

The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044



Ready for Halloween Parade. Gabriella Beola will play Catwoman to her brother Alexander's Batman in next Saturday's Halloween Parade (story, schedule, and another picture, page 3).

Library Takeover May Cut Its Evening Hours

Though it is still under discussion, the New York Public Library (NYPL) takeover of Roosevelt Island's Library could mean fewer evening hours.

In a meeting last week, NYPL officials offered to provide two evenings here – still short of the three nights to 9:00 that have been standard Island practice. The NYPL offer included two days 10-6, two days noon-8, Friday 1-5, and Saturdays 1-5. Total weekly hours would increase from 20 to 40.

“Cutting back on our present evening hours is a disservice to the Island,” said Ruth Limmer, vice president of the Library Board of Directors. Wendy Caldiero, coordinator of NYPL's Manhattan branches, said hours would be reconsidered yearly, but Limmer pointed out that evening use can't be monitored if the Library isn't open.

Lawrence Kapture, the future head librarian, confirmed that book donations would continue to be accepted and treated as before. “We will immediately catalogue books that the library should own. The remainder will be put up for sale,” he said. Events like *Tuesday Night at the Library*, featuring presentations by authors, will also continue.

Separately, NYPL and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation are currently negotiating the space lease for the Library, with an involvement of Councilmember Gifford Miller's office through his assistant, Barbara Allen.

Leverage With Pataki

Fed Up With Blue, RIRA May Move Against Southtown

by Dick Lutz

“There is, in this room, the competence to stop Southtown, or delay it several years. Enough is enough.”

The setting was the last meeting of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), a week ago Wednesday. The voice was Patrick Stewart's, speaking as President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. Stewart proposed a strategy designed to get RIRA a more meaningful role in determinations of what Southtown will be – and not incidentally, a strategy designed to force removal of Dr. Jerome Blue, the Governor's appointee as Presi-

dent of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC).

Pointing out that residents delayed construction of Manhattan Park for five years, Stewart suggested using the Governor's presumed desire to see Southtown built as leverage.

“We should say to the Governor,” Stewart suggested, “‘We think Southtown is a good idea. We want to see it built. We think it will be good for the Island. But we don't think that crew at RIOC can handle a \$500 million development project. So if you want it built, Governor, they have to go.’”

The RIRA meeting was charged, throughout, with anger at RIOC.

Almost to a member, those serving on the RIRA Council feel that Blue has been a negative force for Roosevelt Island. While they can list a series of small battles and small victories – cutting off Blue's plans to boost fees for playing fields, stopping his plan to cut Tramway hours – two major goals have been elusive. First, they have failed to get Blue to recognize RIRA's elected Common Council as the legitimate representative of Island residents; he has consistently treated RIRA as just another group despite its elected status. The second goal arises from that attitude on Blue's part, and from what many see as Blue's maladministration of Roosevelt Island: They want him gone.

More than that, Blue's administration has convinced RIRA Council members and many other Islanders – perhaps a majority – that RIOC itself is a negative for the Island, and a broader, more aggressive goal has developed: A change in the Island's governance, removing RIOC or its power, and giving that power to residents. In recent weeks that goal has been endorsed, in one form or another, by RIRA, by former RIOC Board member Willard Warren (*WIRE* interview, September 6 issue), and at last Wednesday's meeting, by the Maple Tree Group (see separate story).

RIRA President Stewart spoke to that goal: “Final and formal papers [with Southtown developers] will be signed in about 150 days,” he told members of the Council. “Our problem is RIOC. We have the power to irritate, the power of public opinion, the power to obstruct... What should we do? We need to get rid of RIOC. How? What if we say to the Governor, ‘Listen, Governor, we'll not fight Southtown if you get rid of RIOC... If you want Southtown built, you will deal with us on a reasonable basis, and a reasonable basis is to get Jerry Blue and his people the hell out of here.’”

Stewart was applauded at the end of his remarks, but the subject of Southtown was not closed.

Nneka Pope, a Common Council representative and former President of RIRA, said she doesn't necessarily agree that Southtown will be a boon to the Island. More importantly, she said, “my concern is the lack of resident input into the planning. Where are we in this equation? We had one meeting in which we were able to say x-y-z to the developers, and that was that. This [fight] is about our participation every step of the way.” In another portion of the RIRA meeting, Pope also proposed carrying the fight to the Governor.

Council member Judith Berdy, who provided an Island tour for executives from Morse Diesel, the firm hired by RIOC to represent it with the developers, said that as far as she



Patrick Stewart

Master Lease Requires Southpoint Park, Resident Asserts in Letter to RIOC

An Island resident has challenged the contention of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) that the Island's southern tip can be opened for commercial development.

Fran Dym, a retired public relations consultant, responded to letters published in the last issue of *The Main Street WIRE* with a catalog of references from the General Development Plan (GDP), which is incorporated into the Master Lease between New York City and the State. Writing to RIOC Communications Director Michael Greason, Dym points out that the GDP “spells out the lands which are included for development and specifies the development and management of designated Open Space Areas (parks).” She goes on to observe that “South Point Park is designated as the related Open Space Area for the South Town Area,” adding “There is no portion of the Lease that allows diversion of the designated Open Space Areas for other uses.”

Dym's letter, available in full text on *Website NYC10044*, cites language in the GDP: “The Open Space Areas are: Lighthouse Park... Octagon Park... Blackwell Park... and South Point Park approximately ten acres south of Goldwater Memorial Hospital at the south end of the Island containing three landmarks, the Strecker Laboratory, the main building of the old City Hospital and the former Small Pox Hospital.”

Dym's letter to Greason asserts that “Because South Point is formally designated as the Open Space Area for South Town by the Master Lease, RIOC is required by the GDP to develop South Point Park in conjunction with the development of South Town, as was done with North Town.”



Fran Dym

Study Group Faults Governing Structure

After studying the state of the Island and its governance for the last few months, The Maple Tree Group has issued a report that finds serious fault with the present governmental mechanism by which the Island is run, and equally serious fault with those who run it today.

The group, formed and headed by David Bauer, a retired city manager and consultant in local government, presented its report to the October 8 meeting of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA). Its next step, if RIRA is encouraging after a review, is to move for changes in the legislation under which the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) runs the Island.

The report cites a long list of deficiencies in current Island operations, notably “Barriers between Citizens and Administration,” saying “the Island Administration gives the impression of operating under different goals than those of the citizens,” and “There is a feeling that the Island Administration is not open with the residents of the Island.”

Among its most damning assertions, the report says that “the basic driving philosophy of the State of New York through its Urban Development Corporation has been replaced with a lack of direction in a narrowly focused command system. The model community serving as a positive advertisement for this city and this State is on the edge of slipping over to a negative advertisement.”



David Bauer

The report documents “an apparent incompetence in the conduct of many of the services provided to the residents by RIOC,” and goes on to cite “a feeling of helplessness on the part of citizens not able to have any effect on improving the competence of RIOC. Coupled with this... is an understanding that decisions involving strictly Island concerns are being made by non-resident people who are not accountable to the citizens – a parallel of taxation without representation.

In its executive summary, the Maple Tree Group contends that “The existing government structure is a father-knows-best approach; certainly not the kind of representative democracy that is the norm for local government in this State and in this Country. The results have been destructive to local matters affecting Island citizens, not because they have been bad (although they are frequently bad), but because the citizens have no systematic input into the process of making decisions about matters that touch them directly.”

The report says that in due course “MTG will seek to have legislation enacted by the State of New York to restore representative local government to the Island.” Space permitting, the full text of the report will appear in a future *WIRE*.

The full text of the Maple Tree Group report is available on Website NYC10044 at www.nyc10044.com

A Page of Opinion

Surrogate Caretakers

Every day I see grandparents or other senior citizens serving as surrogate caretakers for many of Roosevelt Island’s young people. We have numerous single-parent families whose mothers or fathers must leave home daily for work, entrusting responsibility for their children to others. Recently, I read that almost four million children in the United States are living with grandparents. Of those, over one-third reside in homes where no parent is present.

It is important that those providing such care for our youngsters of school age participate in the educational process. Some very good suggestions come from AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) and Hand in Hand, a group that brings together parents, schools, and communities united for kids. Included are:

- Look over the child’s report card; talk about what subjects are favorites and which are difficult and why.
- Talk with the child’s teachers; establish a personal relationship with them.
- Attend events at your grandchild’s school.

Back-to-school nights, teacher conferences, sports events and school plays are ways to get involved and allow your grandchild to take pride in your visits.

- Find out what type of homework is assigned, how often, and how long it should take to complete.
 - Create a good learning environment at home.
- With your grandchild, find a good place to do homework, e.g. desk, kitchen table.
- Read with them, check homework, and limit television and video games. Make studying a priority.
 - Ask teachers for advice. They know about child development and they spend a lot of time with your grandchild.
 - Provide teachers with information. Changing family circumstances like the abandonment, loss, or re-emergence of a parent can upset a child’s learning. If you inform the teacher that you are a grandparent raising your grandchild, he or she may refer you to others in your situation.
 - Let your grandchild know you care about his or her future.



Maybe Try It Here

An innovative home safety program for Alzheimer’s patients has been launched in Nassau County and it seems to me that it easily could be replicated here with the cooperation of our Public Safety Department. Its officers frequently are first on the scene of emergency calls or respond along with other units.

In the Nassau setup, fire, police, rescue and EMS workers will be trained to respond to a universal symbol for an Alzheimer’s patient. Hung on the front of a refrigerator, the symbol indicates the patient’s presence in the home. A packet of forms, kept in the refrigerator, give details of medical information on the patient and data on the current caregiver, as well as names and phone numbers of the persons to be contacted if a caregiver is incapacitated.

A trained worker, responding and seeing the symbol, will automatically know to search for an Alzheimer’s victim in the apartment, or to launch a hunt outside the home. When the patient is located, appropriate care can be provided. The Long Island Alzheimer’s Foundation, sponsor of the program with the county, noted that an increasing number of patients live at home.

That is true here, too, I am told, thus my suggesting that Public Safety initiate some type of similar training for its personnel.

Three good friends of mine died of Alzheimer’s in recent times.

The American experiment has never had room for an official government domestic press service, for good reason. The experience of history tells us that a Pravda or Tass is more likely to serve the government than the people, particularly when the government serves itself rather than the people. And the separation of Press and Government has been virtually as sacrosanct as the separation of Church and State.

It’s a healthy Americanism that we tend to see the words of government, reporting on its own work, as automatically suspect — sometimes laughably so, as in the case of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s *RIOC News*.

But we should not be surprised that RIOC fails to see the proper line of demarcation between Press and State when we can observe that it fails to see its proper place with respect to the Church. After all, Jerry Blue’s RIOC is trying to take over scheduling of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Letting street maintenance go while spending many hundreds of dollars per issue on spreading an official line of fertilizer is par for the course.

Usurping the scheduling of Good Shepherd is par for the course. And now, selling advertising space in *RIOC News*, draining limited Island ad dollars from *The WIRE*... That’s also par for the course.

This RIOC passion to profit from everything on Roosevelt Island has passed, now, beyond excessive into the realm of situation comedy:

- The Island’s playing fields have been commercialized and marketed to non-Islanders, even at the expense of denying their use to Island organizations.
- Jerry Blue says that RIOC must sell management of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd to the highest bidder.
- The FDR Memorial planned for Southpoint has been replaced by a broad-brush invitation to developers in the form of a sign, visible from the United Nations, that tells the world Americans will put a price tag on anything, including a long-overdue tribute to FDR.
- Island history once posted in the red buses has given way to limp at-

island observer

tempts to interest advertisers in the space.

- And RIOC has spent a considerable sum hiring outside development of a web site, where it intends to sell advertising.

Were Jerry Blue to ask, others who have been at this far longer than he would tell him that deploying RIOC employees (paid with rents collected from you and me) to sell advertising in competition with non-State media is probably futile. The limited pool of advertising dollars available here is not rushing out to find other publications to support.

But Blue probably knows that if two or three advertisers can be persuaded to switch their advertising money from *The WIRE* to *RIOC News*, this newspaper will face extinction yet again.

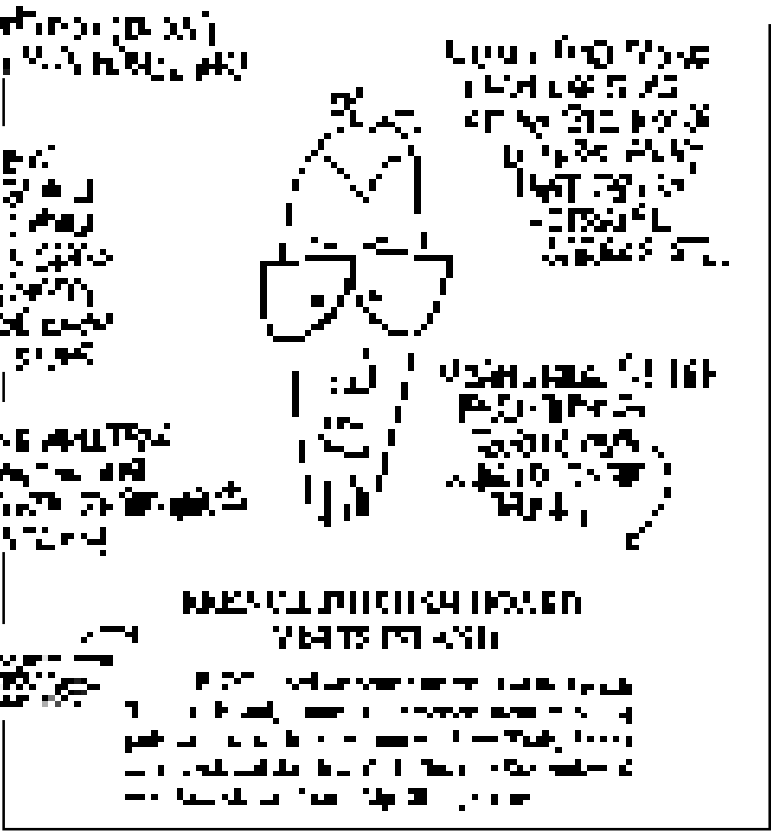
That, in the end, is what proponents of government-run media would like — to own the only watchdog in town. Clearly, that’s not best for the citizens of a democracy. But, of course, Roosevelt Island is no democracy, Jerry Blue is not a small-d democrat, and RIOC itself is a fiefdom in which he has no obligation to recognize rights or preferences of Roosevelt Island’s residents.

It stinks. It’s way past time for a change.

island observer
appears regularly on *Website NYC10044*
www.nyc10044.com
Contributions welcome

RIOC Announces:
Ads for Sale in RIOC News

-*RIOC News*, 10/97



Letters

To the Editor:

The latest issue of *Eye of the Isle* [a flyer placed under doors in several buildings] serves only to inflame racial issues on Roosevelt Island. The previous issue alleged “a high-tech lynching,” and the latest piece focuses on “overcoming resistance [to the Young Adult League’s Youth Training Program proposal for Public Purpose Funds] of the so-called community leaders,” which resistance it presumes stems from “bias” against minorities. This is far from true. Anyone living on this Island would recognize that “minority” people play a “majority” role: significant numbers of “minority” members are in leadership positions in RIOC, Public Safety, Housing Management, Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations (RICO), and the merchants.

Resistance to the Young Adult League’s youth training proposal is based on several points, none of them related to “minority” issues.

Point #1: YAL has received special treatment, in comparison to other Island organizations. The YAL was able to circumvent the normal process that has been in place for years, and observed by every other Island organization. This special treatment was acknowledged by RIOC board member David Kraut at the September RIOC meeting.

Point #2: YAL’s proposal is poor. There were several versions floating around, but none was clear about where, when, and why the money would be spent. One proposal had spending at about \$100,000 for targeting about 20 youths (about \$5,000 per youth). The amount approved recently, \$42,000, would mean about \$2,100 per youth. Isn’t this a very expensive word processing course? Even if an individual were to pay for a course themselves, they’d spend \$500 or less for similar training, so why is YAL spending \$2,100?

Point #3: YAL’s plan is not within the intent of the Public Purpose Funds (PPF). The PPF are intended for (1) one-shot awards, (2) having long lasting impact, (3) that affect large portions of the community. The YAL proposal will not have long lasting community effect (the effects of 20 youths over the course of, say, a decade is not clear), nor was it clear

how the YAL will obtain ongoing funding to support its project. Will YAL be here this year and gone next? The YAL plan doesn’t affect the whole community; in fact, it touches a very small segment.

Point #4: YAL doesn’t use existing Island services and builds from scratch. Any organization applying for grant money demonstrates their use of existing organizations and services. Why does YAL ignore the Youth Center, an Island institution for over 15 years? Why does the YAL ignore other training services nearby in Astoria, Long Island City, and Manhattan? Why must the YAL start from scratch? This only adds to the cost of their program.

Point #5: YAL has misstated its credentials and support. For example, the YAL claims it has been an Island organization since 1991, but no one has heard of the organization prior to 1996, and it was not listed in any of the Island directories in the six years prior. Contrary to YAL’s claims in their ap-

plication, the Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations and the Residents Association did not forward or approve its proposal.

Point #6: Roosevelt Island has been burned in the past with poor use of Public Purpose Funds — and there’s a very small pool of funds. I can’t imagine any resident believing the process should be easier with less scrutiny.

The YAL may have fine goals and good intentions — it may be a worthy cause. But that is not the issue. There are many worthy organizations on the Island, but the YAL received special treatment, for a poorly planned effort, that uses PPF money outside its intended purpose, and has no support from RICO or RIRA, whose role is to evaluate such proposals.

Frank Farance

To the Editor:

I am a patient at Goldwater Hospital for long-term treatment after a serious car accident in which I lost my wife and loving pair of twin girls. I would like to thank very dearly all of the employees at Goldwater for the outstanding medical service and care which I have received at this hospital. God bless you all.

I am from Tampa Bay, Florida.
Vincent Fleming



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To the Residents of Roosevelt Island:
I would like to inform you about some of the activities on the Island, and I urge you to take part in the events that interest you, as well as visit us on the internet: www.RIOC.com.

On September 9, 1997, Governor Pataki signed a proclamation declaring September 15-October 15, 1997, as Hispanic Heritage Month. In conjunction with the Governor's declaration, RIOC recognized the outstanding contributions of the Honorable Olga Mendez, and we publicly thanked her and other prominent members of the Hispanic community for their efforts on behalf of Roosevelt Island. A formal presentation took place at the October board meeting.

In addition to the monthly Board of Directors meeting held on October 9, other noteworthy meetings took place; on Monday, September 15, the Transportation Committee held a session at RIOC headquarters to discuss current issues. This meeting was followed on Tuesday, September 16 by my meeting with the Senior Citizens Association. We discussed topics of interest to the seniors. On Thursday, September 18, there was a meeting of the Southtown Housing Development Advisory Committee (SHDAC), which brought the community up to date with the next stage of development on the Island. Community organizations, businesses and all residents were invited to the meeting held by RIOC's Owner's Representative for Southtown, Morse Diesel International.

Morse Diesel International, a premier and internationally renowned construction consulting firm, outlined the history of housing on Roosevelt Island and answered residents' questions about this major real estate endeavor. They explained to the community that the development of 2000 additional units of housing at the subway on Roosevelt Island, an area referred to as Southtown, is moving ahead. The initial agreement between Related Companies, Hudson Companies, and RIOC, has been signed. As the developers of this 19-acre site, Related and Hudson will now begin work on financing and designs for this project which has been estimated will cost approximately \$400 million. The realization of Southtown will create housing for thousands, jobs for hundreds, and a significant boost for the Island residents, organizations and businesses as well as strengthen RIOC's ability to fulfill its mission.

Jerome H. Blue, Ph.D., President/Chief Operating Officer

RIOC President's Column



Ready for Hallween, too: Jenny Holmes, Ellie Philips, Gabriella Beola, Samuel Johns, Laila Johns, Liana Penny

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland • 317-8523

Sunday, October 19 – Roosevelt Island Artists Society, 10:00 a.m., 546 Main Street, 12th floor.

Monday, October 20 – Meeting of **The Maple Tree Group**, 7:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Review of legislation establishing RIOC and recommendations for changes in that legislation.

Saturday, October 25 – Roosevelt Island Tree Board's **Fall Tree Walk**, 10 a.m., conducted by State Forester Michael Curley. Free.

Saturday, October 25 – **Halloween Parade**. See story, this page.

Saturday, October 25 – 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Annual Fall Fair of the Protestant Parish, Downstairs Community Room, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Friday, October 31 – Next scheduled issue of **The WIRE**. **Deadlines** Oct. 24, 26 for copy; for ads, Wed., Oct. 22. **Future issue**

dates: Nov. 14, Dec. 5, 19, Jan. 9, 23, Feb. 6, 20, Mar. 6, 20, and generally every two weeks through 1998. **Holiday-period advertising should be ordered now to insure availability of space.**

Fax or phone event information to **317-8523**. Please provide a phone number for follow-up.

At the Senior Center

Every week:

Stay Well (Exercise), **Mondays** 10-11 a.m., **Wednesdays** 9:30-10 a.m.

English Classes, **Mondays** 12-1 p.m., **Wednesdays & Fridays** 10-11

Citizenship Classes, **Fridays** 12:30-1 p.m.

Tai Chi (Exercise), **Thursdays** 10-11 a.m.

Scheduled activities & events:

Friday, October 17, 10:45 a.m., **Nutritionist**

Monday, October 20, 12:30, **Arts & Crafts**

Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m., **Medicare vs HMO**.

Thursday, October 23, 1:00-2:30 p.m., **Flu Shots**. (Medicare card.)

Friday, October 24, 12:30 p.m., **Oldies Movie**

Monday, October 27, 12:30, **Arts & Crafts**

Wednesday, October 29, **Liberty Cruise** trip

Friday, October 31, 8:00 p.m., **Halloween Party**

Halloweeners Will Parade Next Saturday

The Annual Roosevelt Island Halloween Parade will gather at Blackwell House next Saturday (October 25), at 10:45 a.m., and begin at 11:00. The parade will move north on Main Street, turn right at Sloan's, right at the seawall, then continue to Tony Capobianco Field's basketball courts.

Games, prizes, food, and lots of fun are planned. Treats will be furnished by Roosevelt Island Housing Management Corp., and DJ Marie will spin *hauntingly* familiar tunes. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Island Kids will lead the parade.

The *PTA Halloween Festivities Center* will follow the parade on the basketball courts, or under the shelter of Motorgate Garage if it rains.

The event is a joint effort of RIHMC, Rivercross Tenants Corp., Manhattan Park Management and the PS/IS 217 PTA.

Fund-raising for the PTA will get a boost today when Cider and Pumpkins go on sale at the Greenmarket and Good Shepherd Plaza. Through the efforts of King Paniagua, Sloan's has donated pastries and other goodies for the PTA's fund-raising effort.

To volunteer or donate baked goods for Halloween events, contact Sandra Morabito, PTA Fund-Raiser, **223-1975** or Marilyn Engstler, Director of Community Relations, **838-4747**.

Fall Tree Walk

A Fall Tree Walk has been scheduled by the Roosevelt Island Tree Board for Saturday, October 25, at 10 a.m. It will start at Blackwell House and will be conducted by the newly-assigned State Forester, Michael Curley. This particular Tree Walk will include the route depicted in the Eagle Scout brochure, *Island Tree Walk*, recently published by Michael Keller.

Along the way, Maurice Bleifeld, Chair of the Tree Board, will review progress in maintaining the tree population of the Island. The walk is open to all residents. There is no charge.



TREE CITY USA.

Good Shepherd Fair Set for Next Saturday

Affordable jewelry and items from all over the world will highlight the Fall Fair '97, the Church of the Good Shepherd's only annual fund-raising event, which will take place on Saturday, October 25, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Community Room.

Other highlights of the Fair include a wide array of delicious home-made soups and baked goods, as well as fully-functional appliances and brand-new and hardly-worn clothes. "Our Fair is a great place to get a head start on your Christmas shopping," says the Rev. Oliver Chapin, Vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Islanders are encouraged to contribute quality items for sale at the Fair. "We tell people to bring only high-quality, working items they might possibly want to buy. We don't sell junk at our Fair." Items should be brought to the Chapel, located at 543 Main Street next to the Trellis, on Friday, October 24 after 6 p.m.

This issue of *The WIRE* should be a 12-page issue, but we didn't have enough advertising to support more than 8. We had enough news and letters, along with the full text of the report of The Maple Tree Group, to fill 16 pages. If you'd like to sell ad space for *The WIRE*, in Manhattan or Queens, on commission, please call Dick Lutz at **826-9055**.

The Main Street WIRE, Sat., Oct. 18, 1997 • 3

I was very disturbed by the latest issue of E. Rademaker's *Eye on the Isle* concerning the YAL Youth Development Center. Its author seriously misstates the facts on several important matters, imputing racial motives to issues that have nothing whatsoever to do with race.

The original request to RIRA for Public Purpose Funding for the proposed Young Adult League lacked many critical pieces of information that are mandatory for any award of Public Purpose Funds by anyone.

The authors of the proposal were asked both by the Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations (RICO), and by the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) to provide the missing information, in compliance with the standards that have applied equally to every single award made since the fund was created.

The authors chose not to do so, but instead took their proposal directly to RIOC, and Mr. Blue.

Mr. Blue saw an opportunity to bypass the process of pre-approval by RIRA and RICO that has been formalized for many years, and to seize the authority that legitimately belongs only to the duly elected representatives of the residents of this community.

Mr. Blue's attempt to do so created enough furor on his own Board of Directors that the proposal was tabled and re-tabled each month the board met from May until September. It was then passed by a single vote; the passing board member noting for the record that he was opposed to RIOC's usurping the authority to approve, and that he would not support the granting of any further award to anyone without pre-approval by RICO and RIRA, as was the accepted procedure, but that since the authors in this case had been led to believe that RIOC alone had the authority to make the grant, that he felt compelled to support it.

The public disavowal of support by Susan Whittaker, President of RICO, at that meeting was necessitated by the authors continuing to claim that their proposal had the approval of RICO, although that approval had quite firmly not been given.

It is worth noting that the original request was for ongoing support, a type of award that is specifically prohibited under the rules of Public Purpose Fund grants, that the final award was less than 30% of the original amount, and that the final revised proposal did include the information requested by RIRA and RICO.

Although there were stated reservations about the proposal at the time of its original presentation on the basis that there were already many such programs readily available in NYC which were better funded and thereby better prepared to address the very admirable goals of YAL, we will unfortunately never know whether the proposal would have been approved by RIRA or RICO, since it was never resubmitted in a form that could be passed.

It is as unreasonable to attribute this to racism on the part of those organizations as it would be to attribute to racism its energetic support by Mr. Blue.

Contrary to the charges in *Eye on the Isle*, all Public Purpose Fund grants recommended by RIRA in the past two years have gone in support of the disadvantaged. Separately, unemployed and under-employed 18-25 year olds make up the majority of their age group; they are no minority. As for the island having more color and diversity than in earlier days, that is simply not the case. If the US Census Bureau is to be trusted, Manhattan Park shifted the racial mix more than 5% away from its original, more mixed model.

As any intelligent person will agree, there is nothing inherent in race to cause the deterioration in quality of life that we all hear so many complaints about. It behooves us all to examine our hearts and our behavior for the real source of the problem.



Judit Senesh, an eight-year resident of Roosevelt Island, died Wednesday night as a result of an automobile accident. She was well-known as a massage therapist, and had many clients and friends on the Island. A memorial service is being planned. For information, call **593-7259** or **751-8214**.

Public Safety Blotter

September 28 – **Criminal Mischief, 540 Main Street**. Responding to a report of a couch fire in a fourth floor hall, Public Safety officers extinguished the blaze. A resident said she had been moving the couch to the AVAC area and left it unattended for a few minutes, during which time someone had set it on fire. The owner was overcome by the smoke and treated at the scene. Two days later, Lecia Hyman, 17, of 560 Main Street was arrested and charged with criminal mischief as a result of a PSD investigation conducted by PSD Detective Alex Sefakakis.

September 29 – **Burglary, Youth Center**. An employee discovered that someone had forced entry into the Center via an old Eastwood School door, not properly secured, and taken soda and food, and shattered a coffee pot. The loss was estimated at \$100.

September 30 – **Larceny, Motorgate**. A caller reported a suspicious male peering into a car on the third floor. A Public Safety officer detained the man, who was carrying a box of cassettes and a first-aid kit. When officers searched the area, a car with shattered windows was found. Its owner reportedly identified the recovered items as belonging to her. Boynton Chad, 32, of Long Island City, was turned over to City police and charged with larceny.

October 5 – **Larceny, 540 Main Street**. A PSD officer on patrol noticed that a coin slot was missing from a dryer in the third floor laundry room.

October 11 – **Criminal Mischief, Eastwood**. Laundry machine slots in three rooms were vandalized.

October 12 – **Criminal Mischief, 540 Main Street**. A PSD officer spotted a broken window in the building lobby.

October 12 – **Criminal Mischief, 560 Main Street**. A small fire was discovered in a stairwell by a resident who heard unusual sounds behind the door. After it was put out with a fire extinguisher, the Fire Marshal was notified.

October 13 – **Criminal Mischief, 575 Main Street**. Returning to her car parked by Island House, a resident noticed that the windshield had been cracked.

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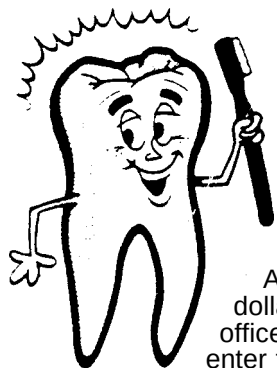
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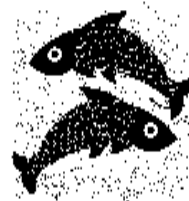
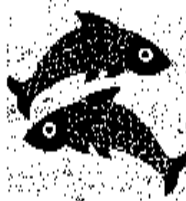
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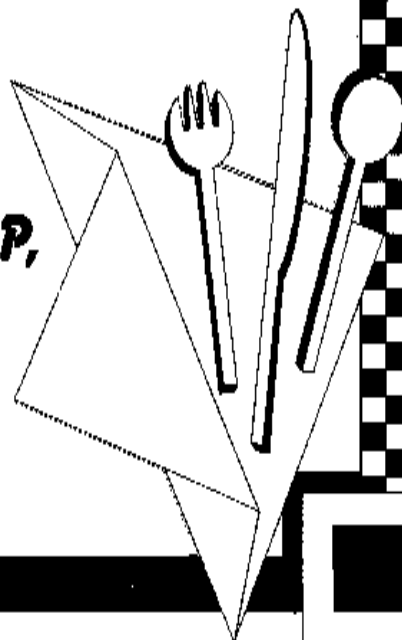


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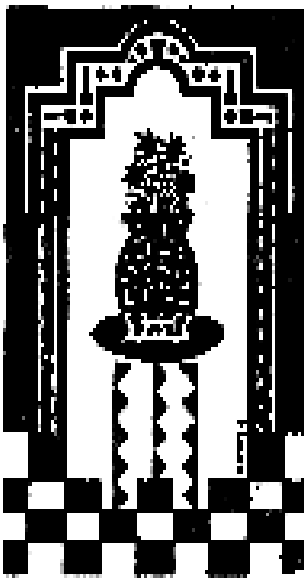
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RIRA from page 1
can determine, "Morse Diesel doesn't know what RIOC wants... We need to say, 'We're not going to take crap, if you guys are going to design, you're not going to do it without us.'"
Shirley Margolin, Chair of the Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 and former Special Assistant [for Roosevelt Island] to the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Renewal, called the Council's attention to the inconvenience and dislocation likely to result from years of construction on the Island with an influx of workers, equipment, and general disruption. But her primary focus was on the long pull and the way the shape of Southtown will affect the Island: "We need to know many things," she said. "We need to know how that five hun-

dred million dollars is being capitalized. I've asked this question in open sessions and have never gotten an answer. We need the power of the residents behind these questions."
"We need to know what plan is being utilized," Margolin continued, outlining the scope of the task residents face. "Is it the Ramati plan? Or some other plan? Is it indeed going to be 29-story buildings? We need to know whether the master plan and the General Development Plan are being observed. It's very important because within that GDP there were sections of the Island that were called out and allocated for parks. We need to know by what right Southpoint has been put up for sale. This is our park. It is in the 1969 study of Welfare Island under Governor Nelson Rockefeller. There is a great body of information that we need to access. It is high time we got to work."

SPORTSWIRE

COMMUNITY NEWS Roosevelt Island Racquet Club (RIRC) teaching pro Maureen Rankine recently awarded three top junior players with tennis scholarships at an awards gala held at New York City's Motown Cafe. Her non-profit organization, The Association of Minority Tennis Professionals, Inc. (AMTP) co-sponsored the event. The AMTP awardees are all junior tournament winners who have achieved national rankings in their age groups. AMTP was founded in 1993 to enhance the image of minorities in tennis and to provide assistance to minority tennis professionals for player development. Maureen Rankine has been a teaching professional at RIRC since its launch in 1991.

SOCCER						
Senior Div.	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Blue	3	0	0	9	7	1
Red/Blue	1	1	1	4	6	7
Yellow/Black	1	2	0	3	4	6
Silver	0	2	1	1	2	5
Week 3, Blue def Red/Blue 4-0, Yellow/Black def Silver 2-0.						
Junior Div.	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Red/White	3	0	0	9	15	4
Green/Blue	2	1	0	6	7	6
Purple/White	0	2	1	1	2	6
Blue/White	0	2	1	1	3	11
Week 3, Red/White def Blue/White 7-2, Green/Blue def Purple/White 2-1.						
Minor Div.	W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Yellow	2	0	0	6	4	2
Red	1	1	0	3	3	2
Blue	0	1	1	1	2	3
Green	0	1	1	1	1	3
Week 2, Blue ties Green 1-1, Yellow def Red 2-1.						

TENNIS The RI Tennis Association organized a successful Labor Day Picnic which was followed by the club championships and ladder playoffs. Here are the results of these tournaments.
Club Championships
Women: Irina Pastron vs Karin Jacobson, 4:6 6:3 6:0
Men: Jan Buenner vs Mike Gaffney, 6:4 6:3
Men's Doubles: Paul Rechani/Mike Gaffney vs Michael Kolba/Justin Rodriguez, 8:5
Mixed Doubles: Sonya & Mike Kolba vs Karin Jacobson & Tom Smith, 8:5
Men's Consolation: Michael Kolba vs Tom Smith, 8:4
Ladder Playoffs
Group A: David Eaton vs Carlos Braune, 6:3 6:7 6:3
Group B: Fidel Ramirez vs Atsumi Kolba, 8:1
While the season winds down, here is some good news for all players: the outdoor courts will remain open throughout the fall and winter. Use this opportunity for a great outdoor workout. We still hope that RIOC will make good on its promise to replace the burnt-out light bulbs. For additional information about tennis call Jan Buenner (President) **469-3107** or Michael Kolba (Vice President) **980-3811**.

NEWS If you have sports-related news, announcements, questions or comments please call me at 688-3358 or E-mail me at wiresports@aol.com, so it can be included in future issues. Photos of Island sports events (with caption information) are also welcome (leave for Jay Levine at the Westview door station, 625 Main Street).

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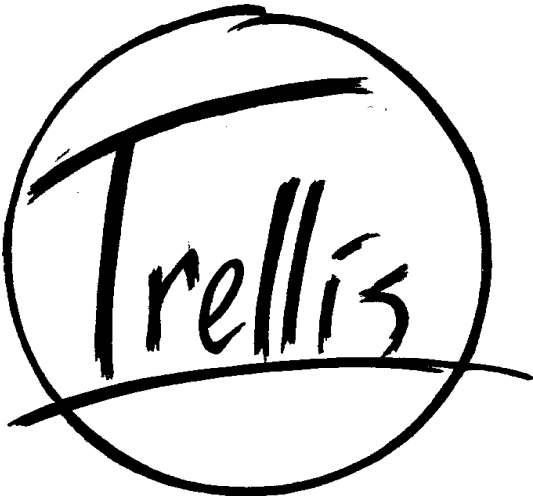
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