



The Main Street WIRE

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with Website NYC10044

RI Strikers Are State Soccer Champs



These Guys Are Winners! Roosevelt Island's Strikers took the state soccer championship in a June 20 game (report on page 11). Left to right, first row: Andrew Giacalone, Mohammed Abubakar. Second row: Brice Douma, Makhtar Deme, Michael Kirkman, Nii-Ato Bentsi Enchill, Ashraf Rijal, Alexander Kornhuber, Omar Sommereyns. Third row: Euloge Makombo, Pape Moustapha Seye, Dagan Uhle, Daniel Gil, Charles Gray, Papa Souleymane Sane, Nicholas Ortiz, Lamine Toure, Eugen Stancut, Mansour Seck.

Yankees vs RI Seniors? RI Programs Could Lose In Mayor-Council Battle

City funding for several Island programs may fall victim to a dispute between Mayor Rudy Giuliani and the City Council. The AVAC system, used to remove the Island's garbage, may be threatened. The funds involved are "member items" put into the budget by Councilmember Gifford Miller, who represents Roosevelt Island. In addition to the AVAC system, they include funds for the Seniors program, the Youth Program, the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association, and others. The background of the dispute involves Giuliani's wish to cooperate with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner in a new Manhattan stadium, opposed by Council President Peter Vallone, who successfully sponsored legislation to for-

bid use of tax funds for any such plan. The Council also rejected Giuliani's budget, passing its own. Giuliani then vetoed many member items in the budget, including Roosevelt Island's AVAC system. The Council overrode the Mayor's veto, but actual spending authority rests with the Mayor, who has said he still intends to target those items he had previously vetoed. The current worry is that the Mayor may not cause the necessary checks to be written. Miller told *The WIRE*, "I urge residents to reach out to the Mayor to tell him that AVAC and the school and the other items are critical City services, and that residents of Roosevelt Island are residents of the City who deserve them."

Islanders

Dorothy Donald: Active, Out There, Involved

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

Wherever you encounter the lady – and "lady" is a word that describes her perfectly – you know that you are in the commanding presence of great dignity and bearing. Dorothy Donald is the tall, always well-dressed woman who is usually present at Island meetings, her attendance recordable on a kind of Richter scale of activism as she participates or, equally often, chairs. A nine-year resident of Roosevelt Island, she has had an impact disproportionate to her time here. As President of the Manhattan Park Seniors Association in 1995, she joined with others to form the Community Precinct Meeting Planning Committee to address the problems associated with the changes introduced by Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America." The precinct meetings, bi-monthly community forums that she convenes and moderates, have brought together the law enforcement units responsible for Roosevelt Island – Public Safety, the MTA's station managers, and the 114th Precinct, with interested members of the community to address ways of keeping Roosevelt Island a peaceful and comfortable community.

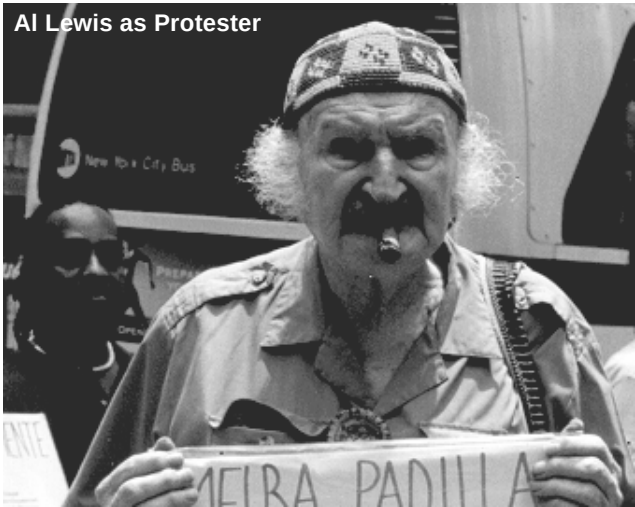
But Roosevelt Island is not the only community Dorothy Donald serves. On Monday (July 8), she'll receive an award from the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center, which she has served as a volunteer for more than 20 years. Drawing on a rich, varied background, she chaired the institution's Advisory Board for Ambulatory Care, which acts as a liaison between patients and hospital staff, and lobbies for the rights of patients and hospital employees alike. Her background in hospital work – and with Roosevelt Is-



Q: What Makes Al Lewis Run? A: He's Not Just Another Pretty Face

by Sharon Berman

Less than ten minutes into his weekly call-in show, Al Lewis is fighting the good fight against the forces of greed, stupidity, and – this particular day – gradualism. He has already suggested that the *New York Post* should come in strips so he can use it in his bathroom. Adamantly opposed to the Yankees' proposed move to Manhattan ("all the teams combined pay only \$500,000 a year in taxes"), he accuses Mayor Giuliani of brown-nosing George Steinbrenner – but with language that is considerably more graphic and anatomically descriptive. Tapping his feet, bouncing up and down in his chair in time to the music, trading quips with his dreadlocked engineer, Brother Shine, Lewis takes calls from listeners who have made his Saturday noon call-in show the most popular program on WBAI's weekend schedule. His approach: to educate, enrage, and enlarge the minds of his listeners by calling attention to the failings of as many local and national institutions as possible. And he loves every minute of it. With good reason. A performer since the age of thirteen, Al Lewis is auditioning for the biggest role of his career. At 88, he's running for Governor of New York, having spent his



Al Lewis as Protester

entire life preparing for a job that combines his two great passions: performing, and social justice. Wait a minute. Al Lewis? *Grandpa Munster?* *Grandpa?* Roosevelt Island residents who thought they knew all there was to know about Al Lewis have had their ideas turned upside down in recent weeks. Grandpa was a fixture, someone to point out to Island visitors. Often as not, sitting on a beach chair on Main Street or hanging out at Trel- See **Lewis**, page 6

Eldercare, Hotel On, Then Off, the RIOC July Agenda

A preliminary agenda for the RIOC Board of Directors meeting to be held Thursday (July 9) listed both the Eldercare and Marriott Hotel matters for Board approval. Both projects have been opposed by Island groups because they are sited on land many consider to be designated and reserved park land. More recent word is that both items have now been removed from the agenda for the meeting, scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

One City, One Fare? After Years of MetroCard, Tramway Is Still Left Out

News Analysis by Dick Lutz

Almost unbelievably, it's been four and a half years. Since its birth in January, 1994, transit riders have become accustomed to the MetroCard's role as universal means of access to transportation. **Except the Roosevelt Island Tramway.** And since last July 4, it's been "one city, one fare." The Staten Island Ferry became a free ride, and transfers between buses and subways made all New York a new transportation bargain. **Except for the Tram.** And since January '98, if you were willing to buy transit \$15 at a time, you caught a 10% discount, reducing the ride cost to \$1.35 a shot every time you boarded. **Except for taking the Tram.** And starting today, you can buy a weekly or monthly farecard, so that if you're a frequent flyer on things MTA, you can put a \$17

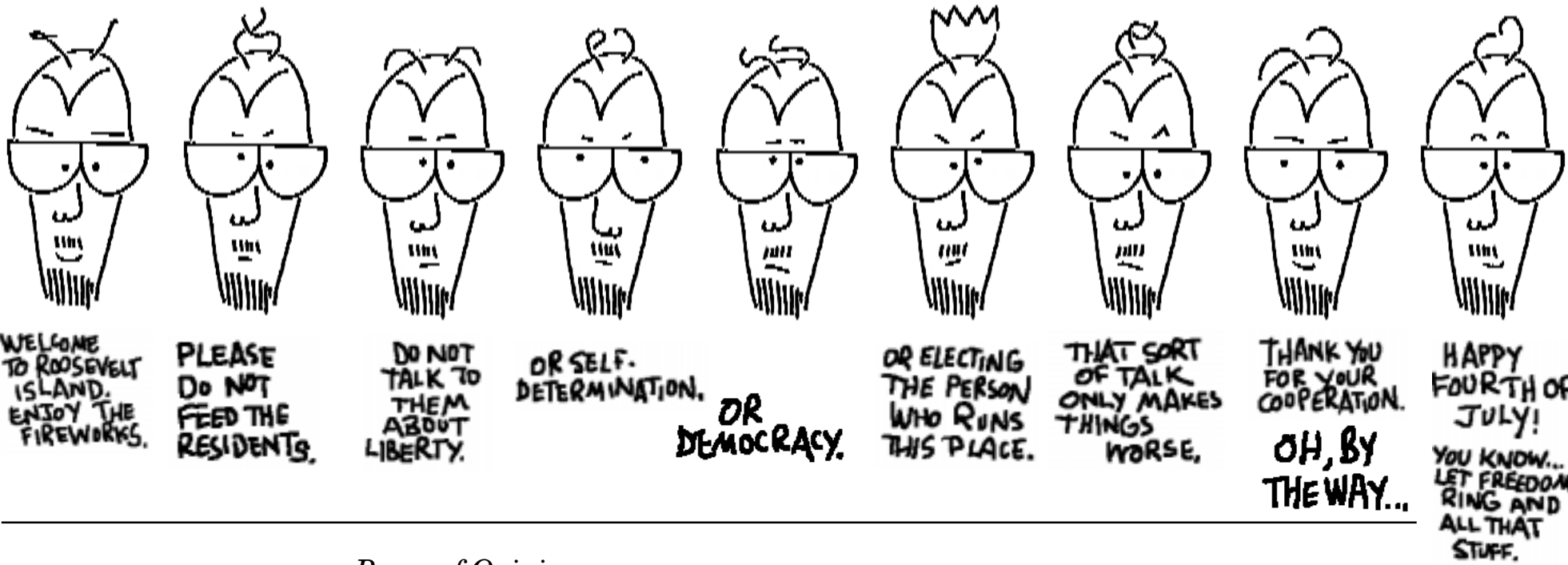
weekly cap (or \$63 monthly) on your transportation costs, moving about freely without a need to reach into your pocket for additional money. **Unless you want to use the Tramway.** For Roosevelt Islanders who prefer the Tram, "one city, one fare" is something of a sour myth. And for those Islanders who love their iconic Tram, it's no longer just a matter of being left out of the savings. Assessing the situation, the chair of the Residents Association Tram Committee, Al Weinstein, says, "Dr. Jerome Blue (President of RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation) has failed to take any real initiative to provide the MetroCard for Roosevelt Island. This is yet another blatant failure to respond to the needs and wishes of the com-

Tram Shutdown

The Tramway is expected to close for required maintenance, starting about July 18, for 2-3 weeks. There has been no announcement from RIOC about substitute bus service.

See **MetroCard**, page 6

Hello. I'm Dr. Jerome Blue, the Governor's Man Here...



Pages of Opinion Reflections on Roosevelt Island

by Ed Logue

Conversation overheard on Good Shepherd Plaza (not really):

Friend: Why do we have all these noisy garbage trucks on Roosevelt Island? We never had them before.

Acquaintance: Well, they come from Bluebeard's castle down where the Roosevelt Memorial was supposed to be. Even though the RIOC report says 75% of AVAC capacity is unused, those high rollers didn't want any of that stuff.

F: What do you mean "high rollers"?

A: Giuliani got tired of waiting for his casino on Governor's Island to happen, so he slipped it in here.

F: Can we go take a look?

A: Of course not. Haven't you heard? It's a "gated" community down there. The likes of us are not welcome!

F: Could it happen?

A: If Bluebeard has his way, anything like this could happen.

F: What can we do about it, anything?

A: Of course. First of all, a lawsuit to stop this nonsense.

F: Do we have a case?

A: This island is not a toy to be played with by inexperienced real estate speculators and architects. Of course we have a case.

The City of New York is the owner of Roosevelt Island. Nobody else. It was leased to the Urban Development Corporation for 99 years for one purpose only – to develop a new, integrated community according to a plan that was attached to the lease.

Can that plan be changed?

Of course, but it takes two to tango. When it was approved, the NYC Board of Estimate had the power to authorize that lease and they approved it unanimously in December, 1969, so it runs until December 2068. City approval of changes is necessary.

Under the new charter, that power passed to the City Council, which could change the plan after public hearings, including, I would expect,

one on the island.

RIOC doesn't seem to think so. But when Governor Cuomo signed the bill creating RIOC, this is what he said about RIOC and its mission:

Guest Shot: Ed Logue

Roosevelt Island was Ed Logue's idea. As President of the New York State Urban Development Corporation from 1968 to 1975, he led in the production of 33,000 housing units in the State. In 1968, he saw what he felt was a great opportunity in New York City's Welfare Island – and the rest is living history.

The bill creates a public benefit corporation, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, with responsibility for the operation, management and future development of Roosevelt Island. Three of

the nine members appointed to the Corporation are to be residents of Roosevelt Island.

The bill, which is part of my 1984 Legislative Program, establishes a new public benefit corporation to operate and manage Roosevelt Island, which will improve the administration of that Island. For the first time, Island residents will have a direct role in making the decisions that will affect them.

The new corporation will also have the responsibility to plan the future development of the Island consistent with a revised master plan. The further development of the Island will bring to fruition the original concept of the Roosevelt Island New Community – a fully integrated community with low, moderate and higher income residents within the heart of New York's largest metropolis.

The Island is supposed to be governed by due process, not decision by whimsy!

Is there any way we can end this uncertainty?

Yes. It's called "home rule." Here is how we can do it.

There is no longer any reason for absentee government of Roosevelt Island. The Island was viewed by many at the outset as an impossible, even reckless, dream. It has proven itself.

Interestingly enough, the RIOC annual report describes itself this way:

In creating RIOC, the State Legislature in many respects created the equivalent of a "municipality" charged with providing essential services and maintaining public health and safety, as well as completing the Island's development.

How to go about it? There are many ways. The simplest and most direct is for the See **Logue**, page 6

Letters

To the Editor:

On the occasion of Roosevelt Island Day...

I'd like to thank my mother, Fay [Vass], for all the hard work she has put into this day, not to mention other events.

Whatever my mother does, it's because she cares and derives great pleasure from seeing the people on the Island working together.

I would like to thank Marilyn and all the administrative and maintenance staff of Housing Management for all their efforts and hard work in making this day a success. I also thank everyone for their pride in this island and their support in making it a safe and healthy environment.

Michelle Vedra

E. Virgil Conway
Chair, MTA

Dear Mr. Conway:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I wrote to you on March 26, 1998 on behalf of my constituents on Roosevelt Island who have been experiencing difficulties as a result of the MTA's work on the tracks in the 63rd Street tunnel.

One of the questions I posed to you in this letter related to the status of the negotiations between MTA and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) on extending the MetroCard to passengers of the Roosevelt Island Tram. Another asked for your estimate of what will be the cost to both the MTA and RIOC to implement this coverage.

Since my letter was addressed to you, you might be able to imagine my surprise at being informed in a letter in response from NYC Transit President Reuter dated April 24, 1998, that these subjects involve "a policy issue which must be resolved by the Metropolitan Transport Authority and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation."

While I appreciate Mr. Reuter taking the time to respond and the helpful information regarding the health, safety and operations concerns I raised in my letter to you, it seems more than a little awkward to be told that I have to go back to you for the answers that I sought from you in the first place.

Between the two of you, could you please figure out who is in the best position to respond to my inquiries, and then do so. Thank you in advance for what I know will be your best effort to get this chain-of-command SNAFU straightened out.

Alexander B. Grannis
Member of Assembly

Dear Assemblymember Grannis:

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 1998 concerning the possible extension of MetroCard to passengers of the Roosevelt Island Tram. I apologize for the need for a second letter to answer this request.

MTA, NYCT, and RIOC have been discussing the possible use of MetroCard on the Roosevelt Island

Tram for the past several months. Many details would need to be worked out for this expansion to take place, including how the revenue shortfalls should be allocated. To date, firm estimates on costs have not been established. Discussions on these and other questions will continue until all issues are resolved.

Thank you again for your letter. I will keep you informed as this effort progresses.

E. Virgil Conway
Chair, MTA

To the Editor:

Thank you for the front page article on volunteers in our Island school (June 13). I want to thank the New York City School Volunteer Program, Inc. and P/S I/S 217 for allowing me to volunteer in their fifth and sixth grade math classes during the 1997-98 school year. I enjoyed every minute of my participation in the classroom work.

It was wonderful to work with such a diverse group of individuals representing so many different cultures and backgrounds. Mohammed and Sarah to Kristy and Sam in the sixth grade and Deshawn and Ndeye to Felipe and Katrice in the fifth and all the rest were exciting scholars not only in math, but in their constant questioning of the world that they live in. I love each and every one. I do wonder if parents of other children realize how much they have short-changed their children by transferring them out of our remarkable school.

As for me, I don't know whether I was really of any help in the classroom or whether I was successful in imparting any mathematical knowledge to any one of our students. I do know, however, that I learned more from them about teaching and learning than they did from me. I want to continue next year.

Thanks to the New York City School Volunteer Program, Inc. for offering me a new career.

Gene Schapiro

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to officials, and will consider publication on a *Name Withheld* basis, but the writer's name, address, and telephone number must be provided. **Preferred methods of submission:** IBM-compatible 3.5-inch floppy disk (any wordprocessing software) left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*; by ASCII text email (72260.20@compuserve.com); or typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered. We cannot take dictation of letters by telephone. **All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.**

Jim Bowser is on the mend. His editorial column will be back soon.



I find it ironic that Roosevelt Island provides such a spectacular view of perhaps the most impressive celebration in the country of the “Glorious Fourth,” which is America’s national symbol of our release from tyranny.

Even New York’s spectacular fireworks are not quite enough, after all, to truly celebrate the liberty from tyranny. The sheer glory of the ideal upon which our country was founded, which it has so successfully protected for 222 years, could not be celebrated deservedly enough if all the fireworks “from sea to shining sea” were gathered in one place and all set off at the same time.

America was, after all, the very first government to formally proclaim that each citizen has the inalienable right to responsibly choose how he will be governed. We’re so accustomed to that privilege today that it’s hard to imagine what it meant to minds that had never conceived such an idea.

The French were the first to follow our example and successfully demand self-governance from their monarch, and that demand created another Revolution, shortly after ours. By now, of course, most of the monarchies and other absolutist governments, at least in the western world, have conceded – some entirely and others to one degree or another – that this startling truth is, in fact, self-evident. Still, to this day, there are more people in this world still living under governmental tyranny than as rulers of their own lives.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”

And so, as a nation, we do. Thus it is strange to me to be watching this wonderful celebration from within the **only community in the United States of America from which this inalienable right is withheld.** I am sure there are many residents in our community who have never considered this fact and its implications. For fact it is. Although we participate in the election of New York City’s governing officials, those elected representatives have no authority whatsoever on Roosevelt Island. Not a jot. In fact, as many of them have discovered over the past two years, they are not even given common courtesy from those who *do* govern the Island.

If we lived in any other neighborhood in the City, and were disturbed over the issues that plague us here on the Island, we would have recourse and access to both our Community Board and the City Council through our elected Council member. If as many of us as have many times protested here expressed the same feelings, you may be sure City Council members would pay attention. They are elected, after all, to represent us.

But the City Council has no direct power in governing Roosevelt Island. Authority here is solely in the hands of RIOC, the state agency which does govern the Island.

For our first twenty years as a community, this tyranny was more benign than otherwise. The residents still had to make themselves heard, and fight for what they wanted, but no prior administration of RIOC ever failed to acknowledge the rights of the residents to participate in their community’s governance.

Until now, RIOC has always acknowledged that the Roosevelt Island Residents Association was the formal and sole duly-elected representative body of the residents. Until now, each administration has worked with the residents to negotiate satisfactory solutions to inevitable conflicts. Until now the state agency assumed, as did the residents, that government can only act with the consent of the governed. Until now.

It only goes to show that Thomas Jefferson and his friends were right. No government, no matter how seemingly benign should be left with absolute power. No citizen of the United States of America should be without recourse to elected officials, who, if they misperform, can be voted *out* of office, as they were voted in. We cannot vote RIOC management out of office.

If we took the matter to court, it is clear that the governance of our community would be found to be unconstitutional.

It is certainly true that each of our official off-Island representatives (City Councilmember Gifford Miller, State Assemblymember Pete Grannis, State Senator Olga Mendez) agree with the New York State Comptroller *and* the residents in assessing mismanagement of the Island by the current administration of RIOC. Each of them has vigorously supported our point of view at every turn, as has Carolyn Maloney, our U.S. Representative.

But not one of them has the authority even to get RIOC to return a phone call or answer a letter... several of which letters have been signed by them all.

RIOC has stated that the City Council has no say in how RIOC manages the Island. Thankfully, the City Council does not agree and will at least fight to hold RIOC to their lease agreement with the city. None of this should be necessary. Not in America. Roosevelt Island is a very small place, and we are burdened with a King George ourselves.

Two hundred twenty five years ago, no one in Europe would have bet a penny that the small, unruly, outspoken colony had a chance. The whole thing was a ludicrous idea authored by radicals who could be put down in a week by their rightful rulers, who hardly had time to consider them at all in the press of their own affairs.

Are you listening, King George?

RIRA President's Column



Patrick Stewart

COMING UP

Compiled by Claire Friedland • 317-8523

Sat., July 4, evening, Southpoint, **Macy’s Fireworks.** Tickets at the Tram booth in Manhattan, or at the gate at Southpoint, if still available.

All month, children and young adults may register at the Library for the **Summer Reading Program.**

July, all month, Summer program of the **Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance,** offering dance, exercise, acting classes. **371-1419.**

Sun., July 5, 10:00 a.m., regular meeting, **Roosevelt Island Art Association,** 546 Main Street, 12th floor. Live model. Call **517-0564.**

Tuesdays, Strollercize meets 9:45 a.m.

Wed., July 8, 8:00 p.m., open meeting of the **Common Council** of the **Roosevelt Island Residents Association,** Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Those attending are invited to address the Council during public session. No advance registration required.

Fax or phone event information to **317-8523.** Please provide a phone number for follow-up. **There is no charge** for listing Island events here.

Thur., July 9, 10:00 a.m., meeting of the **RIOC Board of Directors,** Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Residents who wish to address the RIOC Board must register in advance by calling **838-4540.**

Fri., July 10, 7:00 p.m., **Dining Out Group of Roosevelt Island,** Zodiac fish restaurant. Information: Harry Small, **583-0064.**

Thur., July 16, 7:00 p.m., **Jazzmobile** with **Etta James,** Good Shepherd Plaza.

Fri.-Sat., July 24-25, next scheduled issue of **The Main Street WIRE.** **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., July 17; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., July 20. **Future issues:** August 15, 29; September 12, 26; October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19; January 9, thereafter generally every two weeks. Unscheduled **extra** editions may be published as news and advertising support warrant; advertisers who would like to be included in one or more **extra** editions, without warning, are invited to call **826-9055** to make their interest known. **Phone/fax** for news, (212) **826-9055/755-2540;** phone/fax for advertising inquiries, (212) **751-8214/755-2540;** phone & fax for events, **317-8523.**

Thur., July 16, 7:00 p.m., **Summer Safety Problems,** Precinct Meeting with 14th Precinct and Public Safety, Senior Center, 546 Main Street.

Fri., July 17, TV program, **Community Board 8 Speaks,** 5:30-6:00 p.m., Time-Warner cable channel 34. Program on Roosevelt Island.

Wed., Aug. 5, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council meeting. Public invited.

Thur., Aug. 13, 10 a.m., RIOC Board meeting. Open to public.

Sat., Sept. 12, Mini-FDR Day. Watch this column for additional information.

Sat., Sept. 12, Youth Soccer Registration for ages 5-13. Season starts September 18.



Youth Memorial Fountain Plaque dedicated. The Island’s religious leaders participated in a moving dedication of the new plaques at Youth Memorial Fountain on Roosevelt Island Day, Saturday, June 20. Additional photo coverage, page 7.

Mike Keller Makes Eagle

Michael Keller has become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting. He was honored last month in a Court of Honor ceremony held by his fellow scouts in Roosevelt Island Troop 59.

On the way to the achievement, Keller earned 21 merit badges and seven ranks, and served as Patrol Leader and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. He has received the National Honor Medal for saving another’s life, and last year was a member of a scout crew that went to Philmont, the High Adventure base in the mountains of northern New Mexico, spending ten days backpacking 60 miles in back country.

For his Eagle service project, Keller researched and documented a tree walk on Roosevelt Island, producing a brochure for self-guided walks. He graduated from high school in June, and will attend Vanderbilt University in the Fall.



Website NYC10044

Mike Keller, Troop 59’s newest Eagle Scout, with his parents, Timothy and Kathy Keller, and Scoutmaster Geoff Kerr.

The WIRE

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Saturday, July 4, 1998

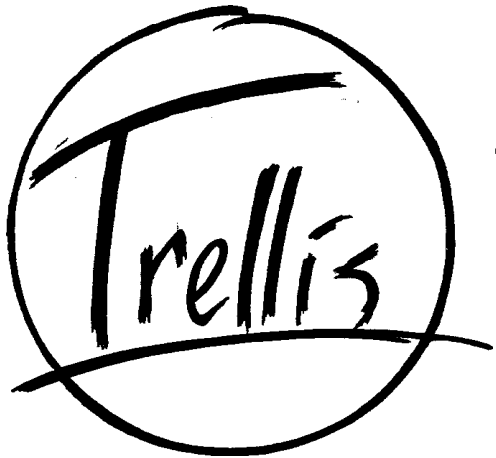
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Jim Bowser - Editor
Dick Lutz - Managing Editor
Copy Editor - Sharon Bermon
Advertising Manager - Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers - George Rubin, Sherie Helstien
Founding Publisher - Jack Resnick

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Happy Birthday,
America!

And Happy Birthday, New York City.

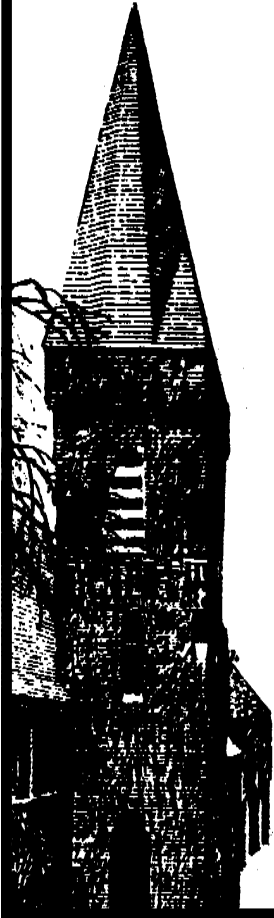
Roosevelt Island is part of that most special city in the world, New York, just celebrating the centennial of its creation.

And Roosevelt Island is – in our eyes – the most special place in that most special city. For residents and visitors alike, it's time to stop and note just what a great place this is.

And we're proud to be the restaurant at the heart of it. Come in and join us for coffee, lunch, dinner, or that late-night snack.

752-1517

*Better and better every day.
At the heart of the community,
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*



The Church
of the
Good Shepherd

We're here all summer – please join us.

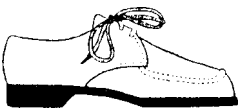
Morning Worship begins promptly at 10 a.m. each Sunday all summer long.

Our full schedule resumes Sunday Sept. 20th, with the return of our vicar and the resumption of Sunday School and Youth Ventures.

Adult Bible Fellowship resumes Tues. Sept. 22nd at 8 p.m.

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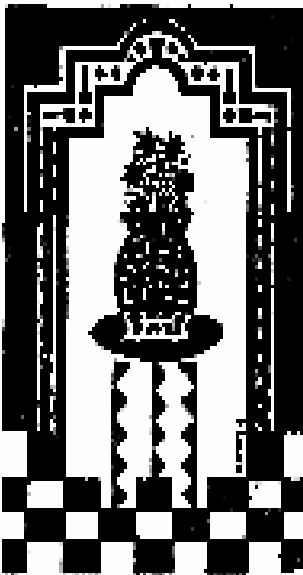
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Logue from page 2

Roosevelt Island Residents Association, which is the recognized voice of the residents, to start the process. Let the President of RIRA, Patrick Stewart, with the approval of the Common Council, announce his intention to form a 15-member Home Rule Charter Commission and call for volunteers. If there are too many volunteers, he can call for an election.

Creating home rule for Roosevelt Island as a substitute for RIOC would require amending Chapter 899 of the laws of 1984 and approval by a vote of the residents.

There are two essential provisions:

The Charter must continue to provide for state supervision of the four housing companies, which own the four housing projects, at least until the bonds are paid off. They were all refinanced in 1997 at lower interest rates.

For the protection of the rest of the State’s investment, the Home Rule Charter’s annual budget should provide for review and approval by the State director of the budget until those bonds are paid off.

These provisions should give all the assurance the State needs that Roosevelt Island will be fiscally responsible and accountable. Assemblymember Pete Grannis’s views on this would be helpful.

In addition to these basics, I would recommend consideration of the following points:

- **A non-partisan elected governing body**, drawn proportionately from each of the buildings, with perhaps an additional representative of the Island’s business community. The size and terms to be determined by the Charter Commission.

- **A chief executive**, either elected as Mayor, or appointed as town manager. In any event, whoever is chosen as CEO would be required to be a resident of the Island. Where would that family live? I suggest Blackwell House. I made sure it was suitable for family living. The term of the CEO to be recommended by the Charter Commission.

- The proposed charter should have a public hearing on the Island and another by the Manhattan Community Board, and possibly by the City Council. Councilmember Gifford Miller would be helpful on this point.

- A commitment in the charter to maintain the **economic balance** for the remaining 2,000 units called for in Southtown under the original plan. This will not be easy, but over time it is doable.

- A commitment for **a conference center**, hotel, office building and commercial center, all in Southtown near the subway, all as called for in the original plan and helping to support subsidized housing and the Roosevelt Island community generally.

- **The tram.** We deemed the tram necessary. It was the late architect-skier Bill Chaffee’s idea, necessary because the MTA was 10 years late in providing promised subway access. The tram should remain. I personally would give a long-term lease to the MTA at no capital cost with a commitment to retain it at specified levels of service. The consequent reduction in the insurance premium alone should make the tram run in the black.

- **Ban Main Street parking.** It is disgraceful that parking is permitted on Main Street. The revenue produced is trivial. Every time I have visited, there are more cars on Main Street.

- **Schools.** It was a major mistake to abandon the mini-schools. As the school population grows with more housing completed, those schools should be returned to use, perhaps with the younger K-3 grades. Livingston Street bureaucrats don’t like small schools. They are wrong.

- **The Roosevelt Memorial.** It was John Oakes, then Editor of the editorial page of *The New York Times*, who first suggested the name. We loved it and so did then-Mayor John V. Lindsay.

Then the Roosevelt Memorial group, the Four Freedoms Foundation, joined in and proposed a memorial to FDR. Everybody loved that idea. We picked the famous Lou Kahn as the architect. His work was delayed because he ignored our budget ceiling of \$4,000,000. When the final design came in it was approved all around, but he died before the contract drawings could be completed. UDC paid to have them concluded by a talented architect who deeply admired Kahn. UDC was also able to get pledges from Malcolm Wilson and John Lindsay (two Republicans!) to put up \$2,000,000 apiece. When the financial crisis hit New York City, Mayor Beame’s administration had to withdraw that pledge. The latest estimate I have heard, \$12,000,000, is absurd.

It seems to me that in these times, city and state could again be asked to chip in. I have not been impressed by the fundraising of the Roosevelt Memorial group. Their role needs to be completely reassessed.

Giacomo Manzu, a brilliant Italian sculptor, was engaged to do the statue. He has since died. I can think of a New York-based sculptor who could do the job very well.

In any event, a reconstituted, home rule-oriented Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation should take charge of getting the Memorial done.

There are other thoughts I have, but that is enough for now. I strongly urge the Roosevelt Island Residents Association to reach out and seek friends among its East Side neighbors and the Municipal Art Society. Of the various citations I have received, this is my favorite:

The Municipal Art Society of New York awards its Certificate of Merit to Edward J. Logue for personally seizing this opportunity and using all of his powers and skills to realize the very best of what is possible in making cities. Roosevelt Island is perhaps the most delightful place for living created in New York City in this century. We salute it for its playful tramway, for its charming riverine streets, and for the attention it pays to a broad range of design possibilities.

Conclusion: The residents are going to have to take the leadership and the initiative. If they are united, they will soon govern themselves.

MetroCard from page 1

munity.” Weinstein opposes a Tramway takeover by the MTA, but not all the residents and interested parties are agreed on that (see guest editorial from Ed Logue, page 2).

Larry Reuter, President of New York City Transit, acknowledges there was a lull in negotiations with RIOC, but says things have picked up lately. “Various things are under discussion,” he says, refusing to be specific but adding, “I think you’ll see something shortly. If we really take a look at the way RIOC operates, we may change the fundamental relationship.”

Resident James Kaufman, an attorney who serves with Reuter on the National Council on Transportation, demonstrates more disgust: “MetroCard was offered long ago to RIOC on the same basis as every other private transportation entity, and Blue rejected it, saying he couldn’t afford the equipment. Assemblymember Pete Grannis tried to reach Blue to say there is State money available in the 1998 budget for the equipment, but Jerry never returned his call. Jerry wants it to appear to Albany that he has created economic self-sufficiency for Roosevelt Island, when in reality that’s just not true.”

Michael Greason, speaking for RIOC, told *The WIRE* RIOC feels Roosevelt Island is included in the one city, one fair MetroCard deal, by virtue of subway and Q103 bus service.

Kaufman says out that Blue is concerned about a revenue shortfall on “second swipes,” those free transfers riders would get to the Tram.

A Real Threat?

But New York City’s transit economics are changing today, July 4, 1998, and a likely loss of commuter traffic could produce a shortfall for the Tramway, anyway. Here’s why:

Before the days of free transfers and a 10% discount for buying \$15 or more of Metrocard at once, it made little difference

whether an Island resident used subway or Tram. Either way, the cost was the same.

Once the discount became available, the incremental cost of a decision to use the Tramway instead of the subway became 15 cents – the 10% saving sacrificed when taking the Tram.

But now, anyone holding a weekly or monthly farecard will face an incremental cost of \$1.50 every time s/he takes the Tram, because after 12 rides a week or 42 rides a month, subways and buses become free, while the Tramway still exacts a \$1.50 token purchase.

Holders of the farecards will feel a real pressure to use the card every time they travel, lest they fall short of the minimum number of rides required to chalk up a saving. That means many – perhaps most – of the Roosevelt Islanders who commute to Manhattan daily will feel cheated, or guilty, if they forego a free subway ride and hand over \$1.50 for a Tram trip.

The Tramway’s rush-hour ridership is likely to drop, perhaps not immediately, and perhaps not all the way to the levels of off-rush trips. But a revenue drop is likely to be noticeable at RIOC, where Blue is keenly focused on break-even or better for the Island’s income and outgo, and still determined not to ask for the State subsidies that were promised for the Island until a 20,000 population mark would produce self-sufficiency. If the MTA ever drops the price on the weekly/monthly farecards, as City Council Speaker Peter Vallone has urged, more transit users will be pulled from the Tram.

In his attempts at economy, Blue has twice attempted to cut Tramway service in the past year. One was an announcement, posted suddenly and without effective community consultation, stripping away the last shift of the day and terminating service at 9:45 p.m. There was an outcry, and it didn’t happen, but Blue’s intentions were clear and the rollback of his decision wasn’t accompanied by any bankable guarantees that it wouldn’t happen again.

Blue’s second attempt at a Tramway cutback came after the January accident in which a construction crane damaged a cabin and scared the bejezus out of two dozen riders. Blue announced a layoff of Tramway staff and appeared determined to use the accident as an excuse to delay a return to service. Again, there was a stink, and he was overruled. But again, there was no ironclad guarantee he wouldn’t look for another excuse to cut Tramway service and costs.

Tram Secure?

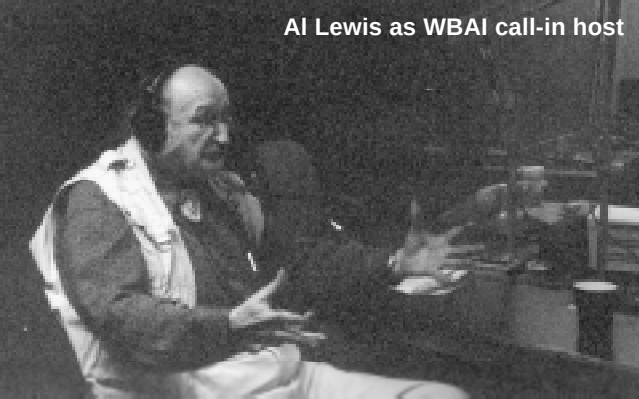
It’s unclear just how secure the Island’s beloved Tramway is. There have been occasional, quiet, off-the-record assurances from those nominally over Blue, but nothing in writing. Nobody, it seems, wants to get on the record in a way s/he might regret sometime later.

The result is a constant uncertainty about the Tram. On the one hand, there’s the nagging worry that cost-cutting might somehow win the day in a quick-savings move that most Tram advocates see as impulsive and short-sighted. The counterpoint to that worry is a nervous half-certainty that “it would never be allowed” – a Tram cutback, that is. The nervousness comes from the lack of reliable guarantees, and the nagging fear that the public officials responsible might just cave in next time Jerry Blue makes a case for saving money by cutting Tram service.

There is the insistence that the Tram is absolutely necessary to meet the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, and a strong sentiment to mount a legal challenge to any fiddling with the Tram.

Even so, near-term inclusion of the Tramway in the MetroCard system would go a long way to reassure Island residents that the Tram has a secure future as a part of Roosevelt Island life. But from the exchange of letters we publish on page 2 of this issue, we might judge that the officialdom involved is far better at passing the buck than getting the job done.

Lewis from page 1



lis chewing the fat with his cronies. With his ever present cigar, 60’s pony tail and well-worn clothes, he was... well, eccentric. Not at all like another famous Island House resident, the impeccably dressed Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the U.N. But on a recent day, there was Al Lewis, wearing a beautifully tailored, double-breasted, dark blue suit. His hair pulled neatly back, the only evidence of his sartorial individuality a broad-brimmed Western hat, he was on the way to a photo shoot for *Esquire*.

What’s happening? Unless you’ve been living in a coal mine for the last two months, you know that Al Lewis is running for Governor as the Green Party candidate. The Greens, best known for running Ralph Nader for President, probably don’t have a chance, and deciding to put Lewis on the ticket was initially perceived as an attention-grabbing stunt by some. But Craig Seeman, New York State Campaign Manager, sees Lewis as a legitimate candidate, “a grassroots activist who shares our politics and goals.” And Lewis doesn’t have to win to help the Greens (as they call themselves) in a big way. If Lewis gets 50,000 votes, and Seeman is convinced he will, the Green Party will have a ballot line and be on voter registration cards for several future elections, “and that will make it easier for activists all around the state to run in local races.” As if that statement isn’t strong enough, Seeman goes on to say that “if you vote for the losing major party candidate in New York State, (probably the Democrats this year) it will be a wasted vote; if you vote for Al Lewis, you will create a new political party in New York that will be a victory for all activists.”

Several months ago, Seeman began to listen to Lewis on WBAI and discovered that many of his positions were identical to the Green platform. After hearing Lewis say, on air, that taking action was more important than complaining, Seeman contacted Lewis, who after some discussion, agreed to be nominated at the August convention. For now, the radio show that started it all can continue, but FCC regulations will require him to give it up once he is an official candidate.

Lewis is fond of a Molly Ivins quote about “dancing with the one what brung ya.” But he says, “I’m a political person but I’m not a politician... Nobody brung me. I paid my own way to the dance.”

Lewis’s initiation to social activism came early. The son of a Russian-born Jewish mother who was the first of her family to come to the U.S., Lewis grew up respecting learning and hating oppression. A circus performer at 13, Lewis eventually earned a Ph.D. in Child Psychology because “it was a challenge and I thought I could contribute.” Challenging and contributing, two themes that have resonated throughout his life. But, disliking “the paperwork,” he left psychology after two years. As a busy full-time actor, he worked in radio, movies, and of course in television, first in Hollywood in *Car 54, Where Are You?* and then moved to New York for the *Munsters* role that changed his life and made him recognizable all over the world.

But Lewis was always an activist, and when he had a chance to work at WBAI, he jumped at the chance to have a forum for voicing his irreverent and outspoken opinions. WBAI Program Director Samori Marksman sees him as an inspiration to listeners, not just because he is “a fountain of youth” but because “he is not afraid to say what he believes.” And he regularly urges his listeners to action. Taking a page from Mayor LaGuardia, who read the comics to the children of New York, Lewis regularly reads from some of the 60 American and foreign newspapers and magazines to which he subscribes.

On a recent program, he was most passionate about a book suggesting that the Nazis were tolerated because they committed their atrocities in a series of steps and that “if Jews had been gassed in ’33 instead of ’43, people would have been horrified and done something.” Lewis asserts that the process of “gradualism” “is

happening in the U.S. today and power-grabbing gradualists are taking over more and more of American life. To Lewis, “going along just to get along” is “being a ‘good German.’”

Asked his definition of a happy life, Lewis says, “The secret is to find something you love to do, and then spend your life doing it.” When will her 88-year-old husband retire? Karen Ingthron-Lewis says adamantly “my husband is *never* going to retire!” Lewis backs her up by saying, “What would I retire to – the rocking chair?”

What is important to Lewis, he makes clear, is “the struggle – the advancement of people.” And he makes it even clearer that, for him, the struggle will not soon end.



Scenes from the Island’s family album

Of the hundreds of pictures we could print (if we had the pages) of the hundreds who came out to spruce up Roosevelt Island and have a good time together, we can’t resist the kids. So with apologies to all those who tolerated the snapshooting of those credited below, and who deserve the recognition of a photo here, we present some of the young faces that made the day shine.



As Vice-President of her children’s PTA, she persuaded school officials to keep the school’s after-hours center open until 7:00 p.m. for the offspring of working parents. She still visits St. Thomas regularly. Her family is well-known there; her late brother, Warren E. Brown, was a Secretary of the island’s Senate. Before Roosevelt Island, Dorothy Donald lived in the South Bronx. There she established and incorporated the Bronx Citizens Committee in 1975 and presided over its Board of Directors. The organization’s “Sobering-Up-Station” provided alcohol and drug treatment services to many clients in Morris Heights. In 1989 she moved to Roosevelt Island to live at 2 River Road, and got involved early on as an original member of the Tram Committee. Al Weinstein, who chairs that committee, describes her with respect that borders on awe, as “a very interesting and effective woman,” remembering how she helped the committee save the Tram when its continued operation was threatened. But her community involvement didn’t stop there. She served six years as her building’s representative to the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. “I like living on this island and I really like my apartment. We keep our building spic and span,” she says in a manner at once matter-of-fact and determined. Donald has been heard at meetings of the Board of RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, speaking encouraging words to Dr. Jerome Blue, its beleaguered President. Of him, she says, “He is really a very nice man, very polite. He is doing what he was sent here to do, but he’s getting blamed for carrying out the agenda of his bosses. It’s all just politics. I feel sure he’d like to live in harmony with this community, but he doesn’t trust anyone here. I wish the great silent majority on this island would give some help to Dr. Blue instead of fighting him.” She speaks of such matters from experience gained over a lifetime, and specifically through



Dorothy Donald as she spoke at the April meeting of the RIOC Board of Directors.

a 12-year period as a Research and Evaluation Specialist with the Hunts Point Community Corporation, a non-profit anti-poverty agency funded by the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. She was responsible for aiding low-income households by matching them with the appropriate social services. From that special perspective, she lobbied for federally-funded supplement programs. A certificate of appreciation proclaims, of her work: *You have enabled the New York City Food Stamp Alert to reach hundreds of thousands of fellow New Yorkers who could not have been reached without your commitment, continuous support and dedication.* “My staff and I visited hundreds of unemployment offices... people standing in long lines... We discovered that many could not apply for food stamps because they did not have even the small amount of money required to purchase them, until their first unemployment compensation check came through. I spoke with some men from the federal government about it, and shortly thereafter it was changed so there was no longer a charge for them,” she recalls. Still speaking from experience, she adds, “I believe in welfare. It has its place, but it is not a resting place.” A severe illness in 1978 forced Dorothy Donald to stop working. She lost her South Bronx home and found herself almost homeless. Then she heard about the Northtown Phase II proposal for Roosevelt Island and its planned apartments reserved for Seniors and the Disabled. She applied, and on December 15, 1988 heard that she had been selected for an apartment in 2 River Road. And that is how she returned to the much-changed Island where she had once worked, bringing her vibrant personality, her commanding presence, and her dedication to a new community. When asked what, over the years, has pleased her most, Dorothy Donald replies thoughtfully, “Helping other people, so that my life will not have been in vain.”

Roosevelt Island Residents Wage Battle Against Development

Plans for hotel complex are forcing citizens to finally confront commercialism.

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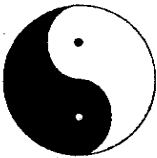
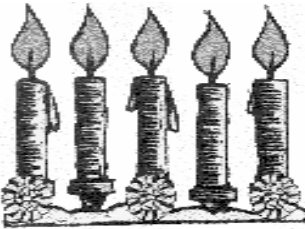
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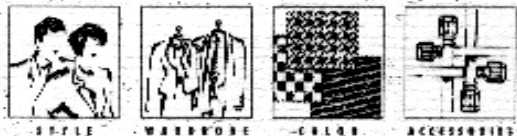
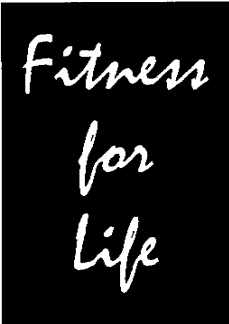
New York – It is a fight complete with Revolutionary War images: charges of an autocratic colonial overseer, secret treaties and groups of residents banded together to repel invaders. Welcome to the battle for Roosevelt Island. Not just 147 acres of prime real estate dotted by landmarks in the middle of the East River between Manhattan and Queens, the island stands as a piece of urban history – a prime example of the planned community movement, where people of difference races and incomes live together harmoniously. It is a small-town America plunked down in the middle of the nation’s largest city. Just 3½ minutes away by a spectacular aerial tramway from Bloomingdale’s country on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, the citizens of Roosevelt Island – some of whom commute by cable car – have enjoyed a sense of separation and distance from big-city worries. Until now. The calm has been shattered by plans to build a 355-room Marriott hotel with 26-story twin towers – plus a convention center and condominiums – in a gated community on 10 acres of parkland on the southern tip of the island. “They are trying to commercialize an essentially residential operation,” said H. Patrick Stewart, president of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. “It goes right back to George III – taxation without representation.” “The construction will take eight years of trucks coming onto our island, eight years of strangers coming in,” complained Jeffrey Hochman, a city planner who lives on the island. “We have the lowest crime rate of any community in New York. We want to keep it that way... It would totally change the fundamental character of the island.” “I think it would look appropriate in the Milwaukee airport,” scoffed Judith Berdy, Vice President of the island’s historical society. But officials of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. counter that the local economy badly needs improvement. “For the island to be self-sufficient, we have to complete what was envisioned in 1969,” said Michael T. Greason, the corporation’s director of communications. “We need to bring more development to the island ... We have 19 mom-and-pop shops, a candy store, a delicatessen, and even they are having a hard time making ends meet. The private population can’t sustain it.” Even so, he added, “change is never viewed favorably” among some of the longtime residents.

“The bottom line is, we are just another community in the city of New York, and we are the lease administrators,” Greason said. “We are not the colonial governors that they envision.” Although part of New York City, Roosevelt Island has a unique operating structure. Key decisions are made by a board of directors, nominated by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate. Three of the members must be residents. To understand the protectiveness some islanders feel, a little history is necessary. In 1828, New York City purchased the land, then named Blackwell’s Island – a decidedly unpleasant place with prisons, chronic disease hospitals and an insane asylum. Charles Dickens visited in 1841 – and was glad to leave. “Everything had a lounging, listless, madhouse air about it which was very painful,” he wrote. In 1887, Nellie Bly – the intrepid reporter for Joseph Pulitzer’s New York World – deliberately got herself committed to Octagon Tower, the mental hospital, to expose the facility’s terrible conditions. Mayor John V. Lindsay formed a committee in 1968 to explore plans for the island, and the idea of an economically and racially integrated community was born. It was renamed Roosevelt Island, and the first housing units opened in 1975. Today, there are 8,500 residents. One of them, Richard C. Wade, professor emeritus of urban history at the City University of New York, lectured RIOC President Jerome H. Blue in a letter to *The WIRE*, Roosevelt Island’s newspaper. “We were here years ago. We are here now. And we will be here after you are gone,” Wade wrote. “Why do you persist in making irresponsible proposals whose consequences you want to saddle on the island you scarcely know, and will be long gone before they even begin? Why not genuinely consult the residents who have to live with your cockamamie ideas, none of which will ever be built?” On a recent afternoon, teenagers hung out in front of the stores on Main Street as in any small town. A softball game was underway on one of the baseball fields. Along the promenade bordering the East River, senior citizens sat on park benches in the sunshine and exchanged confidences as a tugboat pushed an oil barge briskly upstream. There are tennis courts, swimming pools – enough greenery that the island was designated a Tree City USA for the fifth year in a row. The award goes to communities significantly contributing to the environment by planning and regularly maintaining trees.

But some residents fear their lifestyle is under siege. “[Blue] wants to go back to what was here 25 years ago,” said Wade, seated in his living room with a postcard-like view of Manhattan. “It is the most successful new town anywhere in the world Groups from all over the world come to study it. He thinks it is a failure. He will bring in the people we kept out before.” Opponents charge the plan was conceived secretly and sprung on them with little notice, like a squall on the East River. So they in turn have dispatched forces to Manhattan to form their own alliances. Meetings have been held with the occupants of posh co-op apartments on Beekman and Sutton Place, who look out at the island and don’t want their views spoiled by a hotel sign. Residents of the two Manhattan neighborhoods have demonstrated their clout before. When they objected to plans to build the Manhattan tramway station in their area, it was shifted uptown. Gov. George Pataki’s administration has stopped a long-standing policy of state subsidies to the island, arguing it must become self-sufficient. Plans are underway to build 2,000 more units of housing, and proponents say the Marriott project will provide an additional \$2 million in revenues and 100 jobs. Opponents argue the hotel complex which will be served by a ferry, is the wrong project in the wrong place, destroying precious parkland. An alternative would be to scale it down and include it in the new housing, to be built on a site called Southtown. “That was the original plan. That’s where the hotel was supposed to be,” said Edward Logue, the island’s original planner and developer. “We are not against development,” Stewart said. “We are against overly grandiose things.” Opponents argue that under the terms of the agreement that originally created Roosevelt Island, a vote of the New York City Council is necessary before the complex can proceed. That view is challenged by the operating corporation. “It [the agreement] really does not define anything,” Greason said. “It keeps things very, very generic. It has been ignored at times. It has been changed at times. It has been amended at times. For some people, the general development plan is the gospel. But it is not a statute.” Meantime, residents have adopted the philosophy of the first official American flag raised by Lt. John Paul Jones on Dec. 3, 1775: “Don’t tread on me.”

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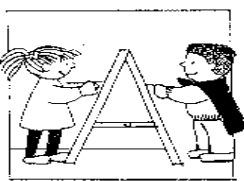
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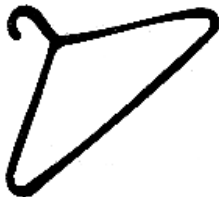
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Strikers Are State Champions

Roosevelt Island's Strikers won the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association Challenge Cup on June 20. Arthur A. Gray provided this report of the season and final game.

The final game was held Saturday, June 20, 1998 in North Rockland, New York. Within the first five minutes, the Roosevelt Island Strikers, a well-oiled team, scored the first goal. Pape Moustapha Seye made a beautiful pass to Mansour Seck, who popped it in. Twenty-five minutes later, the Hauppauge Patriots scored a goal, when the ball ricocheted off the foot of our defender, Dagan Uhle, and tied the game 1-1. So ended the first half.

In the second half, Mansour Seck and Lamine Toure moved the ball down the field, eluding Patriot defenses. Mansour, with a touch pass from Pape Moustapha, booted it in to give the Roosevelt Island Strikers a 2-1 lead. But still we needed an insurance goal. Those in attendance cheered the team on. The defense stepped up. Andrew Giacalone made several beautiful saves. Other defensive efforts from Papa Souleymane Sane, Nicholas Ortiz, Eugen Stancut, Mohammed Abubakar and Dagan Uhle shut down the desperate efforts of the Patriots. Repeatedly we went on the attack. Then Papa Souleymane, who had skillfully weaved through three defenders, passed the ball to Lamine, who expertly put it away for our third goal. Their defense was stunned.

Unfortunately Issah Sanusi and Nii-Ato Bentsi Enchill, who had played excellently all season long, could not participate in this game due to injuries.

The beautiful wood-carved winners' plaque was presented to our coaches, Brice Douma and Euloge Makombo. Players and coaches received medals and victors' jackets. Following the ceremony, our opponents'

play three elimination games to get to the quarter Finals: 6-0 against the Wantagh Sea Taz Devils; 5-2 against the Little Neck/Douglaston Eagles; 2-1 against the POB Hawks.

Our toughest game, on May 14, was against the POB Hawks. But the season's second game was the most distressing. We had home advantage, but the referee failed to show up two

Sundays in a row. The opposing team was determined that we should forfeit the game because of this, but the final decision

by the Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association was that we would have to give up home advantage and play the Eagles on their home field. Furthermore, the game had to be played in midweek, no later than 5:00 p.m. Scrambling to get home from various high schools and on to Long Island on time for kick-off presented perhaps a greater challenge than the game itself. We punished our opponents' demand for a forfeit by eliminating them.



Pape Mustapha Seye outflanks a Staten Island Jets defender in the State Cup semi-final game.

Then on to Cobleskill, a four-hour drive north, for the quarter-finals. We blew out Valley Storm 8-0. One could see the Strikers gaining in confidence. Then the Staten Island Jets came to our home field. Emil Cohill reffed a tight game. We took that one 2-1. The winning goal was a beautiful header by Papa

Souleymane. It was an excellent game.

We were not to be stopped, but we had to wait three weeks for the final game. We prepared. We challenged ourselves not to be overconfident. Nonetheless, there was the conviction in each player, "We will win!"

The Strikers victory was a dream come true for me. Claus Cardinal and I shared the presidency of the Roosevelt Island Youth Soccer Association (RIYSA) from 1988 to 1992. For years Claus, I and others dreamed of a travel team. The coaches, Brice and Euloge, urged us to make it happen. It took a determined woman to make our dreams come true. Christa Kornhuber, supported by her son Alexander's dedication to playing on the team, convinced her husband Joern to help her to manage the team. Ian Kross, the president of RIYSA, lent his firm support. Brice and Euloge took on the job as coaches.

The extensive efforts which Christa, Joern, Euloge and Brice put into making this a success are to be commended. Christa and Joern's home often became a home away from home for a number of players, and a place for many meetings. As a result, not only did the team win this State Championship, but also advanced to a close second place in the Cosmopolitan League, which is the league that covers the five Boroughs of New York City. Congratulations to each player and the whole team, and thanks to all who lent their support!



Jubilant Strikers gather for a team photo (page 1) after their State Cup victory.

coach generously said, "Our players are just not used to such a high level of play. But it was a good experience."

It was this quality of play that took the team all the way to the Finals. The Strikers had to

Youth Soccer (ages 5-13) resumes with registration the weekend after Labor Day. Information: **935-6598** or **688-3358**. More details here next *WIRE*.

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More Large Print Books at Library

Roosevelt Island's new New York Public Library branch has significantly expanded its collection of large print books, Lawrence Kapture, Branch Librarian, announced. The books, which have proven to be increasingly popular with senior citizens and others of impaired vision, provide a source of best sellers, biographies and other reading matter for those who have difficulty in using the books in the standard printed format.

By enlarging the special section, the Library is working to enhance its services to all segments of the Island's population.

Summer Reading Program

A New York State Summer Reading Club for children and young adults has been launched by the Library. Island youngsters may sign up at the Library and be assigned to "reading teams." They will then read books of their choice during the summer and will be given the opportunity to present reports on their reading at a gala party at the Library in September.

To sign up, ask any of the Library staff for information.

New Programs at Westview Pool

The Westview Swim Club has begun offering a variety of body building, strengthening and toning classes to all Island residents, under a new manager, Eric Soto. The club has been renovated and now has an entire range of body development equipment to support its slogan, "It's all at the Westview Swim Club."

A new slate of instructors is on hand for special classes in aerobics, yoga, body sculpting, water aerobics, and individual swimming lessons. A certified personal trainer is also available.

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To reserve places in classes or get additional information, call **421-5156**.

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