



'Iron' is a bit rusty
'Iron Man 2' lacks original's thrills but still delivers
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Snooki scuffle

Slugs woman in Miami club, report says

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(GETTY)



Celebs dish on fave NYC eats

Page 28

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OH BOY! Fla. Baptist minister latest anti-gay zealot accused of hypocrisy in the bedroom Page 3



George Alan Rekers

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MTA cops rake in six figures

Some officers work overtime to boost pay to as much as \$216K, amNewYork review finds

BY HEATHER HADDON
hhaddon@am-ny.com

The MTA police force is raking it in with extra shifts.

The cash-strapped agency paid out \$17.2 million in overtime last year to its officers, MTA records show, with nearly two-thirds of the force earning more than \$100,000 when adding in the extra pay.

am
NEW YORK
EXCLUSIVE

“What are they doing to earn that much?” asked straphanger Jennifer McReynolds, 25, of Greenpoint.

MTA police officers, who patrol the commuter rails, the Staten Island Railway, Penn Station and Grand Central, were given a base salary of between \$39,000 and \$88,000 in 2009. However, an amNewYork review of their pay found that many boost their earnings with overtime.

Here are some of the findings:

ROLLING IN THE DOUGH

Top five MTA police earners in 2009:

	Base pay	Total compensation
John Wu	\$87,156	\$216,889
Pablo Hernandez	\$87,156	\$205,628
Richard Ciullo	\$85,163	\$203,370
Denis Gleeson	\$84,167	\$187,351
Winston Henvill	\$85,163	\$184,282

SOURCE: MTA

- Sixteen officers made more than the department chief's salary of \$163,550.

- The top 10 earners made between \$184,280 and \$216,900, more than double their salaries.

- Overtime for the top three earners jumped by more than \$40,000 between 2007 and 2009.

“Those numbers look like the kind of salary [Mayor] Bloomberg would get,” said Sergei Krasikov, 31, a Brooklyn rider.

The MTA police stepped up its patrolling of trains and stations beginning in 2007, which required



Some MTA cops, like the ones who patrol Penn Station, made more in annual salary with overtime than the department chief.

(CRAIG RUTTLE)

overtime, said MTA spokesman Kevin Ortiz. A multimillion-dollar federal grant covered the bulk of the extra expense.

“In order to ensure the safety and security of our customers, some overtime is necessary,” Ortiz said.

The MTA reduced police overtime by 7 percent between 2008 and 2009 as part of a larger effort to slash costs, Ortiz said, but raises for officers meant the overtime only dipped by about \$200,000.

Nicholas Klopsis contributed to this story.

Union rallies on agents' final day

Transit union members enraged about the MTA's biggest employee cuts in recent memory are planning

to stage a rally today outside the Brooklyn facility where 478 laid-off station agents will return their uniforms.

“It's time to kick it up a notch,” said Israel Rivera, the TWU secretary treasurer. The MTA “has compromised the safety of the train system right after a known terrorist attack,” he said.

The agency declined to comment yesterday.

Union leaders have been in ongoing negotiations with transit officials, but the agency, facing a \$450 million deficit this year, is moving forward with the cuts. Another 700 transit workers also are facing layoffs this summer.

(HEATHER HADDON)

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Outed as hypocrites

Yet another anti-gay zealot in sex scandal

BY EMILY NGO
emily.ngo@am-ny.com

Yet another religious leader who fought gay rights apparently doesn't practice what he preaches.

George Alan Rekers, known as a staunch anti-gay activist who champions "curing" homosexuals, solicited a 20-year-old male hooker online from the website rentboy.com, according to a published report. The Baptist minister then reportedly took his escort for a 10-day romp through Europe last month.

Rekers, 61, a co-founder of Christian lobbying group Family Research Council, said he only hired the man to help carry his bags. But he visited rentboy.com, an escort website filled with images of scantily clad men for hire, the Miami New Times said. In a statement, Rekers called the report "slanderous."

The allegation drew parallels to former Florida Rep. Mark Foley, evangelical pas-

tor Ted Haggard and others who opposed gay rights but were pursuing men or having trysts with them.

"He's a spectacular hypocrite who's done great harm to our community," Wayne Besen of Truth Wins Out, which fights gay disinformation, said of Rekers.



Rekers

The Family Research Council yesterday distanced itself from Rekers, saying it has no contact with him. "While we are extremely disappointed when any Christian leader engages in the very activities that they 'preach' against, it is not surprising. The Scriptures clearly teach the fallen nature of all people," Council President Tony Perkins said in a statement.

New Yorkers yesterday said Rekers was in denial.

"What is possible is that he's being such a prominent activist to prove to everyone — probably including himself

— that he is a good Christian," said Don Gremchik, 24, of Chelsea.

Sarah Chinn of CUNY's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, argued that the alleged outing perpetuates a dangerous stereotype.

"It feeds into this sort of pop psychology that people who are homophobes are secretly gay and they're repressing their desires," she said. "No, they're homophobic because they hate gays."

Besen countered that the incident clears up another misconception.

"Every time these hypocrites are exposed, it does show that [being gay is] not a choice," he said.

Julia Borovskaya contributed to this story.

Idaho Sen. Larry Craig: The 64-year-old voted against adding "sexual orientation" to hate crime laws. In 2007, he was accused of soliciting a male undercover cop for sex in an airport bathroom. He pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct.

Virginia Rep. Ed Schrock: An opponent of gay marriage and gays in the military, Schrock, 69, abandoned his 2004 re-election bid after a recording came to light of him soliciting a gay prostitute.



Fishermen unload crab traps after dumping their catch in Louisiana yesterday. (GETTY)

More cash for catch of day?

BY LUCY COHEN BLATTER
lucy.blatter@am-ny.com

If you think buying seafood in the city is expensive now, there's a good chance it'll get worse during the next few weeks.

Chefs and fish distributors in Gotham predict that the cost of shrimp, crabs and oysters will be most impacted by the two-week-old oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We are planning on getting a lot of crabs coming up from there soon and we may have to rethink that," said Laurence Edelman, executive chef at Mermaid Oyster Bar.

At Fairway supermarkets there is speculation that shrimp prices may spike more than 25 percent. "We've been told the price of shrimp will go up \$2 a pound," said Tony Maltese, seafood director at Fairway.



While most of the shrimp eaten in the United States come from abroad, the Gulf Coast provides 75 percent of the U.S. supply, said Gavin Gibbons, of the National Fisheries Institute. Similarly, it is home to nearly 70 percent of the U.S. oyster production.

Gibbons said that mollusks are most vulnerable to oil spills because they can't swim away. "For oysters, it's going to be a disaster," Maltese said.

All-night art at the Whitney

Have you ever had the hankering to check out some art at 4 a.m.? Here's your chance.

From May 26 at 12 a.m. until May 28 at 11:59 p.m., the Whitney Museum of American Art will be open 24 hours a day for Michael Asher's Biennial project. The artist wanted the Whitney to stay open for a full week, but budgetary concerns prevented that. (AMNY)



(PHOTOS: AP, GETTY)

Ted Haggard: An evangelical preacher who talked of the "moral woes" of homosexuality, Haggard, 53, admitted to paying for a male prostitute.

Former Florida Rep. Mark Foley: He railed against child porn and chaired the Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children. He resigned after texts he exchanged with a 17-year-old male page were published.

Former Florida Rep. Bob Allen: He was against gay couples adopting children. Allen, 52, was convicted of offering to perform oral sex on a male undercover cop for \$20 in 2007.

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Briefs

Jury convicts barber of killing his successor

Barber Eddy Espinal was convicted yesterday of murdering Julio Ernesto Filpo, 25, who took over his failed business, and wounding three others in a 2005 shooting prosecutors said was driven by envy at the new owners' success. Espinal, 45, could face 25 years or more in prison when he is sentenced on May 19.

Paper depicts Obamas as 'Sanford and Son' actors

Phillip Sciarrello, publisher and part owner of the weekly Smithtown Messenger on Long Island, yesterday said a photo depicting President Barack Obama and his wife as characters from the 1970s TV sitcom "Sanford and Son" was intended as political satire and not a racist commentary. African-American groups decried the portrayal as "despicable." (AP)

Hasselbeck's apology on 'View' ends in tears

"The View" co-host Elisabeth Hasselbeck tearfully apologized yesterday to "Dancing With the Stars" contestant Erin Andrews for criticizing her skimpy outfits on the show. On Tuesday, Hasselbeck said that Michael David Barrett, imprisoned for peeping on Andrews, "could've waited 12 weeks and seen this." (AMNY)

Judge wants to hear from ex-Gitmo detainee

U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan has ordered Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, the only Guantanamo Bay detainee to be prosecuted in civilian courts, to appear before him today after he repeatedly skipped court appearances, contending mandatory strip searches ignite painful memories of his interrogation overseas. (AP)

'Terrorist' began as tourist?

Shahzad had fun in Times Square years before bomb attempt

A year or two before he allegedly tried to blow up part of Times Square, Faisal Shahzad posed for a cheery group photo at the Crossroads of the World.

The photo of the wannabe terrorist, obtained by CBS News, was released amid revelations that he had packed the SUV with fireworks that couldn't destroy a watermelon.

Further details emerged of his allegedly amateurish attempt to wreak havoc in the heart of the city.

The New York Post reported Shahzad had done a trial run the night before and left a getaway car nearby.

Then he reportedly left the keys for that vehicle in the bomb-laden Nissan Pathfinder, forcing him to ride a Metro-North train home to Connecticut, the Post reported.

The sloppy trail quickly led inves-



Faisal Shahzad, right, stands with friends in Times Square less than 100 yards from where he parked the explosive SUV (CBS NEWS)

tigators to Shahzad, who seemed to know the jig was up.

"I was expecting you. Are you NYPD or FBI?" Shahzad asked customs officials who came aboard the jet to arrest him, an official with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press.

The government yesterday sought to close the security gap that let Shahzad board the plane even though his name had earlier been placed on a no-fly list, mandating that airlines check the list more frequently.

Authorities said Shahzad has

DEVELOPMENTS IN CASE

- The U.S. has so far been unable to verify statements by the Times Square bombing suspect that he trained at a Pakistani terror camp.
- Shahzad did not appear in court yesterday. Officials said his arraignment is delayed because he's cooperating with the investigation.

(AP)

admitted his role in the botched bombing plot and is cooperating with investigators.

He is believed to have worked alone in the United States on the plot almost immediately after returning from five-months in Pakistan, authorities said.

They said they have yet to find a link to extremist groups.

Shahzad, 30, was caught on video at a Pennsylvania store legally buying weak consumer-grade fireworks.

Another video reported yesterday shows him in a white baseball cap walking away from the smoking van. (AMNY/AP)



Clowning around David Alan Grier attends a Tony Awards press reception yesterday. He is a nominee for best actor for the drama "Races." (GETTY)

Mike: No guns for those on no-fly list

The U.S. should strip individuals on the federal terror watch list of the right to buy firearms, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly testified on Capitol Hill yesterday.

They defended the legislation introduced by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) that would give the attorney general the discretion to deny the transfer of a firearm when a background check reveals



Bloomberg



Kelly

the purchaser is a known or suspected terrorist.

To make his point, Kelly said the Times Square bomb suspect, Faisal Shahzad, bought a gun in Connecticut two months ago, about the time he put his attack plan in motion.

Several senior Republicans expressed fears that the proposal may infringe on a citizen's Second Amendment right to bear arms. (CNN/AP)

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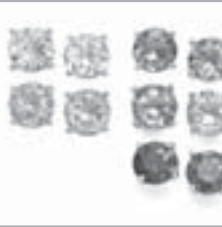
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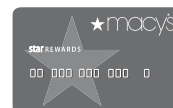


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Bomb scare could rile Pakistan relations

BY EMILY NGO
emily.ngo@am-ny.com

The botched Times Square bombing — and suspect Faisal Shahzad's confession that he received terror training in his native



Pakistan — has placed a spotlight on U.S. relations with the Middle East country. It also has Pakistani immigrants, 300,000 of whom live in Gotham, fearful about backlash.

amNewYork spoke with Mohsin Zaheer, editor of the Brooklyn-based Pakistani newspaper Sada-E-Pakistan,

about the tensions.

How has the city's Pakistani community reacted to the plot? Everybody is condemning it, even the religious leaders, the imams of the mosques. That's not Islam.

Are you worried about backlash? People are a little bit worried that anybody could react or overreact, just by looking at them. [A Pakistani New Yorker] said yesterday he went to the store and the salesman looked at his face and he said, "Where are you from?"

Pakistani Foreign Minister Rehman Malik yesterday

told the BBC that Shahzad is the responsibility of the U.S., because he became a citizen. Should the U.S. or Pakistan be blamed for his actions? I don't believe that he's American or he's a Pakistani, he's just a terrorist.

Pakistani militants and civilians are weary of U.S. drones in their country and a war raging in neighboring Afghanistan. Does the Times Square incident further strain U.S.-Pakistan relations? There's going to be more pressure on the government of Pakistan from the U.S. side to do more, to go deep into the areas where this kind of people could be.



Let the guns fly? South Korean air force honor guards perform yesterday during a ceremony at the national war museum in Seoul, marking children's day. (GETTY)

Taliban suicide squads kill 4 in Afghanistan compound

Taliban suicide bombers disguised as police attacked a government compound yesterday in southwestern Afghanistan in an assault that left 13 people dead, including a provincial council member and all nine attackers, authorities said.

Eight of the bombers blew themselves up and police shot the ninth,

President Hamid Karzai's office said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which came as the provincial council was meeting in Zaranj.

This summer, a U.S.-led military operation will try to clear the southern city of Kandahar of Taliban fighters in what will be a critical test of the war. (AP)

Sheen surrenders custody of Denise Richards' kids

Charlie Sheen has apparently given up custody of his two kids with Denise Richards, The Sun reported yesterday.

Richards asked for the agreement due to Sheen's recent abuse case with current wife Brooke Mueller. Sheen is due back in court on July 21. (AMNY)

Briefs

Bam: Immigration reform should start this year

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama said yesterday he wants to begin work this year on legislation overhauling the nation's immigration system, firming up his commitment on a key priority for Latino voters and lawmakers.



Obama

Volcanic ash snarls Scottish, Irish flights

DUBLIN, IRELAND A new wave of dense volcanic ash from Iceland snarled air traffic yesterday in Ireland and Scotland, stranding tens of thousands of people but narrowly missing England and key London air hubs. Dublin Airport canceled all flights until 4 a.m. today, marooning more than 30,000 passengers.

Crews prepare to take containment box to spill

PORT FOURCHON, LA. A 100-ton box designed to help funnel out oil spewing from the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico was loaded onto a boat yesterday so it could begin its journey to the leak site about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast. The box, to be installed today, is considered the best short-term solution to bottling up the disastrous oil spill.

Joe the Plumber is elected to party office

TOLEDO, OHIO Joe the Plumber is plunging into party politics.

Samuel "Joe" Wurzelbacher, who was hailed by Republican John McCain's presidential campaign in 2008, won one of nearly 400 seats on the local GOP committee in Ohio's Lucas County.



Wurzelbacher

Nigeria president dies after long illness

LAGOS, NIGERIA Nigerian President Umaru Yar'Adua, long plagued by poor health, died yesterday at age 58, his spokesman said. Yar'Adua died at 9 p.m. at the Aso Rock presidential villa, presidential spokesman Olusegun Adeniyi said. Adeniyi said Yar'Adua's wife Turai was at his side when he died. Adeniyi did not give a cause of death. (AP)



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+STOCKS EXTEND DECLINE

THE STOCK MARKET CONTINUED TO DROP yesterday after investors couldn't shake their concerns about European countries' big debt loads and their effect on a global economic rebound. (AP)

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-58.65

S&P 500
1,165.87
-7.73

Nasdaq
2,402.29
-21.96

Latest Facebook flub lets users see friends' chats

BY ROBERT LEVIN
Special to amNewYork

Facebook shut down its chat function for several hours yesterday to fix a bug that allowed users to view their friends' live chats and friend requests, according to Techcrunch.

The private data was made available through a flaw in the "Preview My Profile" section on the privacy settings page.

The problem, the latest



CEO Mark Zuckerberg (AP)

in a long line of privacy issues for the site, was fixed yesterday afternoon.

Google sharpening up with some tweaks

Google is fine-tuning things.

The new tools being rolled out will be accompanied by a logo featuring slightly brighter hues of

its colors with less background shadow.

The area to the left of search results will offer related news, images, blogs and video. (AP)

Try out the wallet diet

Follow these tips for some fiscal spring cleaning

BY PATRICIA KITCHEN
Special to amNewYork

Now that taxes are out of the way, our thoughts can turn to another moderately disagreeable activity — spring cleaning.

And like our closets, our wallets, too, may be in need of a good purge.

Here are some guidelines for wallet management:

Credit cards

On average, people carry six, said Clarky Davis, a debt management expert known as the Debt Diva.

She would like to see



those trying to rein in debt whittle that down to zero.

But Carolyn McCormack, with SafeGuard Credit Counseling Services, gives you a little wiggle room. You can carry one or two, but primarily for emergencies. Just

keep them out of the way, in some hard-to-reach place.

'Powerful plastic'

Davis referred to debit cards as "powerful plastic," allowing you to get cash and steer clear of credit.

Still, to avoid overdraft fees, be aware how close you are coming to a zero balance.

Keep a Post-it note on your card noting the amount of your purchases each time you swipe. And keep an emergency \$20 in cash.

Safeguards

Unless you have a good reason, don't carry anything that contains your personal information, such as your Social Security number or passwords, McCormack advised.

To help you quickly spring into action in the event of the loss or theft of your wallet, keep photocopies of all your cards, front and back, in a safe place at home.

Patricia Kitchen is a Newsday staff writer.

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BUZZ



+WATCH OUT, MEGAN FOX!

British singer **CHERYL COLE** narrowly beat out American superstar **MEGAN FOX** for the No. 1 spot on FHM's annual 100 Sexiest Women in the World list.

amny.com

Trio of A-listers hits UES

A day after attending Monday's glitzy Met gala, **Kate Hudson** went to work on her film "Something Borrowed" (based on **Emily Giffin's** best-seller).



Hudson

Hudson and co-star **Ginnifer Goodwin** filmed scenes outside Mizu New York on the UES. Between takes, the "very nice" and "stunning" actress chatted with the crew, a spy said.

At the end of the day, another A-lister stopped by: **Hilary Swank**, one of the film's producers.

Snooki puts up her dukes

JULIE GORDON

JGORDON@AM-NY.COM



You can take the girls out of Jersey, but you can't take the Jersey out of the girls.

Want proof? Two of "Jersey Shore's" stars — the pint-sized **Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi** and the loudmouthed **Jenni "JWoww" Farley** — reportedly started a fight with a fellow club-goer in Miami.

According to RadarOnline.com, Snooki got the recent brawl going after a female patron tried to get into the VIP section where she and JWoww were hanging out.

"Snooki just started swinging at the girl and then grabbed her neck," a witness told Radar. "Snooki just kept calling her a whore."

JWoww then reportedly "jumped in and took the girl down" before two of the

blonde's friends pulled her legs from underneath her.

"At that point, security came and broke it up," the source said.

According to Radar, Snooki got into another confrontation just two weeks ago, when she slapped a man at the club Ocean's 10.

During the first season of "Shore," Snooki was part of an unfortunate bar fight. A former Queens high school teacher punched her in the face.



JWoww



(GETTY)



'Gaga' for Lady's simple-sexy look

An unrecognizable **Lady Gaga**, far left with DJ pal **Lady Starlight**, nearly flew under the radar at a party at the Royalton Hotel on Tuesday.

Though she didn't wear a typically Gaga-esque costume, the pop star certainly stood out by donning just a black bra and underwear.

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+TELEVISION

TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS BY VERNE GAY



allenge) for Eric (Kyle Chandler) and Tami (Connie Britton). A fifth and final season is assured, by the way.

'30 Rock'
NBC/4, today, 9:30 p.m.

Moms, moms, MOMS!!! (I wonder what day is coming up?) A very special Mom's Day episode arrives, and so do some very special moms, including Liz's (played by Anita Gillette), Jenna's (Jan Hooks), Jack's (Elaine Stritch) and Tracy's (Novella Nelson.) All heck of a mom-ish variety is about to break loose at "TGS." (Plus cameos aplenty, including Buzz Aldrin, Patti LuPone and Elizabeth Banks.)



'Primetime: What Would You do?'
ABC/7, tomorrow, 9 p.m.

Return of the "Candid Camera"-meets-tabloid news series in which the ethics, courage and morality of the unsuspecting are tested on national TV. Fun!

'Amazing Race'
CBS/2, Sunday, 8 p.m.

This is it — the tail end of the season, and three teams to choose from. Will it be models Brent and Caire? Or Rhode Island bros Dan and Jordan? Or perhaps another set of brothers who are surely this round's most unique finalists — Jet and Cord McCoy, who wrestle bulls for a good time?

Verne Gay is the *Newsday* TV critic. You can follow him at twitter.com/vernejgay.

'Friday Night Lights'
NBC/4, tomorrow, 8 p.m.

Fourth season premiere, and much to assimilate for fans and cast, including a new school district (and of course chal-

Hosting help for Betty White

amNY offers some 'SNL' advice to our fave 'Golden Girl'

BY VERNE GAY
Special to amNewYork

Following a much-publicized social networking campaign, Betty White adds one more credit Saturday to one of the longer resumes in show biz. And what a credit: the agony and ecstasy of hosting "Saturday Night Live."

White, 88, is a grand and durable pro, and she'll figure it out just fine.

In the meantime, here are some dos and don'ts.



Betty White (GETTY)

character. Be someone no one ever imagined you could be. Think (for example) Gwyneth Paltrow doing Sharon Stone back in 1999; people still remember that one, Stone included.

DO NOT do a lousy "Golden Girls" skit. Fans who loved that show expect this to be the highlight of the show.

DO attach yourself to classic "SNL" bits, which fans already know and love.

DO NOT always try to be funny. Let this excellent cast do the work for you.

DO be bawdy, but not crude. Remember, strrrretch, but you are Betty; vulgarity is beneath you.

DO everything Lorne Michaels tells you to do. Trust in Lorne, and only Lorne. He is god and master here. He will take care of you.

cial parodies. The temptation will be there, particularly post-Super Bowl. But these are difficult to pull off. Unless Lorne tells you to.

DO NOT do commer-

DO stretch. Get out of

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**Thursday
MUSIC**

The Paper Raincoat: The Mercury Lounge, 6:30 p.m., \$10. Brooklyn musicians Amber Rubarth and Alex Wong create imaginative songs teeming with magic and metaphors. 217 E. Houston St., at Essex St. (F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave.; J, M, Z to Delancey-Essex sts.), 212-260-4700

As Tall as Lions: The Fillmore New York at Irving Plaza, 8 p.m., \$15. This NYC-based band fuses heavy, catchy alt-rock melodies on its album "You Can't Take It With You." 17 Irving Pl., at E. 15th St. (4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R, W to 14th St.-Union Sq.), 212-777-6800



Willie Nelson: Manhattan Center Grand Ballroom, 7 p.m., \$75. This legendary country music icon plays an acoustic set of his popular songs and even introduces a new album, "Country Music." 311 W. 34th St., btwn Eighth and Ninth

aves. (A, C, E to 34th St.-Penn Sta.), 212-279-7740

Lovedrug: The Mercury Lounge, 9:30 p.m., \$10. This band steals the hearts of listeners with its complex melodies ranging from tender to electric and unique raw vocals. 217 E. Houston St., at Essex St. (F, V to Lower East Side-Second Ave.; J, M, Z to Delancey-Essex sts.), 212-260-4700

Chris Knox Benefit: (Le) Poisson Rouge, 6 p.m., \$75. This show features artists such as Hoboken, N.J., favorites Yo La Tengo, The Clean and the reclusive Jeff Mangum of Neutral Milk Hotel and benefits musician Chris Knox, who suffered a series of strokes last year. 158 Bleecker St., btwn Sullivan and Thompson sts. (A, C, E, B, D, F, V to W. Fourth St.), 212-228-4854

Continued on page 16



Broken Social Scene
(DAVE GILLESPIE)

Scene stealers

Toronto band slims down its roster for tour

BY ROBERT SPUHLER
Special to amNew York

Ask any resident of Toronto, current or former, and he or she will likely either know a member of Broken Social Scene or know someone who knows one.

The sprawling Canadian collective, which has claimed upward of 15 members at times, serves as a common cultural touchstone — a Kevin Bacon for the Canadian music scene, if you will.

On stage
Broken Social Scene is playing sold-out shows at Webster Hall on Friday and Music Hall of Williamsburg on Saturday.

So at first the band's move to a six-person unit might come as a surprise. Co-founder Brendan Canning said, however, that it should not be considered novel that BSS would dream it all up differently for its new album.

"It's what always happens with [the band]," he said.

"You just make a couple of decisions, hope they're right and then let the ebb and flow take us where it may."

That decision to drill down to a smaller unit comes at least partially from necessity. So many of the other musicians who have helped out in the past are busy with their own successful careers.

"We relied on all these people for so long, but they were always on borrowed time," Canning said.

In the end, though, it's Canning, co-founder Kevin Drew and company holding down the fort for what has become a signature sound these past eight years.

"We've done the swirly, swishy sounds," Canning said. "We reserved it a bit and tightened up the song structure. But at the core of it, it's still the sound of Broken Social Scene."

Bands born from the Scene

The branches of the Broken Social Scene family tree spread far and wide, with the mostly Toronto-based musicians finding homes in genres all over the map. Here are some of the best-known branches:

Metric
Lead singer Emily Haines, below, sings lead vocals on several BSS tracks, including "Anthems for a Seventeen Year Old Girl."



Stars
Singer-songwriters Amy Millan and Torquil Campbell, along with bassist/guitarist Evan Cranley, make appearances throughout the BSS catalog.

Do Make Say Think
The post-rock band features several BSS members, including Charles Spearin, who himself also released a solo album.



Feist
Even before the counting-aided superstardom, Feist, left, was starting to break out. With BSS, she found herself as a vocalist on early single "Almost Crimes."

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'Iron' back in his element

Iron Man 2

Directed by Jon Favreau
Starring Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Mickey Rourke, Sam Rockwell, Don Cheadle, Scarlett Johansson
Rated PG-13



BY MINA HOCHBERG
amNewYork movie critic

Superhero sequels rarely are as good as the movies that spawned them, and "Iron Man 2" is no exception.

Robert Downey Jr. returns in seductive cocksure form as wealthy industrialist Tony Stark, who has now officially outed himself as the titular hero.

While his heroic antics have transformed him into a media darling, they've also ruffled the feathers of a few textbook villains.

One of them is Ivan Vanko (Mickey Rourke), a brilliant but disturbed Russian scientist whose beef with Stark (avenging a dead father) is of throwaway interest.

The other is Justin Hammer (Sam Rockwell), a weapons manufacturer who hires Vanko to create an army that will vanquish Iron Man and, as he puts it, land him a post in the

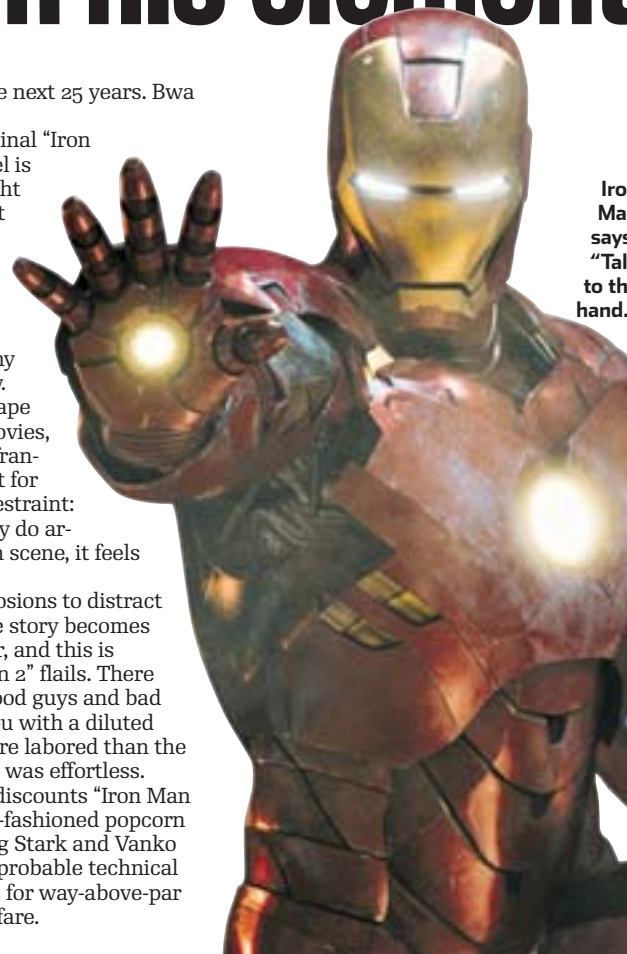
Pentagon for the next 25 years. Bwa ha ha ha.

As in the original "Iron Man," the sequel is sparing with fight scenes. The first scuffle occurs half an hour into the movie, and there are really only two more noteworthy battles to follow.

In the landscape of superhero movies, the "Iron Man" franchise stands out for its thoughtful restraint: When you finally do arrive at an action scene, it feels purposeful.

Without explosions to distract you, though, the story becomes front and center, and this is where "Iron Man 2" flails. There are too many good guys and bad guys, leaving you with a diluted story. It's all more labored than the first film, which was effortless.

None of this discounts "Iron Man 2" as a good old-fashioned popcorn movie. Watching Stark and Vanko pull off their improbable technical wizardry makes for way-above-par summer movie fare.



Iron Man says, "Talk to the hand."

Continued from page 15

Thursday COMEDY

Pablo Francisco: Gotham Comedy Club, 8:30 p.m., \$25. Through Sunday. This creative comedian offers a high-energy show that promises lots of laughs. 208 W. 23rd St., btwn

Seventh and Eighth aves. (1 to 23rd St.), 212-367-9000

TALKS & READINGS

Wes Moore: Barnes & Noble Upper West Side, 7 p.m., FREE. Moore reads from his book "The Other Wes Moore," which follows the journey into adulthood of two boys who have the same name. 2289 Broadway, at 82nd St. (1 to

79th St.), 212-362-8835

Darryl Strawberry: Borders Penn Plaza, 6:30 p.m., FREE. The baseball star signs copies of his memoir, "Straw," which explores the successes of his career and his struggles off the field. 2 Penn Plz., at Seventh Ave. and 33rd St. (1, 2, 3 to 34th St.-Penn Sta.), 212-244-1814

FRIDAY MUSIC

HIM: The Fillmore New York at Irving Plaza, 7:30 p.m., \$31.50. Through Sunday. This dark rock band fuses deep, haunting vocals with surprisingly upbeat melodies. 17 Irving Pl., at E. 15th St. (4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R, W to 14th St.-Union Sq.), 212-777-6800

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HEALTH
**Five skin cancer
misconceptions**

The earlier skin cancer is caught, the easier it is to treat. But common misconceptions deter many people from getting marks checked out.

Here are five common excuses patients have for missing skin cancer.

1 'It wasn't raised'

"Most early melanomas are flat," said Florida dermatologist William Grisaitis, who said the big thing is whether the flat spot is changing or growing.

2 'I was waiting for it to go away.'

Some people mistake a basal cell carcinoma for a pimple or razor bump. "The basal cell may last more than a month at the same location," said Dr. Murad Alam, professor at Northwestern University. If a lesion hasn't healed in six to eight weeks, have it checked.

3 'It's where the sun doesn't shine.'

Melanoma can occur anywhere on the body.



When it comes to skin cancer, don't only look for large marks on your body. Melanomas can be a few millimeters wide.

"Look at your scalp, groin, soles and buttocks," said Lee Laris, an Arizona dermatologist. "If it has skin, it can get skin cancer."

4 'My moles didn't change.'

An evolving mole can indicate melanoma. But the most common type of skin cancer is basal cell carcinoma, which isn't a mole but a pink pearly bump often found on the face, ears and

upper back, said California dermatologist Raphael Darvish.

5 'It was tiny'

"People tend to worry about spots that are big [but] melanomas can be a few millimeters wide," said Alam. "Size does not equate with dangerousness." Non-melanoma skin cancers can also be subtle, Alam said, and may be slightly raised red or crusty areas. (MCT)

Tips to ward off icky ticks

As the weather heats up, the ticks come out. Here are eight tips from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for protecting yourself this summer:

✓ **Light is best.** Light-colored clothing makes ticks easier to spot.

✓ **Wear insect repellent.** Most of the chemicals that repel mosquitoes are somewhat effective against ticks, although it may take a heavier concentration of DEET — between 30 and 40 percent — to really keep them away.

Permethrin is a stronger chemical that kills ticks as well as repels them.

✓ **Stay in the middle of a path.** Ticks can't fly or jump, so they can only get on you if

you come into contact with the kind of environment they live in: moist, shady, wooded areas, with leaves and low-lying plants.

✓ **Inspect yourself.** Especially the legs and groin. Most ticks probably get picked up on the lower legs and then climb upward.

The chances of contracting Lyme disease are minimized if a tick is removed soon after it's attached, and there's no risk if it's still crawling around. The shower is a good place to conduct a check.

✓ **Remove gently.** Use tweezers to grab the tick as close to the skin as possible.

✓ **Put clothes in the dryer.** Deer ticks and lone star ticks can survive a hot-water wash, but an hour in a dryer will kill them.



(PREMIUM HEALTH NEWS SERVICE)

Study: Happy people have happy immune systems

A recent study published in Psychological Science finds that those with more optimistic attitudes had better-functioning immune systems, which, in turn, helped them ward off illnesses.



Yet far too many of us assume that optimism is an inborn trait. That's a wrong assumption, said James Maddux, psychology professor at George Mason University. Can people learn to be optimists? "The answer is an indisputable yes," said Maddux.

Maddux recommended aiming for a balance between accepting responsibility for some of the bad circumstances and taking action (i.e., looking for another job or joining a dating site). (PREMIUM HEALTH NEWS SERVICE)

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HIGHER EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

ADVERTORIAL

Need a summer activity? Take a class!

Whether you're looking to learn a new skill, improve on an old one or simply try something new, here's a look at some quirky not-for-credit courses being offered this summer at the city's many colleges and universities.

Grilling, Manhattan Style

Where: Baruch College
When: May 18-June 8, \$280
More info: baruched.com

Not everyone in the city has access to an outdoor barbecue. Students in this course will learn how to grill at home by exploring regional cuisines of America such as Texas barbecue, Cajun, Tex-Mex and vegetarian.

Drawing NY on Site

Where: The New School
When: Saturdays, beginning June 12, \$300
More info: newschool.edu

Students in this six session class learn to draw city landscapes. Drawing sites may include the Brooklyn Botanic

Garden, the High Line and the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Writing Mean and Funny

Where: Columbia University
When: TBA, \$990
More info: columbia.edu

Cross over to the dark side with this writing-intensive course that explores what happens when, in literature, humor is used to explore topics usually considered sacred or taboo.

Restaurant Ownership: From Start up to Profitability

Where: Hunter College
When: Tuesdays, beginning June 15, \$600

More info: hunter.cuny.edu

Ever dreamed of owning your own restaurant? This seven-session course is a practical intro to every aspect of managing an eatery, including menu planning, purchasing, accounting and advertising.

Write Your Own Life Story

Where: LaGuardia College
When: June 16-Aug. 6, \$129
More info: lagcc.cuny.edu

Ever considered penning a book about your life? This online course will walk you through the step-by-

step process of writing your life story and finding a market for your personal history.

Pet Design Confidential

Where: FIT
When: June 28-30, \$350
More info: fitnyc.edu

There's a huge market out there for pet products and this three-session course features an education on the expanding business. Expect to learn the basics of designing market-ready

merchandise for dogs or cats.

Get on Reality TV

Where: School of Visual Arts
When: June 8-July 6, \$395
More info: schoolofvisualarts.edu

This class will teach you everything you need to know about scoring a spot on a reality TV show. As a bonus, reality vets from shows including "Survivor," "Hell's Kitchen" and "The Amazing Race" will make guest appearances. (AMNY)



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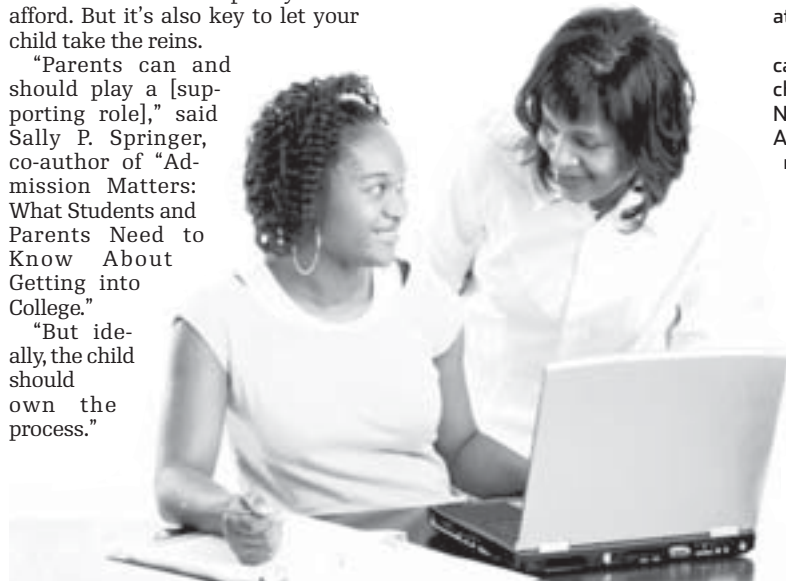
Attention, parents: Consider these application dos and don'ts

Many parents are puzzled about their part in the college admissions process. You want your kids to get the best education at a price you can afford. But it's also key to let your child take the reins.

"Parents can and should play a [supporting role]," said Sally P. Springer, co-author of "Admission Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know About Getting into College."

"But ideally, the child should own the process."

These tips will help you achieve the delicate balance between being too hands-off and getting overly involved.



Do listen carefully.

Encourage your teen to think carefully about the kind of school they want to attend.

"Students do much better academically if they attend the college of their choice," Jose Flores, president of the New York State Association for College Admissions Counseling. "Parents should not make the selection, although they can certainly help kids seek out information."

Do talk about finances.

Early in the process, have a frank conversation about how much your family can afford to spend. If a child is drawn to a school that's beyond your budget, make sure he or she fully understands the burden of excessive student debt.

Do help out.

Some teens are on autopilot when it comes to applying to college, while others need a push. For

a reluctant kid, figure out a system (a big note in the kitchen, e-reminders to his cell phone or computer) to help him keep track of dates and deadlines.

Don't do too much.

No doubt you could bang out that college essay that's been taking your daughter all month, but resist the urge. Admissions officers can easily spot polished prose that's been penned by mom or dad. Instead, offer to read her work and make suggestions for improvement. Review application materials for misspellings, grammar mistakes and typos.

Do limit discussion.

If you aren't careful, the subject of college could dominate every conversation. Some families find it helpful to carve out a set period to discuss the matter. If you focus too much on the topic, you risk turning off even the most motivated kid.

To read more education stories, visit CollegePrepTalk.com.

Your kid's college team

While you're an important ally to your teen in the admissions process, don't hesitate to call on these resources for advice and support.

Guidance counselor

A good counselor can make recommendations based on admissions requirements and a student's academic record, as well as what kind of school would make a good fit.

Teachers

A favorite teacher can be helpful in getting your child to think about potential colleges, programs and potential majors. Teachers can also help reviewing college essays and writing letters of recommendation.

Independent counselor

You could hire a private counselor to help research schools and coach your child through the application process. Some parents say that having a neutral third party eliminates family stress. But be careful: Be sure to research a counselor's background very carefully and seek recommendations from friends before hiring.

(NEWSDAY)

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EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT

amNY.com

How helpful are college rankings?

Americans love to rank things.

We need to know which NFL team has the best defense, who makes the most money in the world and which city has the most pizzerias. We can't get enough.

So it's not surprising that college rankings are a hot topic among college-bound students and their parents.

Not only do these reports satisfy our desire to know which school is "best," but they also feel like a guidepost when we sit down with our seniors to help them make one of the biggest decisions of their lives.

Difficult to compare

The problem is that college rankings don't tell you which school is best for your child. And nobody — except maybe the people doing the ranking — seems sure that it's possible to quantify and then compare what happens on different campuses across the country.

But that doesn't stop plenty of publications and organizations from trying. The most popular of the bunch is U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings.

Each year, the editors solicit data from about 1,500 American colleges and then, based on criteria the editors



have established, give a numeric value to each school.

Colleges provide data

It's key to keep in mind that colleges provide the vast majority of the data — and the schools have a vested interest in boosting their spots on the list.

Several media reports in recent years have revealed that a handful of school officials have fudged their numbers to inch up a few spots on the list.

Another troubling area is the criteria. For example, 25 percent of a school's

academic quality score is "peer assessment," or what other college officials — many miles and states away — say about a particular school.

Check other avenues

That said, other organizations seem to have taken into account the criticisms lobbed at the U.S. News rankings and have shifted their criteria to focus more on quality of teaching and learning.

The most notable of this group is the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP), a nonprofit research

group that examines issues related to how well or poorly higher education works.

CCAP teams up with Forbes to produce its list of the best American colleges, published each August.

Student evaluations at ratemyprofessor.com make up 25 percent of a school's score, and national academic awards won by students and faculty make up 13.3 percent, while things like debt load and four-year graduation rates weigh heavily as well.

Compare lists

Still, no list is perfect, and you should resist the temptation to let rankings persuade you to feel good or bad about a particular campus.

If you really must peek, check out several lists rather than putting too much weight on any one published account of "the best." Take a close look at the criteria, and consider how well it reflects the qualities you want in a college.

And if you just can't help giving credence to these annual lists, remember that rankings are probably good for at least one thing: starting a lively conversation.

To read more education stories, visit CollegePrepTalk.com at Newsday.com.

Better than typical lists

Looking for a better way to access schools than trusting ranked lists? Try these resources:

Colleges That Change Lives by Loren Pope:

The former New York Times education editor highlights 40 liberal arts colleges that he says deliver top-notch teaching and outpace Ivies in producing movers and shakers.

Harvard Schmarvard by Jay Mathews:

Skip name-brand schools and find a school that suits you, the author advises — and he shows you how.

Collegeportraits.org: Get free info on public colleges and universities here.

Ucan-network.org: Learn about private colleges and universities by searching through 17 different criteria to find what suits you.

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MS PowerPoint Presentation	T, Th	7/27-8/5/10	6pm-9pm
Intro. to Computers & Internet	T, Th	6/8-7/1/10	9am-12pm

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Functions of Teacher Assistant	M, W	5/24-5/26/10	6pm-9pm
Child Development & Learning	M, W	6/7-6/16/10	6pm-9pm
Language Arts & Math Curricula Theories and Practices	M, W	6/21-6/30/10	6pm-9pm
Strategies for Supporting and Managing Behavior	M, W	7/12-7/14/10	6pm-9pm
Best Practices	M, W	7/19-7/21/10	6pm-9pm
Recognition & Reporting Child Abuse & School Violence Prevention	M, W	7/26-7/28/10	6pm-9pm
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3-	8x	4+
	3+	12x
1-		2÷
	4+	

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the

CHALLENGING

11+	24x	2÷	15x
	10x		11+
4		3÷	40x
3÷		11+	
	4-	12x	
1-	20x		5-

- given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

Yesterday's solutions

2	3	4	1
1	2	3	4
3	4	1	2
4	1	2	3

3	2	4	1	5	6
6	1	2	3	4	5
1	5	6	2	3	4
5	3	1	4	6	2
4	6	3	5	2	1
2	4	5	6	1	3

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SUDOKU

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By The Mepham Group

7	3							2
		1		2	4			
	4	1				5		
	8			3			9	
			4					
	6		5	8	2			
		2		5	8			
		3	1		4			
4						6	5	

LEVEL

1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Yesterday's solution

7	3	4	8	9	2	6	1	5
5	2	8	6	1	3	4	7	9
9	6	1	4	7	5	3	2	8
4	5	6	3	2	1	9	8	7
8	7	2	9	5	4	1	3	6
1	9	3	7	8	6	5	4	2
2	4	9	1	6	7	8	5	3
3	8	5	2	4	9	7	6	1
6	1	7	5	3	8	2	9	4

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- "When You ___ Upon a Star"
- Bite to eat ___ tea
- Qualified
- One who won't leave prison
- Hair color
- Close by
- Prefix for violet or marine
- Schnoz
- Excessive
- Consequences
- Mischief maker
- Numerical comparison
- Acquires
- Snakelike fish
- Sled racer
- Pealed
- Wicked
- Spain's dollar before the Euro
- "___ you kidding?"
- Ripened
- Schlep
- ___ off; surround with police tape
- Gear tooth
- Neap ___
- Penetrate
- Cozy room
- Made apathetic by experience
- Lost color
- Curved bone
- Ripple
- Mythological winged horse
- Cosmetic name
- Biblical tower city
- Shoe bottom
- New Jersey basketball team
- Jeweled crown

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21				22		23				
			24				25							
26	27	28				29				30		31	32	33
34					35					36				
37				38						39			40	
41			42					43				44		
45						46				47				
			48		49					50				
51	52	53						54				55	56	57
58						59		60				61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

- Biblical wedding town
- Maple or fir
- Gray like fine-grained rock
- Gemstone

DOWN

- Dwindle
- Wild goat
- Bench piece
- Red ___; distraction
- Sink suddenly
- Longest river
- Fore and ___
- Oatmeal
- Packaged macaroni-and-cheese brand
- Like molten rocks
- Swamp reptile, for short

- Direction
- Recolors
- 13th letters
- Used an emery board
- Decreased
- ___ Kelly
- Burr or Spelling
- Motionless
- Dine
- Very cold
- Piano piece
- Stormed
- Prohibit
- Cribbage piece
- Ethical
- Actor Howard
- Safeguard
- Hot pepper sauce
- Fine point
- Irish dance
- Obligations

Yesterday's solution

A	T	E	D	A	B	R	A	S				
F	L	E	X	E	W	E	S	O	U	N	C	E
R	I	P	E	P	E	S	T	G	E	N	O	A
E	V	E	R	L	A	S	T	I	N	G	O	W
T	E	E	T	E	R	R	E	L	A	I	N	G
T	I	B	E	N	K	I	E	V	I	N	G	A
L	A	T	E	S	I	X	T	V	S	C	A	M
L	I	A	R	K	E	E	N	W	H	E	R	E
S	T	R	I	F	E	R	A	C	E			
B	E	L	I	E	U	P	S	I	D	E		
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- ___ race
- Desire
- Declare
- Cast a ballot
- Saucy
- Cleansing bar
- Arm bone
- Barking animal
- Sheep's cry

at&t WEB POLL RESULTS

Are you happy for William Shatner?

79 PERCENT YES

21 PERCENT NO

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Singer BOB SEGER is 65! Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 65. Actor Alan Dale ("Lost," "Ugly Betty") is 63. Actor Ben Masters ("Passions") is 63. Host Tom Bergeron is 55. Actor George Clooney is 49. Singer-bassist Tony Scalzo of Fastball is 46. Guitarist Chris Shiflett of Foo Fighters is 39. Actress Gabourey Sidibe is 27.



(GETTY)

YOUR HOROSCOPE

To get an advantage, check your rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Today's birthday, May 6: Your creative potential comes into focus this year, leading to productivity that covers every last detail. You sense inner processes that had remained hidden from consciousness until now. Develop them now and remember them forever.

- Aries** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19) Imaginative ideas pop up in the most unexpected places. An older person dwells on details while a younger person applies information and action.
- Leo** (JULY 23-AUG. 22) Ideas focus on small details that can produce perfect results. Each word is a gem that carries more than one meaning. Review both concept and delivery.
- Sagittarius** (NOV. 22-DEC. 21) Co-workers address bottom-line issues early. Everything can be worked out with creative ideas.
- Taurus** (APRIL 20-MAY 20) Now's the time to dream up a creative menu. You may need to hunt for ingredients. Do the cooking yourself for best results.
- Virgo** (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22) Cast your ideas into the wind. Associates catch them and weave them into a tapestry of words and images.
- Gemini** (MAY 21-JUNE 21) People bring all sorts of ideas to the table. You must decide which one to pursue first, then gather the materials you need.
- Libra** (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22) Without revealing your strategy, get down to details in your assessment of a creative project. Dollars and sense play a big part in determining how to move forward.
- Capricorn** (DEC. 22-JAN. 19) An old-fashioned idea grabs hold, and you run with it. Maybe you've found an antique, or an old poem that conveys your heartfelt message.
- Aquarius** (JAN. 20-FEB. 18) Although you feel the urge to take independent action, you'll get better results by following the lead of an older associate. You'll get your shot later.
- Pisces** (FEB. 19-MARCH 20) Every idea that surfaces has potential. You can't do it all at once, so let a senior person choose. Save the other possibilities for later.

DINING OUT

amNY.com



For moms and kids alike

BY JANE LERNER • Special to amNewYork

New Yorkers are known for their educated palates and dedication to dining out — and with such gourmand parents, city kids learn it all at a young age. Here are a number of places that aim to please both adults and children with fine food, efficient service and a kid-friendly atmosphere, on Mother's Day and all year long.

City Bakery

3 W. 18th St.,
212-366-1414

City Bakery's outrageously flavorful sweet and savory eats make for a quick and easy midday meal with kids.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: A play-area nook is equipped with toddler-size tables and a handful of toys; all the food is fresh and easy for young ones and parents to love.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: The double chocolate cookie pretty much speaks for itself, but the peanut butter and classic chocolate chips are also dynamite.

Lodge

318 Grand St., Williamsburg,
718-486-9400

Williamsburg gets more family friendly all the time, and Lodge is a go-to for neighborhood parents. A cheeky rustic-Americana theme works well for hipsters and youngsters; everyone digs the warm artichoke dip, burgers and popular brunch.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: The place is friendly, and besides a \$8 kids deal, there are a full bar and good cocktails, too.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: Cool details abound: Wooden stumps as tables, antler

light fixtures, big picture windows of the street scene outside all work to keep kids entertained.

Buttermilk Channel

524 Court St., Carroll
Gardens, 718-852-8490

The fried chicken at Buttermilk Channel in Carroll Gardens is revered, and it appears on the kids menu, too. Added bonus: It's served from a waitstaff that's welcoming to all ages. The clown sundae (cone-topped Van Leeuwen with M&Ms for eyes) turns the under-10 set into regulars.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: All sorts of good stuff in the \$10 kids' special: Veggies are included; the hot dog is organic; and the chicken free-range.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: Extensive kids' choices and crayons offered for mid-meal coloring.

Dim Sum Go-Go

5 E. Broadway,
212-732-0796

This dumpling spot is casual and straightforward. Guests order picks by tick-



City Bakery's famed cookies



Buttermilk Channel's chicken

ing the appropriate boxes (sesame balls! jade dumplings! roast pork buns!) on a paper menu.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: A wide variety of dumpling fillings, soups and main courses means everyone is satisfied, including vegetarians; food arrives quickly.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: The enjoyment of scribbling



A foosball table awaits at Cafe Gitane. (PHOTOS: ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)

Cafe Gitane at the Jane Hotel

113 Jane St.,
212-255-4113

Where the original SoHo Cafe Gitane is cramped and sceney, the newer West Village outpost is airy, bright and relaxed. The retro-chic decor includes a foosball table and other games for the easily impatient.

The avocado toast, a staple snack of Gitane's menu, is perfect for picky palates.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: It's right across from Hudson River Park and just blocks away from the High Line. Not to mention the famous couscous with harissa.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: Fun places to sit include green swervy stools at the counter. And did we mention foosball?

on the menu is not to be discounted. Let the little ones be in command of marking up the menu.

Klee

200 Ninth Ave.,
212-633-8033

The owners are new parents themselves (earning a spot of notoriety for making breast-milk cheese) who've updated the kids' menu to include simplified versions of the grown-up fare.

WHY MAMA WILL LIKE IT: The restaurant recently installed a changing table in the restroom and is actively encouraging a family-positive atmosphere.

WHY KIDS WILL LIKE IT: Not only is there cornflake French toast for dinner, but scrambled eggs, pancakes and a peanut-butter banana sandwich.

Happy Hour at SoHo Room

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DINING OUT

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Online resto deals – are they for real?

RESTAURANT DISH



WITH LUCY COHEN BLATTER

BY MIRVA LEMPIAINEN
Special to amNewYork

Online coupons bombard our inboxes daily and promise us the world. But we tested them out to see if they're all they're hyped up to be.

Website: **Groupon.com**

The deal: You get half off anything from restaurant meals to yoga classes. You have to pay for the deal the day it's offered, but you have four to six months to use it. You'll get a prepaid online coupon stating your deal, and all you need to do is present the print-out to the vendor.



The lowdown: This one's a winner. We got half-off grub at Baja Fresh and a monthlong membership to the YMCA gym for \$20. The only downside is that unless a predetermined number of people sign up, the offer will be canceled (hence the name Groupon, short for "group coupon"). If a deal is called off, your credit card won't be charged.



We ate at 10 Downing for less thanks to Restaurant.com.

Website: **Blackboard-eats.com**



The deal: A free e-mail newsletter notifies users of special discounts and offerings at highly regarded eateries. You just have to use a discount code within a month.

The lowdown: This free deal is pretty sweet. The code worked flawlessly at I Sodi. With the purchase of an entree, we got a free lasagna (worth \$17).



Website: **Restaurant.com**

The deal: You can buy \$25 restaurant gift cards for \$2 to \$10. When you buy the coupon online, you have a year to use it.

The lowdown: We had mixed feelings. The gift card failed to work at Il Nido's, and it took four days and two e-mails to transfer. But at 10 Downing, it worked perfectly. Note: You must spend at least \$35 to use the card.



Website: **8coupons.com**

The deal: Eight coupons are e-mailed to you weekly (for free), with deals dubbed "Ocho Loco" that usually involve the No. 8: from 8-cent ice cream to \$8 concert tickets.

The lowdown: Offerings are pretty random, but if you aren't looking for anything specific, it's a great way to hear about deals.

Tuesday night's **Prime KO** opening party saw an eclectic mix of celebrities.

We caught up with **Jamie-Lynn Sigler** ("The Sopranos"), **Ramona Singer** ("The Real Housewives of New York City") and **Eli Kirshtein** ("Top Chef" Season 6) to talk restaurants.

Self-described foodie Sigler named **Keith McNally's** rustic Italian West Village restaurant

Morandi as her favorite NYC dinner spot. "I also love brunch at [**Norma's**] at **Le Parker Meridien**," she said.

Sigler also admitted to being a fast-food junkie. "I eat at **McDonald's** about twice a week."

"Real Housewife" Singer told us that her sweet tooth sometimes guides her to **Crumbs** on 78th Street and Third Avenue for breakfast. "I love their small vanilla cupcakes with chocolate frosting. Sometimes I pick one up on my way to work," she said.



Singer and her favorite



"Top Chef" alum **Eli Kirshtein**, who has now wrapped up his guest chef gig at **Solo** restaurant

in midtown, confirmed to us that he is looking for his own restaurant space downtown with

Prime KO, **Prime Grill** and **Solo** owner **Joey Allamham**. Kirshtein said he'd love to open the space, either on the Bowery or in the West Village, at some point early next year.

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OPENINGS

> **Limelight Marketplace:** Set to open tomorrow at 2 p.m., this marketplace will feature lots of specialty food spots, with a focus on sweets. Already confirmed: Baci Gelato, Cupcake Stop, fancy food shop Jezalin's and Peak Season, a farmers market that will operate out of the courtyard. Famed Brooklyn pizza spot Grimaldi's is set to open its first Manhattan location there next month. 656 Sixth Ave., at 20th St., 212-226-7585



Baci Gelato will be at Limelight

> **Plein Sud:** A new brasserie at TriBeCa's Smyth Hotel, owned by Frederick Lesort, will feature updated French classics such as coq au vin (\$18) and beef Bourguignon (\$22). 85 W. Broadway, at Chambers St., 212-204-5555

> **popbar:** The frozen-treat-on-a-stick trend continues with this spot, where handcrafted sorbets, gelatos and yogurts are served on a stick. Customers can also mix and match to make their own pops. 5 Carmine St., 212-255-4874



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*One offer per mom per visit. Not valid with any other offer or discount. No cash value. Present same-day receipt showing purchase of an entrée, sandwich or salad as well as proof you are a mom (actual kids or photos of kids will suffice) at the Starting Line to redeem offer. Good only for May 7-9, 2010 at participating locations.



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CITY LIVING



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Two-bedroom, two-bath duplex with on-site parking, central air and common garden. (Poplar Street)

\$1.2M

Two-bedroom, two-bath co-op in a renovated mansion with a grand staircase, elevator and home office. (Montague Terrace)

TO RENT

\$1,775

One-bedroom fifth-floor walk-up with roof deck and fireplace, 650 square feet. (Joralemon and Clinton streets)

\$2,900

Two-bedroom with renovated, granite-countertop kitchen and new appliances. (Henry and Joralemon streets)

\$2,700

One-bedroom with floor-to-ceiling windows, open kitchen and walk-in closet. (Atlantic Avenue at Court Street)

CONTACT FOR ALL: SANDRA DOWLING, BROOKLYN HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE, 917-687-8129

B'klyn's grand gateway



Madeline Ruggie, 4, draws with chalk on a sidewalk in Brooklyn Heights.

(PHOTOS: ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)

Brooklyn Heights lives up to its rarefied rep

BY MAGDALENE PEREZ

Special to amNewYork

Brooklyn Heights is both defined by its proximity to Manhattan and how dramatically it differs from its neighbor.

Financial District workers and others trade the noise of the city for the neighborhood's quiet, tree-lined streets, while an alphabet soup of subway lines means they don't have to worry about being far from the action.

Other amenities, including the Brooklyn Heights Promenade along with the emerging Brooklyn Bridge Park, provide other draws.

Once a neighborhood for wealthy merchants, Brooklyn Heights later attracted a who's who of writers and other artists, including Truman Capote and Bob Dylan during its more bohemian (and less expensive) period as the neighborhood began to gentrify.

Today, thanks to protection in 1965 as the city's first historic district, the area boasts many blocks of picturesque row houses, brownstones and 19th-century mansions.

One drawback is a relative lack of racial diversity, but John Loscalzo, founder and publisher of Brooklyn Heights Blog, said the neighborhood has changed from the closed society that once preferred private gardens to public parks.

"We're a lot more welcoming and open place than it might have been before," Loscalzo said. "The neighborhood is definitely moving into the 21st century."

+Did you know?

Truman Capote wrote his masterpiece, "In Cold Blood" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's," in a basement apartment on Willow Street.

TO SEE

As the city's first historic district, Brooklyn Heights is a great place to immerse yourself in New York City's past. It was here where George Washington fought his first and biggest battle of the American Revolution and where Jackie Robinson signed his history-making baseball contract. Add to that some of the city's best-preserved early-19th-century houses, and you've got some excellent sightseeing on your hands. Just pick up a free self-guided tour map at the Brooklyn Historical Society on Pierrepont Street and you're good to go.

New York Transit Museum
Schermhorn Street and Boerum Place, 718-694-5100

The holy grail for subway geeks, this engaging museum is located in an unused subway station that was once part of the IND Fulton Street Line, better known as the A train. For just \$5, you can check out train cars of various eras, from 1917 to today, get a demo of the switchboards and pretend you're on the set of the psychodrama "The Taking of Pelham One Two Three," shot here in 1974.



The Brooklyn Heights Promenade offers impressive skyline views.

(ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)

Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims
75 Hicks St., 718-624-4743

Slaves once escaped to freedom with the help of this 19th-century church, which served as a "station" on the Underground Railroad. There is also a fragment of Plymouth Rock in the church,

where Henry Ward Beecher, brother of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author Harriet Beecher Stowe, was the first pastor.

Brooklyn Dodgers Headquarters

Jackie Robinson's historic signing as the first African-American Major League Baseball player

took place at the former headquarters of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Today the building is gone, but the location is marked with a plaque at 215 Montague St. A few blocks east, you can see the historic Bossert Hotel, where the Dodgers celebrated their World Series win in 1955, three years before moving to Los Angeles.

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A family eats at the Atlantic ChipShop on Atlantic Avenue. The authentic British pub serves fish and chips and a good pint. It even has fried Twinkies.

(PHOTOS: ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)

TO EAT

Brooklyn Heights hasn't always been known for a bounty of top-notch restaurants, but a solid crop of longtime favorites keep the locals well fed. One thing certainly not lacking is diversity: traditional Italian, Polish pierogies, homey pub fare and sushi. It's all here.

Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory
1 Water St., near Old Fulton St.,
718-246-3963

A visit to this adorable waterfront ice cream parlor is worth it just for the fantastic view of the river and the Brooklyn Bridge. Inside, the flavors stick to the basics: chocolate chunk, vanilla, strawberry and butter pecan, among a few others. Go for a waffle cone and the homemade chocolate fudge.

Noodle Pudding
38 Henry St., near Middagh St.,
718-625-3737

Its weird name notwithstanding, this Italian restaurant is a neighborhood favorite, with standout osso buco, pasta dishes and gnocchi. While it's an affordable meal and drinks are reasonably priced — a bottle of wine costs

THE BUZZ

It's nothing new that Brooklyn Heights and the Downtown Manhattan Heliport are close neighbors. What angry residents say is new is the amount of air traffic coming in and out of the aviation hub, just a hop across the East River.

John Loscalzo, publisher and founder of Brooklyn Heights Blog, said helicopter noise is a top quality-of-life complaint.

"It's creating a constant drone," Loscalzo said. "It's like 30 of your closest neighbors decided to mow the lawn all at once."

The New York City Economic Development Corp. released a plan last week that would reduce sightseeing flights by 15 percent to 20 percent. The Brooklyn Heights Association has, however, called for a total ban.

\$15 — don't forget to hit the ATM before your meal, as Noodle Pudding takes cash only.



The Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory boasts fresh and natural ingredients and long lines at peak hours.

The Atlantic ChipShop
129 Atlantic Ave., btwn Clinton and Henry sts.,
718-855-7774

This authentic Brit pub serves a gut-busting variety of greasy fare, including (duh) battered fish with thick-cut chips, bangers and mash, and gooey fried macaroni. If you're willing to go there, you can even toss in a fried Twinkie for dessert.

Jack the Horse Tavern
66 Hicks St.,
718-852-5084

A cozy atmosphere, creative cocktails and standout comfort food make this gastropub a surefire win. And with a menu that ranges from mac and cheese to scallops with pumpkin seed gazpacho, there are some pleasant surprises, too.

Tazza
311 Henry St., at Atlantic Ave.,
718-243-0487

With an extensive list of panini, salads, coffee and wine, this comfortable cafe is well suited to a relaxed lunch or light dinner. But the real reason to come to Tazza is the pastries. Pumpkin whoopie pies? Homemade Oreos filled with Kahlua cream? Yes, please.

TO SHOP

Shoppers gravitate to Atlantic Avenue and Montague Street, main drags undergoing change as the recession tests older boutiques. Two furniture shops recently shuttered, as well as a beloved used bookstore and antiques vendor, but new life is sprouting in edgier, younger establishments.

amNY.com

CITY LIVING



Located at 155 Atlantic Ave., **Pete's Ale House** is a nice place to stop for a good beer — the bar is known for its excellent selection — and take a respite from the bustle outside.

(PHOTOS: ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)



Brooklyn Heights offers a warm neighborhood feel.



The Tazza Cafe is a local favorite among coffee drinkers.

Holler & Squall: Things Unlimited

71 Atlantic Ave.,
347-405-3734

Co-owner Zak Wing designs custom shelving and furniture using "rescued" wood, while wife Gillette creates found-object charm jewelry and enameled beads. All of which are on offer alongside unique collectibles and antiques.

Council

360 Atlantic Ave., btwn Hoyt and Bond sts.,
718-522-6906

A collective of three young designers, this boutique mixes dresses designed by Miranda Bennett, jewelry by designer Pamela Johnston and Southern Gothic furniture selected by Genie Lee.



ESSENTIAL VISIT

Brooklyn Heights Promenade

Columbia Heights and Pierrepoint Street

No place offers more spectacular views of Manhattan or the Brooklyn Bridge than the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, which overlooks the East River, the Statue of Liberty and Governor's Island. Come on a beautiful day, and you're sure to find a healthy cross-section of the locals.

TO SHOP

Brooklyn Women's Exchange

55 Pierrepoint St.,
718-624-3435

This nonprofit consignment shop has been around for 150 years. Specialties include crafts (hand-blown glass, pottery, etc.), and children's clothing and toys. You can also ask for some custom orders.

Seaport Flowers

214 Hicks St.,
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For nightlife, the Brooklyn Heights crew generally heads south to Atlantic Avenue, where newcomer beer-slingers Roebing Inn and Henry Public are adding a vintage vibe to the already robust bar scene. Teetotalers have plenty of options

as well, with active arts, a neighborhood indie cinema and one of the city's few indoor bocce courts.

Last Exit

136 Atlantic Ave.,
718-222-9198

Comfy couches and a spacious back room make Last Exit the perfect spot for get-togethers

with close friends, though week-end nights can be a bit crowded. The bartenders are friendly and — perhaps more importantly — you can play trivia every first and third Monday of the month.

Rotunda Gallery

33 Clinton St.,
718-875-4047

Dating back to 1981, the Rotunda Gallery often showcases Brooklyn artists, though its reach extends far beyond. For families, the gallery is a good place to find puppet making and other fun activities.

Floyd

131 Atlantic Ave.,
718-858-5810

Cheap well drinks, soccer on the big screen and an indoor bocce court are some of the things that make this neighborhood pub a great place to loll on a weekend afternoon. Another bonus: the BYO food policy means you can grab fish and chips down the street or order pizza to the bar for a cheap night out with friends.

Brooklyn Heights Cinema

70 Henry St.,
718-596-7070

Something of a hidden gem in the neighborhood, the Brooklyn Heights Cinema takes you way back to a time when theaters had two screens, three rotating films and real butter on the popcorn. A somewhat recent renovation tops the experience with comfortable, not threadbare, seats.



Isaac, 3, enjoys a chocolate cone at the Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory, located in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge.

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Brooklyn Heights is becoming more like Manhattan these days.

(ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN)



Josephine Chumpitaz
Resident

Josephine Chumpitaz, 18, has lived in Brooklyn Heights for 2½ years.

What are some of the nice things about the area?

I love the little shops. It's relatively quiet and there are a lot of trains, so that's nice.



Any drawbacks? It's ridiculously expensive. It's a historic district, so that makes everything more

expensive, like, the only grocery store is a Gristedes.

What kind of people live here?

Pretentious people. It's pretty family oriented. It's kind of like Park Slope. There are a lot of doctors and lawyers.

Where do people hang out?

There are restaurants galore on Montague Street, and Dumbo is just down the hill. And there are a lot of bars on Bergen Street.

How do you think the neighborhood will change in the coming years?

I see it becoming more like Manhattan. The rents have definitely gotten higher. If you're not rich it's very hard to make it here.

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Boston	13	14	.481	6½
Baltimore	7	21	.250	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	15	11	.577	—
Washington	14	12	.538	1
METS	15	13	.536	1
Florida	13	13	.500	2
Atlanta	11	15	.423	4

Late games not included

RETWEETS

- "Trot Nixon got a bigger cheer on Nomar Day than Nomar did. Hilarious." @PeteAbe (baseball writer for the Boston Globe)
- "Bahamas for memorial weekend....any takers" ... "Let's make plans to who all said they want to go to the bahamas" @BigPlay850 (Steelers cornerback William Gay)
- "Versus is a nightmare right now. They're using the wrong HD cable. Looks like it's snowing inside the Wachovia Center!" @lindacohn (ESPN anchor)
- "Yoga class on Deck need some calm" @shawnemerriman (Chargers linebacker)
- "Excuse me I'm so Florida" @FABEWASH31 (Ravens cornerback Fabian Washington)
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TV SPORTS TODAY

- GOLF**
TGC PGA Tour, The Players Championship, first round, at Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., 1 p.m.
- MLB**
WGN Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
- NBA AND NHL**
See playoff boxes
- NCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL**
ESPN2 NCAA Division I tournament, semifinal, Penn St. vs. CS Northridge, at Palo Alto, Calif., 9 p.m.

Wins, injuries mount for Yanks

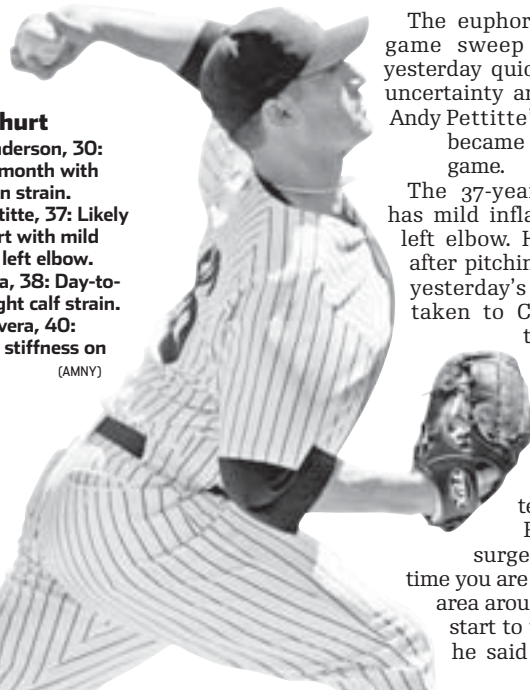
Pettitte likely to skip next start with elbow trouble; Johnson pounds 3 hits to seal sweep

All kinds of hurt

- OF Curtis Granderson, 30: Out for about a month with Grade 2 left groin strain.
- LHP Andy Pettitte, 37: Likely to miss next start with mild inflammation in left elbow.
- C Jorge Posada, 38: Day-to-day with mild right calf strain.
- CL Mariano Rivera, 40: Day-to-day with stiffness on left side.

Andy Pettitte pitched five innings and remained undefeated yesterday.

(GETTY)



The euphoria from a three-game sweep of the Orioles yesterday quickly gave way to uncertainty and concern once Andy Pettitte's MRI results became known after the game.

The 37-year-old lefthander has mild inflammation of the left elbow. He was removed after pitching five innings in yesterday's 7-5 victory and taken to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital for tests. His injury will be treated "conservatively" and he'll be evaluated on a "daily basis," the team said.

Pettitte had elbow surgery in 2004. "Any time you are talking about the area around the elbow, you start to worry a little bit," he said through a team

YANKEES (19-8)	7
ORIOLES (7-21)	5

at Yankee Stadium

spokesman before learning the MRI results.

He had thrown only 77 pitches, 46 for strikes, when Joe Girardi pulled him after the fifth inning.

Pettitte (4-0, 2.08 ERA) looked shaky in spots but gave up only one earned run, six hits and two walks.

Nick Johnson (3-for-3) crushed his second homer of the season, off David Hernandez in the first. Johnson, whose average rose 37 points to .171, was a triple short of the cycle. Nick Swisher also hit a solo shot in the second, and Mark Teixeira (.178) doubled in two runs. (NEWSDAY)



Johnson

Hofstra picks new hoops coach: It's Welsh asst. Cassara

Hofstra chose former Boston College assistant Mo Cassara as its new basketball coach yesterday. Cassara was part of the staff hired by Tim Welsh, who resigned following charges of driving while intoxicated.

Cassara had been named an assistant on Welsh's staff prior to Welsh's resignation on Monday. The 37-year-old agreed to a multi-year contract yesterday. (NEWSDAY)

Evans gets record deal for NFL guard

The New Orleans Saints and All-Pro guard Jahri Evans have reached an agreement on a seven-year contract worth nearly \$57 million, the richest deal ever signed by a guard.

Evans, who has been a restricted free agent for the past two seasons, has started all 64 games at right guard since being drafted in the fourth round in 2006 out of Bloomsburg. Last season, the 6-foot-4, 318-pound guard earned All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors. (AP)



Jahri Evans helped restrict sacks against New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees, left, to 20 last season. (GETTY)

Headlines

HORSE RACING

- Derby No. 2 Ice Box to skip Preakness; Belmont possible

MLB

- Yanks-M's games July 10-11 to be shown for 1st time in 3-D
- Braves' Heyward leaves game after 2 innings with sore groin
- Blue Jays drop Indians 5-4 on 2-run blast by OF Adam Lind
- Twins complete home sweep of Tigers with 5-4 victory
- A's beat Rangers 4-1 behind top-notch start by Cahill
- Players back use of Taser on fan who charged field in Phila.

NBA

- Celtics GM sorry for towel toss during Cavs FT attempt
- Kobe (5th straight) and James headline All-Defensive team
- Hornets interview veteran Mike Fratello for coaching job
- Dwyane Wade's ex-wife sues over star's GF, actress Union

NCAA BASKETBALL

- Butler F Hayward to declare today he'll stay in NBA draft
- Tebow's No. 15 jersey leads all sales for April; McNabb No. 2

NFL

- Vikings' bid for \$791M home faces obstacles in legislature

TENNIS

- Federer earns 1st clay win of 2010 in easy Portugal victory
- Williams sisters reach Rome quarters, could meet in semis

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Pedro Feliciano, above, surrendered a leadoff, walk-off home run to Orlando Cabrera in the 10th inning yesterday. (GETTY)

Bay invites blame as Mets fall on walk-off

REDS (14-14)	5
METS (15-13)	4

at Great American Ball Park, 10 inn.

Slumping cleanup hitter Jason Bay went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts in the Mets' 5-4, 10-inning loss at Cincinnati yesterday. He left six runners on base, four in scoring position, and declared that he was back in the "massive funk," as he put it, that he has been in for most of the season. "It's painful," said Bay, who is batting .238 with one home run, nine RBIs and

33 strikeouts in 101 at-bats. "There's a lot of guys doing a lot of things to help us win offensively and I'm not one of them." Bay was on the bench when Orlando Cabrera hit a leadoff, walk-off home run against Pedro Feliciano (1-1) in the 10th because manager Jerry Manuel double-switched him out of the game in the seventh inning. "I completely understood it," Bay said. The Mets, who begin a six-game homestand tomorrow, had a chance at their first win in a rubber game in five tries this season. (NEWSDAY)

NBA PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conf. semis
(1) Cleveland 1, (4) Boston 1
Cavaliers 101, Celtics 93 • Celts 104, Cavs 86 • Tomorrow: at Celtics, 7 p.m. **ESPN** • Sun.: at Celtics, 3:30 p.m. **ABC**
(2) Orlando 1, (3) Atlanta 0
Magic 114, Hawks 71 • Today: at Magic, 8 p.m. **ESPN** • Sat.: at Hawks, 5 p.m. **ESPN**



Mike Bibby leads the Hawks into Game 2 tonight. (GETTY)

Western Conf. semis

(3) Phoenix 1, (7) San Antonio 0
Suns 111, Spurs 102 • at Suns, late last night • Tomorrow: at Spurs, 9:30 p.m. **ESPN** • Sun.: at Spurs, 8 p.m. **TNT**
(1) L.A. Lakers 2, (5) Utah 0
Lakers 104, Jazz 99 • Lakers 111, Utah 103 • Sat.: at Jazz, 8 p.m. **ABC** • Mon.: at Jazz, 10:30 p.m. **TNT**

NHL PLAYOFFS

Eastern Conf. semis

(4) Pittsburgh 2, (8) Montreal 1
Pens 6, Habs 3 • Habs 3, Pens 1 • Pens 2, Habs 0 • Today: at Habs, 7 p.m. **VS** • Sat.: at Pens, 7 p.m. **VS**
(6) Boston 2, (7) Philadelphia 0
Bruins 5, Flyers 4, OT • Bruins 3, Flyers 2 • at Flyers, late last night • Tomorrow: at Flyers, 7 p.m. **VS** • Mon.*: at Boston, 7 p.m. **VS**

Western Conf. semis

(3) Vancouver 1, (2) Chicago 1
Canucks 5, Blackhawks 1 • Hawks 4, Canucks 2 • at Canucks, late last night • Tomorrow: at Canucks, 9:30 p.m. **VS** • Sun.: at Hawks, 8 p.m. **VS**
(1) San Jose 3, (5) Detroit 0
Sharks 4, Red Wings 3 • Sharks 4, Wings 3 • Sharks 3, Wings 3, OT • Today: at Wings, 7:30 p.m. **VS** • Sat.*: at Sharks, 10 p.m. **VS**

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Columbia adds Smith to NY's coaching mix

BY MAX J. DICKSTEIN
mdickstein@am-ny.com



Kyle Smith
Columbia men's basketball coach

New coach Kyle Smith yesterday took over Columbia University men's basketball, which has dwelt mostly in the non-scholarship Ivy League's middle-to-bottom ranks during the past four decades.

A 40-year-old Houston native, Smith comes from St. Mary's (Calif.), where he was an assistant coach and architect of the Gaels' 16th-ranked offense. St. Mary's reached the NCAA Sweet 16 in March.

Smith succeeds Joe Jones, who was 86-108 during seven seasons and left last month to become the top assistant at Boston College.



Kyle Smith is the area's ninth new Division I coach. (MAX J. DICKSTEIN/AMNY)

The last time that Columbia had a winning record in the Ivies was 1993, right? I'm going with the last time we won the league — 1968. ... I'm trying to make history.

Do you have benchmarks that you want to meet?

Absolutely. The first one would be, Let's have a winning record. I think the key to turning it is having many goals. ... Don't lose back-to-back games. ... Go get a non-league road win.

You've got your work cut out for you, huh? Part of the reason I took [this job] is [the 2003 book] "Moneyball."

What other people don't value, you value? Bingo. And then I quantify it. ... The baseball analogy was on-base percentage. ... I think the basketball analogy is passing. ... Good passers give you good

shots — you get layups, 3s.

What's your favorite part of recruiting? Evaluating, actually. I can sit in a gym for 20 hours watching games. I don't like to have to find the number, the e-mail, and that part.

This infusion of new coaches into the New York area all at once is strange, isn't it? It is bizarre. No other way around it. ... As far as scouting, recruiting, I've got to get my feet wet a little bit. That learning curve is going to be a little steep.

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• Glenn Braica, ex-St. John's asst.

Bronx
Fordham (2-26, 0-16 Atlantic 10)
• Tom Pecora, Hofstra coach

Queens
St. John's (17-16, 6-12 Big East)
• Steve Lavin, ex-UCLA coach

Staten Island
Wagner (5-26, 3-15 Northeast)
• Danny Hurley, St. Benedict's Prep (H.S.) coach

Long Island
Hofstra (19-15, 10-8 CAA)
• Mo Cassara, Boston College asst. (Tim Welsh resigned)

this week a month after his hiring)

Westchester
Iona (21-10, 12-6 MAAC)
• Tim Cluess, C.W. Post coach

New Jersey
Seton Hall (19-13, 9-9 Big East)
• Kevin Willard, Iona coach

Rutgers (15-17, 5-13 Big East)
• Mike Rice, Robert Morris coach

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