — 2160 Webster Ave. An investigation into a robbery is underway by local detectives. Two black males entered a parking garage. After approaching the on duty attendant, the worker was stabbed in the right leg. The two culprits fled with over five thousand dollars in cash.

MON, NOV. 21st, 3:45 a.m. — Southern Blvd. and East 182 St. A man told responding officers that he had been robbed by three males. The victim explained that the culprits were all wearing mask, however, one of the culprits was armed with a machete.

MON, NOV. 21st, 7:05 p.m. — 2417 Beaumont Ave. Authorities learned that a home in the Belmont section was invaded by

two black males. At gunpoint, the two culprits secured the two occupants. After gathering personal property including several lap-top computers, cell phones, and other electronic equipment and games the thieves fled. The culprits also took credit cards and other items. One of the victims received a minor laceration to the head area.

TUES, NOV. 22nd, 8:15

a.m. — 912 East 178 St. A 23 year old black man was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital after being attacked. The male victim was suffering from six stab wound upon arriving at the medical facility.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 4:00 a.m. — Cross Bronx Expwy. The operator of a vehicle became nervous upon seeing police officers. The driver headed in the wrong direction on the interstate road way. Police pursuit the vehicle and once upon stopping the vehicle they learned that the vehicle had been stolen.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 7:30 a.m. — East 177 St. and Park Ave. Police investigators looking into a serious vehicle accident indicated that there appeared to no criminality connected to the incident. An unidentified male had been struck by a vehicle.

SAT, NOV. 26th, 1:55 a.m. — 1815 Prospect Ave. A 17 year old black male was shot in the chest officials indicated. The teen was transported to St. Barnabas Hospital where he expired three hours later. Now detectives are faced with a homicide inquiry.

50th PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 4:10 p.m. — 2800 Sedgwick Ave. A search was conducted for a male who officials believe is in his mid-twenties. The Hispanic man is wanted in connection with a shooting of a black male. The victim expired within thirty-minutes after being shot.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 12:00 p.m. — 5718 Broadway. A suspect was arrested after a robbery attempt. An off duty city worker was shopping in a neighborhood supermarket. The culprit attempted to grab money out of the hands of a government employee.

52nd PCT.

MON, NOV. 21st, 10:15 p.m. — 2226 Loring Pl. Officials received information that three Hispanic males had forced their way into a home. The occupant was secured by the culprits who also punched their victim in the face. The perpetrators fled with a gold chain besides two-thousand dollars in cash.

WED, NOV. 23rd, 5:50 p.m. — 2947 Jerome Ave. A 48 year old Hispanic male was arrested by local police officers. The suspect was found in possession of an unregistered 44-caliber gun. The gun was taken away from the man and vouched as evidence for the pending trail.

SAT, NOV. 26th, 7:00 p.m. — 384 East 194 St. Police investigators are looking into a home in-

vasion conducted by three armed males. Authorities were informed that three males, two black and one Hispanic, all armed with guns entered an apartment occupied by two females. The two occupants were secured by the culprits before they fled with a lap-top computer, an I-pod, and several thousand dollars in cash.

Housing

MON, NOV. 21st, 7:45

a.m. — Randall Ave. Detectives are looking into a reported burglary. Three black males forced their way into a home that was occupied by a young male. The home invaders fled with a lap top computer. Police officers from Housing's PSA # 8 are working on the inquiry with detectives from the 43rd Pct. Squad.

FRI, NOV. 25th, 2:30 p.m. — 1000 Trinity Ave. Police officers from Housing's PSA # 7 are looking for the person who robbed a gold chain. The unknown black male ripped the chain off the neck of a postal worker. The victim received a minor injury.

Fire Log

WED, NOV. 23rd, 11:45

p.m. — 912 East 220 St. Firefighter were called upon to extinguish a fire in a private home near Bronxwood Ave. The blaze was original reported on the first floor of the two-story home. In a short period of time a hose line was stretched and placed into operation as ladder crews started to check for extension. Fire was located in the kitchen area on the second floor by ladder crews. Shortly after mid-night Division 7 declared the incident under control.

THURS, NOV. 24th, 2:50

p.m. — 1717 Vyse Ave. Several fire companies were dispatched to a reported residential building fire. Engine 45 along with Tower Ladder 58 were the first units to arrive at the building. They were quickly joined by Engine 82 and Tower Ladder 31 crews. Engine 46 rolled in third due. Upon seeing the conditions, Battalion 18 requested a full first alarm assignment which caused the response of Engine 94, Ladder 48, Squad 61, Rescue 3, and Battalion 3, all under the command of the 6th Division. Before the incident commander was able to indicate that the fire was starting to darken down, Engine 88 along with Ladder 27 were dispatched to the scene. The blaze was hidden under the flooring and behind walls on the third floor of a fire story high apartment house.

SAT, NOV. 26th, 5:45 p.m. — 345 Baychester Ave. Firefighters under the leadership of the 15th Battalion extinguished a fire in the compactor system in a three story high residential building in the Edenwald Housing Complex. Shortly after 6 p.m. the incident was declared under control. A hose was rapidly stretched and placed into operation by the engine crews as firefighters from ladder crews started to search each floor and all the stairwells. All searches proved to be negative.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pay for Play campaign events

DEAR EDITOR,

Perhaps Senator Charles Schumer should worry about more important issues than the origins of which beer citizens drink. If you stand between Schumer and a microphone or camera, be prepared to be run over. Will Schumer now substitute beer produced in NY with wine and hard liquor at his frequent Pay for Play campaign events? Schumer is the number one Senator in soliciting millions of dollars from the Washington K Street and other Pay for Play special interest groups.

It will be interesting to see if there is a future quid pro quo in the form of campaign contributions from the Beer Institute, a Washington based industry lobbying group as a thank you to Schumer for supporting the "I love New York Brew" campaign.

Voters would prefer Schumer put down his beer, stop his daily photo ops, press conferences and evening fund raisers and resume working full time as a Senator.

He can start by converting his passion for free press coverage and campaign funds by assisting in passing an honest balanced federal budget on time October 1st. Focus on reducing our 9% unemployment rate and start paying off Uncle Sams \$15 trillion and growing long term debt.

Deal with securing our borders, crime, education, environment, housing, nutrition and transportation rather than attempting to grab daily headlines and stories such as this one to feed his ego.

Of course, finding Schumer and his colleagues at work in Washington conducting the peoples business is difficult as they are only in session part time during the year.

Larry Penner
Great Neck

Pompeii truce and Lizzy response

Dear editor,

It seems the peace pipe has been smoked between the editors at BTR and Mr. Torres, owner of infamous Pompeii "lounge."

This hot spot has been nothing but trouble for the Waterbury-Lasalle community ever since it decided to open up on Tremont, attracting troublemakers and miscreants from the south Bronx and God knows where else.

BTR has reported on one nuisance after another from that joint, but now we have seen big ads for Pompeii, including a photo of a smiling Mr. Torres wearing an unbuttoned shirt showing his hairless chest.

I don't why the peace pipe was smoked between Torres and BTR, but I hope it won't mean that the next time something bad happens at the hot spot, that it won't get coverage in BTR.

As far as Lizzy Tizzy Ortiz goes, I give thanks that she followed up her previous letter, even though she didn't clarify what I re-



Photo courtesy of SPA Advertising.

BRONX COUNCIL ON THE ARTS WINS FORDHAM CARES

On Saturday, December 10 Fordham Toyota announced the Bronx Council of the Arts as the third winner of the "Fordham Cares" grant. The Bronx Council of the Arts was the winning vote getter among Fordham Toyota customers Facebook page visitors. Two other Bronx community non profits were in the running. The announcement of the \$2,500 donation was made at BCA's Holly Jolly Trolley event at Hostos Community College.

(Above, l-r) Fordham Toyota general manager John Randazzo, BCA executive director Deirdre Scott, BCA deputy director Ellen Pollan, and Fordham Toyota sales director Alonzo Williams.

quested but made it even more complicated; but her follow-up proved my point about her aggressive racial pride and racial empowerment.

As far as her threat of a "dialogue" with me if we were neighbors, it's highly unlikely that someone as passionate and inflamed with pride as she ostensibly is can conduct a real dialogue, at least on the issues I raised in the previous letters.

Ken Reynolds

Thanks Cong. Crowley

Dear editor,

The Catholic Widows & Widowers Club of the Bronx thank Congressman Joseph Crowley for his continuing support and assistance to our club.

Constance A. Saddlier,
Chairperson, Finance Committee

Let us hear from you!

Letters to the editor are welcome from all readers. They should be addressed care of this newspaper to John Collazzi, Publisher, the Bronx Times Reporter, 900 E. 132nd Street, Bronx, NY 10454, or e-mail to bronxtimes@cnglocal.com. All letters, including those submitted via e-mail, MUST be signed and with a verifiable address and telephone number included. Note that the address and telephone number will NOT be published and the name will be published or withheld upon request. No unsigned letters can be accepted for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Verizon customer confused by calls

Dear editor,

I use Verizon for my landline and cordless phones. Since last Thursday, December 15, I have had no landline service at all. I called Verizon every single day and cannot believe that I get a different response with each phone call.

On Saturday, December 17, I received two telephone calls on my cell phone from Verizon representatives. Each one told me that there is a cable outage affecting many customers and Verizon may not be able to repair it for about one month. Therefore, if I switch over to FIOS, my landline problem will be resolved. They set up an appointment for me for Tuesday, December 20. Upon speaking with my brother this evening, he advised me to make sure that they are not coming to my apartment to change my computer and TV to FIOS. I called Verizon and I was told by their representative that she didn't think that a rep was coming to my apartment to repair my landline since they now know that it is cable wiring affecting numerous customers. Each time I tried to explain what I was told by other representatives, this particular rep insisted it could not be true.

I was told on Saturday morning that it was a cable wiring problem affecting numerous customers and the only way for me to get fast repair service is to get FIOS. So what is going on with Verizon? Who are these Verizon representatives calling me? Are they soliciting a change of all my equipment? How is it possible that a major cable wire cannot be repaired for over a month? This is all TOO BAZAAR, to say the least.

Joanne Ciccone

BRONX
Times

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NEWS ITEMS: Readers are welcome to suggest news items of interest. Call the Editorial Department at (718) 742-3393 or e-mail to bronxtimes@cnglocal.com.

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AARP driver safety course

Assemblyman Michael R. Benedetto will be sponsoring an AARP Driver Safety course on Saturday, January 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Space is limited. To reserve a seat call Benedetto's office at (718) 892-2235 as soon as possible.

This 6-hour course will refresh driving knowledge. Those who complete the course will receive a reduction of approximately 10

percent from the base rate of automobile and motorcycle liability premiums each year for three years.

As of January 2012, AARP has raised the fee to \$17 for AARP members and \$19 for non-AARP members. Such fees will be collected before the start of the course.

The course will be held at the Fort Schuyler House, 3077 Cross Bronx Expressway.

Residents rate Bronx for BP survey

Educational issues a top concern; Bronxites mostly satisfied

BY BILL WEISBROD

The results are in for the Bronx's first-ever "Well-Being Survey."

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., whose office conducted the survey, released its results on Monday, December 12. About 1,900 individuals filled out the question-

naire, which was made available in August.

The survey asked people who live and/or work in the borough their opinions on quality of life issues, ranging from the appearance of their neighborhoods to what social issues are the highest priorities.

Education was the category that needs the biggest improvement, by over 57 percent of responders stated, while crime/public safety and economic development/jobs received large pluralities.

The survey also indicated that Bronxites have a generally sunny demeanor, with 64.8 percent saying they have either a "positive" or "confident" outlook on life. And over half called the Bronx a "good" or "excellent" place to live.

"I am happy that so many people who are

connected to the Bronx, either because they live here or work here, took a few minutes out of their busy schedule to make their voices heard on the important issues that face our borough," Diaz said in a statement.

"This information taken from this survey will help my office guide policy in the years to come, and I am grateful to the 1,901 individuals who participated in this important process."

Sixty four percent of responders listed their neighborhoods as "safe" or "very safe" while only 35 percent rated the borough as a whole as "unsafe."

The auto was chosen as the most common means of transportation in the borough, with 38 percent saying it was their main method. Thirty six percent listed the subway. Forty four percent

said transportation in the Bronx was "fair" while 33 percent chose "poor."

The surveys were distributed online, in both English and Spanish, as well as at all Bronx community boards.

Residents of Community Board 11 were the most responsive, accounting for 11.6 percent of the survey. Community Board 10 came in an extremely close second, contributing 11.5 percent of the responses.

"We pushed people to fill it out, we got board members to get persuade friends and family to fill it out," CB 11 district manager Jeremy Warneke said.

"We want people to know that we have concerns, that we exist... And I hope the survey continues. We will have a bigger participation if we have this again next year."

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New York City Economic Development Corporation, along with the New York City Department of Sanitation, New York City Department of Small Business Services, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, announced that two conventional freight locomotives will be repowered with state-of-the-art low-emissions diesel technology, thanks to a \$2 million grant through the 2011 round of the EPA National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program.

This award is the result of strong support from a number of federal, local, and state officials, including Congressman Jerry Nadler, Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Councilman James Vacca, and Councilman James Gennaro.

These locomotives will remain in the city's freight rail network and will be transformed in partnership with CSX Transportation and the joint work of the New York & Atlantic Railway and Waste Management of New York and are expected to be operational by late 2013.

"Creating state-of-the-art green locomotives is in line with several of the Bloomberg Administration's key priorities: making our solid waste management plan more sustainable, investing in infrastructure and using innovative technology," said Deputy Mayor for Operations Cas Holloway.

"Thanks to the grant from the EPA, these locomotives will help us make New York City greener and greater. Thank you to EPA Regional Administration Judith Enck

for her help in making this happen."

"The repowering of a locomotive involves removing the old engine from a locomotive and replacing it with a newer, cleaner propulsion system. Both pieces of equipment will be repowered with Generator Set (Gen-Set) technology. In this new configuration, the single conventional diesel engine is replaced with several smaller generator sets that can be activated when the locomotive is working at full power and deactivated when their power is not needed.

This ability to tailor horsepower greatly cuts down on fuel consumption and pollution. These two conversions will save an estimated 31,000 gallons of fuel each year and remove an expected 32 tons of nitrogen oxides and 0.64 tons of particulate matter from the air annually. Removing 32 tons of nitrogen oxides from the air is the equivalent of taking over 4,300 personal automobiles off of the road each year.

"Any steps to green our freight transit system are very welcome, especially rail, which is already one of the most efficient modes," said Congressman José E. Serrano.

"I applaud the EPA and its local partners for enabling this conversion, and look forward to more such actions in the future. The health of our communities and planet depend on carrying out more of these sorts of initiatives to pave the way for a cleaner, more energy efficient future."

"New York has one of the highest rates of asthma in the country, and replacing older,

dirtier locomotives with greener cars can't help but improve air quality for the residents of this city. These trains will mean less debris in the air and less noise in our neighborhoods. That's good news for kids, seniors and the environment. I am excited about the potential these new trains can have and hope they are only the first step in the direction of cleaner, more efficient rail traffic," said Councilman James Vacca.

The first retrofitted locomotive will be based at the Fresh Pond Rail Yard in Glendale, Queens and operated by the New York & Atlantic Railway for service in Queens and Brooklyn. The other green locomotive, operated by CSX Transportation, will be based at the Oak Point Rail Yard in Port Morris, Bronx and will service the Bronx and Queens. Already in active service making up and pulling the daily interchange trains that travel between the South Bronx and Queens. This locomotive will meet the US EPA Tier 3 emission standards and will complement the four GenSet locomotives that CSX already uses in the area. CSX is participating financially and supplying one of its locomotives suitable for retrofit."

The National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program awards competitive grants to fund implementation of diesel emission reduction technologies that are verified and certified by either the EPA or the California Air Resources Board. It is one of the four programs under the Diesel Emissions Reduction Program.

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VA Project 3 YE-H-09-115; VA IRB approved; GCO # 09-0765, MSSM IRB approved through 4.19.2012

Bronx beat

Coca Cola official beverage of Bronx Zoo

The **Wildlife Conservation Society** announced that it has awarded The Coca-Cola Company exclusive rights to sell non-alcoholic beverages in its five parks in New York City, including the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, Central Park Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo, and Queens Zoo.

Beginning, Sun., Jan. 1, WCS parks will sell to their 4 million annual visitors a wide portfolio of Coca-Cola beverages, including Coke, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Fanta, Sprite, vitaminwater, POWERADE, Gold Peak Tea, and Minute Maid juices.

The five-year agreement includes support by Coca-Cola for WCS parks and field programs, and in and out-of-park marketing to increase beverage sales, customer satisfaction, and zoo and aquarium attendance.

Sustainable features that will be used in WCS parks include energy efficient vending machines to further reduce the carbon footprint; and co-ordinated product delivery with Coca-Cola's fleet of hybrid trucks.

Proceeds from the sales at restaurants in WCS parks support the zoos, aquarium, and global conservation work in the United States, in more than 60 nations and in all the world's oceans.

Students from Minzu University in Beijing, China are once again visiting **Lehman College** to take part in an ethnobiology study sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The initiative, called '111 Project,' examines how minority groups in China use medicinal plants.

This is the second year that Lehman has hosted Minzu University students. Inner Mongolia resident Wurihan Fnu is working on the chemical fingerprint of the Radix Astragali (Huangqi) species, the root of which has been used in traditional Chinese medicine as an immune system booster. Huang Wen, from Fujian Province in southern China, is studying Striga asiatica, which has been used traditionally to treat sores and ulcers.

The partnership between CUNY and Minzu University was formed after CUNY doctoral student Selena Ahmed, who was working in China on a tea project, contacted researchers at Minzu University about Dr. Kennelly's research on medicinal plants. Dr. Kennelly and CUNY doctoral student Adam Negrin traveled to Inner Mongolia with researchers from Minzu University last summer to collect samples of Radix Astragali.

Fnu and Wen will return to Beijing at the end of this month to continue work on this research project, which is headed by Minzu University Professor Chunlin Long. They will be joined by Dr. Kennelly. "One great success of the project has been the ability for CUNY and Minzu students to

experience scientific research in both countries," said Dr. Kennelly.

Last month Dr. Kennelly was recognized as a leading expert in his field when the Federal Drug Administration commended his work as a member of its Advisory Committee for botanical dietary supplements.

The **New York City Department of Sanitation** announced that in observance of Christmas Day, there will be no garbage or recycling collection, or street cleaning on Monday, December 26. In addition, all Sanitation Department administrative offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, in observance of the holiday.

Residents who normally receive Monday garbage collection should place their trash out at curbside Monday after 4 pm for pickup. Those receiving Monday recycling collection will not have their recycling picked up until Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

For questions call 311 or visit the DSNY website at www.nyc.gov/sanitation.

The **City Island Theater Group** is now accepting resumes for our upcoming season and future productions: February, May and November 2012. Directors will meet and collaborate with the set, costume, lighting and sound designers, make notes on the technical needs in the script, cast the production (in collaboration with producers), plan the rehearsals, and bring the show to fruition.

They are looking for directors with previous experience, who can

develop an individual vision and interpretation of the playwright's intentions. They are looking for the person who, through this creative collaboration process, will guide the actors in developing a deeper understanding of the characters' motivations and relationships. The end result should be a full integration of a fast paced, well-timed look and feel of the whole production, from effective pacing, transitions, design and technical aspects of the show.

This is a volunteer organization, there is no stipend provided. If interested, e-mail resume to: information@cityislandtheatergroup.com.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts celebrates its 31st season with the return of one the most important soul music groups of the past 40 years, The O'Jays, on Sat., Jan. 14, at 8 pm. Still going strong, the O'Jays epitomized the Philly sound with their smooth, rich harmonies, elaborate arrangements, and a touch of contemporary funk. With 24 Top Ten hits, including "Love Train," "Backstabbers," "Use Ta Be My Girl" and "For the Love of Money," they have earned ten gold albums, with nine going platinum; ten #1 hits; and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West. Tickets are \$65, \$60, and \$55 and can be purchased by calling (718) 960-8833. Low-cost on-site parking available for \$5.



The legendary O'Jays at Lehman Center, Saturday January 14, 2012.

JACOBI CONCERT PROMOTES HEALTHY EATING



Photo by Dario Alequin

As part of the celebration of the holidays, Jacobi Medical Center partnered with Musical Connections for its annual holiday music annual concert, and helped promote healthy eating with its "Have a Healthy Holiday" event on Wednesday, December 14. Musical guests Toomai and Camille Zamora performed Holiday songs with the Jacobi Choir at the hospital.

Before the concert, attendees learned about portion control, exercise, and family weight management with nutrition and fitness experts giving them advice.

BP/BOEDC HONORS 10 BRONX EXCEPTIONAL BUSINESSES



Photo courtesy of Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.'s office

On Wednesday, December 7, Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation honored 10 Bronx businesses as part of the 2nd annual "Tribute to Bronx Businesses" luncheon at F&J Pine.

Honorees included Bronx Brewery, Bronx/Manhattan North Association of Realtors, Dufour Pastry Kitchens, G.A.L. Manufacturing Corp., Gabrielli Truck Sales, Johnson Security Bureau, Just Bagels, Paper Enterprises, Skyline Windows, and the Anheuser-Busch Companies.



Photo courtesy of Scanlan

SCANLAN COLLECTS LOCKS

Monsignor Scanlan High School students, parents and teachers participated in a "Locks of Love" hair donation event recently, with hair stylists from Guys and Dolls Hair Salon at 3577 E. Tremont Avenue volunteering to cut the hair.

Each donor gave at least 10 inches of hair, which will be used to make wigs for children who have gone through chemotherapy and have suffered hair loss.

HENRY HUDSON TURNS 75

The Henry Hudson Bridge celebrated 75 years of being in use on Monday, December 12. A photographic celebration of the bridge, which links northern Manhattan to the Henry Hudson Parkway, will be taking place this month at the Riverdale Library. The scenic bridge evolved into a vital transportation hub over its lifespan.

Photo courtesy of MTA





Photo by Franck Strongbow

JAMES MONROE SC CELEBRATES PUERTO RICO

James Monroe Senior Center celebrated Puerto Rico Discovery Day on Friday, November 18. Seniors and staff had a Puerto Rican-style party that included traditional music and dance. Over 250 attended.

(Left, l-r) Leo Ruiz, Ortelio Bello, George Ruiz and Jesus Devila after their crowd-dazzling dance performance.

BISHOP VISITS HOLY SPIRIT HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Dennis Sullivan, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of New York, celebrated Mass with students and families of Holy Spirit High School at 1940 University Avenue on Thursday, December 8. Afterwards, Sullivan met students and faculty and toured the school.

(Right, l-r) Principal Virgilio Ogando, Bishop Dennis Sullivan, and Fr. Ricardo Fajardo.



Photo by Samuel Tuthill

PHOTO EXHIBIT CHRONICLES RELEASED PRISONERS

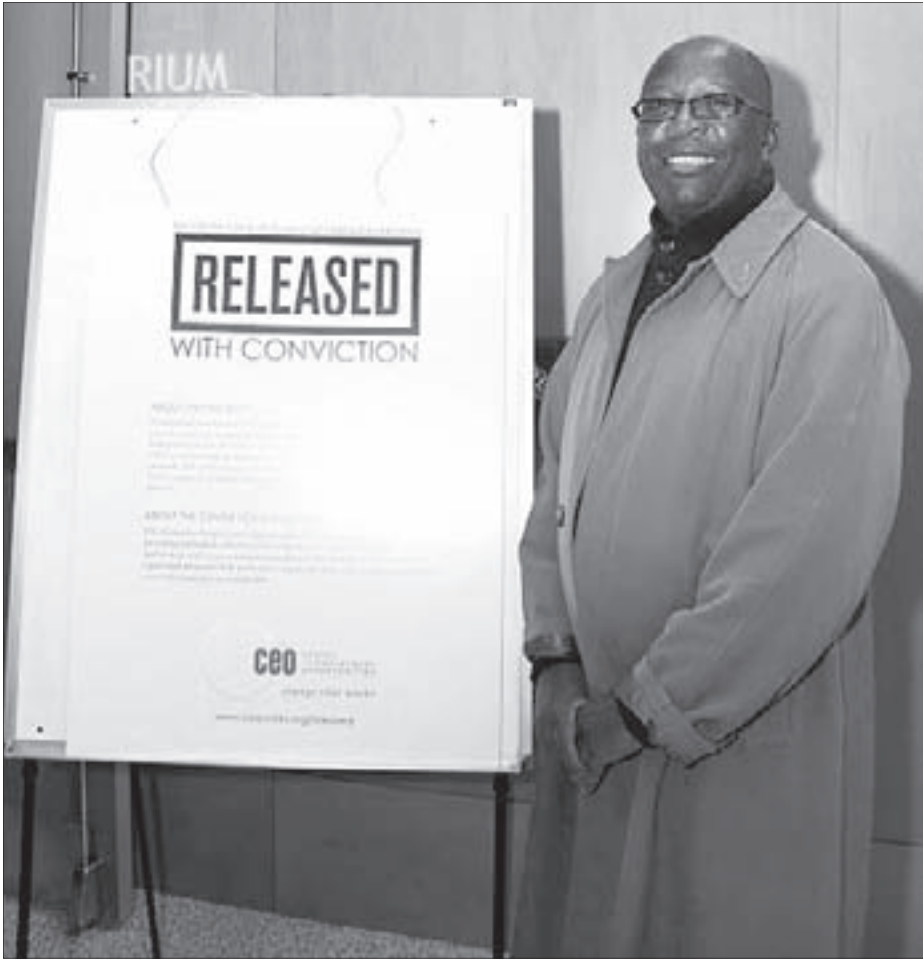


Photo by Aracelis Diamantis

On Wednesday, November 16, The Bronx Library Center on Kingsbridge Road unveiled a photo exhibit titled Released With Conviction, which chronicles the lives of nine recently-released prisoners. The event was co-sponsored by the Center for Employment Opportunities, which runs the CEO Academy trade preparation program on Kelly Street.

(Above) CEO Academy director Darryl Rogers at the exhibit opening.



Photo courtesy of Alberto Suarez

‘WINNER TAKES ALL’

At the first annual International Puerto Rican Heritage Film Festival “Winner Takes All!,” directed by Alberto Suarez of Parkchester (above), was voted the best film of the night and of the festival overall.

BP TURKEY DONATION



Photo by Samuel Tuthill

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. held a turkey drive at Western Beef at 85 W. Burnside Avenue on Monday, November 21. (Above) Twin Moore (l) receives her turkey from Diaz.



Photo courtesy of Andover Communications

ST. BARNABAS HOSPITAL HOSTS MUSLIM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

St. Barnabas Hospital hosted a breakfast for members of the Bronx Muslim community on Tuesday, December 13. The breakfast was part of St. Barnabas’s ongoing dialogue to improve access to health care among the different religions, cultures and nationalities that live and work in the Bronx.

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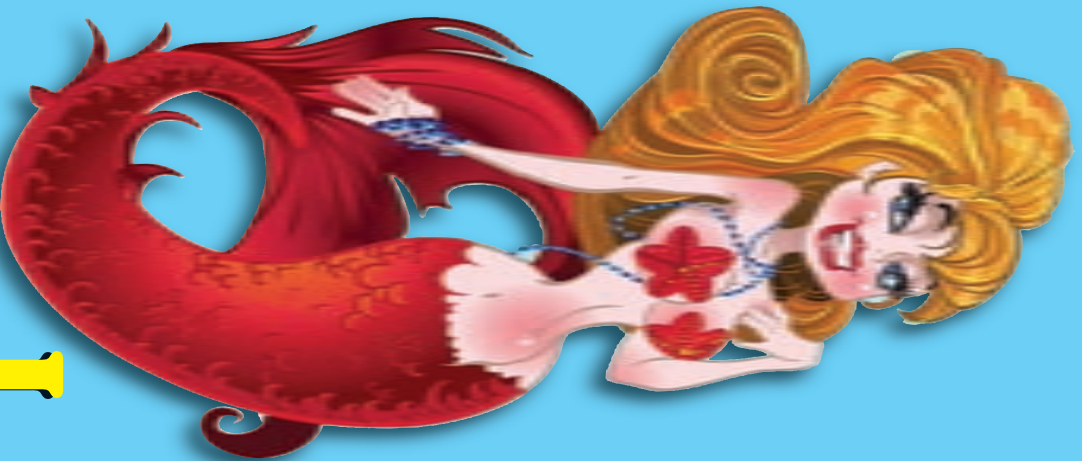
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Bronx schools

Msgr. Scanlan students receive awards



Photo courtesy of Monsignor Scanlan High School

On Saturday, December 10, five Monsignor Scanlan High School sophomores were awarded certificates for their attendance at a Saturday program sponsored by the Academy of American Studies and held at Notre Dame School. For six Saturdays they were faithful in their pursuit of knowledge about American History and American culture.

(Above, l-r) Zaria Ashby, Mariama Jalloh, Jade Garcia, Genesis Reyes and Nemesis Dipre.

St. Raymond's hosts homecoming b-ball game



Photo courtesy of St. Raymond's

St. Raymond's High School alumni returned to their old home on Sunday, December 11 for the school's annual homecoming basketball game. Over 100 graduates and their families watched St. Raymond's varsity, JV and freshmen pick up wins. They also got the chance to tour the school's new building.

(Above, l-r) Daniel Dingle '12, principal Br. Daniel Gardner FSC, Vinny Martin '65, Darryl Bryant '08, coach Oliver Antigua '93, Ricardo Torres '05, Greg Scott '72 and Kerwin Okoro '12.



Saint Catharine Academy Cheerleaders

SCA cheerleaders head to Nationals

For the ninth consecutive year, St. Catharine Academy cheerleaders are invited to participate in the national competition of the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) to be held in Orlando, Florida, February 8 to 13, 2012.

The SCA Varsity is the 4th ranked medium varsity competitive cheerleading squad in the country, based on results from the 2011 UCA National Cheerleading Competition.

Both JV and Varsity teams qualified to participate in Orlando at the UCA Empire Regional Tournament held at Hofstra University on December 3. The JV squad placed 1st in the Small JV division while Varsity placed 2nd in the highly competitive Medium Varsity division.

The Varsity's successful bid for Nationals follows winning, for the first time, the Grand Championship at the Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational on November 22. They also came in first place at the White Plains Competition on November 19 along with the Grand Champion trophy for having the highest score of the competition. Their success comes from commitment and hours of practice, as much as four to five days per week.

The cheerleaders find inspiration in the dictum of basketball great Shaquille O'Neal, "Excellence is not a singular act but a habit. You are what you do repeatedly." "This quote is something that SCA Cheerleading strives to achieve every season," said coach Nicole Pennacchia Sallustia. "We have a long standing tradition of success. We plan to keep making strides for our school, for the Bronx, as well as for the northeast in the National competition."

For more information about the cheerleading performances visit the SCA website, www.scahs.org.

Scanlan students speak at luncheon

The students at Monsignor Scanlan High School started the day on a very proud note.

The Lawyers Committee of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund is holding its 22nd annual Saint Thomas More Award luncheon at Cipriani's, on 42nd Street in Manhattan. Scanlan Senior, Cierra Howard, has been asked to speak of her experience to those in attendance at the gathering.

The Friends of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund serves as an umbrella organization for volunteer initiatives including Job-readiness workshops and summer-job placement through the JOB Opportunities Program.. During her junior year, Howard was offered an opportunity that has had many wonderful results. Through the Guidance Department, Cierra and some of her classmates were made aware that they were eligible for the Inner-City Scholarship Fund's Job Opportunities Program. Cierra filled out an application and submitted the required letters of recommendation.

Once she was accepted into the program, Cierra began to attend the Saturday workshops that would prepare her for a summer internship. With the help of volunteer mentors and JOP staff, she learned about writing a resume, conducting herself in an interview and handling day to day office responsibilities.

This past summer she spent working at Willkie Farr and Gallagher. She worked as an administrative assistant and got a glimpse of the legal profession.

She plans on studying medicine. She is very appreciative of her time spent at Willkie Farr & Gallagher.



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Urban health Plan Topping Out held on Simpson Street facility

Expected to open in mid to late 2013

BY VITO SIGNORILE

The latest Bronx health center is one step closer to being completed.

Construction began the first week of July, and now Urban Health Plan has officially completed the 5-story superstructure at 1054 Simpson Street.

UHP representatives, members of Gilbane Construction, local elected officials, and dozens of local residents gathered at the location on Wednesday, December 14 for the “Topping Out” celebration, a tradition in building construction.

Those who gathered helped raise an American flag atop the 54,000-square-foot health center to signify the end of the first construc-

tion phase.

Now, with an expected date of mid to late 2013, UHP is looking forward to the future of their fifth Bronx health center.

“The ‘Topping Out’ is a time to celebrate the work of the individuals who have worked on this project,” said Paloma Hernandez, president and CEO of UHP. “The Simpson Street Expansion Project will not only create access to health care for more than 20,000 individuals, but it will also serve as an economic engine for the south Bronx.”

With the superstructure complete, workers will now begin installing the exterior walls and curtain walls.

The Simpson Street addition, a \$55 million investment will greatly increase what the other UHP locations already have to offer, tripling the number of medical exam rooms from 55 to 169, increase the number of dental operatories from four to 20, expand specialty services and special programs such as geriatric and HIV/AIDS, and expand its radiology services and provide mammography services.

The annual primary care visits to UHP facilities in the Bronx is around 223,000. With the addition of the Simpson expansion, UHP expected the number of visits to skyrocket to 400,000 by 2016.



Photo Courtesy of Urban Health Plan

As part of a traditional “Topping Out” celebration, Urban Health Plan placed an American flag at the top of their future expansion on 1054 Simpson Street.

SoBRO holds annual gala fundraiser

On Thursday, December 1, the South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation held its 39th Anniversary Gala at the Grand Hyatt in New York City. This year, the SoBRO Gala raised \$250,000.

The honorees this year included: Ken Cohen,

Pantheon Properties and Steven Smith, Oak Point Property, LLC (Developers of the Year), HarperCollins (Corporate Leadership) and Awilda Cordero (Spirit of the Bronx).

The event was emceed by ABC News Correspondent, Linsey Davis. Assem-

blyman Carl Heastie and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., who were among the many political figures in attendance, spoke to the audience and shared their commitment and support of SoBRO and the South Bronx community.



Photo by Bill Weisbrod

The Unionport Road garage.

Parkchester garage attendants return

From page 1

es committee, and retained the services of a lawyer in her fight for round-the-clock staffing, but has yet to take any legal action.

The residents’ concerns about the lack of attendants revolved mainly around security, even though they are not trained security guards.

I definitely feel safer,” she said. “Anything can happen no matter where you are. And even a scream, the attendants can hear you. Just to see the presence of someone sitting there. That’s a deterrent.”

Central Parking System manages the garages on

behalf of owner Parkchester Preservation Company. Customers pay an average of over \$150 a month for a parking space.

Mizell is still in touch with her attorney, in case the attendants are removed again. They were reinstated on a part-time basis shortly after the first town hall meeting, but garage customers said that arrangement did not last long. Anything less than 24 hours a day would be unacceptable they expressed. In lieu of round-the-clock staffing, attendants also roved between the garages in a car.

Danny Figueroa, Rivera’s chief of staff, also helped facilitate the town

hall meetings and the petitions.

“I believe that (Central Parking System) had all intentions to do something,” Figueroa said. “I think our ability to mobilize the community prompted them to act quicker.”

Figueroa also added his office would like to see the physical appearance of the garages improved, citing dripping water and broken lights.

Mizell agreed that while those were issues, the lack of attendants was the most pressing.

“The biggest issue that we had to address was to get the attendants back,” she said.

HP sludge heading to Pennsylvania

From page 1

greater New York.”

NYOFCo was processing about 600 tons of sludge a day at its facility on Oak Point Avenue in Hunts Point and turned it into fertilizer pellets at a cost of approximately \$30 million a year, but the contract with WeCare organic will be significantly less, at about \$11 million a year, according to the DEP.

Future plans for the NYOFCo plant are up to the owner of the property, said Jamie Kinder, a spokes-

woman for Synagro.

“As part of our obligation to the community, as well as the landlord, we have closed our operations there,” Kinder said. “We are waiting for our landlord to give us a disposition of the plant. It may be demolished or kept as is under a new lease agreement.”

The landlord is actively seeking a tenant for the property, Kinder stated. Since it is not a city-owned property, the DEP cannot comment on the site’s future, said DEP spokesman Farrell Skerov.

Environmental justice activists filed a lawsuit against NYOFCo in July 2008. Plaintiffs included Mothers on the Move and 10 local residents from Hunts Point. Congressman Jose Serrano called for the facility to be closed in 2006, according to published reports.

A public hearing on the new WeCare Organics, LLC contract will be held in Queens at the DEP office, located at 59-17 Junction Boulevard. It will occur in the 17th floor conference room on Thursday, December 29.

Montefiore combats hypertension

Montefiore Medical Center is sponsoring screenings and educational workshops at churches in the Bronx in order to help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in congregants who are identified with hypertension. Congregants learn about hypertension, medication management, weight control, healthy cooking habits and perform yoga exercises to reduce stress. The program is funded and coordinated by Montefiore's Care Management Company (CMO) and the Office of Community Health.

"In the Northeast Bronx, an astonishing 32 percent of adults have high blood pressure, a medical condition that puts these individuals at very high risk for heart disease, stroke and death," said Peter Selwyn, MD, MPH, director of Montefiore Medical Center's Office of Community Health.

"This is a grass roots effort to reach people in the hopes of making a difference in their health."

"We tailor our workshops to the needs of each congregation, and that generates a lot of discussion and questions," said Helene Mayo, Program Director of Community Education at Montefiore's CMO. "We are beginning to see a change in mindset among many of the congregants, especially women. In fact, at a recent screening, nurses identified three women with critically high blood pressure who were sent immediately to the hospital for evaluation and treatment."

At Jubilee Baptist Church, ten women over the age of 55 signed up for the program. After the initial blood-pressure screenings, nine of the ten women were diagnosed as pre-hypertensive or hypertensive. A se-

ries of workshops over the next several months were tailored to address the specific needs of this group.

"This series of workshops was very beneficial to our church family in terms of making important lifestyle changes," said Pastor Liz Townes-Shuler of Jubilee, who learned for the first time through the screenings that she had high blood pressure. "Some of us discovered new ways to exercise; others learned how to control weight or how to change our cooking habits. As a result, I was able to reduce my blood pressure from 'borderline' to 'normal.'"

To date, Montefiore has worked with nearly 150 congregants at nine churches in the Northeast Bronx. For more information and to learn how to get involved, contact Helene Mayo at HMAVO@montefiore.org or (718) 920-9473.

Teens in chronic pain are at higher risk of suicide: study

According to a new study co-authored by Lehman College Sociologist Naomi J. Spence, adolescents suffering from chronic pain are more likely to contemplate suicide.

Dr. Spence and her colleagues published their findings in the most recent issue of The Journal of Pain, a publication of the American Pain Society (APS).

Professor Spence, along with researchers at the University of North Carolina and Duke University, analyzed data collected by the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health from nearly 10,000 people and found that teens face a higher probability of suicide if chronic pain is a part of their lives.

"People with chronic pain are more likely to be depressed," says Dr. Spence. "A higher risk of de-

pression can lead to more suicidal thoughts."

The American Pain Society reports that suicide is a major cause of death among adolescents, citing figures from 2009 in which 14 percent of adolescents polled had seriously considered suicide, and 6 percent had attempted it.

This study by Dr. Spence and her colleagues is the first to associate chronic pain in this particular age group with both suicidal thoughts and attempts.

Recognizing why adolescents are at increased risk and offering appropriate care, the authors note, can help save lives.

The study focused on adolescents who said they had experienced pain once per week for at least twelve months, with headache emerging as the most commonly reported pain.

To measure suicidal

thoughts and attempts, subjects were asked: "During the past twelve months, did you ever seriously think about committing suicide?" and "During the past twelve months, how many times did you attempt suicide?"

Their answers were measured on a widely used depression-measurement scale.

The study concluded that self-reported pain in adolescents, as in the case of adults, is associated with increased risk of suicidal thoughts and did not vary according to age or gender.

Dr. Naomi J. Spence, who has taught at Lehman College since 2009, earned her B.A. at the University of New Orleans in 2000, her M.S. at Florida State University in 2002, and her Ph.D. in sociology in 2006.

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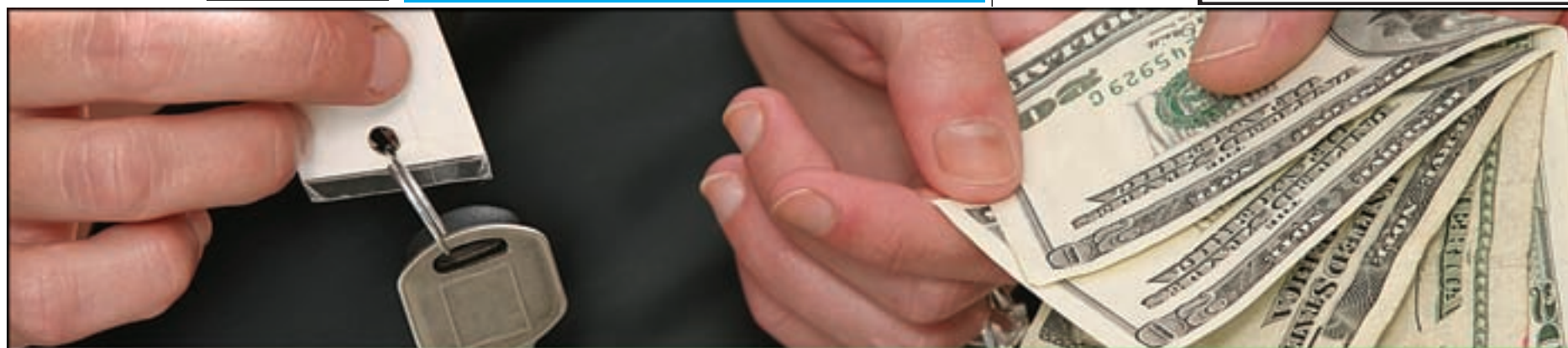
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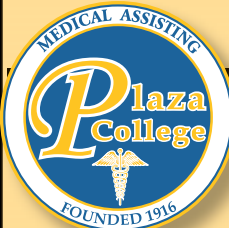
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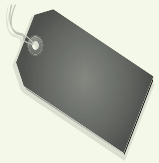
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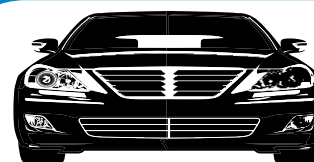
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Bronx scene

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Primavera students learn to make pizza pies

BY BILL WEISBROD
 Jimmy DiDomenico, owner of Jimmy's Pizza & Grill on Bruckner Boulevard, wanted to help the students from the Primavera Italian language program learn about pizza. So instead of having the kids watch him make the food, why not let them make their own?

"It's not that much fun to watch someone else make a pie," he said.

So on two Saturdays; December 3 and December 10, Jimmy's hosted half of the students in the Primavera program, where they learned how to make their own versions of Italy's most famous native dish.

Students started with their own chunks of dough,

which they kneaded and flavored to their own personal preference with mozzarella and tomato sauce.

The experience was part of a lesson plan for the students, most of whom are in fifth and sixth grades, about the Italian origins of pizza.

"It was fun," said 11-year-old Primavera students Angelina Zervos. "Because we all got to make our very own, and we got to learn about the history of pizza before we actually went."

But the best part for Angelina?

"Probably eating the pizza," she said.

Students learned that the modern form of pizza originated in Naples in the

18th century. It did not look much like the slices on thin dough that New Yorkers are used to; it was rounded dough with cheese, oil, garlic and anchovies.

Even today, Italian and European pizza is different from what the students made.

"It's nothing like Italy's," said Loretta Zaino, coordinator of the Primavera program. "The difference is Italy's is a thicker dough, it's a fresh tomato sauce. Everything is different. It's more hearty, so to speak."

But the pizza-making outing was a great chance for Zaino to enhance her classroom lessons.

"It started because we wanted kids to visualize

Continued on next page



Photo by Laura Stone

(l-r) Owners Monica DiDomenico, Jimmy DiDomenico, program co-sponsor Councilman Jimmy Vacca, Nicholas Leone, Gino Gallella, Steven Von Kessel, Zaino.

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Photos by Claude Roland

BARTOW-PELL MANSION HOSTS HOLIDAY PARTY

The Bartow Pell Mansion annual holiday party was held on Saturday, December 3 at the mansion at 895 Shore Road. Dozens of members and their friends and family gathered to celebrate the holiday season with delicious food, festive music, and good laughs.

(Above, l-r) Bartow Pell Conservancy Board members Debra Ballard, Catherine Scinta, Mary Beth Fisher, Ellen Bruzelius, and Mark Campisano began the holiday season with the annual gala.



(l-r) Chris Ronan, Dawn LoCascio, Donna Randles, and Simone Schloss led they way with holiday carols.

Primavera class makes pizza pies

From previous page

what we were discussing,” she said. “We wanted them to see pizza being made.”

Zaino frequently orders from Jimmy’s for her class, so when she approached DiDomenico about

the pizza-making workshop, he suggested letting the students make their own, as opposed to just watching.

The entire program has 75 students, so they were split up into two groups for each visit to Jimmy’s.

And although those

days are a little more hectic than most for DiDomenico, he has not minded the companionship.

“Just as much as the kids like making their own pizza, we enjoyed the company,” he said.

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rock on the bronx

by Fish Altieri

my brain is able to do many things at once, and my mouth is able to speak aloud whether the person is sitting next to me in the car or if the person I converse with is at home on their couch. I am human. I can handle stuff. I do not need negative government interference.

I can eat while driving. I can laugh while driving. I can crane my neck to the left, far left, right, and far right and almost turn it around while driving.

I drive in snow, sleet, hail, pot holes, and over speed bumps. Driving these days is like being in a real life version of a video game. I can certainly talk on a hands-free device while driving!

When did banning become such an easy thing to thrust upon the free citizenry; banning is lazy, arbitrary, autocratic and un-American!

This is not how our founding fathers wanted this country to be run. They did not want a small group of men removing incremental freedoms from large masses of people.

Ban banning! Promote education and good safety habits.

Why can't we even have

a discussion about technology and cars? Why not make a new law that's a little more lenient? Why not make it illegal to use an electronic device over 60 miles an hour? Why not make it illegal unless you're stuck in traffic? Why not add a new level to the motor vehicle test in which you have to prove that you can handle an electronic device while driving? Or how about this: do nothing. Ban nothing. Leave us alone to lead private lives.

Are we children or tax-paying adults? And what's terrifically bitter is that for all the taxes we pay the roads are still mired in traffic and unfixed, the bridges are crumbling, tolls are exorbitant and now you have the gall to try and take away the only way we can do business, keep busy, and communicate with family and friends while stuck on the nation's roads.

This is why, even though I don't agree with them on every issue I am okay with all the various protests currently going on; for when people feel their voices are no longer respected they "ban" together with like minded people to change the status quo. Banning anything is bad. Banning is a word that harkens back to the days of banning books. Stop making new laws, repeal some old ones and enforce what you have.

Rock on. Rock out.

Special programs at Castle Hill Library

The Castle Hill Library, 947 Castle Hill Avenue, will host the Diller-Quaile Strong Quartet on Wednesday, January 4, at 4 p.m. The Classical Access Family Concert introduces school age children and their parents to works of the string quartet literature as well as the instruments that make up the group: violin, viola, and cello. After a short mini-concert, quartet members engage the children in the discovery of their own music sensibilities by leading and involving them in singing and rhythmic games, and exploring imagery suggested by music. The session concludes with a final mini concert.

On Wednesday, January 18, at 4 p.m., the library will host The Art of Mine with Bill Bowers, Broadway actor and former students of famed mime Marcel Marceau. He will show how the world of mime is much larger than being stuck in a box. He will perform short mime scenes and lead participants in the workshops to build their imaginations and mime skills. Presented by Urban States. For ages 4 and older.

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Fteley Avenue named after renowned engineer

39 BRONX TIMES Dec. 22-28, 2011

Because it lacks a vowel between the letters f and t, Fteley Avenue has been the subject of discussion since its inception. Locals long believed that it was named for Fort Eley which was said to be Revolutionary War fort on Clason Point and that the sign maker simply left off the period when abbreviating Ft. Eley. That, however, is merely a myth as there never was a Fort Eley on Clason Point or anywhere in the Bronx. The street was simply named for Alphonse Fteley, a former president of the American Society of Engineers, who was born in France in 1837. He was educated at the Polytechnic School in Paris and immigrated to the United States in 1865 achieving a certain amount of fame in engineering circles.

Fteley did, however, have a connection to Clason Point as he was the city engineer in charge of draining the swamps that once encumbered much of

do you remember

by Bill Twomey

the area. He was also the inventor of the apt named Fteley Meter which is used to measure the rate of flow

Fteley is more widely remembered for his design of the Croton Dam in 1891.

in hydrographic surveying. He worked for the Boston water supply before coming to New York.

He served as the chief engineer of the City of New York Aqueduct Commission from 1887 to 1895, during which time he worked

on the design of the Jerome Park Reservoir. He created two islands and a peninsula in his early design to preserve the Jerome Park Clubhouse and the Oak Ridge Clubhouse. Each was to occupy its own island and the peninsula was where shaft #21 would have been located with access from Goulden Avenue. They were later eliminated from the design to allow for greater water storage capacity.

Fteley is more widely remembered for his design of the Croton Dam in 1891. Construction began the following year with some of the skilled labor imported from southern Italy. The masonry dam is 297 feet high and goes down 130 feet below the river bed. When constructed it was the tallest in the world. The mas-

sive dam is 266 feet wide and contains 850,000 cubic yards of concrete. It can hold up to nineteen billion gallons of water which seems like a lot but is only a small fraction of the water we use in the city.

Some readers may also recall that he was involved with the design of the Panama Canal which revolutionized travel from the east coast to the west coast and beyond. It cut the distance by more than fifty percent and avoided the necessity of traversing around Cape Horn or through the Strait of Magellan.

Alphonse Fteley passed away on Thursday, June 11, 1903 at the age of 66 in his Alta Avenue home in the Park Hill section of Yonkers. He was cremated and his remains were interred in the Locust Section of Woodlawn Cemetery. His headstone is of a natural granite design and can be viewed just off Prospect Avenue.



John McNamara at Fteley Avenue in May of 1993.



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PIPE DREAMS

By Bob Connolly

Met blunders

BY BOB CONNELLY

Giants-Jets Week 14

The Giants (7-6) broke a 4 game slide by beating the Cowboys (7-6) with another bit of last minute heroics, 37-34. Jason Pierre-Paul reached up and blocked a last second FG attempt. JPP had some game- aside from the FG block, he had 6 tackles, 2 sacks, 1 forced fumble, and credit for 1 safety. Eli was 27/47, 400 yds. Jacobs ran 19 times for 101 yds; Nicks caught 7 for 154 yds & Cruz was 7/83.

The Jets (8-5) routed the Chiefs (5-8), 37-10. The rout was so complete that the Chiefs only had 4 yds in the 1st half. Shonn Greene rushed 24-129 yds and had 3 reception for 58 yds. Sanchez was 13/21, 159 yds with 0 INT.

Met Blunders

I think that you must start with the Wilpons when you begin assigning blame for the Mets' predicament. The saying is that when you think that something seems too good to be true. It probably is. The Wilpons thought that they could achieve great investment returns by giving money for investments to Bernie Madoff. How's that working out, guys?

You also have to put ex-GM, Omar Minaya into the mix because of the HUGE contracts he gave to players not worth the

Continued on page 44

Mott Haven's Grant key to hot start

BY ZACH BRAZILLER

Hakeem Grant symbolizes Mott Haven's success in the early going.

Like the Mavericks, Grant entered the season unproven and inexperienced. But like his teammates, the John F. Kennedy transfer has gotten off to a quick start, averaging 21 points per game and seven rebounds in the team's first six league contests, all of them wins.

His big start continued Friday in an impressive 75-62 victory over Taft. The 6-foot-3 wing scored 21 points as Mott Haven picked up its eighth straight victory.

"Silent Assassin, we call him," Porter said. "He had 29 points the other day and we were like 'wow.' He gets his points silently. He's a great baseline player, leave him alone and he'll bury the 3 and he can go right or left. He's a very cerebral player."

Rob Lloyd added 18 points and recently eligible guard Taquan Givens and Bright Attkorah tallied 11 points apiece. Givens, the younger brother of former Bishop Loughlin and Kennedy standout Anthony Givens, was cleared Wednesday and has given Porter's club a much-needed scorer off the bench.

"It's a huge bonus," Grand said. "He can really shoot the ball. He stretches the defense."

The ultra-confident and admittedly cocky Porter said he is

surprised by the Mavericks success thus far. He returned just two players – Lloyd and Attkorah – with varsity experience under his watch, and nearly put up particularly impressive numbers last winter. In addition to transfers (Grant) and youth (Givens), Porter has also brought on a few players, such as Chris Shoulders and Akeem Watts, who've never played organized basketball before.

The coach credits his team's exceptional performance in league so far to a tough preseason schedule that included losses against Brooklyn A East powers Bedford Academy and Brooklyn Collegiate and a victory over last year's 'A' runner-up Long Island City.

"That LIC win, right before league play started, that gave us some confidence," Porter said. "It got us over the hump, we beat a good team, we felt good about ourselves and we've added some kids."

Grand said: "That got us ready for the season. It definitely got us tougher."

Presently, Porter said his 2009-10 team, which reached the PSAL Class A final, is better than this one. He had kids who spent a few years in the program and a legitimate go-to star in Dashawn Joyner. This group, while not as advanced, has a greater upside, he said, considering how far it has come in such a short time to-

Continued on page 44

"Each day we emphasize how everything contributes to your overall ability to achieve. So they really push each other to eat right and train hard. They also recognize the importance of staying sharp mentally so they work to do well in school."

MARK GOODMAN.....PAGE 43



Photo by Robert Cole

Hakeem Grant scored 21 points in Mott Haven's 75-62 win over Taft on Friday.

Mount passes the test; downs Harborfields in OT

BY CHRISTOPHER BARCA

Mount St. Michael, a new member of CHSAA Class AA, didn't even have to start league play to realize what a bump up in division means in terms of the quality of the opponents it will play.

"Harborfields is really good – really, really good," Mountaineers guard Malik Gill said. "They are a hell of a lot better than we thought they were."

Despite opening the game on a 17-6 run, it took game-tying free throws in the last 90 seconds and back-to-back dramatic 3-point

shots in overtime for Mount to narrowly defeat Long Island's Harborfields, 79-73, in a non-league boys basketball game Tuesday in The Bronx.

After four straight victories by 21 points or more, Mount St. Michael (5-0) finally received the test it has been looking for entering league play next Tuesday against All Hallows.

"It was our first tough test of the season, but it's great preparation for the league games coming up," Gill said. "We showed today that we're going to be a tough team to beat."

Even though the fourth quarter was the only quarter that Harborfields carried a lead into, Mount was outplayed by its Long Island opponents for a majority of the game. After the first quarter, which saw the Mountaineers dominate the scoreboard with help from wing Andrew Urate and his two buckets from beyond the three point line, Harborfields seemingly woke up.

The Tornados finished the second quarter on a 10-2 run to cut the deficit to four and their momentum carried into the second half, as Harborfields scored

25 points in the third and led by as many as nine.

"We were sleeping on them in the first half, definitely," said Mount forward Ed Correa, who finished with a game-high 21 points. "That's why we let them come back, we overlooked them."

"Teams have runs every game, and they had their run in the second and third quarters," added Urate. "We woke up when we realized the score late in the third quarter and coach [Tom Fraher] was in our ear. So then we went on our run."

Continued on page 44

2011 ALL-BRONX/MANHATTAN

Football honors

BY ZACH BRAZILLE
MARC RAIMONDI
AND JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Bronx and Manhattan held their own on the citywide level.

DeWitt Clinton made its first PSAL City Championship division semifinals since 1989 and cemented itself as the borough's top program in the PSAL. John F. Kenendy, though, was back in the playoffs for the first time since 2008 and Truman made a successful transition to the City Championship level.

In the CHSFL, Mount St. Michael might have lost to St. Anthony's in the 'AAA' quarterfinals, but injuries crippled the Mountaineers down the stretch of a strong year. Xavier won the 'AA-A' regular season crown and Cardinal Hayes had another big year in that league. Both Fieldston and Riverdale fielded strong private school squads.

All-Bronx/Manhattan football Player of the Year: Ryan Camilo, DeWitt Clinton

His transfer for financial reasons from Cardinal Hayes to DeWitt Clinton was met with little to no reaction from the football community. It should've been.

The senior signal-caller filled a large void under center for the Governors and transformed the offense into coach Howard Langley's most versatile in his eight seasons. The dynamic multi-dimensional threat ran for 1,018 yards and 12 touchdowns, threw for 404 yards and four touchdowns, and led the Governors to an 8-4 season and quarterfinal upset of defending champion Fort Hamilton.

"He's the quarterback, he's the captain, he's everything in our offense," teammate Jeremiah Obeng-Agay-pong said.

All-Bronx/Manhattan football Coach of the Year: Howard Langley, DeWitt Clinton

The progress has been slow but steady at Clinton for Howard Langley. After eight seasons, he has established the Governors as the premier PSAL football program in The Bronx and one of the

city's top teams, period. This was a big year for the Governors, getting to the City Championship division semifinals for the first time since 1989 and Langley had a major hand in that success.

He turned around a sinking ship during a midseason slump with his even-keel yet confident approach and hired former Kennedy coach Alex Vega – his one-time rival – to be his defensive coordinator. It was a move many coaches wouldn't have the nerve to make, but Langley is unique, and Vega helped Langley take the program to new heights this fall.

First Team Offense

QB Najae Brown, Mount St. Michael

The senior was an absolute force on both sides of the ball. Brown collected 986 yards of total offense and 17 touchdowns in his first season at quarterback and recorded four interceptions at safety. There wasn't a Mount victory he didn't have his hands all over.

RB James Drago, Fordham Prep

Drago emerged as the Rams' premier back late in the season after injuries thrust him into the role. The junior was one of the main reasons the Rams surged to win the CHSFL Class AA title. He rushed for 141 yards against Kellenberg in the final.

RB Romario Dillion, John F. Kennedy

The senior was instrumental in Kennedy earning its first winning record since 2008. He was third in the PSAL City Championship division in rushing (1,274 yards) and second in touchdowns (16) for the 5-4 Knights.

RB DeQuan June, Cardinal Hayes

The explosive and elusive senior followed in a great line of Hayes running backs. June compiled 1,539 rushing yards and 14 touchdowns to lead the Cardinals to a second-place finish in the CHSFL's 'AA-A' division. He amassed 339 yards of total offense in a win over St. Francis Prep, the highlight of his star-studded season.

RB Ashton McKenzie, DeWitt Clinton

Built like a Mack truck, the junior was Clinton's heart and soul, its top defensive player at middle linebacker and dependable fullback. He ran for 964 yards and 11 touchdowns and had 63 tackles and a sack. It was no coincidence that the Governors' chances of an upset in the semifinals against eventual champion Lincoln were greatly diminished when he suffered a high ankle sprain early in the first quarter and was unable to return.

OL Francisco Mendez, John F. Kennedy

The highly recruited two-way lineman was a beast up front, opening up monstrous holes for Romario Dillion and keeping quarterback Anthony Cruz safe. The 6-foot-7, 305-pound behemoth has interest from a number of D-I programs.

RB Jeremiah Obeng-Agay-pong, DeWitt Clinton

He stepped out of his older brother Stephen's shadow this fall with his game-breaking ability, helping Clinton reach the semifinals for the first time in more than 20 years. The standout defensive back/receiver/running back enjoyed a solid regular season, but he was at his best in the playoffs, scoring three touchdowns and coming up with an interception.

RB Trey Solomon, Xavier

Stepping in for injured junior Brent Scardapane, Solomon exceeded all expectations for a sophomore. He was fifth in all of the CHSFL with 1,168 rushing yards and second with 18 touchdowns in a breakout campaign.

RB Mark Walsh, Riverdale

The Falcons recorded their first unbeaten season since 1999 and Walsh was their main threat on the ground. The shifty senior, who was regularly over 150 yards, carried the ball 21 times for 293 yards and four touchdowns in a season-ending win over Dalton.

RB David White, Lehman

The senior became Lehman's all-time leading rusher as well as its single-season



Photo by An Rong Xu

Clinton's Ryan Camilo is All-Bronx/Manhattan football Player of the Year.



Photo by Denis Gostev

Clinton's Howard Langley is All-Bronx/Manhattan football Coach of the Year.

top runner. White led the PSAL City Championship division in rushing yards (1,874) and was third in the league with 15 touchdowns on the ground.

RB Logan Williamson, Fordham Prep

Williamson was the Rams closer in the red zone, where his team was rarely stopped all season. The junior found the end zone eight times on the ground and had four receiving scores. Williamson also threw the winning two-point conversion pass in the 'AA' title game against Kellenberg.

Defense

LB Kenny Acquah, Mount St. Michael

The two-way star was one of the linchpins of a superb Mount defense. Acquah's combination of speed

and strength made him a sure tackler who ran down even the speediest backs. He had 52 total tackles despite playing through an injured ankle late in the season.

LB Stefano Dawkins, DeWitt Clinton

One of the keys to the Governors' stifling defense, the senior middle linebacker led Clinton with 70 tackles and was integral to the unit's improvement as the year went on.

LB Richard Jones, Mount St. Michael

Jones was the ultimate run stopper. The 6-foot-1, 215-pounds senior would regularly have his way with opposing offensive lines and halt runners in their tracks. He was a physical and dominating presence every time he stepped on the field.

LB Nathaniel Feliz, John F. Kennedy

With his Troy Polamalu-like hairstyle, it was hard to miss Feliz flying all over the field. The super-athletic senior had an incredible season, finishing tops in the PSAL City Championship division in tackles (98) and leading Kennedy back to the playoffs after a two-year absence.

LB Mike Gorman, Xavier

Xavier's defense was almost impossible to score upon in the second half and Gorman was a significant reason for that success. The undersized, 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior used his athleticism to pick up five sacks and he was always around the ball.

DL Omari Manhertz,
Continued on page 44

St. Ray's 21 point rally leads to City of Palms Q's

BY MARC RAIMONDI

About six parents who made the trip down to Fort Myers, Fla., made up the St. Raymond rooting section at the tip of the team's first game at the prestigious City of Palms Classic.

By the end of three quarters, with the Ravens down 21 and no shot clock, even they were silent. But after a wild, inspired comeback to send the game into overtime and eventually win, 73-70, against Trinity (Ky.) in the first round Saturday, St. Ray's became the story of the country's top tournament.

"By the end of the run we had like half the gym cheering for us," Ravens coach Oliver Antigua said with a laugh. "We gained some fans."

Trinity (5-1), Kentucky's top team, got passive, trying to slow things down and run the clock out. St. Ray's (5-0) did the opposite. The Ravens trapped, pressed and tried every way

possible to speed the game up. When they drew even, it whipped the crowd into a frenzy and Temple-bound star Daniel Dingle came up with a monster block on the other end, sending the game into overtime.

"That was like a message," Antigua said.

Trinity scored the first five points of overtime and St. Raymond had to fight back again. The Ravens did so and two Dingle free throws sealed the comeback with 6.5 seconds left. St. Ray's meets Montverde, ranked No. 7 in the country by USA Today, in the quarterfinals Monday.

"That was like a playoff win," Antigua said. "Tough. Every play was important. It was a lot of pressure. They never quit, I was happy how they responded."

Dingle was a monster, scoring 24 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and dishing out five assists. Iowa State-bound forward Kerwin Okoro had 19 points and Myron

Hickman and Larry Graves each added 12 points. Shane Rector, in his return from an injured ankle, played about 20 minutes.

Antigua put this game right up there with a CHSAA Class AA sectional semifinals victory over Holy Cross and Sylven Landesberg in 2007. That team, led by Darryl Bryant and Gerald Colds, was down 19 points in the second half before storming back to earn a spot in the championship game.

St. Ray's scored just 16 points in the first half and looked dead to rights after three – "we were about to be in the cemetery," Antigua joked. But he and the coaching staff told the players to go all out on presses and traps and the Ravens came through.

"They showed that Bronx swagger," Antigua said.

And earned some support from Florida, too.

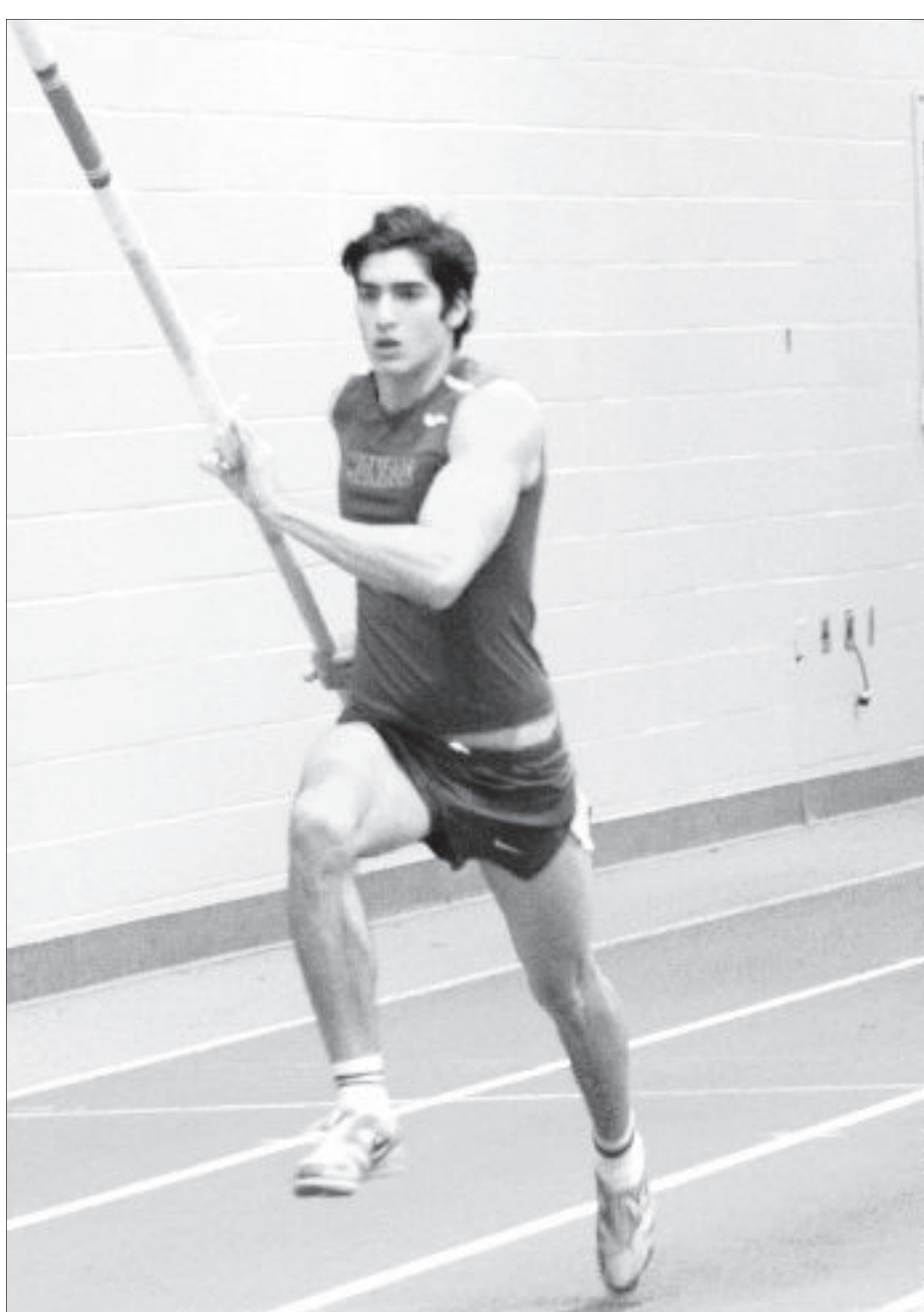


Photo by Victor Chu

Fracisco Escobar is one of two Mustangs who aced their freshman semester with a 4.0 GPA.

STEPINAC FOOTBALL STARS SELECT COLLEGES



Two Stepinac High School star football players have accepted scholarships from renowned higher education institutions. Caleb Gilligan-Evans of Yonkers, (l), captain of the school's Crusaders team, has committed to Yale University and Austin Taps of Mahopac (r), defensive end/tight end, will be heading to William & Mary. Caleb earned All-State, All-County, All-Catholic High School Football League honors and was chosen by Westchester Magazine as one of 20 students to watch. Austin, whose older brother, Tim, is a student at William & Mary, was named the Journal News Westchester/Putnam player of the year and was chosen the CHSFL's Vincent O'Connor Award winner for the league's defensive player of the year. Shown with their coach Mike O'Donnell (c), the two seniors who will graduate from Stepinac next June, have also excelled in volunteering their time to support the community.

Monroe track competition update

BY GARY AXELBANK

The Monroe Mustangs indoor track team is enjoying a brilliant season on the track and also in the classroom. Led by pole vaulter Francisco Javier Escobar and shot-putter Danzel Rolle, who both came up aces with 4.0 GPA's in their freshman semesters at Monroe, eleven other Mustangs achieved GPA scores of over 3.5. In fact, the GPA average for the entire 45-member team is at 3.0.

"This speaks volumes about our athletes' commitment to success," said coach Mark Goodman. "Each day we emphasize how everything contributes to your overall ability to achieve. So they really push each other

to eat right and train hard. They also recognize the importance of staying sharp mentally so they work to do well in school, too."

Part of that work includes regular study hall sessions arranged and monitored by assistant coach Shirvone Greene. Twice a week team members get together in the college's state of the art Academic Resource Center where they study together, assist one another with homework and projects, analyze class notes, and in total work together to achieve.

"Track and field is often seen as an individual sport, but at Monroe we view it as a team effort," Coach Good-

man said. "This collaboration in academics fosters that spirit and yes, it supports success on the track as well."

Escobar who is from Columbia, majors in Business Administration and Rolle, a freshman from Florida, is an Accounting major. At their meet last week at Fordham University, Escobar placed second in pole vault (3.95) and Rolle was fifth in the shot put (10.75m)

The Mustangs will get back on the track at the Metropolitan Coaches Invitational at the NYC Armory on January 6. Indoor track schedule. Classes for their winter semester begin on Wednesday, January 4.



Photo by Robert Cole

Mott Haven's Taquan Givens goes up for a layup.

Grant keys hot start

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gether. “The sky is the limit,” the coach said. “It’s not as much Joyner and the seven dwarfs; it’s more of a team thing. This team plays really good defense and when we start executing really well in the halfcourt, we’ll be a very good team.” With all that said, Grant’s addition has served as a major boost. He was set to play for Kennedy this winter but after an altercation in the fall, he applied for a safety transfer and was placed at Mott Haven, his zoned school. Porter could tell immediately Grant would make

a difference by his play in open gyms. He was versatile, unselfish and possessed a variety of skills that would translate in Porter’s up-tempo system. “You get lucky sometimes,” Porter said. “We get our share of transfers, but he came out of the blue. He’d probably get lost in the sauce at Kennedy.” Grant feels fortunate as well. “It’s a blessing in disguise,” he said of landing at Mott Haven. “I wanted to play so bad, I was hungry to play and it’s my senior year.” Grant is taking full advantage of the opportunity.

Mount passes test with flying colors

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Despite the best efforts of Longwood-bound guard Lucas Woodhouse, who scored 14 points in the second half alone, and Harborfields, Mount Saint Michael stormed right back. After finishing the third quarter on a 10-2 run of their own, it was Utate leading the charge in the fourth quarter. He scored the final seven points of the quarter for the Mountaineers, in-

cluding a game-tying 3 with 2:30 remaining and tied the game once again after a Harborfields layup with two free throws with 1:09 left, forcing overtime. Utate’s hand stayed hot in the extra period, as he scored five points in the final 2:27 to seal the victory. “We had the momentum going into overtime for sure,” Utate said. “They’re one of the best teams we’ll play all season but we got the job done today.”

Pipe Dreams: Bowls have traditions; black eye

From page 41

money. Mets fans will probably be looking at the next 2 years as a re-building period. At least they are rebuilding-not sitting tight. In closing- I don’t think it was a bad thing to let Reyes walk. Was this a case of addition by subtraction? **More On Pujols** Pujols will be 32yrs. old this season and is said to be a “rickety” 32, at that. For a long time now, there have been rumors that a few years had been shaved off Pujols’ birth certificate- but that might be just a big bowl of sour grapes. **Robbing Peter To Play Paul** Three teams had agreed to a trade that had the Lakers getting Chris Paul and sending Pau Gasol to the Rockets, sending Goren Dragic, Kevin Martin, Luis Scola, and Lamar Odom to New Orleans. But, NBA-Commissioner “King David” Stern wearing his Hornets’ (the team owned by the NBA) cap stopped it by saying it was a basketball decision to keep Paul with the Hornets-even after Paul told the team he wouldn’t sign any contract extension and would become a free agent July 1st allowing him to just walk away. Odom was confused (as am I) and said, “They don’t want my services, for whatever reason. I don’t know what I’m supposed to do.”

J.A. Adande (ESPN.com) on those four players the Hornets would have received: “The Hornets would have received Lamar Odom, Luis Scola, Kevin Martin, and Goran Dragic. That’s one of the most versatile players in the league, a guy who averages 18 and 10, a proven 20-a-night scorer, and a point guard who, if nothing else, has shown he can have a 23-point fourth quarter in a playoff game against the Spurs. You can compete for the playoffs with that team. You’re going to tell me that’s worse than the package of Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton, Danilo Gallinari, Timofey Mozgov and draft picks that the Nuggets received for Carmelo Anthony?” We’ll be waiting for the next shoe to drop. I don’t think we’ll have a long wait. **Bowls Having Traditions** I’ll only pay attention to The Rose Bowl, The Orange Bowl, The Sugar Bowl, and the Cotton Bowl. The rest of the johnny-come-lately bowls seem to have been created as marketing tools for the Bowl’s sponsor. Don’t get me wrong the “Big Four” also do the same things but have been around for more than eighty years. **Pujols** Even the Yankees GM, Brian Cashman, couldn’t believe the contract that Pujols signed with the Angels. There were reports that the only hold-up in the con-

tract’s signing was the no-trade clause, reportedly for five years. That would make Pujols a 5/10 player (10yrs. in the majors with 5yrs. on the same team) giving him, in effect a 10yr. no-trade deal. Pujols is 32 and at the upper edge of his prime. We’ll be watching to see if there’s any time lost because of injury or falling off in his numbers as the contract continues. Pujols leaving St. Louis, where he was looked at by everyone as the “Stan The Man.” **Yankees Shortstop** Phil Rogers (ChiTrib) wrote about the Yankees winning bid for Hiroyuki Nakajima. “The Yankees’ successful bid to get signing rights for Japanese shortstop Hiroyuki Nakajima is a sign manager Joe Girardi will rest Derek Jeter more in 2012, possibly using him once or twice a week as the designated hitter. Defensive metrics once again ranked Jeter as the weakest fielder among big league regulars, just ahead of error-prone Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro.” **Boxing Black Eye** I watched the light welterweight title match between Lamont Peterson and Amir Kahn held in Peterson’s hometown, Washington D.C., that was won by Peterson in a split decision. Two of the judges had Peterson ahead by one point (judge: Nelson Vazquez 115-110, judge: George Hill 112-

113, judge: Valerie Dorsett 112-113). The fight was ultimately won by Peterson because the referee, Joseph Cooper, deducted two points from Kahn for pushing (?). In my mind, the pushing was warranted because of Peterson’s fouls (low blows, head butts). Cooper also waved off a first round knockdown of Peterson. I had Kahn winning by two. **They Said It** From Dwight Perry (Seattle Times)- “Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, shuddering at the thought of Donald Sterling landing Magic star Dwight Howard: “Dwight bolting Orlando for the Clippers would be like your wife leaving you for Arnold Horshack.” From Scott Ostler (SF Chronicle) “Maybe he was celebrating the end of the lockout: Warriors guard Charlie Bell shows up drunk in court for his DUI hearing. Memo to NBAers: “Order in the court” does not mean “What’ll you have?” Dwight passed this along, “The teams listed 6-7-8-9 in the final BCS rankings (Arkansas, Boise State, Kansas State, South Carolina) are not going to BCS bowl games. Teams ranked 10, 13, 15 and 23 (Wisconsin, Michigan, Clemson, West Virginia) are,” wrote Carl Steward of the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune. “Makes complete sense to us.”

2011 All Bronx-Manhattan football honors

From page 42

Mount St. Michael Quarterbacks needed to know where Manhertz was at all times. The 6-foot-3 senior was the Mountaineers leader in sacks with six and collected 44 tackles. He made a habit of ripping through opposing offensive lines. LB Mike Mahon, Fordham Prep The senior was one the Rams’ unquestioned leaders on defense. His smarts always left him in the right spot to make a play. The sure tackler was one of the big reasons Fordham Prep claimed the CHSFL Class AA title. DL Ibraheem Rodriguez,

DB Bruce Parker Jr., Mount St. Michael The confident senior was one of the city’s premier cornerbacks. Whether it was a one-handed interception or electric returns for touchdowns, Parker was a big-time playmaker. He had four picks on the season as part of one of city’s best defenses. LB Armando Perez, Riverdale Also a wide receiver, Perez was an absolute stud on both sides of the ball. The junior dedicated himself to being a better defender this season and was Riverdale’s best open-field tackler. DL Ibraheem Rodriguez,

Truman Truman’s successful season moving up from the PSAL Bowl division to the City Championship level started with its line and its line began with Rodriguez. He had 39 tackles and a sack on defense and the Mustangs also ran behind him on offense. DL Shane Valdivieso, DeWitt Clinton Clinton’s top pass-rusher, he led the Governors in sacks and tackles for losses. He was also one of the Bronx school’s most improved players after hardly getting on the field as a junior. **Honorable Mention**

DL Tarik Bennett, Mount St. Michael OL Ricky Comis, Xavier WR George Dawson, Cardinal Hayes RB Charles Guiraud, Xavier RB Patrick Heumegni, Cardinal Hayes RB Jabari Hurdle-Price, Fieldston WR Tim Jones, Cardinal Hayes QB James McHale, Fordham Prep RB/LB Germain Ngaba, Cardinal Spellman RB Shandu Rollieson, Truman DB Francis Volpe, Fordham Prep

Truman stuns host Kennedy

Bronx bragging rights earned

BY MARC RAIMONDI

The John F. Kennedy-Truman rivalry hasn't been much of one over the years. Since taking over the Mustangs program eight years ago, John Burke has beaten the Knights just once. And before that, Kennedy would beat Truman by "60 or 70 points" regularly, he said.

So, Wednesday might have marked just another game between two of the better teams in the PSAL. But for Truman, its exciting, 58-56 win at Kennedy in Class AA girls basketball meant much more. It was the team's first victory at its rival's gym, perhaps ever, according to Burke.

"It's worth getting excited about," the coach said.

Especially given the circumstances.

Truman (6-2, 5-1 'AA') trailed 36-24 at halftime. Star guard Krystal Pearson was hampered throughout with foul trouble. Sophomore wing Daquana Smith was limping around with knee and ankle injuries. Lynda Fields and Joella Gibson were both under the weather.

Somehow the Mustangs pulled it out, getting within 41-39 on Smith layup at the end of the third quarter, holding Kennedy (6-4, 4-1 'AA') to five points in that frame and making all the plays down the stretch.

"I think it's a testament to maybe how good we can be, because we played very, very poorly tonight," Burke said. "What we did play with was a lot of heart. And that'll count for a lot, too."

With Pearson saddled with four fouls for most of the second half, Gibson and Fields, the two impact transfers, really stepped up. Gibson, formerly of Bishop Loughlin, had 13 of her 21 points in the second half. Fields, late of Blessed Sacrament, had 11 points and the go-ahead free throws with 24.7 seconds left.

This was Fields' first

foray into this Bronx rivalry. But she knew how important this game was to the seniors, especially Pearson. The future Division I player was a freshman on the JV team the last time Truman beat Kennedy. With her on the bench, Gibson became the team's go-to scorer, relentlessly attacking the basket.

"Krystal is like the heart of the team," Gibson said. "When she's on the court she takes control. I knew I had to step up. I'm just trying to do my job on the court and not try to do too much."

Queen Holquin did a fine job guarding Kennedy star Joya McFarland in the second half. Pearson finished with 19 points and gave Truman a 56-54 lead with a layup at the 1:00 mark of the fourth quarter.

But Knightsseniorguard Deaisia Acklin's runner in the lane drew the home team even with 40 seconds left. She finished with 22 points, but it was Fields who decided the game. The pint-sized, steady point guard drove the lane and was fouled, setting up the clinching free throws. Chelsea Custodio's 3-pointer from the corner with five seconds left was off.

"They wanted it more — clearly," Kennedy coach O'Neil Glenn said. "We got up by 12 and we just said, 'Oh, this is just Truman and we're gonna win.'"

Pearson wasn't happy with some foul calls, but Burke understands. He realizes that Truman, while talented and touted in the pre-season, hasn't accomplished anything yet.

"As soon as we start winning some of these games, there won't be that mentality that this is Truman, they aren't supposed to win these games," Burke said. ... "Talk is cheap. The way you gain respect is winning."

So far, this might be the greatest victory yet, at least in Pearson's career.

Tirado paces Spellman past St. FP

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Cardinal Spellman's long and athletic frontcourt has been the ire of opposing defenses in the early season. They allow the Pilots to dominate the paint and score inside. That happened against St. Francis Prep, but junior point guard Joye Tirado's aggressiveness gave the Terriers another dimension to be concerned about.

"She is an unselfish player, but she is starting to realize with that kind of front line [defenses] are going to have to pay attention to those three girls and that's going to open things up for you," Spellman coach Jane Morris said.

Tirado posted one of her best games by scoring 17 points, including two 3-pointers, dishing out six assists and collecting four rebounds and four steals. She helped lead the Pilots to a comfortable 61-38 non-league girls basketball win over St. Francis Prep in The

Bronx on Tuesday. Tirado said she saw more driving lanes than in a win over St. John Villa on Saturday and took full advantage of them.

"Compared to last time this was like, 'Oh, I got a nice little free lane going on,'" she said. "If I saw an open player I would try to get it to her, but sometimes I was just really open and I just went for it."

Spellman (3-0) led 17-4 after the first quarter with SFP (0-4) struggling to find its shooting stroke and the Pilots were able to exploit it in transition. Tirado helped them open up the game in the second quarter with a personal 6-0 run. She attacked the basket for a layup and capped it with a 3-pointer from the left side to put Spellman up 27-10 with 3:38 left before the half. It led by as much as 59-27 in the fourth quarter against the undersized Terriers.

"It's even better that she can shoot the 3 and

drive when she wants to," Northeastern-bound forward Onia Webb said.

The game was also her best since suffering a high ankle sprain in the preseason. Webb recorded 15 points and 10 rebounds and played with her normal aggressiveness. Danielle Gibson and Nicole Awooner Renner each added eight points. Maria Bachman added four points, 10 rebounds and four blocks.

"Everyone on the floor can score and they are just going to pick and choose from game to game who we are giving the ball to," Morris said.

St. Francis Prep, normally a strong outside shooting team, struggled to find anyone with a hot hand despite getting open looks. Coach JoAnn Wagner felt they got timid going to the basket against Spellman's length and the misses led to easy shots down the other end.

"At times I think we

settled for the 3," she said. "I can't fault them for that because that's kind of the game they play."

She wasn't happy with their overall effort. In SFP's previous losses Wagner felt her team stayed mentally strong and focused for the most part and believed they should have beaten Poly Prep and St. Dominic. Veronica Ganzi scored 15 points and Kim Glover added 10 points.

"This is the only one where I can say we got totally outplayed," Wagner said.

Spellman's strong start has it thinking big this season. It knows it will get a tough test when it travels to Mary Louis next Tuesday, but this group has proven itself so far to be one of the most balanced and talented the Bronx school has had in recent years.

"We are really excited," Webb said. "We think we can take. If we play like we are playing now and progress, we will be good."

Riverdale wins NYSAISAA 'C' rematch

BY CHRISTOPHER BARCA

Riverdale had won its first four games of the season by an average of 20 points, but at halftime Thursday, that streak appeared to be in jeopardy.

"We got off to a terrific start but they came storming back in the second quarter," Riverdale coach Andrew Marinos said. "They took the lead late in the quarte, but we came out strong in the second half and never looked back."

Powered by junior Josh Wetzler's game-high 24 points, Riverdale was able to hold off a furious second quarter charge by Columbia Prep and cruise to a 64-47 victory in non-league boys basketball in Manhattan. While it wasn't exactly another 20-point victory, Marinos believes that it was probably his team's best win of the season.

"We big lost to Columbia Prep last year in the NYSAISAA Class C championship game so we know how good they are," said Marinos. "[Columbia Prep coach]

Ryan Pettit is a terrific coach and they fought all night, but winning this game was huge for us and we're looking good as a team so far."

After a buzzer-beating putback by Riverdale sophomore Tom Ryan tied the score going into the break, Riverdale came out a different team offensively and defensively in the second half.

Columbia Prep's star senior Brian Lissak, who is contemplating playing in Israel before enrolling in col-

lege, scored 19 points in the game. He was held in check by Riverdale's stifling defense, allowing Wetzler and Riverdale's offense to flourish.

"Lissak is great for them; he has an excellent supporting cast. But Armando Perez is a great defender and he harassed Lissak all night," Marinos said. "He made him work for his points. But as a team, we played 32 minutes of hard defense, which translated into points on the other

end."

Last season, Columbia Prep (5-2) successfully utilized the full court press on its way to a state championship, but that strategy failed in the second half on Thursday. Riverdale was able to beat the press consistently in the form of Wetzler getting behind the defense and converting layups. This seemed to demoralize Columbia Prep, allowing Riverdale to build up a double-digit lead.

Even though Riverdale sits at 5-0 and is off to a positive start this season, Marinos knows that getting back to a NYSAISAA final is going to be a difficult task to say the least, especially since his team is now classified as 'B.'

"Collegiate, Fieldston and all of the other teams we are going to play are really well-coached and they will be tough to beat," he said. "But we're a balanced team with many different talents and strengths. We hope we can be special this year, but the next game is always our biggest game."

Warriors winter registration

Jerry Demers announces that the popular Warrior Football Winter Program will be held once again this January, February and March.

Registration is on site at Lehman High School on the opening days of the program:

January 3 for 11 to 13 year olds; January 5 for 8 to 10 year olds; and January 6 for 5 to 7 year olds.

The program is open to boys and girls. Hours of play

are from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Activities include basketball, touch football, dodgeball, kickball, wiffleball and floor hockey, as well as obstacle course competitions and special contests. All participants receive uniforms and awards.

The cost is \$100 for ten sessions.

For further information call Jerry Demers at (718) 829-7574.

LIGHTNING FLASH

A Look at Lehman Athletics

Former Lehman Swimmer to Vie for Miss NY USA

BY ANDREW PEARSON



Meeting 22-year old Joely Bernat, you're quickly taken aback not only by her outward appearance – she's tall and thin with flowing brown hair, a body you think you might find on a model, until you're told that she is one – but by the air of positivity and zest for life that seems to enter the room when she does. There's a feeling that every day is met with a smile and the outlook that something good can and will happen. It's an attitude a select few possess, and for Joely, while not a direct result, it certainly has blossomed since a frightening day just over one year ago that altered her outlook on life.

The morning of November 8, 2010 started just like nearly every one of the multitude that had come before it. Wake up, eat breakfast, get dressed, prepare to head out for the day. Only instead of making her way to Lehman College where she was in the midst of her senior year on the way towards graduating with a degree in English, Bernat found herself en route to the local emergency room, about to be hospitalized after feeling shortness of breath and ultimately fainting before leaving her house.

As would be typical of anyone put in such a situation, Bernat feared the worst, unsure just how she had ended up in a hospital when up until that point her daily existence had been one of health and wellness, of exercising nearly every day.

In fact, Bernat was in the midst of becoming one of the top female swimmers in the City University of New York Athletic Conference for Lehman College. Having essentially learned to swim once arriving at Lehman, she quickly established herself as a force in the water as a sprinter.

"She started as a novice swimmer and built herself up, working hard for two years to become a very good swimmer," said Lehman head swim coach Peter Kiernan. "I'd say she was one of the top in CUNY in the 50 freestyle and she was also on our top relay team."

It turned out that the cause of her impromptu rush to the hospital was a pulmonary embolism, which is the blockage of arteries in the lungs cause by blood clotting and which often can pop up in otherwise healthy individuals. "When I heard that I had a pulmonary embolism, it was very weird for me," remembered Bernat. "I'm very athletic. I don't smoke. I never did anything bad. I'm always eating healthy. I remember thinking, What is happening to me?"

Bernat was finally put at ease when she found out that the situation was ultimately curable with a diligent regimen of medicines. However, for that t amount of time, her swimming career, which she eventually resumed for the final few meets of the year, and world had been turned upside down. But from that uncertainty came a renewed view of who she was and where she was going.

"I remember taking it in and thinking everything happens for a reason in life," said Bernat. "If God destined for me to go through this experience,

something good is going to come out of it. I feel like God gave me a second chance in life, for a purpose, to inspire other people, and that's what I want to do."

In order to bring that to fruition, Bernat turned to one of the things that had been a part of her life since she was nine years old – modeling. At the urging of her mother – her self proclaimed "biggest fan" – Bernat decided to enter the Miss NY USA competition, set to be held January 14 and 15 at Purchase College. Initially she was hesitant, but having achieved a high finish at the Miss NY Teen competition in 2007, as well as being given the opportunity to sign with Elite Modeling Agency at the age of 15 – an opportunity she turned down to pursue her high school and college degrees – Bernat decided to go for it knowing it could provide an outlet for her biggest passions.

"I feel like Miss NY USA is the best thing that can ever happen to me because I can pursue my modeling career but I can also help children and help my community and be giving," said Bernat. "That's what I want to do. This competition is a great combination of the things that I love doing the most."

During her current journey to the competition, Bernat has become active with several organizations, namely St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, for which she recently participated in the St. Jude's Give Thanks Walk. Like most who associate themselves with St. Jude's, she has been touched to the point of wanting to help even more than she already does.

"When people unite and help each other out, good things happen," said Bernat. "Just to see these children survive brought me back to that experience that I had and I was very grateful to be there helping."

With less than one month until the competition, Bernat plans on continuing her involvement in various charitable endeavors. In addition, she has her full-time job as a model and employee of Jovani Fashions, her sponsor for Miss NY USA and a company she has worked with since she was 16, as well as the completion of her graduate school TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) degree at Lehman College. To say that her schedule is a bit hectic would be an understatement, which is the only way it could be for Bernat.

"There are a lot of people that have dreams and aspirations, but just to see someone put them on go mode and get everything together, that is just so inspirational," said Luisa Garcia, a former teammate of Bernat's and star swimmer with the Lehman Lightning.

For a girl who is constantly describing herself as "fearless and determined" on her Facebook page, it appears the sky is the limit for the bilingual Bernat, an honors student at Lehman during her undergraduate studies, regardless of where she places in Miss NY USA. Still, even knowing the odds against her, there is no squashing her positive attitude.

"They want a girl who is determined, who is hardworking, who is going to get the job done and who also is very caring and kind hearted," said Bernat. "I'm so determined to do this pageant. I know what I have to do. I have an objective and I'm going to accomplish it."

Just one year removed from uncertainty, optimism abounds, and with good reason.

Search "Joely Bernat for Miss NY USA 2012" on Facebook to follow Joely's journey to the competition on January 14 and 15.

Remember to log on to lehmanathletics.com to stay up-to-date on the Lehman Lightning.

These simple steps can keep your teeth and gums healthy

BY DR. WILLIAM WOLFSON

If you remember from our discussion last week, my patient Karen was suffering from symptoms of gum disease. Specifically, Karen had red and swollen gums that often bled after she brushed her teeth or ate crunchy or tough foods. Our first priority was to treat Karen's existing gum disease.

Depending on the severity of infection and the amount of damage to the gum tissue, bones, and teeth, dentists treat gum disease in some of the following ways...

Professional Dental Cleanings

The first step to combating gum disease is almost always a professional cleaning with a dentist. Only a dentist can remove tartar buildup on the teeth. Often a dentist will use the process of scaling and root planing to clear away plaque and tartar and allow the gum tissue to heal.

During tooth scaling your dentist will scrape away plaque and tartar beneath the gums either manually or with an ultrasonic cleaner. The process of planing involves your dentist then smoothing the jagged root that is exposed by the cleaning, so that the gum tissue can heal and adhere to the smooth surface of the root.

In treating Karen's gum disease we used scaling and planing to thoroughly clean her teeth and gums of plaque and tartar. After her teeth were cleaned Karen began taking better care of her teeth, brushing twice a day and flossing regularly, to keep her teeth and gums in great shape.

Although Karen's condition didn't require any additional medical treatment, there are options for treating more severe cases of gum disease after a teeth cleaning.

Medicated Mouth Rinses

Sometimes you will need to use a medicated mouth rinse after your dental scaling and planing. Your doctor may prescribe a medicated mouth rinse in order to kill existing bacteria in your mouth, prevent

Dental Diary

new bacteria from adhering to your teeth and gums, or reduce pain and swelling in your mouth.

These mouth rinses are quite effective when combined with regular professional cleanings and good daily oral hygiene practices.

Surgical Procedures

For severe cases of gum disease, in which the bone, teeth, or connective tissues have been damaged or depleted, surgery may be necessary. Surgery can decrease the size of the pocket between the gum and the teeth, making infection less likely.

There are also periodontal surgeries to help regenerate healthy bone tissue and stabilize your teeth, and to cover roots exposed by receding gums. Surgical treatment for periodontal disease is generally reserved for more severe cases in which gum disease has caused damage to soft tissue, teeth, or bones.

We were able to effectively combat Karen's gum disease with scaling and planing. However, it was then up to Karen to maintain her teeth and gums on a daily basis. I told Karen that there are some risk factors that increase the likelihood that someone will develop gum disease.

Tobacco use
Old fillings or ill-fitting bridges

Grinding your teeth
Crooked teeth

Karen and I then discussed what steps she could take to prevent gum disease in the future. The most important thing to do in order to avoid gum disease is to keep your mouth as free from plaque and tartar as possible. Many of the steps that you can take to prevent gum disease are basic tenets of oral hygiene.

Brush Your Teeth Often
Brushing your teeth at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste removes

plaque from your mouth before it bonds to your teeth and turns into tartar. If you are unable to brush after every meal, make sure to at least rinse your mouth with water to free any debris from your gum line and reduce the risk of gum infection.

Floss Daily

Flossing cleans those small spaces that your toothbrush can't reach. Flossing is the most effective

way for you to remove plaque from between your teeth.

Use Mouth Rinse

Rinsing your mouth with antimicrobial mouth rinse helps to kill bacteria and prevent plaque and tartar buildup. Mouth rinse also cleans those hard to reach places that brushing can miss.

See Your Dentist Regularly
Regular professional

dental cleanings are the best way to avoid gum disease. A dental cleaning is the only way to rid your teeth of existing tartar. Your dentist will also be able to monitor changes in the health of your teeth and gums, making it more likely that potential problems will be noticed and treated before they cause permanent damage.

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