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The Newspaper of Brownstone Brooklyn

Volume 19, Number 37

February 28, 1990

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Forum on the Homeless Has Many Lessons To Offer

Information, Programs and Solutions Presented for the Problem, but Not Many in the Heights to Listen.
STORY ON PAGE FIVE

SECTION 2

Revolution and Its Players Take to Stage Downtown



New Play Tells Story of Romanian Overthrow and Its Aftermath for Citizens.
Review on Page Six

BAM Opera Does Update Of a Classic

Review on Page Six

It's Fisher for Council

Heights Man Wins Big in Williamsburg to Win in 9-Way Race; Millman Places Second

BY MICHAEL A. ARMSTRONG

The weather couldn't have been worse, but on Tuesday, Feb. 26, the special election in the 29th Council District drew an extraordinary turnout of 13,536 people, topping the most optimistic speculation by political activists. And extraordinary is also probably the best word to describe the huge vote in Williamsburg that won the race for first-time candidate Ken Fisher of Brooklyn Heights.

The 39-year-old attorney, who until recently had been a Democratic Party official in Brooklyn and whose family is legendary in party politics in the borough, won the race in a nine-candidate field with 27 percent of the vote, outpacing the nearest challenger by 1000 votes. The special election was called to fill a vacancy which occurred when Councilmember Abe Gerges resigned on Dec. 31 to take a State Supreme Court seat. This is the first non-partisan election to fill a Council vacancy in Brooklyn by popular vote under the recently-revised City Charter.

The race was fueled by a large, active field of candidates, some of them boosted with public campaign financing for their efforts. The vote total was a little better than half that

(Continued On Page Four)



A beaming Ken Fisher shakes hands with his father (seated) as it became obvious on election night that he was winning the special election race to become the new City Councilmember in the 29th District. (Phoenix/Jacobs Photo)

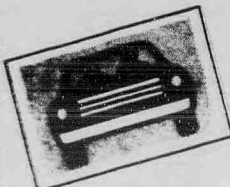


She's There To Offer a Boost for Boro Hall Train Stop

Transit Puts a Manager Into the Station to Make Our Subway Trip Nicer
STORY ON PAGE THREE

Debra Jean-Louis. (Phoenix/Censor Photo)

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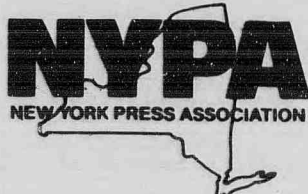
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She's In the Rider's Corner

BY CATHERINE CENSOR

This reporter has a 10am appointment to meet Debra Jean-Louis, the new NYC Transit Authority station manager at the Borough Hall Subway station. But coming from Manhattan, the Number 2 train stops at 72nd St. and announces that there will be no Brooklyn-bound service "until further notice."

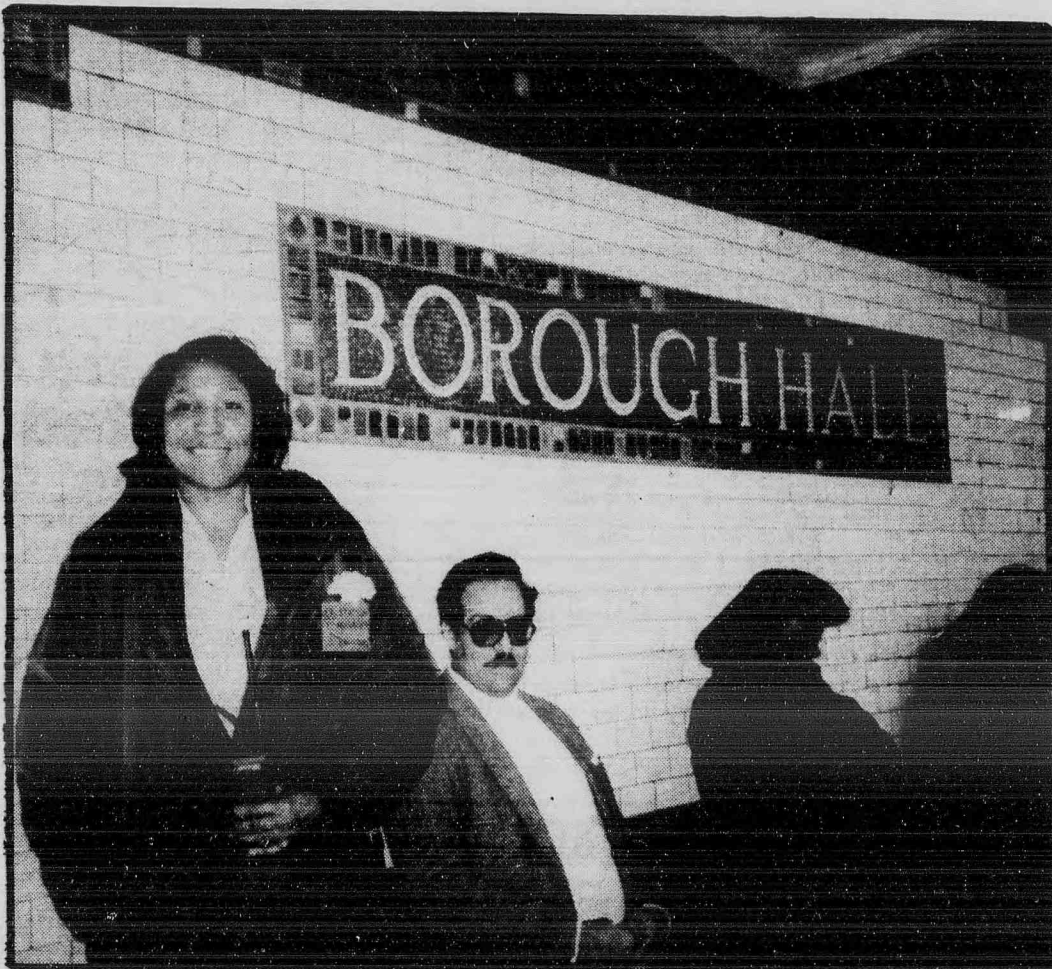
As the time ticks past 10am, I have to call the MTA and explain my tardiness: "Hello, I'm supposed to interview someone from the Transit Authority at 10am but I'm stuck on the train." When I finally catch up with Debra Jean-Louis in the late afternoon, she explains how tardy trains keep her awfully busy. "I often have to answer phone calls from a boss who doesn't believe his employee was late because of the subway," she says cheerfully.

Cheerfulness, explains Jean-Louis, a City College graduate and a veteran transit supervisor, is something of a professional credo for station managers, a position the New York City Transit Authority has created to cope with all station operations and passenger complaints. Jean-Louis is in charge of the Borough Hall and nearby Lawrence Street Stations.

"A station manager is someone in charge who knows what's going on," says Jean-Louis who sports a blue blazer with a name plate and a white carnation for easy identification and panache. "I have a relationship with the Police Department and act as a liaison to the community and passengers. I'm here to sympathize with you if you have a complaint."

What is the most frequent complaint? Jean-Louis says, "train delays." This makes perfect sense to me. Jean-Louis says she has a radio to communicate with headquarters at Jay Street when trains fail to materialize. "I can find out what's happening and tell people. Passengers want to know what went wrong with the subway. I can tell them whether one is coming or I can help out with alternate bus routes and information." When Jean-Louis isn't out at her station manager's table, meeting subway riders, she's busy seeing to it that her station spaces are ship-shape.

Station managers are responsible for all station operations including cleaning, repairs,



If you've got a problem at the Borough Hall subway station, Debra Jean-Louis is the woman to see. She's the Transit Authority's on-location station manager out to improve customer service.

and token sales. Jean-Louis says the station is "like my baby" and she notices the second anything is out of place. A broken step, a turnstile that won't turn, or a burned-out lightbulb come up in daily conversations with her foreman in charge of structures and track.

"If a turnstile breaks, I get it repaired within eight hours," says Jean-Louis. "Before the Station Manager Program, when I used to supervise 12 stations, I would put in a request for repairs and if it wasn't an emergency, they'd get to it when they got to it."

Jean-Louis says she feels that her presence at her two stations is definitely making an

impact: "The program is definitely being well received. Because I'm here four or five hours a day, I know what's going on. If I see someone I know to be a trouble-maker, I call police immediately."

The manager also gets acquainted with her customers, too, and the good will flows both ways. "I know some of the people who use the subway," she says. "There's a woman here from MetroTech who I see nearly every day. And when people know there's a station manager, they automatically become more courteous." As a result, she says, "I rarely get courtesy complaints about the token clerks. It's definitely a cleaner, safer, more courteous place."

WAY BACK WHEN

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

From The Phoenix Edition of February 27, 1975

The proposed Brooklyn sports arena as well as the agency sponsoring it, the New York State Sports Authority, floundered seriously last week as the result of the taxpayer suit brought against the agency by a group who oppose the building of the arena and the \$50,000 feasibility study proposed last November to study ten Brooklyn sites for it. The suit was withdrawn "without prejudice" in Brooklyn State Supreme Court on Feb. 19 because, said attorney Art Paone, who represented the taxpayers, "It affected its purposes in keeping the City and the sports authority from conducting the story for the past three months." The next step, he said, is legislative, with Park Slope Assemblyman Joe Ferris already set to enter a bill to repeal Sports Authority legislation.

The final hurdle has been cleared for a "park" at the corner of Alnaic Ave. and Hoyt Street. Margaret Cusack for the Hoyt St. Association and Rev. Osorio for Iglesia del Cristo Vivo Presbiteriana, signed an agreement on Feb. 19 for construction of an ornamental but secure fence for the site.

TEN YEARS AGO

From The Phoenix Edition of February 26, 1981

Frustration and anger dominated yet another monthly meeting of Community School Board 13 members as parents, teachers and even principals assembled at PS 9 to join voices urging the members to act "expeditiously" in renewing the contract of District Superintendent Dr. J.

Jerome Harris, which is due to expire at the end of June. In response, the board, as it did in January, steadfastly maintained it is working on schedule, according to the timetable stipulated within the present Harris contract, which states that "negotiations" do not have to begin with the superintendent until 120 days before the June 30 expiration date.

Brooklyn Catholic Charities has not yet finalized the sale of its properties on Hicks St. to developer Bruce Eichner and Eichner has not yet disclosed his plans for the properties. But Catholic Charities, which currently rents two of the properties from the Catholic Diocese for the St. Charles Jubilee Center for Seniors and a handful of other programs is busily looking for alternative sites for the activities in anticipation of a sale soon.

Two subway stations in Downtown Brooklyn may soon undergo cosmetic renovations under the auspices of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's "Adopt-a-Station" program. Using privately donated money along with Federal monies from a matching grant, the MTA is getting plans ready to work on the Hoyt Street Station on the Seventh Ave. line on the Fulton Mall, and the Borough Hall/Court Street Station. An authority official estimated work could be complete by the summer of 1983.

FIVE YEARS AGO

From The Phoenix Edition of February 27, 1985

When he spoke before the West Brooklyn Independent Democrats last week, Brooklyn Congressman Steve Solarz said he thought that the U.S. should be prepared to give beleaguered Philippine

President Ferdinand Marcos a home here if it meant that Pacific nation could avoid civil war. Though he got heat for that view, Solarz' position against the proposed Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction legislation got a more friendly response.

Traffic conditions, air quality and recreational space all stand to suffer from the development of the proposed Brooklyn Renaissance Plaza hotel project in Downtown Brooklyn, according to an environmental impact statement released by the City's Public Development Corporation. Nevertheless, civic leaders and the Downtown business community is nearly unanimous that the project will be a great boost for the Brooklyn economy.

Brooklyn's art scene is beginning to boom as the "space chase" for acceptable quarters and affordable rents inspires artists and arts organizations to forsake their long-time homes in Manhattan and begin life anew in Brooklyn. Among the new spaces open or opening are The New Theater of Deborah Pope and the Gowanus Arts Exchange.

TWO YEARS AGO

From The Phoenix Edition of February 23, 1989

The Brooklyn Arms Hotel became a symbol of solidarity among the homeless on Feb. 14 when residents of the hotel, tenants from other City-sponsored hotel shelters around the city, and housing advocates marched through Downtown Brooklyn streets, jolting hundreds of rush-hour commuters. Armed with banners, babies and rallying cries, over 150 protesters took part in the march organized by Parents on the Move.

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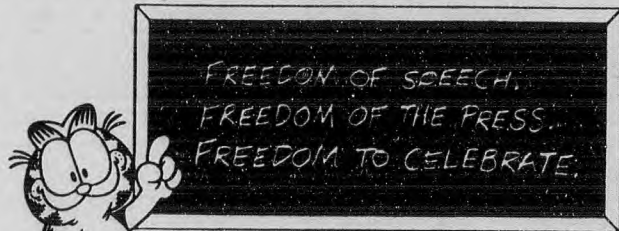
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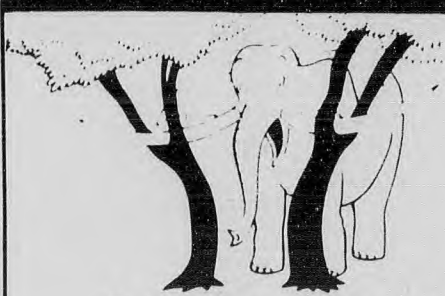
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Fisher Wins the Race to Succeed Gerges; Millman In Second Place

(Continued From Page One)

of the 1989 Democratic Party primary in the district, the most recent race in the 29th, when incumbent Councilmember Gerges last won re-nomination. Turnout in a special election is normally a small fraction of a regular party primary vote.

Finishing second in the race was another Brooklyn Heights resident, Joan Millman, whose 2653 votes was nearly 20 percent of the ballots cast. Two North Brooklyn candidates placed third and fourth. Angela Battaglia of Bushwick, at the far north end of the sprawling district, had 15 percent of the vote and Linda Minucci of Greenpoint had 10 percent. Finishing fifth was Irene Van Slyke of Boerum Hill with nearly 10 percent. These top five candidates between them had 63 percent of the vote. The order of finish for the remaining candidates was: Gary Popkin, Lonni Levitt-Cacchione, Ted Glick and Angela Laricy.

The vote fills the 29th District seat only until the end of 1991. A NYC Districting Commission is at work right now drawing lines based on the 1990 census for new districts, which will enlarge the City Council by 15 new seats, five of them in Brooklyn. A number of the candidates in this race were using it as a trial run for the party primary in the new districts coming in September.

Fisher owes his victory to the lop-sided results in the Satmar community of Williamsburg where he got nearly 2200 votes out of approximately 2700 cast, with most of the remainder going to Battaglia. Those districts are only 16 of the 164 precincts in the Council district. When Abe Gerges last ran for re-nomination in the Democratic Primary in 1989, he got 3100 votes in these same districts.

In Fisher's own Brooklyn Heights neighborhood and the southern end of the district, including the neighborhoods of Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill and Park Slope, the winner was significantly outpaced by Millman, 2100 to 400, with Van Slyke taking nearly 1000 votes in those same neighborhoods, which total another 65 of the 164 election districts.

The Fisher camp sought to attribute the huge Williamsburg results for the winner to the controversy over a campaign ad by Millman bashing Fisher for his support prior to the campaign of a garbage-burning incinerator in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. But on election night no one seemed to take that analysis seriously at either Millman or Fisher headquarters. Rather, they attributed it to astute political work on the part of 50th AD Democratic Leader Steve Cohn, whose Seneca Club is in the heart of that neighborhood, and to hard political work on the part of the Fisher family.

Another neighborhood where Fisher ran strong was in Ft. Greene, at the southern end of the 50th District, where large public housing projects received telephone and in-person canvassing on behalf of their Congressman, Rep. Ed Towns, for Fisher. He got 48 percent of the votes in those 12 small-turnout precincts, with Battaglia and Millman getting approximately 20 percent each.

Even though Angela Battaglia took third place, she was overjoyed at her strong performance. "I'm proud that I was a newcomer and beat an incumbent elected district leader," she says, referring to her victory over her rival in the northern part of the district, Linda Minucci.

"The weather was the worst it could have possibly been," Battaglia adds. "Seniors, who are the heart of my support, won't go out during heavy snow. That I know from my years of work delivering meals to the elderly. The numbers we had to provide tripled on snowy days." Battaglia also said she might have gained another 5-600 votes from the Latino community if skies were clear. "Hispanics, too, tend not to come out in weather like that."

For Battaglia, the large number of votes she got in Greenpoint, Bushwick and

Williamsburg, makes it almost certain she'll run again next September, when the 29th CD north of the Brooklyn Bridge may well comprise its own district. "Even though it was my first time running for an office, I found I had incredible support out there," she said. "Yesterday I had 200 volunteers out in the snow working for me," she said proudly.

Linda Minucci, who had been battling Battaglia for Greenpoint's Italian, Irish and Polish-American communities, attributed her fourth place showing to the heavy snow fall. "We knew once it started to snow, people wouldn't come out," she says. "If there was a bigger turnout, I might have won." Minucci, who has been Democratic female district leader of the 50th AD for eight years, says she isn't sure she'll run in September. "I'll have to see the lines that get drawn in the spring," she said. "It's just too early to tell."

Fisher Folks Revel In Win in Jammed HQ On Cadman Plaza W.

BY ANDREW JACOBS

As polls closed all across the 29th Council District at 9pm, the kippered herring, rice pudding and corned beef on rye were already flowing at Ken Fisher's campaign headquarters below the Brooklyn Bridge.

The School Worker's Union Local 372 offices on Cadman Plaza West, which had served as nerve center for Fisher's campaign during the past two months, was packed with over 100 of his friends and supporters waiting buoyantly for a signal from the room marked "Charles Hughes," which is usually the office of Local 372's president, but which had become command center for election night.

Among those who braved the nasty weather outside to wait out election returns in these jammed, steamy quarters were Ft. Greene activist Edward Carter, Community Board Two Chair Jerry Renzini, a dozen representatives from Williamsburg's Satmar community and nearly 20 beer-guzzling political science majors from Staten Island's

Feb. 26 Results in the Non-Partisan Special Election for City Council in the 29th District

Kenneth Fisher	3,709
Joan Millman	2,653
Angela Battaglia	2,123
Linda Minucci	1,450
Irene Van Slyke	1,297
Gary Popkin	978
Lonni Cacchione	642
Ted Glick	586
Angela Laricy	98

Wagner College, recruited to the Fisher cause by their professor, Jeffrey Kraus, as a class project.

By 10:30pm, provisions had dried up (except for a tray of stir-fried brown rice, pea pods and tofu) but the crowd was buzzing. Despite the lack of official announcements or wall poster tallies by election district, there was little doubt in the air about where things were going.

"I'm happy he's gonna win," said Renzini said with a grin, just as Fisher's brother Andrew, circulated through the room saying, "Very encouraging numbers. Everybody keep partying." More significant, though, was the entrance of 50th AD Democratic Leader Steve Cohn, who revealed that the vote among Williamsburg's Hasidic community was more than 2000-strong cast for Fisher.

Meanwhile, the man-of-the-hour-to-be, 37-year-old Ken Fisher, darted through the crowd, his face showing a mixture of excitement and angst. His wife, Kirsten Fisher, however, expressed relief that the grind of campaigning was finally over. "It's the closest to parenthood I ever want to get," she remarked.

But at 10:45pm, Cynthia Darrison, Fisher's campaign manager, emerged from behind

(Continued On Page Fifteen)

Recycling Goes Intensive for a Part of the Slope

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

In an effort to create a showcase for recycling in New York, the NYC Sanitation Department (DOS) is creating an "Intensive Recycling Zone" in part of Park Slope in March. A private group is also being organized, backed with a foundation grant, to work side-by-side with the department to help stimulate participation and spread information about the program, two factors which have been problems in the department's overall recycling effort launched in 1989.

The three month pilot program coming to the Slope involves recycling additional materials to those already being collected there. It also includes do-it-yourself backyard composting, reducing wasteful packaging by merchants, and a drop-off day for household hazardous wastes.

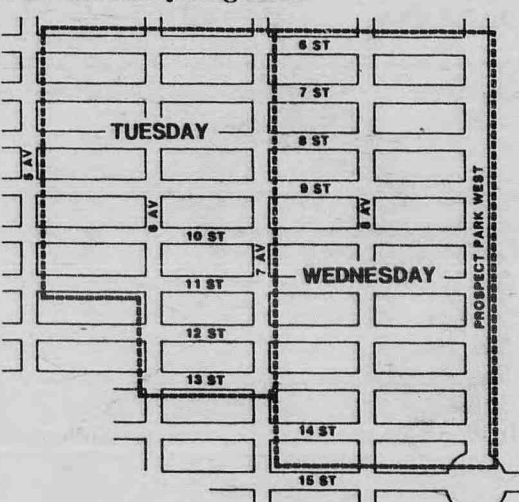
There are 6000 households in the area included in the program, roughly bounded by 6th Street to 14th Street and from Prospect Park West to the edge of Fifth Avenue. The area was chosen, says Lisa Maller of the DOS, who directed the planning of the zone, "because it's median income with mixed housing types, it was already recycling all the materials the city has designated for recycling so far, and the residents were receptive."

The area is part of Community District Six, which has a participation rate (percentage of households that recycle) of 43.6 percent, above the city average of 33.5 percent. "We didn't choose the part of the Slope that's more identified as yuppie — we picked the South Slope, which is more diverse, so that when we get our results, they'll be representative of the city as a whole."

WILL TRY DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

The new materials to be recycled in the intensive zone are: mixed paper, which includes things like junk mail, writing paper, and smooth cardboard; plastic bags and styrofoam; and food waste. Food-waste collection will start soon and be done in

Brooklyn Community Board #6
Intensive Recycling zone



To meet the requirements we have to add new materials. It's a test. If it's successful or if it fails, we'll know where we are going with recycling.

only half of the intensive area. That half, whose recyclables are picked up on Wednesdays, is putting its new paper waste into green plastic buckets. The other half, with a Tuesday pick-up day, is putting it into specially marked paper bags.

Maller says the department wants to experiment with different strategies within the intensive zone. The department has given out leaflets to residents and set up a hotline for questions about the program.

The intensive program is aimed at increasing the number of households that recycle, and at getting each participating household to increase the amount that it recycles. Both are necessary, says Maller, to reach the goal of recycling 25 percent of

the city's trash that the recycling goals created in answer to Local Law 19 have set for 1994. The Preliminary Recycling Plan issued by the Sanitation Department in October 1990 was pessimistic about reaching the 25 percent goal. "To meet the requirement, we've got to add new materials and increase participation," says Maller. "It's a test — if it's successful, or if it fails, we'll know where we're going with recycling."

A MAKE-OR-BREAK TEST

"This test will make or break recycling in the city," confirmed Dr. Barry Commoner, a Queens College professor and environmental activist, at a meeting at Park Slope Methodist Church on Feb. 21. "If you can show an increase in the recycling rate, you can make recycling THE way to collect trash in the city. If it fails, the city will be building incinerators."

Commoner proposed a "neighborhood recycling coalition" to make the intensive program succeed. The Queens College unit he heads, the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, has received a grant from the Pew Foundation to work on the intensive program in Park Slope and evaluate it when it ends on June 15. Part of the grant money will go to hire a half-time staff person, who will be able to organize the neighborhood coalition.

The coalition will have plenty of work to do. Twenty Park Slope residents, as well as the area's Assemblyman, Jim Brennan, and representatives of Councilman Stephen DiBrienza and Borough President Howard Golden, attended the meeting last Saturday. While all were pro-recycling, they had complaints even at this early stage about how the intensive program is going. "Sanitation came to see us. They had a very confused approach," said Community Board Six (CB6) member Cliff Aron.

NO WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

"A constituent had a problem with collection and called the hotline," reported Assemblyman Brennan. "They told him to

call the Sanitation garage. He did, and they had no idea what he was talking about. We need help at a basic level: 'What do I do? How do I recycle?'" CB6 member Barbara Burger called this a need for "troubleshooting — what to do when you run out of paper bags. There's no way to solve problems, and that turns a lot of people off."

Given those problems, all who attended were enthusiastic about Commoner's idea for a coalition, and quickly started to discuss what it should do. While it doesn't yet have a name, the group does have a program: to increase participation by doing the education that the Sanitation Department hasn't done — answering the basic questions that confuse people about recycling. "We want to work with people," said Commoner. "It's a neighborhood problem, not just a matter of handing out leaflets."

John Keefe, an aide to Jim Brennan, advocated an approach that resembles a political campaign: "We need outreach to individual homeowners and tenants, very systematic, door to door." Aron of CB6 offered a concrete plan. "One: Get 60 volunteers. Two: Train them to teach people how to recycle, and make a packet of teaching materials. Three: Give them their marching orders — send them to the houses and apartments."

The meeting broke up into three committees to organize the tasks. The whole group will meet again on March 12, and will start canvassing the Intensive Recycling Zone in the South Slope on March 26. To volunteer, or for more information, call Mark Cohen or Deborah Wallace at Queens College, 718/670-4192. The hotline telephone for information from the Sanitation Department on Intensive Recycling is 212/240-4855.

Park Slope Assemblyman Jim Brennan will hold a forum on the intensive recycling plan at 7pm on Thursday, March 7, at Methodist Hospital, 7th Ave. and 6th Street. For information call Brennan's office at 633-2121.

Learn Both Good and Bad at Heights Forum on Homeless

BY JOHN TULENKO

Angel Reyes returned from Vietnam with dreams of a family, a home and a job. He also brought back a drug addiction that tore his plans apart and landed him on the streets where he lived for more than a decade.

Ira Boyce, a 55-year-old pipe fitter with 30 years experience was laid off from his job at a company in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 1985. No other companies would hire him for that work at his age. No unions would admit him into their fold. He lost his apartment and entered the swelling ranks of the homeless.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 20, about 30 Brooklyn Heights residents came to Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims to hear these and other stories in a panel discussion on the topic of homelessness at the Orange Street church. Dr. Richard Stanger, the pastor, moderated the talk. He both expected a low turnout for the evening and was disappointed by it. "In the Heights, we're a little hermetically sealed. An evening like this is a real eye-opener," he observed with regret.

Rev. Stanger fears the poor turnout to learn about such an important subject may reflect a growing frustration with the problems of the homeless. By turning our backs on the problem, the minister reasons, we are blaming the victims instead of asking why our solutions have failed.

The panelists for the evening, six of whom work with the homeless, expressed anger and concern for how little is being done about current conditions. "The idea has risen that having 100,000 homeless people is normal and acceptable. I think that's outrageous," said Woody Goldberg, an assistant director at the Bond Street Center, a 24-hour intake center in Downtown Brooklyn operated for the City of New York by Catholic Charities. Scott Sommer, a housing lawyer with the Legal Aid Society, believes resources such as vacant buildings are being ignored. He said, "There is a housing famine out there and we're keeping lots of 'food' off the table."

A multi-layered and sometimes critical picture of the homeless emerged from the meeting. Salvation Army Captain John Ron-

don argued that shelter and welfare systems, out of laziness or mis-management, have become surrogate employers of the homeless. "The homeless learn how to make the system work for themselves. Homelessness has become a lifestyle, a way of income."

Instilling independence in homeless people is becoming increasingly difficult by the day. The panelists agreed providing shelter and regular meals, though important, will never adequately address their needs. The homeless, they say, must be incorporated into communities through volunteers who serve as links providing help and encouragement.

Barbara Delsman, a panelist who is assistant director of The Hope Program, said effective assistance "takes a comprehensive

approach." She said her program strives to treat every person as an individual. The goal of its 14-week training program is to find employment for homeless "students" in salaried jobs they find interesting. "Most of our students could get a job on the first day," she said. "The problem is keeping it, and earning enough money to survive."

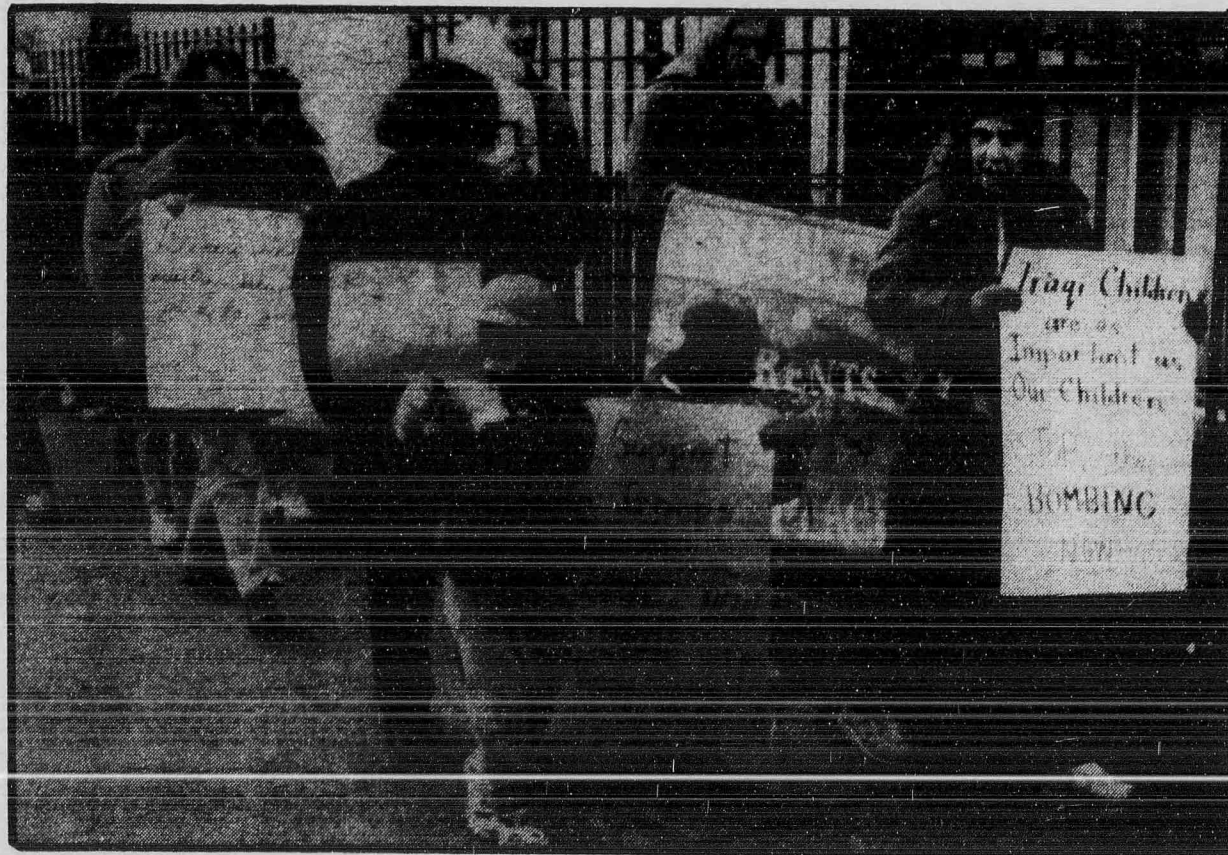
Delsman's clients are required to take personality tests, some with as many as 500 questions. They meet with counselors, social workers, and doctors to assess their needs. They train for specific fields. It is a demanding process requiring self-motivation and planning. Critics say the homeless, accustomed to seeing only as far as the next meal or tonight's bed, are not ready for it.

It is, however, successful. Last year 82 percent of Hope Program clients found jobs or

continued their education. The high percentage surprised even her. "We're still trying to figure out what we did right."

Other speakers on the panel talked about their experiences and work through the Brooklyn Heights Interfaith Shelter (a cooperative program that includes Plymouth Church) and Christian Help in Park Slope (CHIPS).

The panel discussion highlighted the need for comprehensive approaches like Hope, and public support for those that succeed. "The issue of homelessness," Rev. Stanger said, "is the issue of raising consciousness. If you have a secure home and a bed to sleep in, you still can't feel entirely comfortable knowing there are others who do not."



March, and Vigil for Peace

Some 50 parents and children gathered in the schoolyard at PS 261 on Pacific Street last Saturday afternoon to spread their views about military action in the Persian Gulf. They paraded their signs and banners throughout the surrounding blocks, assembling back in the school yard for a vigil at dusk. The activity was sponsored by Brooklyn Parents for Peace and the PS 261 Families for Peace.

(Phoenix/Julie Pochron Photo)

Revolution and Its Players Take to a Downtown Stage

BY TOM WACHUNAS

This country was founded on the belief that tyranny is abhorrent and that revolution in the name of pursuing freedom at any cost is a necessary evil. Our love of democracy is proud, tenacious, fierce.

None of us alive now, born in this country, have ever felt the fist of oppressive or restrictive government — surely not, at least, to the extent of living under Communist rule. Yet, by worldwide historical standards, we are a remarkably young nation to have achieved the lofty profile we so proudly project to other countries that we perceive as oppressed. Within our borders, we have yet to face a serious challenge to our collective sense of identity and destiny as a nation. Many analysts of socio-cultural developments will tell you, though, that we are on the cusp of just such a challenge.

It is that challenge, that revolution of revolutions, that is addressed in the current production at BACA Downtown: a play entitled "The Almond Seller," written by Oana-Maria Hock and directed by Tina Landau.

Hock, who was born in Bucharest, Romania, emigrated to the U.S. in 1980 and returned to her natal city last year to witness the violence that ensued there after the installment of the new government, headed by president Ion Iliescu. Her play is set against last June's violent confrontation between students protesting the presence of former Communists in the new government.

Students and their supporters also suspected electoral abuses in the landslide victory scored by Iliescu in the first free election since the revolution that put him in power. But Iliescu rallied the support of the working class, particularly the miners, with promises of economic stability. He regarded the student activity as a "fascist rebellion"



From left: Nancy Hume, Kirk Jackson, Thomas Nahrwold in "The Almond Seller." (Alberto Photo)

and a threat to his "new democracy."

In this scenario, Paul Zimmet plays Ion Nebunu, an intense and mysterious man who digs away at the roots of an almond tree, unearthing what he calls "the grave of the first Romania." He sells almonds to passersby. But these aren't just fruits of an indigenous tree. They're symbols of lost memory. Romania, in waking from its nightmare of oppression, in turn wakes up to a world filled with conflicting signals — promises and denials, absurdities and real dreams. In searching for a unifying, collective identity amidst an utterly new social order, the almond seller reminds us that

"we must dig deeper!"

Once again, BACA Downtown has allowed a fine set designer — Clay Snider — to transform the space into an enveloping visual experience that amply uses the width of the room and effectively eliminate the problem of peering around those pesky pillars. Once you're seated though, you're in for a long haul — 90 minutes with no intermission.

No problem here. Director Tina Landau has overseen a marvelously textured and well-paced production that is tight and engrossing from beginning to end. True, the "plot" seems a bit muddled as you're never

quite sure who of the eleven cast members (most of whom play multiple roles) really are beyond some vaguely implied familial connections. But just enough is clear: the miners are sufficiently scary in their hard hats and masks, the peasant women moan with sincerity, and the other citizens represented — villainous and victimized alike — are played with urgent aplomb. This is a well-honed cast.

What saves this play from the morass of common commentaries on political injustice, what saves it from being a mere diatribe, is its pure poeticism and its forceful musicality.

Maria Porter, Theresa McCarthy and Nina Mankin play the Fates — mourners and truthsayers who sing with such attention to Romanian folk harmonies that one can't help but be tearful in the presence of such bittersweet melodies. Musical wizard Jeff Halpern bolsters the experience with his simple electronic renderings of chordal washes that conjure an eerie sense of deep, spiritual memory. A culture searching for its lost soul.

Late in the play, one line still lingers in my recollection. Something like: "Holy mess! It's all mixed together now!"

Indeed it is. If nothing else, playwright Oana-Maria Hock has given us a poignant paradigm for evaluating not only one country's struggle for a sense of identity in a changing world, but a powerful invitation for us to dig deeper into our hearts as we search for a truly global peace.

THE ALMOND SELLER: Presented by the BACA Fringe Series, co-produced by House Frau, Inc. and Via Theater. Feb. 28, Mar. 1-2, 80m. BACA Downtown, 111 Willoughby St., bet. Duffield and Bridge. \$10 or TDF plus. 596-2222.

Unorthodox, Modern Mounting of Classic Opera

BY TOM WACHUNAS

The Komische Oper Berlin production of Gluck's masterpiece, "Orpheus und Eurydike," which opened BAM's third season of opera on February 11, is nothing if not a richly unorthodox and modern production of a classic tale. Director Harry Kupfer's vision of the bereaved Orpheus longing to reclaim his beloved Eurydike from the clutches of death shows us a guitar-toting singer ensconced in a hospital for the insane.

Orpheus is lost without Eurydike. His dream of saving her is indeed an insane one, but he nevertheless pleads with the Furies of Hell — keepers of the asylum, if you will — to get her back. Moved by the purity of his love, the Furies agree on the condition that during the couple's ascent from hell, Orpheus must not gaze back at his lover.

Of course, the central and most emotionally intense scene transpires when Orpheus attempts to lead Eurydike back to life. Eurydike doesn't know the monumental challenge that Orpheus faces. She begs him to look at her, to hold her, else she would not go on living.

There is a startling image here of Orpheus clutching a small tv monitor to his chest. On the screen we see the contorted face of Eurydike as she sings. A symbol of memory? Perhaps it is the very soul of Orpheus containing his pain and love until Eurydike can once again be tangible in the flesh. He succumbs to her pleas and embraces her. As he does so, she collapses to the floor, her image on the tv screen sputtering into a blank void.

Counter-tenor Jochen Kowalski, here in his American debut, has a formidable dramatic presence in his role of Orpheus. His singing carries just the right mix of



Jochen Kowalski was Orpheus. (Ashmore Photo)

courage and vulnerability that the role demands. Dagmar Schellenberger-Ernst, as Eurydike, is equally suited to her role. While neither performer could be said to possess thunderous vocal projection abilities, they achieve a chemistry that is effectively woven into Gluck's music. That music is a blend of influences, ranging in mood from dark and brooding to moments of inspired, melodious joy. The Komische Oper Orchestra and Choral Group, under the directorship of Hartmut Haenchen, complete this subtle tapestry with remarkable tautness.

Ambitious theatrical experiments are more often than not prone to one flaw or another. In a clear effort to keep this production relevant and modern, Hans Schavernoch's set is a huge revolving contraption of mirror-like walls that constantly fold in on each other, reflecting the equally huge slide projections. We see images of opera halls, lonely figures walking in shadows, hospital interiors, ambulances, hypodermic needles — all revolving around Orpheus in dizzying, skewed angles.

OK, so we get the point that this is a place for crazy people in a crazy world. A hell on earth. But the overall effect of this hardware atop a big turntable, as powerful as it is, is nonetheless overused and distracting. There's also the fact that the mechanism itself creaks and groans with all the well-timed delicacy of belches in a funeral parlor.

That flaw notwithstanding, director Harry Kupfer has shown us that an opera from 1762 is still a poignant message for our time. Amidst the tragedies that have befallen our troubled world, it would seem that any search for romance is doomed to failure. But in striving for an apparently

(Continued On Page Eight)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ARTS IN AND AROUND DOWNTOWN

GOVERNMENT

Art Events

BROOKLINE NIGHTS: Thursday 8pm series at Prospect Park Picnic House with informal readings followed by discussion with writers. Feb. 28, "An Evening with Poetlink," the activity of the Poetry Laundrette, with readers including Melody Davis, Steven Hartman, Bruce Kennedy, Nancy Bengis Friedman, Nick Valinotti. Mar. 7, writers from Cross Cultural Communications, including readings by founder Stanley Barkan, Australian guest poet David Curzon, Leo Vroman, Georgine Sanders, Daniela Gioseffi, Barbara Lekatsas. Mar. 14, a pre-St. Patrick's Day reading of "Maiden Voyages" by Bronagh Murphy, Honour Molloy. Inside park from Prospect Park W. and 3rd St. Free. 788-0055.

OPEN WINDOW THEATER: "Red Cross," one act by Sam Shepard, directed by Mattias Herold continues Mar. 1 & 2, 8:30pm, followed at 10pm and midnight by jazz from Big Dog Found. At 11pm, "The Noise and the Silence," theater cabaret performance by David O'Kelly. 99 South 6th St., Williamsburg. \$5. 228-8194.

PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music program for young people. Mar. 2, 1pm, Chinese Golden Dragon Variety Revue, featuring 20 acrobatic magicians from Taiwan with authentic music, ceremonial dance. Mar. 9, 2pm, Alliance Children's Theater of Atlanta in New York debut performing "The Velveteen Rabbit: Or How Toys Became Real." \$12; \$7 children. 30 Lafayette Ave. 636-4100.

NEW PROSPECTS: Prospect Park Alliance Sunday programs at the Picnic House. Mar. 3, Bernadette Speech/Thulani Davis and Musicians perform three music/poetry collaborations, with Davis reciting her poems accompanied by an ensemble including Oliver Lake, Jeff Hoyer, Myra Melford, Jeffrey Schanzer, Lindsey Horner, conducted by Speech on the piano. Mar. 10, composer/musician Geri Allen; Dalia Carella, choreographer, in a program that is part of the fifth annual Festival of Women Improvisers. Mar. 17, Jerry O'Sullivan and Friends with St. Patrick's Day program. 3pm. Inside the park from Prospect Park West at 3rd St. \$5 or TDF; seniors \$2.50. 788-0055.

WOMEN IN THE ARTS: Luncheon lecture series at Brooklyn Museum continues Mar. 7 with Margaret Kelly, curator, Forbes Art Collection, speaking on "Corporate Curating for the Capitalist Tool." Talk 11am; luncheon follows with speaker. Museum admission; \$15 lunch. 200 Eastern Parkway. Reservations, 789-2493.

FRIENDS SCHOOL POETRY: Public series continues at noon March 7 with Amiri Bakara (LeRoi Jones) reading from his work and answering questions from audience. Brooklyn Friends School, 375 Pearl St., off Willoughby. Free. 852-1029.

Dance

DANCE CONCERT: Twelfth annual Brooklyn Friends School Dance Concert. Fri.-Sat., Mar. 1-2, 8pm; Thurs., Mar. 7, 7pm; Fri., Mar. 8, 8pm. Students from Grades 5-12 share their choreography. 375 Pearl St., off Willoughby. \$5; \$3 students. 852-1029.

OUTBACK AT THE TRIANGLE: Spoke the Hub Dancing continues Outback series at Long Island University Brooklyn Center. Wed., Mar. 6, noon. Featuring original choreography by Lisa Bleyer, Errol Grimes, Claire Porter. Triangle Theater. Flatbush Ave. Ext. at DeKalb. Free. 596-5250.

SPOKE THE HUB DANCING: Premiere of two new performance works by Elise Long. Fri.-Sat., Mar. 7-9, 8pm; Sun., Mar. 10, 5pm. "Garden Cities of To-Morrow" explores an imaginary community at work and play as it evolves within a landscape of cardboard boxes; original music by Jody Kruskal, performed by his Public Works Orchestra. Also, new Long dance/theater solo, "Winnie's Sister Rose." Gowanus Arts Exchange, 295 Douglass St. \$10 or TDF. 596-5250.

Theater

STAGE WORKS IN SLOPE: Theater troupe performing at Brownstone Gallery presents "Bent." Opening Feb. 28; performances Thurs.-Sat., 8pm, through Mar. 23. 76 Seventh Ave. \$7, TDF. 636-8736.

THE CHANGELING: Kings County Shakespeare Company presents the Jacobean drama set in 17th Century Spain by Thomas Middleton, William Rowley. Directed by Deborah Wright Houston. Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 8pm, Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, Cranberry St., bet. Hicks, Henry; \$10, TDF. 596-9685.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS: Heights Players present Robert Harding's award-winning play. Opening Mar. 1. Fri.-Sat., 8pm; Sun. 2pm; through Mar. 16. 26 Willow Place, Brooklyn Heights. \$9, TDF plus. 237-2752.

OPEN WINDOW THEATER COMPANY: New arts space in Williamsburg. One act play by Sam Shepard, "Red Cross," directed by Mattias Herold. Mar. 1-2, 8:30pm, followed at 11pm by David O'Kelly's "The Noise and the Silence," theater cabaret performance. \$5. 99 South 6th St. 599-1548.

THE ALMOND SELLER: BACA Downtown Fringe Series presents Romanian playwright Oana-Maria Hock's play about a nation awash in a crisis of forgetfulness, set against last June's violence in Bucharest. Directed by Tina Laundau, co-produced by House Frau, Inc. and Via Theater. Thurs.-Sat., through March 2, 8pm. 111 Willoughby St., near Bridge. \$10 or TDF plus. 596-2222.

PAUL ROBESON THEATER: Rainbow Repertory Arts Ensemble debuts at the Robeson with "Long Time Since Yesterday," P.J. Gibson's drama about former women college mates of '60's reunited in '80's after funeral of friend who committed suicide. Fri.-Sat. 7:30pm; Sun. 3pm; through March 24. Directed by Robert McDuffie. 40 Greene Avenue, bet. Carlton, Adelphi. \$15; \$10

Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. \$25. 270-5010/20.

WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC CENTER: Jazz workshop series featuring masters, emerging artists, vocalists. Mar. 2, Andy Bey in Jazz Master Series, \$10. Sat., Mar. 9, 8pm, The Midnight Hour, featuring Omar, with Jimmy Sigler, M. Fergu, Gerry Eastman, Tyrone Jefferson, Dennis Black, Jony Griggs, 120. Music starts at 8:30pm; refreshments; smoke-free space. 367 Bedford Ave. 384-1654.

A SWINGIN AFFAIR: Mel Torme and The McGuire Sisters joined by Buddy Rich Big Band, conducted by Steve Marcus, in ShowTime performance at Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts. Mar. 2, 8pm. Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College Midwood campus. Near Flatbush, Nostrand junction. \$15-\$25. 434-1900.

AFRO BRAZILIAN ENSEMBLE: Indota Entsha Society presents "The Return of Mondoro," with guest artists Vieux Diop, Senegalese musician, and poet Ama Sakura Ka (E. Preston Riddick). Mar. 2, 9pm. St. Luke's Parish House, 259



students, seniors; \$12 matinee. 756-4012.

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT: Alliance Children Theater of Atlanta presents adaptation of Margery Williams tale in Family Fun Series at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Mar. 9, 2pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. \$7 children; \$12 adults. 636-4100.

Music

CAMPTOWN COFFEEHOUSE: African singer-songwriter Tony Bird presents an evening of African-inspired music. Mar. 1, 8:30pm. Opening act by David Gilden playing the African kora, a 21-stringed harp-like instrument. Old First Reformed Church, Carroll St. at Seventh Ave. \$7. 638-8300.

GOOD COFFEE HOUSE: Friday evening music at Brooklyn Ethical Culture emceed by Kathy Roman. March 1, Elly Greenfields, blues. 53 Prospect Park West, at 1st. Doors open 8:45pm; show starts 9:30. Refreshments. \$6. 768-2972, after 8pm on show nights.

TEDDY'S BAR & GRILL: Music every Thurs., 8:30pm; Fri., 10pm. Mar. 1, Simon Chardet & His Bar Sinisters. Mar. 7, Mild Thing. Mar. 8, New Viper Jazzet. Mar. 14, Steve Browne Quartet. No cover. North 8th & Berry Sts., Northside, Williamsburg. 384-9787.

NURTURING TRADITION, FOSTERING CHANGE: Sharon Freeman Jazz Trio benefit performance for Center for Women's Development at Medgar Evers College. Mar. 2, reception 5pm.

Washington Ave., bet. DeKalb, Willoughby. Refreshments. \$10. 638-7622.

GOSPEL CONCERT: Institutional Radio Choir sings on Mar. 3, 4pm. Park Slope United Methodist Church, Sixth Ave., 8th St. \$12. 768-4938.

ARTS AT ST. ANN'S: Rounder recording artists Dry Branch Fire Squad in concert of old-time country and bluegrass sounds. Mar. 8, 8pm. Coming Mar. 9, 8pm, Sleepy La Beef with authentic American rockabilly music. Clinton and Montague Sts. \$12-\$18. 858-2424.

Classics

BARGEMUSIC: Floating chamber music hall on the East River, 7:30pm Thurs., 4pm Sun. Feb. 28 & Mar. 3, music of Arensky and Schubert performed by Ik-Hwan Bae, violin; Christopher Costanza, cello; Colin Carr, cello; Carmit Zori, violin; viola, tba. Mar. 7 & 10, music of Shostakovich, Schubert, Mozart, by Edward Auer, piano; Steven Dann, viola; Nai-Yuan Hu, violin; Jian Wang, cello. Fulton Ferry Landing, foot of Old Fulton St. (Cadman Plaza W.) \$15. 624-4061.

S.E.M. ENSEMBLE: Ensemble continues Willow Place Auditorium series Feb. 28 with "Fluxus," a concert of work of Dick Higgins, Alison Knowles, Benjamin Patterson, Yoko Ono.

(Continued On Page Eight)

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STEEL MAGNOLIAS

Written by
ROBERT HARLING

Directed by
THOMAS N. TYLER

Production Stage Manager
BOB WACHEWSKI

Set Design RICHARD BURKE Lighting Design ROBERT J. WEINSTEIN

Sound Design
LOU CABRAL

March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 8 PM
March 3 & 10 at 2 PM

Tickets: \$9.00 TDF + \$4.00

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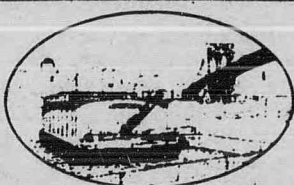
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BARGEMUSIC Chambermusic

Thurs., Feb. 28, 7:30pm
Sunday, Mar. 10, 4pm

A.S. Arensky, Quartet No. 2 in a minor for Violin, Viola and Two Cellos, Op. 35
Schubert, Quintet in c minor for Two Violins, Viola and Two Cellos, D. 956

Guest artists:
Ik-Hwan Bae, violin; Colin Carr, cello; Christopher Costanza, cello; Carmi Zori, violin; violist tba.

\$15. \$12 Seniors, Students

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BACA DOWNTOWN

PERFORMANCES

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UP & COMING

(Continued From Page Seven)

George Maciunas, Emmett Williams, Jackson MacLow, Philip Corner, George Brecht, others. Mar. 7, with a concert of premieres of and by Jon Gibson, Linda Fisher, Christian Marclay. 8pm. 26 Willow Place, bet. Joralemon and State. \$6. 243-0964.

REGINA OPERA COMPANY: Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci," with orchestra conducted by Gregory Ortega, staged by Linda Cantoni. Mar. 2 & 9, 8pm; Mar. 3 & 10, 4pm. Regina Hall, 12th Ave. at 65th St. \$10; seniors, students \$7. 232-3555.

BACA MUSEUM CONCERTS: Sunday series of BACA/Brooklyn Arts Council at Brooklyn Museum, 2pm. Programs in March mark Women's History Month. Mar. 3, Aglaia Koras-Bain, piano. Mar. 10, Gila Goldstein, piano. Mar. 17, Patrick Brady-Danzig, Irish vocals. Mar. 24, Marguerite Iskenderian, Naomi Lehman, four-hand piano. 200 Eastern Parkway. Museum admission. 783-3077/4469.

ISAAC STERN RECITAL: The legendary violinist continues his 70th birthday season Mar. 3, 2pm, at Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts. Performing works of Mozart, Brahms, Schumann, Szymanowski, Bartok. Convocation follows performance as Brooklyn College President Robert Hess confers honorary degree on Stern. Whitman Hall, Midwood campus, near intersection of Flatbush, Nostrand. \$17-\$25. 434-1900.

FIRST SUNDAY CONCERT: Tenor Frederick Montgomery in a program of sacred music. Mar. 3, 3pm. Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church, 144 St. Felix St., at Hanson. Donation. 783-0908.

OMNI ENSEMBLE: Program includes works of Haydn, Schumann, Albert Roussel, plus New York premiere of new work by Lee Hyla commissioned by Omni. Mar. 8, 8pm. Ensemble joined by guest artists Cenovia Cummins, violin; Mary Hammann, viola; David Calhoun, cello. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, 58 Seventh Ave. \$8.

BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIA CHORUS: "A Concert of Spring Songs," conducted by Douglas March. Sat., Mar. 9, 8pm. The 60-voice chorus performs selections of American as well as Scottish, Welch, German songs ranging from Renaissance to Modern. First Presbyterian Church, 124 Henry St., near Clark. \$6. 852-2782.

BCBC CHAMBER SERIES: New World String Quartet joined by bassist Edgar Meyer, pianist Amy Dorfman on Sun., Mar. 10, 2pm. Performing work of Eccles, Bloch, Dvorak and works of Edgar Meyer, including world premiere of his "Sonata." Gershwin Theater, Brooklyn College Midwood campus, near Flatbush, Nostrand junction. \$15. 434-1900.

BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: Recital by Todd Palmer, clarinet, Carol Archer, piano. Mar. 13, 8pm. Performing Weber's "Grand Duo Concertante," Reger's Sonata in A Flat Major, Debussy "Premiere Rhapsodie, Lutoslawsky's "Dance Preludes." 58 Seventh Ave. \$8; \$6 students, seniors. 622-3300.

BROOKLYN FRIENDS OF CHAMBER MUSIC: Two Sunday concerts at 3:30pm. Mar. 10, Shoenberg Quartet performing Beethoven Quartet in F major, Webern Five Movements for String Quartet, plus contemporary work of Jan van Vlijmen, "Trimurti." Mar. 17, Ridge Quartet performing Dvorak String Quintet in G, Beethoven Quartet in C. Lafayette Ave. Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford St., at Lafayette. \$12 each. 625-7515.

Art

BACA DOWNTOWN: "Mother Dresser/Father Bed," collaboration by photographer Susan Daboll and Sculptor Glen Sacks. Also individual works, "Mother's Closet" by Daboll; "Loss and Recovery" by Sacks. Through March 16. Gallery hours, Tues.-Fri., noon-6pm; Sat., 1-6pm; also at performance times. 111 Willoughby St., at Bridge. 596-2222.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE: Elaine de Kooning, portraits, in The Art Gallery. Opening reception Feb. 28, 7-9pm. Through April 19. LaGuardia Hall, Bedford Ave. at Ave. H. 780-5181/5907.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Just opened, "Albert Bierstadt: Art & Enterprise," major show on the work of this American landscape painter; through May 5. Recently opened, Dove Bradshaw, "Drawings" and "Selected Drawings from The Brooklyn Museum," both through March 18. "Sewing and Reaping: A Weaver's Tale," Grand Lobby installation by New York artist Reena Potoff, through March 11. "Monet and His Contemporaries," through June 2. "In Pursuit of the Spiritual," Oceanic art given by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Friede, Mrs. Melville W. Hall, through Fall. "The Blue of Jingtai: Chinese Cloisonne Enamels," through June 30. Museum hours: daily except Mon. & Tues., 10am-5pm. \$4, \$1.50 students, \$1 seniors. 638-5000.

BROWNSTONE GALLERY: Exhibition of the photography of Dudley Gray. Through March 10. 76 Seventh Ave. 636-8736.

CENTER FOR THANATOLOGY

RESEARCH: "Buried Treasure: The Artists and Architects of Green-Wood," a photographic tour of Green-Wood Cemetery. Exhibit is based on chapter of forthcoming book by Margaret and the late William Ward, authoritative tour guides to the cemetery. Through Mar. 17. Exhibit hours, 12-5pm, Sat.-Sun. 391 Atlantic Ave. Free. 858-3026.

ONE MAIN ST. WINDOWS: Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition 24-hour exhibition space at Fulton Ferry, "Either...Or..." one-person environmental light installation by Michael Rouillard. Best seen at night. Main St., off Water, bet. Brooklyn, Manhattan Bridges. 596-9405.

OPEN WINDOW THEATER: New Williamsburg art space. Paintings by Howard Stier; collages by Chris Gonyea. 99 South 6th St. 599-1548.

ROTUNDA GALLERY: "Requiem for a Blue Fluid," a site specific installation by Eve Andree Laramée. Inspired by the gallery's location at the Brooklyn War Memorial. Opening Feb. 28, 6-8pm. Through April 6. Cadman Plaza West at Orange St. Noon-5pm, Tues.-Fri.; 11am-4pm, Sat.

METROTECH CENTER: First Oratory Art Annual, watercolor studies and portraits of downtown landmark church, sponsored by Brooklyn Oratory, Brooklyn Watercolor Society. Exhibit inaugurates lobby space of Securities Industry Automation Corp. headquarters for community use. Judging takes place Mar. 5, 3:30pm; exhibit continues through Mar. 22. Two Metrotech Center, Myrtle Ave. at Bridge St. On view weekdays during business hours. 469-5288.

SKYLIGHT GALLERY: Center for Art and Culture of Bedford Stuyvesant presents collection of black and white photographs by Charles "Teenie" Harris, retired photojournalist at the Pittsburgh Courier. Through March 31. Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration, 1368 Fulton St. 636-6949.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: "Architectural Drawings: The Interborough Rapid Transit System, Contract One, 1900-1904," exhibition of drawings, photographs, artifacts. "Dual Images," black and white photos of the NYC subway system by Joseph Elliott and Gerald Weinstein. Gallery hours Mon.-Fri., 10am-4pm; Sat. 11am-4pm. \$2; \$1.50 seniors; \$1 children. Underground at Boerum Pl. and Schermerhorn St. 330-3060/63.

Films

DINNERCINEMA: Vintage black classic films screened in a Ft. Greene family-owned restaurant, sponsored by Black Films Preservation, Paul Robeson Theater. Feb. 28, Two Steps Down, 240 DeKalb Ave., 399-2020, "Black Network," early race film, negro version of 1936 big broadcast; "Dirty Girty from Harlem," "Singing Swinging Soul Sisters," from early '40's.

ASIAN-AMERICAN VIDEO VISIONS: Brooklyn Museum six-week series, curated by Marlina Gonzalez-Tamrong, continues Mar. 3 with Trilogy of Women's Voices; guest speaker is Marlina Gonzalez-Tamrong, guest curator of series; screenings of works by Loni Ding, Indu Krishnan, Pranja Paramita Parasher and Deb Ellis. Final program, Mar. 10, guest speaker is media artist Shu Lea Cheang, with screenings of work of Nicky Tamrong, Rea Tajiri, and premiere of work by Cheang. 200 Eastern Parkway. Museum admission. 638-5000.

COMMERCIAL THEATERS: Brooklyn Heights Cinema, 70 Henry St. 596-7124; Cobble Hill Twin, 265 Court St. 596-9113; Duffield Cinema, 249 Duffield St. 855-3967; Plaza Twin Cinema, 314 Flatbush Ave. 636-0170. Metropolitan Cineplex, Fulton Mall, near Smith St. 858-8580.

BAM Does an Opera

(Continued From Page Six)

impossible goal, we reveal something of our human nature and are in turn liberated from that which would damn us forever.

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BAM OPERA: Coming next, May 7-12, the New York premiere of "Hydrogen Jukebox," poetry by Allen Ginsberg, music by Philip Glass. Production design by Jerome Sirlin, music direction by Martin Goldray, staged by Ann Carlson. Sung in English. Brooklyn Academy of Music Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. \$15-\$40; opening night including post-performance reception with the cast, \$75. 636-4100.



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COMING

MORE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

(Continued From Page Sixteen)

Monthly meeting Mar. 11, 8pm, and second Monday of every month. Clinton Hill Library, 380 Washington Ave. 522-2613.

COMMUNITY BOARD TWO: Meetings for board of Community District Two, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Ft. Greene, Clinton Hill, Downtown. Monthly meeting of board members, Mar. 13, 5:45pm. Borough Hall, Community Room, 209 Joralemon St. 596-5410.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS: New York City Districting Commission meeting and hearing on upcoming 1991 district lines for new City Council districts. Mar. 13, 4:30pm, meeting of commission; 7pm, public hearing. Boys and Girls High School, 1700 Fulton St.

PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCILS: 76th Precinct, Mar. 5 and first Tuesday of every month, 8pm, 191 Union St., 834-3211. 78th Precinct, Mar. 26 and last Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm, 65 Sixth Ave. 84th Precinct, Mar. 19 and third Tuesday of every month, 7pm. Congregation Mt. Sinai, Cadman Plaza West at Clinton St., 875-6811.

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

LEFFERTS HOMESTEAD: Adult craft course, Mar. 3 & 10, Blanket Box Making, led by Patrick Stuzenski, \$150. Fee include materials. Flatbush Ave. in Prospect Park, north of Empire Blvd. 965-6505.

SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS: St. Francis College series on Running a Business in the Nineties. Mar. 6, "Operating a Franchise," Harold Kestenbaum, attorney. Each begins 8am; \$5 includes breakfast; \$3 seniors, students. 180 Remsen St. 522-2300.

SPRING PARENTING WORKSHOP: Mar. 6, 1pm, Myths & Realities/Balancing Families and Work, Debra Laks talks about how to find a personal solution. Educational Alliance West, 129 Montague St. \$6; childcare \$4. Reservations, 522-0059.

RECREATION WORKSHOP: Association for Learning Disabilities workshop for parents on "Recreation: Fun and Games, and Making Friends." Mar. 6, 7:15pm. School District 15 Office, 360 Smith St. Free. 212/645-6730.

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: A

14-evening course for adults offered by reform rabbis of Brooklyn. Tuesdays, starting Mar. 15. Congregation Beth Elohim, Eighth Ave., Garfield Pl. 768-3814.

WINTER SHAPE UP CLASSES: Registration underway for exercise, dance, swimming classes for adults, children at Brooklyn YWCA. New offering in Bench Aerobics, AfroBics. Toddler Gym for ages 1-3; Tiny Tots Swimming, ages 2-4. 30 Third Ave. 875-1190.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

PLYMOUTH CHURCH: Lenten adult study series, "Christianity and the Interface with World Religions," led by Dr. Richard Stanger, Sundays at 7:30pm, starting Mar. 3 with Hinduism; Mar. 10, Buddhism. Mar. 6, Board of Deacons meeting, 8pm. Orange St., bet. Hicks, Henry. 624-4743.

HANSON PLACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Mar. 3, 3pm, First Sunday Sacred Music Series continues with Frederick Montgomery, tenor. 144 St. Felix St., at Hanson Pl. Donation. 783-0908.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH: Mar. 3, 11am, writer Jim Mason talks about "Closer to Nature: The Animal Rights Imperative," as part of morning service; informal question period follows. Pierrepont St., Monroe Pl. 624-5466.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH: Stations of the Cross (English), Mar. 8 & 13. Both Catholics, non-Catholics invited to join. 250 21st Street. 768-3751.

SOCIETY FOR ETHICAL CULTURE: Mar. 3, 10am, Basic Hatha Yoga, led by Constance Pigozzi; 11am, Claire Wilson talks about "Community or Chaos: A Look at Racism." 53 Prospect Park West. 768-2972.

KANE ST. SYNAGOGUE: Bagel Brunch - Mar. 3, 11am, "Operation Exodus," film about recent Soviet emigre to Israel; Mar. 10, 11am, Venessa Ochs, author of "Words on Fire" talks about her year in Jerusalem exploring Torah studies for women. Congregation Baith Israel Anshei Emes, 236 Kane St. 875-1550.

If you've got an event or activity happening, let us hear from you so we can list it here. Deadline Friday before next issue.

Visiting the Candidates on Election Night:

(Continued From Page Fifteen)

cut yourself off from that, you're cutting yourself off from a very big part of life." He's disappointed that the opportunity for television debate in this campaign never materialized. It could have been a significant chance to defuse what he called the "shoot from the hip" kind of printed media endorsements he encountered.

Lonni Cacchione is disappointed, too, but far from rolling over and playing dead. She's an ebullient, disarmingly candid activist who's still got much to do and say. Undaunted by her defeat, she seemed, in fact, pumped up. "The turn-on," she says, "is getting to the people. Getting them to care."

Glick Sees the Issues Are Coming His Way; Looks to a Coalition

BY ANNE-MARIE OTEY

When he went to vote on Tuesday morning, Ted Glick suffered the ultimate indignity for a candidate — he couldn't.

He has voted at PS 38 on Pacific Street since 1975, but when he arrived to cast his own personal vote in the first election he appeared on the ballot, election inspectors couldn't find Glick's "buff card," the official registration card which a voter signs every time he casts a ballot. A paper ballot was offered, but Glick wanted to make sure his count was on the voting machine and refused, instead traveling downtown to Adams St. where he picked up a new card at the Board of Elections office.

He finally got to cast his vote on the machine and was bemused about the incident as he told the story on election night, winding down from hectic weeks of campaigning. Sitting in a basement office on Smith Street where the Glick campaign had established its election day headquarters, the most urgent task by this moment seemed to be making sure there was enough beer to treat returning volunteers.

People began to gather shortly after the polls closed at 9pm and as telephone reports supplemented the figures they brought, the election night trend became clear. By 10:30, it was Glick himself who put in the call to the Board of Elections for the final tally that told the story for him — an eighth-place finish in a field of nine.

There were no speeches to give, but a dejected Glick seemed as angry at the winner as he was about his own place out of the running. It was a victory for "business as usual," he observed sourly, speaking with a Bud in his hand, and reflecting on his strategy and what had happened over the weeks of the campaign. "We looked at the numbers in Park Slope and Boerum Hill, plus the housing projects in Ft. Greene. Jessie Jackson got 10,000 votes from those area in 1988. We figured we could get 20-25 percent of those votes and have a shot at winning," he said.

But turnout was low in the projects, and much of the vote went to Fisher and Millman. "There were conflicting loyalties," Glick observed. "Blacks were not united behind a candidate and black officials backed Millman and Fisher." Also, he said, "The progressive community was divided among several candidates."

Glick, who campaigned on a program of tax reforms, doesn't take his defeat personally. "I'm part of a coalition of activists and my running was not only my decision — other people were involved in it." He believes his coalition's ideas have a future in New York City politics. "Perhaps people are not yet ready to act, or we haven't presented them well yet." That can change: "In 1993, when I started to question the Downtown Brooklyn development, people called me anti-development. Now, eight years later, most people, including the other candidates, share that concern."

Glick says his coalition will look at running a candidate in the next council election after redistricting. "In this election, old politics won, but that doesn't change the needs of the district and the city."

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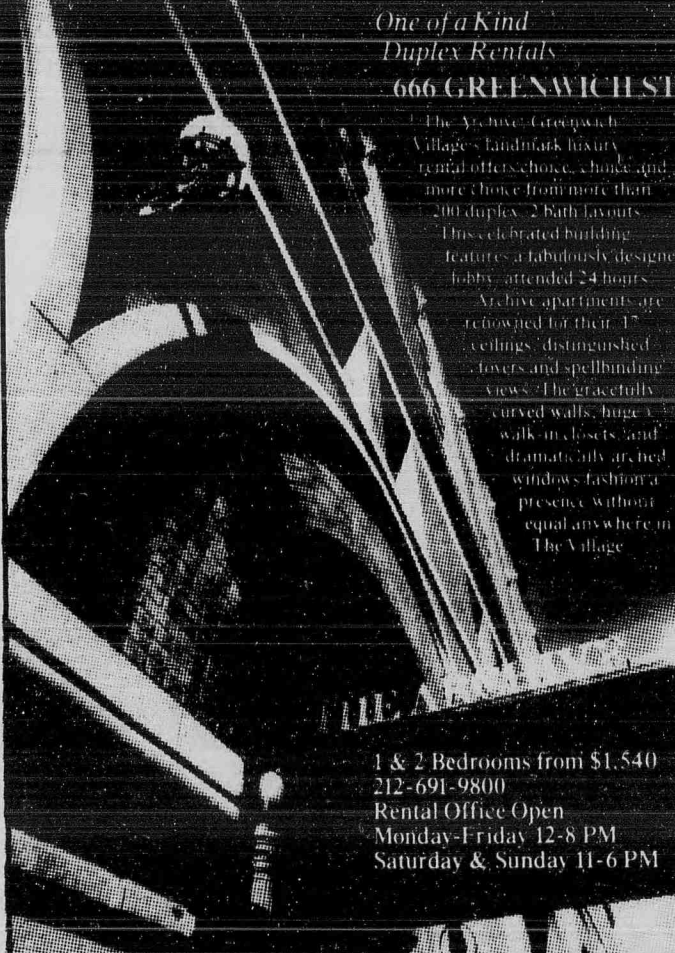
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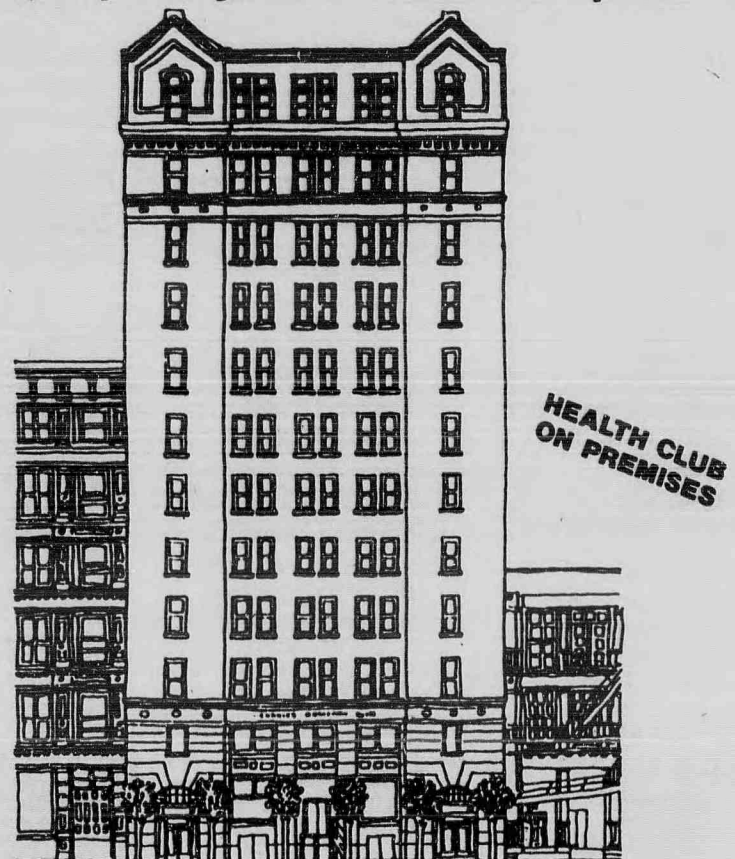
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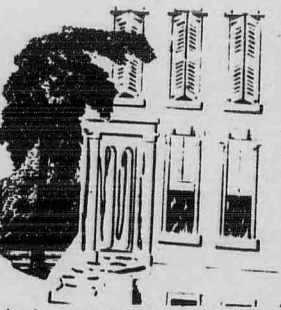
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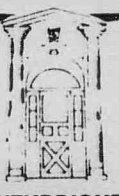


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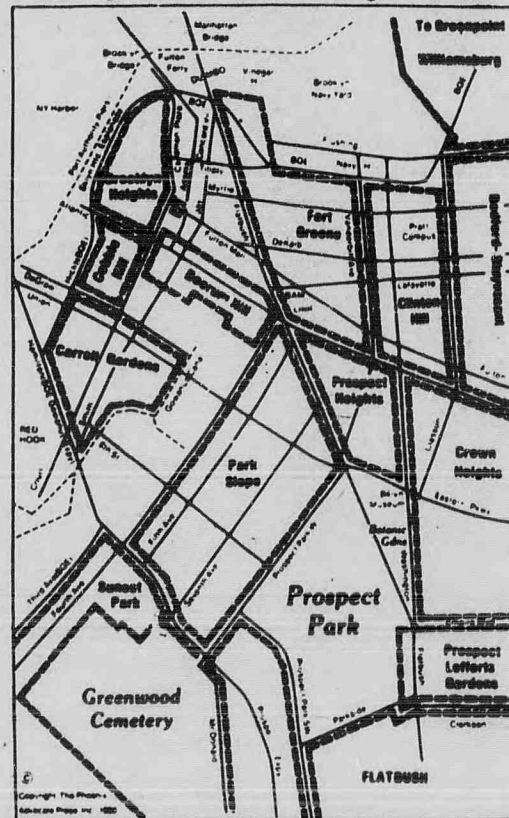
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Playing Politics With Crime is Bad Business

The New York State Legislature has finally approved the plan for reorganizing and for financing the expansion of the New York City Police Department. Yes, the State Legislature; that's who finally had to approve the plan. After sitting on the shelf for five months, the widely-hailed change in approach for the department and the way the expansion of the force will get paid for, has been immediately put into effect. It's about time.

After the outlines of the plan were announced in October following a bloody, fearful summer, we observed in this space that the switch to community-based patrol was a welcome one for every community in our city. It doesn't solve the problems we have over too-readily-available guns and the crime that is spawned by the drug trade, but, nevertheless, it still offers a better opportunity for citizens to team up with the police in making their communities safer.

The spectre of crime, very much a part of everyday life last fall when the police plan was announced, has receded since the crisis days which spawned the crime-fighting plan. The normal seasonal changes have helped make the streets relatively safer; and warfare in the Middle East has diverted media — and therefore public — attention to a riper killing field. But, the warm days of spring are only a few weeks away and the needless delay in moving on the plan means major changes are only beginning now when they might have started many months ago and widely been in place.

The reason for months of delay in moving on this Police Department reform

is that the City of New York has been held hostage to the whims of the New York State Legislature and the interests of some of its members to seek to play politics with the plan. The members of the Legislature from New York City certainly have a duty to be interested and concerned about the direction and content of the police plan; the Legislature also has a constitutional duty to review the taxing formulas which will pay for it. What bothers us, however, is that a handful of legislative leaders and influential members seem to have acted at odds with the concept of real leadership. From the very start of the process last fall, they seemed to say the City wasn't doing a good job in lobbying (they really seemed to mean begging) for the legislators' approval. All along the way, even though the City Council and the Administration presented a unified backing early last month, the Legislature seemed to ignore the broader philosophy of the plan and the specific proposals for financing, getting involved instead in a parochial debate between police and fire departments and the specific, very parochial concerns of some of the Assembly and Senate's most powerful members.

That's all past now, but the plan could have been approved in December during the Legislature's special session and precious months have been lost in getting things ready for the crime season ahead. The delay was needless and serves as just the most recent object lesson in an increasingly contentious political relationship between the City and the State of New York. Playing politics over issues that go to the heart of the lives of all of us is dangerous business. It ought to be a crime.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Coney Island Documentary Recalls Good Times, Its Role in Our Lives

BY JOHN TULENKO

Today's Coney Island might be mistaken for the end of the world. Surrounded by huge housing projects, vacant lots, and what appear to be dangerous streets, the amusement area has largely shriveled with most of it sitting quietly abandoned, rusting by the sea. It is, however, a ruin everybody loves.

To reveal and celebrate what it was nearly a century ago — a blazing town more luminous than anything people had ever seen before, something dedicated to their pure enjoyment — Ric Burns, the filmmaker who co-produced Public Broadcasting's "The Civil War," came to the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza for a public screening of his newest documentary, "Coney Island."

Broadcast for the first time on Channel 13 earlier in the same week, it was appropriate that the public got this soon-after peek at the work here at the Grand Army Plaza headquarters of the Brooklyn library system

because the library was a key resource for the film, according to Burns. The library houses the greatest collection of photographs and films of old Brooklyn and it proved to be an indispensable resource for Burns. Only after seeing how vast the library's resources were, he said, did he decide the Coney Island documentary was even possible. "It would have been a vastly impoverished film unless we had been able to avail ourselves of the collection."

The old Coney Island that is the subject of Ric Burns' film revolutionized American culture. There, at the turn of the century, developers turned industrialization upside-down, making gigantic machines whose sole purpose was to amuse, excite and thrill. The Loop-the-Loop, the Roller Coaster, the Fun House, Freak Shows and Water Slides all got their debut at Coney Island.

Less well known ideas evolved there as well, including the Human Roulette Wheel,

People came from gas-lit homes. There was no skyline ablaze in the distance. To see an entire city in miniature lit up must have been extraordinary.

Moving Staircases, Diving Horses, and Leap-Frog Trains among other industrial oddities. "The machines closely resembled the ones people worked on all day," Burns explains, "but they were all about physical fun."

What made the film most striking is that in the thousands of yards of old footage, everyone is having the time of their lives. What people did at Coney Island — the rides, the swimming, the eating — made them touch each other. Of the steeplechase ride, one man is quoted as saying, "The boys loved it because they got to hug the girls, and the

girls loved it because they got hugged." Coney Island appealed to adults, and, as Ric Burns says, "that appeal included the possibility of sex, and of encountering a new person for the first time."

Looking at the old images of Coney Island at night one feels the fragility and strangeness of its beauty. This world, with its Moorish towers innocently wrapped in lights, looks as strange to us now as it did to the people who marveled at it for the first time then.

"No one had ever seen anything like it," Burns told the Feb. 16 audience after the film. "People came from gas-lit homes, and the light at night was always very dim in the country and the city. There was no skyline in New York that was ablaze from the distance. To come down and see an entire city in miniature [Coney Island] lit up, that must have been quite extraordinary."

The novelty of Coney Island also shattered class barriers. Both the wealthy and the poor came to see it and to take part in it. For Ric Burns, it was the birthplace of mass entertainment in America. People publicly immersed themselves in pleasure in a way that was prohibited by Victorian culture. It was a place for releasing. Coney Island burned to ashes three times, but it was rebuilt because people needed it.

Many viewers at the Grand Army Plaza screening talked about their old Coney Island they knew personally. They had their own questions for Burns, looking to add to what they knew from their own experiences. One man wanted to know if it had once been called Connie's Island. (Not that Burns knew of.) Another wondered if people had camped on the beach. (He didn't know, but probably.) Others wished to know why their memories were omitted from the film. (Burns apologized for the many stories and anecdotes "left on the cutting room floor.")

In the end, Burns said, "Coney Island has always been, to the people who knew it best, a kind of opportunity — a sense of place where new things will happen. While we slighted Coney Island's present and quite wonderful existence, the film makes the point that what we want Coney Island to do now, as in the past is spring up from its ashes."

...

Burns' film was the last the library will show for free for some time. Budget cuts that resulted in 75 staff layoffs there have also chopped the library's film program. Guy Verdini, chief of the library's audiovisual department is heartbroken and talked about it after this screening on Feb. 16. "I was doing programming every Wednesday over the past year. We had a small following, but we still enjoyed it. This room brings back many memories," he said.

SIGN OF THE TIMES



On the streets of Park Slope on Feb. 18. (Phoenix/Courtney Kealy Photo)

Find a Range of Moods in Visits With Candidates On Election Nite

(Continued From Page Four)

closed doors with an uncontrollable smirk. The room lashed as she read a list of numbers that started with 98 for Angela Lariscy and ended in a crescendo with 3709 for Fisher, 900 more votes than the runner-up, his arch-rival Joan Millman.

Cheers and boos erupted as Fisher emerged to ascend a stairway above the crowd. Beaming while his supporters bathed him in applause, Fisher reminded his troops and believers that he "couldn't have done it without the hard work of all the people here tonight." He went on to thank everyone from Borough President Howard Golden and his parents, to Rabbi David Niederman, head of United Jewish Organizations-Williamsburg, whose support netted Fisher the whale of the Hasidic vote, and perhaps the Council seat as well.

"If I brought anything to the race," he said in his victory speech, "it wasn't the mechanics and nuts and bolts of campaigning but rather a message — We had better ideas than they did." He also praised his team for running a "positive campaign" and "staying away from negative tactics." Carrying both Williamsburg and Fort Greene, he added, was proof that he can work with the diverse communities of the 25th District. "What happened in Williamsburg today was an affirmation of the faith of thousands of people in a system most of them don't know very well and the leadership of that community's belief in me."

After fielding calls from the Mayor, Joan Millman and Assemblyman/Kings County Democratic Party Leader Clarence Norman, Fisher said he would spend the coming days preparing himself for office and begin putting together a staff. One of his first tasks, he said, would be to resign from the partnership in his family law firm. He added, however, that he would keep a small practice on the side, "like Gerges did," and would not represent clients who do business with the City.

Officially, Fisher took office the next day and an inauguration will be sometime next week. First priorities, he said, would be to pick up on legislation Abe Gerges was working on before he resigned to take a seat on the State Supreme Court Jan. 1. "We're also thinking about ways to be more accessible to people such as holding town meetings and opening satellite offices," he said, trying to catch his breath. Other top concerns, he added, would be illegal drug dealing in the district and vehicular traffic in the Heights.

Standing above an elated crowd, Fisher recalled how the press predicted his family, with its connections to regular party politics, would be an issue in this race. "Well you can have em' all," he said with a shade of vindication in his voice. "I thank God my parents were Harold and Betty Fisher!"

After running through the requisite list of those "who made it possible," as the clock passed 11pm, Fisher reminded the throng that some of the energy and stamina expended during the campaign should be put in reserve. "Remember," he said with a smile. "There's another election in September."

Millman Party Soon Turned Somber as Figures Were Revealed

Millman headquarters, on the ground floor of a residential row house building on Amity Street in Cobble Hill, was jam-packed with campaign workers and volunteers soon after the polls closed on election night. Outside, cars were double parked on the snowy street and people kept pouring in. Tally sheets they carried were routed upstairs to the campaign's vote-counting operation. Democrats, friends and supporters of the candidate, many of them long-time friends, mingled and



It was a diverse crowd that filled the election night headquarters of Ken Fisher on Feb. 26 — a diversity that reflected the sprawling 29th Council District that has been represented for more than a decade by Abe Gerges. It was Gerges' resignation on Dec. 31 that kicked off the nine-way race to succeed him. Below, Fisher's father (seated), Harold Fisher, the legendary Brooklyn Democratic operative and former chairman of the MTA, held court during the evening, clearly enjoys the moment of triumph. (Phoenix/Jacobs Photos) Right, candidate Joan Millman leaving the voting machine in a Cadman Plaza precinct after casting her ballot. (Phoenix/Puchron Photo)



traded stories of the long ultimate day on the campaign trail.

There was marveling over the large vote turnout even in such bad weather and conjecturing about what had inspired it. In pre-vote planning, everybody had been talking about 8-10,000 votes, but the count was to reach over 13,000. There was irritation over the boxes of "Compliments of Ken Fisher" cookies which went to every polling place worker as the polls opened that morning. Then, too, there was the chronic complaint of wasted hours sitting at polling places where few people showed up to vote, the precincts which registered 15, 18, 25 votes in the entire voting day.

Another tale, however, was more threatening: a few Millman watchers came back from polls in Williamsburg with reports of walkie-talkie equipped Orthodox Jewish workers for Fisher rounding up a formidable last minute vote in the closing hours of voting.

Periodic sets of numbers filtered down to be posted on the butcher-paper wall charts with district-by-district blanks for vote tallies. From what was posted, however, it was difficult for most people to get a picture of what was happening. Most blanks never got filled in. Periodically, Assemblywoman Eileen Dugan and State Senator Martin Connor made the rounds of the increasingly crowded complex of small rooms, boosting spirits and talking about how the race was definitely a two-way race between Millman and Fisher, with the other seven candidates running well behind.

But the mood seemed glum by 10pm. As reports of the huge numbers rolled up by Fisher in a tiny handful of elections districts in Williamsburg circulated around the room, those who understood the significance became even more somber. Those numbers never got posted on the wall, but the campaign workers who had brought back figures of 256-3 for Fisher scored in one district, understood that even with Millman's 4-to-1 outpacing of her arch-rival in the Heights and Cobble Hill, victory was going someplace else this night.

By 10:30, the final results were confirmed, Millman was firmly in second place, but about a thousand votes out of the running. Fisher's Williamsburg margin, approximate-



ly 2000 votes to 70 for Millman, was decisive. The candidate herself arrived in the company of a grim Clarence Norman, the Crown Heights Assemblyman who recently became Brooklyn Democratic County Leader. There were no tears, just thank you's and grateful words for the troops.

"I had decided two weeks ago that I would say the same thing no matter what the outcome was tonight," Millman said. "We have all been part of an incredible adventure," she told the stilled crowd, which had grown to perhaps 125 by this time. "When you think of all the things we have done in this very short period of time, I know we all did the very best we could."

She said, "It would be nice to be saying something else tonight — as Steve knows, the winning part is much better than the losing part," she said, gesturing to City Councilman Steve DiBrienza whose first bid for the council, against formidable veteran Council leader Tom Cuile, fell just a couple of hundred votes short of winning, but who came back to win a few years later. "We can have it again some time, too. We took this shot and made a lot of friends along the way. I know we'll keep them and build on them." — M.A.A.

Van Slyke Pleased and Looks Ahead to the New District Lines

BY JOHN TULENKO

Irene Van Slyke was disappointed when word of Ken Fisher's election victory reached her headquarters on Atlantic Avenue Tuesday night. But by no means, however, was she crushed. Election tallies tacked to the walls of her storefront office showed she fared very well in the downtown, brownstone neighborhoods, including Fisher's home neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights.

For Van Slyke, who has worked in Brooklyn politics for more than 20 years, the results proved she was a serious contender for the City Council. "I am very pleased with the way things went," she said. "Until a few months ago, few people knew who I was." Do the results lead her to look at a race this fall for the City Council? "I want to run very much," she said.

The lower portion of the sprawling 29th Council District is likely to be chopped off and made part of a new, smaller district when the lines are redrawn for elections this fall to accommodate an extra 15 districts being added to the Council, five of them in Brooklyn. In the lower portion of the district, where winner Ken Fisher polled only 400 votes, and runner-up Joan Millman got 2000 votes, Van Slyke's total was nearly 1000. Another local candidate, Ted Glick, received a similar number of votes to Fisher.

A strong advocate of public financing of campaigns, Van Slyke had strong criticism for Millman and Fisher, who funded their campaigns with larger personal donations, rather than the limited contribution size and broad participation scale that public financing encourages. "Voters have to know the candidate will have to pay back for what they got," she says of those who took big individual donations. "It will be interesting to see who their financiers were."

About 35 supporters were gathered at the candidate's office for this culmination of the short but hectic campaign period. They all seemed to accept the loss as an important political accomplishment — a victory on the way to another, more distant goal. Earl Johnson, one of the two Democratic District Leaders in the 57th AD who supported Van Slyke, called the vote "a statement for community organizing and political clubs. Even though we didn't win it, it is still a victory for those working in the community."

Lonni Glad to Have Shown Differences Between People, \$\$\$

BY TOM WACHUNAS

At 9pm on February 26, Lonni Leavitt-Cacchione was curled up on the couch in the living room of her Brooklyn Heights headquarters on Sidney Place, the home of her long-time friends Marion and Ben Miller.

After four weeks of vigorous one-on-one campaigning on the streets, she was understandably exhausted, though only physically. Her enthusiasm for her volunteer campaigners, numbering nearly 400 she claimed, remained unflagging, and she introduced each of the dozen or so who stopped by with early tallies as if they were her closest family members. Over the next 90 minutes, after many incoming and outgoing telephone calls, the figures from various locations clearly indicated that there would be no City Council seat winner in this house tonight.

But never mind the numbers in the winner/loser columns, or the paltry few but faithful who turned out in horrendous weather to cast their votes. Cacchione felt another kind of victory. "This has been a real struggle between people and money," the candidate mused. "I'm thrilled that I held my own as well as I did. We 'won' by being honorable and straightforward within our framework. I don't see the point of winning the race if you have to change who and what you are."

Surely, the biggest battle being fought on the Cacchione front was against Joan Millman and Ken Fisher, the two leading candidates in the race. The feeling in the room on Sidney Place was that Millman's machine is so much talk with no substance. Marion Miller voiced her opinion that perhaps Ken Fisher might be more responsive to the real, substantive needs of the people. Gary Tilzer, Cacchione's campaign manager, commenting on the evidence of big bucks spent by the frontrunners, asked, "How do these people get this kind of money to pour into a City Council race?" Miller added that if any legitimate complaints are made about financial sources and practices, or any other irregularities, "it's up to you reporters to look into it further."

Cacchione's greatest fan is her husband, Bernie. His faith in the power of the vote is enormous, his sense of history astute. Observing the difficulties in getting voters to exercise their power, he senses a popular antagonism toward civil politics in general. "Politics is interaction between people. How can you possibly ignore such a thing? If you

(Continued On Page Nine)

UP & COMING

To make sure you are
listed here, send
information to: Up &
Coming, 395 Atlantic
Ave., Brooklyn 11217.
Deadline Fridays

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SPEAK AGAINST SOLARZ: Williamsburg Committee for Peace and Equal Justice demonstration in front of Rep. Stephen Solarz office at 619 Lorimer St. to protest his vote in Congress for war. Sat., Mar. 2, noon, assembly at Washington Plaza, Roebing, South 4th Sts. For transportation from Downtown/South Brooklyn area, buses leave General Post Office on Cadman Plaza East, John Jay High School at 11:30am, assembly at 11am. Endorsed by Brooklyn Coalition for Peace and Social Justice. 963-3478.

A NIGHT IN ITALY: Project Reach Youth benefit, Mar. 2, 7:30pm. Sample regional wine, savor hearty, authentic Italian foods, bid on luxuries and pleasures in silent auction. 607 Second St. \$50-\$250. 768-0778.

SCIENCE SKILLS CENTER: Parent Association presents a Sneak(er) Party as benefit for center. Mar. 2, 10pm-4pm. Creative Concerns, 122 Washington Ave., bet. Myrtle and Park. Old and new hits, contests, cash bar, food. Must wear sneakers. \$15 at door. 636-6215.

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment activities to thank volunteers in its programs on Sun., Mar. 3. Free walk through the park, "Identifying Trees Without Leaves," 1pm. Volunteer party, 3:30-6pm, meet the BCUE staff and learn about coming programs. Tennis House, Prospect Park, inside the park from Prospect Park West, 7th St. 788-8549.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: Brooklyn kick-off ceremony for Women's History Month, sponsored by Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden. Thurs., Mar. 7, noon. Live entertainment, displays, literature on women's issues. Borough Hall Plaza, Court, Remsen Sts. Free. 802-3811.

PROTEST VIOLENCE: Brooklyn portion of five-borough demonstration Sat., Mar. 9, 1pm, protesting anti-lesbian/gay violence. Meet Seventh Ave., Union St., march past Purity Diner, site of 1990 attack, still not classified as bias motivated. Take free bus to Queens demonstration at 2:30pm. Coordinated by NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. 998-7096.

FAIRS, FLEAS & SALES

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING: PTA of Brooklyn YWCA Montessori Day School benefit sale of gently used children's clothing. Mar. 8-9. Fri. 3:30-6; Sat. 10am-3pm. 30 Third Ave., at Atlantic. 875-1190, Ext. 675.

RUMMAGE SALE: Books, collectibles, clothing, toys, household items, jewelry, more. Sat., Mar. 9, 10:30am-4pm. Benefit charitable activities. Plymouth Church of Pilgrims, 75 Hicks St., use Cranberry St. entrance. 624-4743.

SPRING FAIR: Flea market, crafts fair, gifts for Mothers Day, Easter. Mar. 10, 10am-5pm. St. Charles Borromeo School, Sidney Place, Brooklyn Heights. Seeking vendors; call 596-1362.

TOURS & EXPLORATIONS

CONEY ISLAND: Urban Park Rangers lead a "Coney Island Memories" walk. Mar. 2, 2pm. Free. Meet Coney Island Boardwalk at W. 8th St. 287-3400.

TREES WITHOUT LEAVES: Prospect Park Forester Chris DeMatteo leads Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment walk through the park to show how to identify trees, shrubs before their leaves or blossoms show real clues. Sun., Mar. 3, 1-3pm. Meet Tennis House, inside Park from Prospect Park W., 8th St. \$6; \$3 over 65, under 12. 788-8549.

WILD FOOD TOUR: "Wildman" Steve Brill opens his 1991 tour season in Prospect Park on Sun., Mar. 3 to point out "weeds" that are food. Meet 11:45am, Grand Army Plaza entrance to park. \$10 for working adults; \$5 others. Back again in Prospect Park on Mar. 23. 291-6825.

ROCKY ROAD BUS TOUR: Urban Park Ranger bus trip focusing on geologic forces that shaped and named neighborhoods of the borough. Mar. 3. Free. Reservations, 287-3400.

INSIDE LITCHFIELD VILLA: Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment tour of the 1850's Italianate mansion that is now Brooklyn HQ for the NYC Parks Department. Sun., Mar. 10, 1pm. Architect David Hirsch, who is directing up-coming restoration of building, leads the look. Meet at Villa, Prospect Park W., 3rd St. \$6; \$3, over 65 & under 12. 788-8549.

BROOKLYN BIRD CLUB: Ron Bourque

leads visit to Floyd Bennett Field for look at winter birds. Sat., Mar. 9. Carpool fee \$2. 648-1684.

ALONG THE PROMENADE: Urban Park Rangers lead a walk along the Brooklyn Heights Esplanade to see New York Harbor and hear about its history. Sun., Mar. 10, 2pm. Free. 287-3400.

TALKS & PANELS

OPERATION EXODUS: Bagel Brunch discussion series at Kane St. Synagogue features film story of recent Soviet emigre to Israel talking

"Probing the Issues of the Brooklyn Environment: Housing." Sat., Mar. 9, 1pm, "What Will Future Housing Look Like?" Moderated by BCUE executive director John Muir and including Karen Burkhardt, Brooklyn office City Planning; Christopher Havens, BEC New Communities; Ron Schiffman, NYC City Planning Commissioner, Pratt Center for Community & Environmental Development. Brooklyn Central Library, Grand Army Plaza. Free. 788-8549.

WONDERS OF WILDLIFE: Urban Park Rangers adult series continues Sat., Mar. 9, 2pm, with a look at endangered species. Prospect Park Boathouse, enter park at Lincoln Rd., Ocean Ave. Free. 287-3400.

BAM Series for Kids Features 'Rabbit'



Margery Williams' heartwarming tale, "The Velveteen Rabbit," goes on stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on March 9 at 2pm, performed by players from Atlanta's Alliance Children's Theater. The classic tells the story of a little boy's love for his toy rabbit and the power and magic that true love can create. \$12 adults; \$7 children.

about his experiences. Sun., Mar. 3, 11am. 236 Kane St. 875-1500.

ANIMAL RIGHTS: Jim Mason, co-author of "Animal Factories," speaks about "Closer to Nature: The Animal Rights Imperative." Sun., Mar. 3, 11am. Question period follows. First Unitarian Church, Monroe Pl. at Pierrepont St. 624-5466.

MAKING BROOKLYN BLOOM: Tenth annual running of free lecture, workshop series for urban gardeners at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Sun., Mar. 3, 1pm, author Elvin McDonald, "Starting Seeds Indoors in Brooklyn." 2:15, concurrent workshops - "Container and Window Gardening," Gerard Lordhal, Council on the Environment; "Gardening for Wildlife," Laurel Remus, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation; "Nutritious Gardening," Charles Mazza, Cornell Extension; "Small Space Composting," John Ameroso, Cornell Extension. 3:15pm concurrent workshops - "Integrated Pest Management," Linda Ameruso, "Hydroponics," Philson Warner, Cornell Extension; "Orchards for Community Spaces," Howard Shewky, Operation Green Thumb; "Gardening Suppliers & Sources," Catherine Annese, BBG. Also free literature, displays, greening information. 1000 Washington Ave. 622-4433.

AUTHOR SPEAKS: Berkeley Carroll School PTA presents "An Evening With Mary Gordon" in its free series. Tues., Mar. 5, 8pm. Gordon will read from her fiction; dialogue with audience follows. 181 Lincoln Place. 789-6060.

EASTERN EUROPE: All-day conference, "Eastern Europe and the USSR in the Cauldron of Change." Wed., Mar. 6. Registration, 8:30am. Panels, "Gorbachev," 9:15am; "Moving to a Market Economy," 11am; "In the Artist's Vision," 2pm; "Visual Communications in Revolutionary Eastern Europe," including selections from documentaries and animated shorts, 4pm. Keynote address by Nicholas Daniloff, former Moscow bureau chief for U.S. News & World Report, 6:30pm. Long Island University Brooklyn Center, Flatbush Ave. Ext. at DeKalb Ave., Library Learning Center. Free. 403-1049.

BROOKLYN BIRD CLUB: Topic is "Gulls, Gulls, Gulls" when Arthur Morris gives a first-hand look at Great Gull Island. Thurs., Mar. 7, 7:45pm. Picnic House, Prospect Park, inside park from Prospect Park West, 3rd St. 522-2640.

URBAN ENVIRONMENT: Brooklyn Center for Urban Environment winter forum series,

WEAVING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT: Daniela Gioseffi, professor and editor of award-winning "Women on War," will read from her book and show documentary video, "International Women." Women's History Month program. Mar. 7, 2pm. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St. Free. 522-2300.

STATUS OF BLACK YOUTH: All-Day symposium at Medgar Evers College, sponsored by Black History Month Committee. "Black Women as First Teachers," Fri., Mar. 15, 7pm. Keynote speaker actress/author Ruby Dee, followed by panel with Safiya Bandele, Medgar Evers Center for Women's Development; Ora Abdur-Razzaq, teacher, founder of Al-Karim School. 1650 Bedford Ave. 270-4900, Ext 4873/74.

ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

PUPPETWORKS: Nicolas Coppola stages a new production of "The Tortoise and the Hare (And Other Aesop's Fables)." Opening Mar. 2. Sat. 12:30pm; Sun. 12:30 & 3pm. 338 Sixth Ave. at 4th St. \$4 children; \$5 adults. 965-3391.

FAMILY FUN SERIES: "Chinese Golden Dragon Variety Revue," direct from Taipei, Taiwan. Sat., Mar. 2, 1pm, featuring company of 20 performing acrobatics, magic, music, dance, comedy. Coming Mar. 9 in the series, "The Velveteen Rabbit," performed by Alliance Theater Company of Atlanta. Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave. \$5 children; \$12 adults. 636-4100.

MUSIC BY GEMINI: Twin brothers Sandor, Laszlo Slomovits perform, "Fancy That," a musical celebration for the whole family. Mar. 2, 2pm. Benefit for Old First Nursery School. Old First Church, Seventh Ave. at Carroll St. \$5.50. 252-1039.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Current special exhibits, "Animals Eat: Different Feasts for Different Beasts," "Night Journeys: Home is Where I Sleep." Mar. 3, 1:30 & 3pm, "The Amazing Ken," performance of magic, comedy, balloon creations. Mar. 9, 1:30 & 3pm, "Folded, Molded Animals," Origami workshops with Burt Pinnock. Museum hours, Mon., Wed.-Fri., 2-5pm; Sat.-Sun., holidays, 10-5pm. Admission \$2. 145 Brooklyn Ave., at St. Marks. 735-4400.

URBAN PARK RANGERS: Mar. 3, Rocky

Road Bus Tour, a look a geologic forces that shaped, named our borough; call for reservations. Mar. 10, Along the Promenade tour, Brooklyn Heights Esplanade, meet 2pm at Montague St. entrance. Mar. 10, Birdbox Building workshop, learn how to make a simple birdhouse and place them around Prospect Park, call for reservations. 287-3400.

GROUNDHOG SERIES: Final event in Spoke the Hub Dancing performance series for young audiences. Mar. 3, 2pm, "New Shoes," using humor and whimsy, four musicians let the music tell the tales, with Betsy Blachly, Henry Chapin, Josy Kruskal, Nancy Silber. \$5 under 12; \$8 over 12. 596-5250.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: Events in Chase Discovery Center. Sat., Mar. 9, 2:30pm, birthday party for Amerigo Vespucci, celebrating his 537th birthday by learning about his discoveries. 1000 Washington Ave. 622-4433.

LITTLE THEATER SERIES: Benefit entertainment series for Brooklyn Heights Montessori School and The Little Room. Mar. 9, 2:30pm, "Jack and the Beanstalk." Grace Church hall, 254 Hicks St.

BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST: Annual "Bridge to the Future Bridge Building Contest" at Science Skills Center. Mar. 9, PS 9 gymnasium. Free materials, manual on first-come basis as future scientists compete in developing scale model bridges capable of sustaining large amounts of weight. 80 Underhill Ave. Register, 636-6215.

BROOKLYN TALES: Storyteller and performer Bernard Barshay tells tales of children's adventures in Brooklyn's past. Sun., Mar. 10, 2pm. Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. \$1 kids; \$2.50 adults. 624-0890.

MONTESSORI DAY SCHOOL: Open house every Mon. and Fri. morning, 9:30-10:30am, for YWCA school to observe children work and play in prepared environment. Call for appointment, 875-1190. Brooklyn YWCA, 30 Third Ave.

THEATER WORKSHOP: Gallery Players of Park Slope accepting registration for 3-session Saturday program for ages 7-10. Free, but limited to 24 students. Sessions are Mar. 23 & 30, April 6. Park Slope Neighborhood Family Center, 199 14th St. 421-5818.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: Every Sat.-Sun., 11am, "Arty Facts," gallery-workshop program for ages 4-7 with accompanying adults, 11am. Every Sat., 2pm, "What's Up?" gallery visit for ages 8-12. Meet in Grand Lobby. 200 Eastern Parkway. Free with museum admission. 638-5000.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: History of NYC transit system on display in actual 1936 subway station. Guided tour for school groups available Mon.-Fri., 10am-2pm by appointment, 330-3060. Workshop Stop, every Saturday, noon-2pm, drop-in activity for kids to explore transit-related artifacts and create their own transit art objects. Underground at Boerum Place, Schermerhorn St. Events free with museum admission of \$1 up to 17 years; \$2 adults; \$1.50 seniors. 330-5839.

MEETINGS

SLUDGE MANAGEMENT: Public meeting of NYC Department of Environmental Protection on land-based sludge management plan, hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden. Tues., Mar. 5, 6:30pm. Borough Hall Community Room, 209 Joralemon St. 212/669-8876.

COMMUNITY BOARD SIX: Meetings for Slope, South Brooklyn community district. Mar. 5, 6:30pm, public hearing on proposal by Brooklyn Developmental Disabilities Service Office for potential community residence at 369 Douglass St., 65 Sixth Ave. Mar. 6, 6pm, Youth Services, Education Committee, 76th Precinct, 191 Union St. Mar. 12, Executive Committee, 6:30pm; Public Hearing on Neighborhood Needs, 7pm, at Wyckoff Gardens Community Center, 280 Wyckoff St. Mar. 13, regular monthly board meeting, John Jay High School, 237 Seventh Ave. 643-3027.

INTEGRITY/BROOKLYN: Chapter in formation of Integrity, Inc., national organization for gay and lesbian Episcopalians and family, friends. Mar. 5, 7pm, service at Church of St. Ann & Holy Trinity, Montague and Clinton Sts.; program follows at 8pm, 122 Pierrepont St. Meeting on first, third Tuesdays of month. 875-6960.

PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL: Monthly meeting of trustees, Mar. 7 and first Thurs. every month. Old First Reformed Church, Carroll St. at Seventh Ave. 789-3531.

PRATT AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL:
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