

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, November 17

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

in association with **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com



Kids of all ages turned out for last Saturday's Halloween Parade and spooky festivities. More photos on pages 6 and 7 and on *Website NYC10044*.

Town Meeting

Residents Oppose Separate Parking for Octagon Apartments

Residents speaking at last week's Town Meeting to review plans for apartments at Octagon Park were almost unanimously negative toward the idea of an on-site parking structure under raised tennis courts.

Some were negative about changing the Island's General Development Plan (GDP) – a kind of zoning that's part of the Lease under which the State is developing this City property – that would reduce the available area that might one day be accessible parkland.

Becker and Becker, the developer recently granted an extension of site control, pointed out that their plan would actually increase the amount of parkland available because at present so much of the area around the landmarked Octagon tower ruin is overgrown and unus-



Becker and Becker Associates

At last week's Town Meeting, Becker and Becker showed photos of this model of a renovated Octagon with added wings, the combination housing some 450 apartments in an 80/20 ratio – 80% market-rate, 20% "affordable".

able by residents or the public.

As reported in previous issues of *The WIRE*, the plan would provide up to 450 apartments, 20% of which would be "affordable" under State guidelines, with 80% renting at market rates.

A full transcript of the Town Meeting is available on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.

Bruce Becker told those attending the Wednesday night meeting in the Chapel of the Good Shep-

herd that his planners have been advised by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) that parking spaces in Motorgate are spoken for and are unavailable for tenants of the new development. But resident after resident urged other solutions: An arrangement with Coler Hospital, an expansion of Motorgate into the quadrant not yet built, added floors on Motorgate, or no parking at all.

See **Octagon**, page 8

It's Daffodil Day, and Other Briefs

It's Daffodil Day on Roosevelt Island. The City of Rotterdam and other Dutch cities and companies have donated a million bulbs to lift the spirits of New Yorkers after the September 11 disaster, and Roosevelt Island is planting its allocation today (Saturday, November 3). Planting areas range nearly the length of the Island.

Participants are asked to gather at 9:00 a.m. at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in what could turn out to be a kind of mini-Roosevelt Island Day. Planting equipment will be provided.

The Historical Society is sponsoring the activity with the cooperation of RIOC, Housing Management, Rivercross, the Garden Club,

Manhattan Park, PS 217, and various City agencies, including the Parks Department.

Christmas Lights for the Island? The Island's Chamber of Commerce is trying to round up financial support from Island organizations for strings of lights across Main Street during the holiday season. (See letter, page 2, from Chamber President Julie Palermo.)

An Alert Concierge at 30 River Road was responsible for the apprehension of a couple of thieves who, after working in an apartment, walked off with a number of items. The concierge saw them stuffing the loot down their pants and, when he challenged them, they surrendered a laptop computer, then fled on foot with a porter and handyman in hot pursuit. When they were caught near the subway station, they still had a camera and a CD player.

Seven Coler-Goldwater Residents will participate in Sunday's New York City Marathon. The team consists of two women and five men, three of whom will be using hand-crank devices designed

See **Briefs**, page 6

Credit Union Employee Charged, Fired, in Case of Missing Funds

A Montauk Credit Union employee has been arrested and charged with grand larceny after a surprise audit of reserve funds in the safe of the Roosevelt Island office.

Luz Reyes has been dismissed by Montauk, and is accused of taking \$21,077. She has been released on her own recognizance, with a court date set for January 10. Charges were filed by the Manhattan District Attorney's office. Reyes is represented by a Legal Aid attorney; neither could be reached for comment by press time.

On Tuesday, Montauk Controller Lou Jimenez told *The WIRE*, "This is an internal issue that has no bearing on the safety of member funds or the soundness of the institution. We are fully insured, and deposits are insured by the National Credit Union Administration." He added, "This is an event that opens up your eyes a little bit. It's an unfortunate set of circumstances."

The full text of the Public Safety report on the matter reads as follows:

10/17, Credit Union, 559 Main Street. Grand Larceny. V.P. of Operations of Montauk Credit Union requested PSD's presence at their location, relating to large amount of funds missing from the safe. Sgt. responded, spoke with the afore-mentioned officer, as well as CPA Auditor for the Union. The latter stated he had completed a "surprise" audit of Credit Union's safe and upon completion had discovered US\$21,077.00 missing and unaccounted for from the branch's reserve. The auditor ad-

vised the branch's coordinator, who has been making daily reports that safe total was accurate and all funds accounted for. The branch's coordinator informed the auditor that those funds had been missing since May 2001, since former employee left the Credit Union. The auditor then requested NYPD, and the branch's coordinator was transported to 114th Pct. so detectives could interview her.

The Public Safety Blotter, a full report of incidents to which Public Safety has responded, is available on *Website NYC10044*, on the Internet at www.nyc10044.com.

Islanders

Artist Marika Bordes: Finding a Story in the Wood

by Francine Lange

When Marika Bordes needs inspiration and materials for her art, she gets them from under the ground.

The faces, figures and masks in her sculptures emerge from tree roots. A native of Haiti, she calls herself a "story builder," and explains why she uses that medium. "It's the essence of the tree," she says, then switches to her own language to elaborate: "C'est une matière vivante." *It's living matter.*

For Bordes, now an Island resident whose most recent work is on display through November 15 in Westview's gallery window at 625 Main Street, creating meaning from outwardly chaotic situations is not new. Her artistic vision stirred when she was a child. She recalls helping the nuns in the convent boarding school she attended in Canada. When the school had an event or special function, she would help arrange the rooms and decorations. Later, in various jobs in Canada and back in Haiti, she did the same, to the amazement and delight of her colleagues. She also used her artistic touch to oversee the building of her house in Haiti and transform the plain gardens of the Canadian Embassy residence into an exotic paradise.

Although Bordes has been working in wood for only five years, the creative flame that sparks her other activities burns confidently high when

See **Bordes**, page 5



Richard Narcisse

Marika Bordes uses a mallet and metal gouge to shape a wood sculpture in this photo taken in her studio in Haiti.

The Editorial Page

Insight

At last week’s Town Meeting on the plan for apartments at the Octagon site, one resident put forth a succinct explanation of this community’s suspicious attitude toward RIOC, and the importance of the General Development Plan.

His remarks were greeted with lusty applause, and they deserve a wider audience, which we’re happy to provide here.

The voice is that of John Dougherty, an Island House resident who’s been here a dozen years:

I want to take one twist on the question of governance. Those of us who moved to Roosevelt Island became shareholders in a dream in the most tangible way possible. We moved here, we raised children here, we built community.

In the last few years – the last five or six years – there’s grown up some antagonism between the community and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. That’s because it has seemed to many of us that the Operating Corporation has not always acted in the interest of fostering community, and in fact has sometimes acted in ways that seemed detrimental to the fostering of a community here.

That’s why we tend to hold onto the General Development Plan as a kind of Holy Grail, because it’s our only means of exerting a counter-pressure to make sure the community remains a livable community. And anything that invades – particularly an amendment to the plan that begins to invade parkland – that takes a facility out of usage that is in general usage in the community – raises within us a suspicion that once again the livability of the community is being set aside.

So I urge Becker and Becker to take a very careful look at how to proceed with their plan in a way that does not go against the spirit of the General Development Plan, recognizing that is the way that we maintain our stake in the livability of this community.

As well as anything could, Dougherty’s understanding of the situation here demonstrates this community’s readiness to take over management of Roosevelt Island. As a community of people, we have the depth on the bench, the insight, the talents, and the will – as evidenced by two referendums that endorsed the idea of an elected RIOC Board overseeing professional management.

Now all we need is for Albany to see the obvious.

Keeping On

The post-September 11 period has not been a kind one for *The WIRE*. Advertising is down, and with advertising goes income. This 12-page issue carries enough advertising to support only an 8-page edition, but we just couldn’t drop four pages of important news and those Halloween photos.

We’re counting on readers, once again, as we bear down on the deadline for a Thanksgiving Business-Card issue. Your response will help *The WIRE* keep on keeping on.

Thanks.

DL



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Letters

To the Editor:

I write in reference to your article “No Quorum at RIRA Meeting” in the October 20 issue.

This is just a simple observation.

1. I was born in Europe
2. I live on Roosevelt Island
3. I stand for, and am successful in gaining Political office on Roosevelt Island under the auspices that I live on the Island.
4. I move to Brooklyn.
5. As I am not in the same situation as I was elected, I surely give up my office and stand at the next election under my different criteria.

The first person who should have seen this logic is the President of RIRA. If Mr. Katz would like to change the RIRA constitution, then change it first and then apply the changes. Do not attempt to change the constitution just to get his wife voting rights which morally she obviously does not have.

Further, I never read anything in Mr. Katz’s regular column in the same issue about his running mate refusing to stay at the meeting and allow a quorum to be counted. This is slime-ball politics.

I live in Manhattan Park. Ms. Helstien was elected to the Residents Association to represent me. I voted for her because she lived in Manhattan Park. If she had lived in Westview when she ran, I would not have voted for her because she would be unable to represent me as a Manhattan Parker. She *cannot* represent me because she does not live in Manhattan Park. She should do the honorable thing and stand down because she is trying to be a politician without a constituency. The fact that she was voted Secretary of the Association has nothing to do with it. Elect a new Secretary who has a real constituency and who was voted for into that position.

I would also like to thank Ms. Helstien for her community spirit and for the work she has done so far for the community. If I live in Westview at the time of the next election, I would probably vote for her.

If possible, I would like my name and address to be withheld.

Name Withheld

To the Editor:

Many a latter-day Columbus has arrived on these shores thrilled to be in New York. Underlying this joy, however, is a foreboding, fuelled by the gratuitous scenes of violence aired on TV and movie screens, the world over. Some of us foreigners have had the good fortune to escape this trauma by making a landfall on Roosevelt Island; a sylvan setting from which we cast our untroubled gaze on the boroughs trying to box us in.

Over the years, I have often wondered what it is about this Island that pleases me most but recent events have made that self-apparent. It springs to my attention, that over the past five years I have always encountered the friendliest faces at our local post office. Perhaps their contribution is not as dramatic as that of the fire department or the police force but our small band of postal workers reports for work every day with the same Anthrax threat hanging over their heads as those establishments which are spotlighted daily on our TV sets.

I therefore respectfully call on all Roosevelt Islanders to acknowledge the services of the friendliest post office in New York. My wish is that we will never have to light candles and place flowers outside their door.

Peter E. R. Cross

To the Editor:

Of course Leo Kayser is right: “It’s economics.” So why doesn’t he or anyone else go after the person who illegally (in violation of the GDP) has withheld five years of our State subsidies — Governor Pataki?

The census shows that we’ve grown to 9,500 residents. That’s not the 16,000 that the GDP states would permit the State to end its subsidies.

What is it about Pataki that makes him immune from law while his puppets on RIOC try to replace the stolen money by cutting Tram hours?

Pataki had a staffer tell me that it was RIOC’s job to clean the streets and the name of the engineer in charge. So why have papers been unremoved from Main Street since at least February?

Why doesn’t active, intelligent Leo Kayser clear up these two problems?

Why doesn’t RIRA sue Pataki as Ed Koch advised?

I love living in a place with such strong community ties, recognized as the most integrated place in the world. But does that mean that it has to be the most spineless place in the world?

Frances Salten

Letters deadline for
Nov. 17 issue: Nov. 12
Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis

To the Community:

The Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce was asked to organize the installation of holiday lights across Main Street.

After a thorough survey of the cost we realized that the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce did not have the funds to do the job alone.

I came up with the idea that this would be a great time if all the organizations on Roosevelt Island could participate in this project to bring a little joy to the community, especially in view of the terrible events of September 11.

In this spirit we are asking each organization, including RIOC, Public Safety, and the two Housing Management companies, to either sponsor a string of lights or join with other organizations to sponsor lights or figures.

Each string of lights across Main Street will cost \$500. Lights, angels, snowmen, or other figures attached to the light poles cost \$250 each. On the Eastwood side of Main Street there are 16 light poles. On the west side there are 11 poles. I feel a combination of 10 to 12 strings and figures will make Main Street beautiful. This includes all religious symbols.

Time is of the essence as we must have an answer by November 14.

Thanks for your consideration of this community project.

Julie Palermo, President
Chamber of Commerce
(212) 935-8779 / 1-646-226-6671

Be part of *The WIRE’s* Thanksgiving Business Card Issue

Do it to advertise your service
Do it to advertise your business
Or just to support The WIRE

Only \$35 prepaid (3.5 x 2.0 inches)

Send your card and your check,
payable to *The WIRE*, to:
The WIRE, 531 Main Street #413, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

Cards will run slightly reduced to 3.3w x 1.8h. The word *retired* will be added, if you wish.
You may type or write additional information on your card, if appropriate, to indicate the nature of your work, or provide brief separate copy to be added by *The WIRE* to an open spot on the card.

Want to send a greeting or advertise a service? No card? Provide *brief* copy and we’ll set it up.

DEADLINE • Wednesday, November 7 • DEADLINE

**Send it in now while you’re thinking about it,
and show your support for *The WIRE***

If you prefer not to publish a business card but would like to support *The WIRE*, contribute \$20 and have your name on a list that will accompany the business cards.
Thank you for supporting *The Main Street WIRE*, Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper.

COMING UP

Compiled by *WIRE* staff – Fax information to 755-2540
e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com
or click on the e-mail link at www.nyc10044.com

Now through Nov. 30, UNICEF Window Display, Rivercross window gallery.

Tue., Nov. 6, Election Day. Balloting to 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at PS/IS 217.

Wed., Nov. 7, 8:00 p.m., RIRA Common Council Meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., Nov. 8, 8:00 p.m., Emergency Readiness Workshop with Shauli Lev of Israel, co-author of *Survival*, a security and self-defense manual, Main Street Theatre (entrance behind hardware/video store, or Cultural Center entrance on Main Street). Free.

Thur., Nov. 8, Postponed to November 15: RIOC Board of Directors meeting. (See listing below.)

Mon., Nov. 12, 8:00 p.m., Roosevelt Island Toastmasters, Westview Community Room, 625 Main Street.

Tue., Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m., Author Program at the Library, featuring Linda Fairstein discussing her latest mystery, *The Deadhouse*, in which Roosevelt Island is an important setting.

Thur., Nov. 15, 5:30 p.m., RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Meeting typically begins with a private executive session running 1-2 hours, followed by public meeting. Members of the public may address the Board following the formal meeting.

Sat., Nov. 17, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Nov. 9; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 12, with materials due Thur., Nov. 15. **Future issues:** Dec. 1, Dec. 15, then every two weeks starting early in January, 2002. **Phone/fax** for news, **826-9055/755-2540**; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, **751-8214/755-2540**; to list your organization's Island events here (no charge), fax information to **755-2540**, or e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Sat., Nov. 17, 10:00 a.m., Roosevelt Island Walking Tour, led by Judy Berdy. Meet at the Library.

Tue., Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Kindred* by Octavia Butler, Library. Advance registration required.

Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., A Christmas Concert with tenor Daniel Rodriguez and the cast of *Broadway Magic*, Chapel of the Good Shepherd; fund-raiser for Chapel organ. Tickets \$20; \$15 for seniors and disabled, available after Catholic services Friday and Saturday. Information and tickets: **751-1347**.

Tue., Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Bodega Dreams* by Ernesto Quinonez, Library. Advance registration required.

2002
Sat., Jan. 5, all day, **Blood Drive**, Senior Center, sponsored by RIRA, the Icla da Silva Foundation, RISA, and the New York Blood Center.

Tue., Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Surfacing* by Margaret Atwood, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Mar. 19, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Apr. 16, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., May. 21, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., June 18, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., July 23, 6:30 p.m., Book Discussion, *The Orchid Thief* by Susan Orlean, Library. Advance registration required.

Ruth Limmer

Ruth Limmer, a longtime resident of Roosevelt Island, died shortly after midnight on Wednesday (October 31).



She was born November 23, 1927, in Manhattan's Washington Heights. She was a 15-year resident of Rivercross.

She attended Brooklyn College for her BA degree, then shifted to Mills College in Oakland, California, where she earned an MA in English and Writing.

Coming out of school she followed the usual route of the recent graduate, becoming an editor at McGraw Hill. She soon determined to follow her bent as a born teacher, serving a 20-year period as a Professor of English and Writing at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio. In 1974 she became the Chair of the English Department. See **Limmer**, page 9

Theresa McCann

Theresa Ann McCann died last week at age 73.

The sister of Rev. Luke McCann, priest of the Island's Catholic parish, she leaves her brother and several nieces and nephews.



At Sunday's Funeral Mass, Nancy McCann talked about her aunt's life:

"In many ways, the life of my aunt and godmother is captured in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, 'Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.' She lived a life of great generosity and great devotion to her family, always available to others, always making sacrifices for others, and with a graceful humility that never called attention to the good she was about doing.

"The loyal core of Theresa's being was formed in her parents' Irish Catholic household on 108th Street during the difficult years of the Depression. She was born Jan 24, 1928, followed over the next four years by James, then by Luke [Father Luke McCann], the baby of the See **McCann**, page 4

Last week I returned home from Manhattan on the Tram late one afternoon. There were several people in wheelchairs waiting for the elevator at Tram Plaza. I walked up the stairs to inquire about the elevators, only to be informed that both the primary car and the wheelchair backup were not functioning. I asked the token booth attendant what the contingency plan was, only to be informed that there was none.

The only alternative for someone in a heavy motorized chair is to get over to the subway and hope all the elevators there are working, or take the bus into Queens, change for the Q102, and hope all the wheelchair lifts are working. There must be a better way.

Since then, I have called the Tram telephone number twice and left messages for Minnie. Neither message has been answered. I understand from several RIOC sources that the two Manhattan Tram elevators have been "on-again-off-again" for the past week (I'm writing this on Tuesday, the 30th). Today, I spoke to Vincent Kopecki, chief RIOC engineer, and voiced my concerns. He said he would ask the Tram people to inform him immediately when both elevators were out of order, and that he would investigate assigning a red bus during that period. This seems like an excellent plan, and I asked Vinnie to let me know when it was in place so that I could tell you.

I want to commend the many Roosevelt Islanders who were able to attend the Town Meeting on October 24 to discuss the Octagon development. I thought the quality of your questions and remarks was very high, knowledgeable and very useful to the debate that has swirled about us since May of 1999. At the conclusion of the meeting, Bruce Becker, president of the firm seeking to build the apartment complex, echoed those sentiments.

The Becker & Becker Associates (BBA) presentation was as professional as always, and reflected the community input from previous sit-downs. If there was any consensus on the details of the plan from the many residents attending, it was that the proposal to build a parking garage under raised tennis courts was a terrible idea. Speaker after speaker, including some tennis players and some car owners, decried the plan for more parking, citing Motorgate's capacity for many additional vehicles and the deleterious impact on both adult and children's tennis.

City Councilmember Gifford Miller discussed the necessity and mechanism of amending the General Development Plan (GDP) to accommodate this project. There has been discussion as to whether the footprints of the old Pauper Lunatic Asylum would preclude the necessity of amending the GDP. However, RIOC seems ready to submit a proposed amendment, and I hope Gifford will share it with the community as soon as the language is set. The RIRA Planning Committee had drafted a resolution last March endorsing the concept of the BBA proposal, requesting certain specific changes and with the proviso that the GDP be amended before the project can proceed. For various reasons, this resolution has not yet been put to a vote in Common Council.

City Council hearings will likely be required to amend the GDP, although nothing about the process is clear. Miller noted that he is not on the pertinent committee that would conduct the hearings but, at a resident's request, agreed to use his influence to try to site the hearings here on Roosevelt Island.

I found it interesting that one interest group was not heard from at the Town Meeting. There were many wishing to modify the existing plan for practical or aesthetic reasons. Those opposing Octagon Park Apartments in order to preserve parkland were quite vocal. But no one spoke specifically in favor of building a housing development on Octagon in preference to any other use of the space. Is this because we feel that we must settle for the Becker plan now or lose the Octagon landmark entirely? I don't know and I hope you will make your opinions known through *The WIRE's* Letters column. What is decided now will impact on our community for the rest of our time here. A neighbor (thanks, Zakieh!) brought to my attention a *New York Times* article in which City Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern was quoted: **"Parkland is forever. If you lose that land, you can never get it back."**

This may be the best use of the Octagon landmark for both current and future Islanders, but we had damned well better be sure before we endorse anything. It's our responsibility to find out for ourselves and to participate in the City Council hearings process when called upon to do so. Our parkland is our birthright, and if we sell it for a mess of pottage we will have a long time to regret the mistake. Please let your voice be heard.

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer's name, address, and phone number must be provided for verification and for our records. **Preferred methods of submission:** PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*, or by e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (ASCII text preferred or use any wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files with macros). **Alternatives:** Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance and to editing for length and clarity.** We recommend observing a maximum length of 300 words, but will consider longer letters if their content merits the required space.

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz
RIRA President
e-mail: matthewkatz@rcn.com

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

Tuesday

10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:30, **Games** (RISA)
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well Exercise**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)

Thursday

10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance Class**

Friday

9:00, **Citizenship**
10:15, **Yoga Stretch**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
11:15, **Stay Well**
7:30, **Lotto**

Saturday

7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Mon., Nov. 5, 10:30, Crime Prevention

Wed., Nov. 7, 12:15, Health Awareness Lecture

Wed., Nov. 7, 12:30, Oriental Calligraphy (also Nov. 21)

Thur., Nov. 8, 11:00, Stop & Shop trip

Mon., Nov. 12, 11-12:30, MetroCard Bus

Wed., Nov. 14, Atlantic City trip (RISA)

Fri., Nov. 16, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Free Flu Shots

Sat., Nov. 17, 7:00, Annual RISA Dinner

Wed., Nov. 21, 12:30, Oriental Calligraphy

Mon., Nov. 26, 10:00, Medical lecture and blood pressure screening

Tue., Nov. 27, 12:15, Basic Estate Planning

Wed., Nov. 28, American Rhapsody Concert trip

Fri., Nov. 30, 9:30-4:30, Cardio-Vision Program

Home-delivered meals available: 744-5022, ext. 1203

Roosevelt Island Gets a Starring Role in New Fairstein Novel

Linda Fairstein will appear at the Island branch of the New York Public Library Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 p.m., to discuss *The Deadhouse* and her research for it.

by Lynda Laux-Bachand

When Linda Fairstein was writing her third novel, she already had the setting in mind for her fourth. It was Gothic ruins she passed every day on her drive to and from work in the Manhattan District Attorney’s office, where she has been chief of the Sex Crimes Bureau for more than 25 years.

The ruin that Fairstein had been gazing at over the years from FDR drive, especially when it’s “lighted dramatically at night, with its pointed, arched windows and crenellated roofline,” was the Smallpox Hospital on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island.

Fairstein talked about the hospital, her new book, *The Deadhouse*, and the history of the Island during a *Meet the Author* hour at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on 66th Street last week.

Until she began research for her book, the fourth mystery in the Alexandra Cooper series, Fairstein didn’t know what the building on the Island had been, just that it was a beautiful and haunting sight. She found out what it was at the New-York Historical Society Museum library, but she learned much more, she said, when she contacted the Roosevelt Island Historical Society and met with Judith Berdy, who, Fairstein told her audience, is the Historical Society.

Berdy provided her with background on the building and the Island, showed her old photos of the hospital inside and out after it was abandoned by the City, and even arranged for Fairstein to travel beyond the locked gate to view the ruins close up. Fairstein had her photo taken there as well as other shots of the ruins, two of which appear on the book jacket.

She gives Berdy special credit in her book for helping with the research, saying Berdy shared her “passion for Renwick’s stunning skeleton.” James Renwick, architect of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, designed the hospital in the mid-



Photo: Sigrid Estrada
In a book jacket photograph, author Linda Fairstein is pictured at the ruins of the Island’s smallpox hospital at Southpoint.

1800s. Fairstein described her research to her audience at Barnes & Noble as so satisfying that she had to be reminded to end it and actually start writing the book.

Besides the protagonist Alex Cooper, a Manhattan sex crimes district attorney like Fairstein, and homicide detective Mike Chapman, who helps her solve cases, Roosevelt Island, both past and present, stars in the mystery. Indeed, the climactic scene takes place on its rocky shoreline.

The setting of the Smallpox Hospital gives readers a chilling reminder of recent headlines. Fairstein’s writing seems prophetic in a conversation between her protagonist Cooper and a college professor about who would profit from a study of the hospital’s history. The professor says:

“There’s enormous debate in the field of medical ethics about whether or not the smallpox virus should be completely eradicated when the disease is conquered worldwide. Since you need the actual virus to make the vaccine, does one save a small amount of it against the day that some form of the pox reappears in the world? And who is the keeper of the deadly virus? Who do we trust not to engage in germ warfare?”

Fairstein put her research to good use as she packs a lot of detail in the book about the Smallpox Hospital, the nearby Strecker Memorial Laboratory, the famed Octagon lunatic asylum near the northern end of the Island, and the history of the penitentiary, now just rubble near the lab and hospital. And the “deadhouse” itself? Its location is a matter of speculation until the final chapters.

Sharp-eyed Islanders will find a few errors. The Meditation Steps and Blackwell House are reversed in the map key in the front of the book and Fairstein takes poetic license in her description of the arrival and departure of the Tram cars. But for many residents, the historical information in *The Deadhouse*, including the story of a prison scandal, should be a revelation.

The case that Cooper and Chapman must



Roosevelt Island’s landmarked Smallpox Hospital was designed by James Renwick, who also designed the Lighthouse at the northern end of the Island and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. More photos of this and other Island landmarks are part of the TimeLine on Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com.

solve is the murder of King’s College professor Lola Dakota, who is found at the bottom of the elevator shaft in her apartment building. The cast of suspects includes her abusive ex-husband and other professors who, with Dakota, are studying and excavating sites on Roosevelt Island.

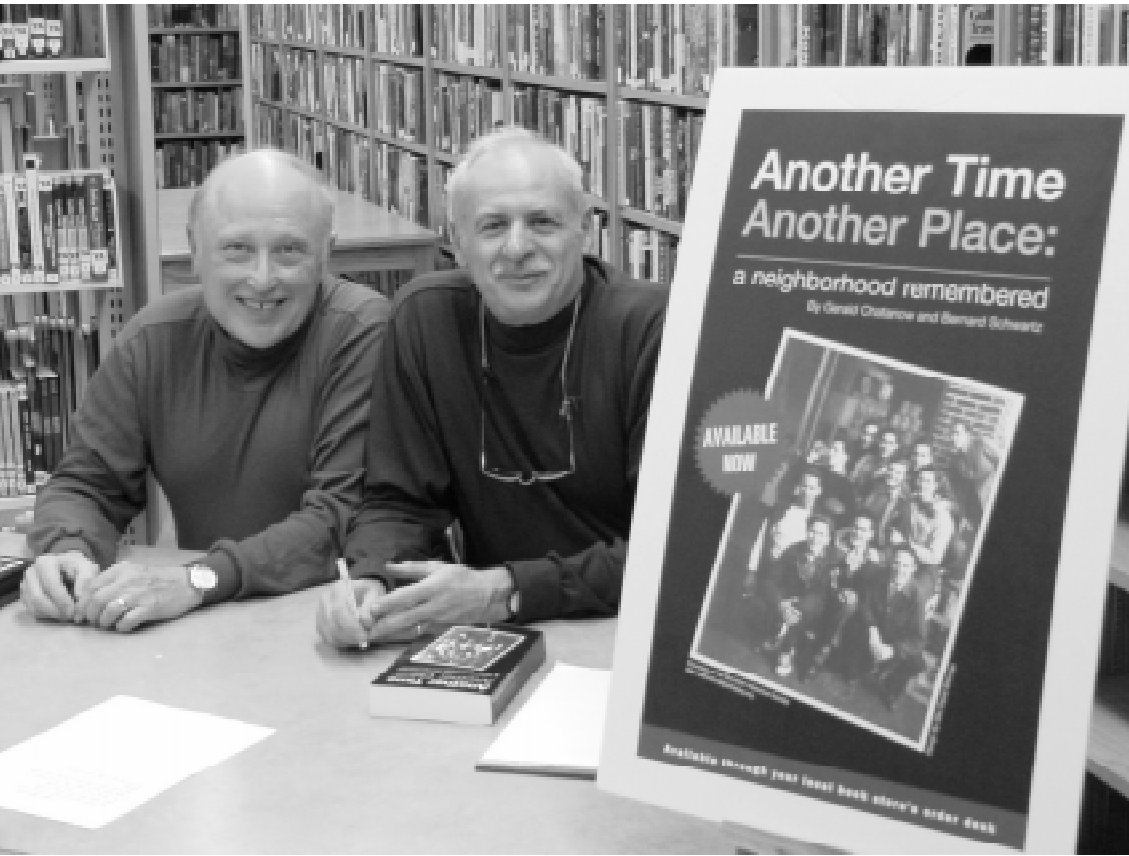
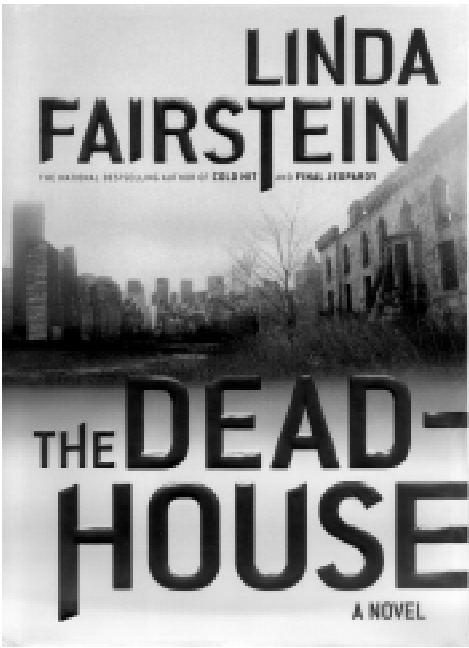
Fairstein said she was interested in the competition between college professors and used that in this mystery, along with the Roosevelt Island research. She also satisfied a request from some of her readers who wanted to know more about Chapman’s personal life. Fairstein obliged in this book, giving him a new romantic relationship with an architect.

She also cleverly lets Chapman, described as a history buff in her earlier mysteries, present some of the history of Roosevelt Island in an early chapter.

Island residents may be particularly interested in one of the ideas in the book – the question of restoring the ruins.

Residents will have a chance to meet Linda Fairstein and hear her talk about the book and the research for it when she appears at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Island branch of the New York Public Library on Main Street next to the Thrift Shop.

The book is available at most commercial book stores.



Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com
Islanders Gerald Chatanow and Bernard Schwartz appeared at the Library recently to discuss their book, *Another Time, Another Place*, a remembrance of their Brooklyn neighborhood when they were youngsters.

Website NYC10044
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It’s not just for the insiders.

McCann from page 3

family. Theresa saw first-hand how her parents lived. In turn, she molded their example into her own being. She leaves us her life as an enduring legacy.

“She never went to college, but gave that opportunity to her brother James. She attended business school, then spent 43 years with American Brands, eventually rising to the top of her profession as the executive assistant to the Chairman of the Board. ‘Aunt Theresa was a visionary,’ said her nephew Bob. ‘She had a full-time career before women had one, before it was accepted that women were indeed allowed to have them. She was the confidante of the men running American Tobacco. That speaks volumes. Back then it was practically revolutionary.’ She retired in 1995 after a career that was a lesson in commitment to consistent hard work and a disciplined life.

“Perhaps the most powerful life lesson that Theresa taught us was about absolute loyalty to family and friends. She looked after her mother all her life. That wasn’t always easy but, as a team with Uncle Luke, that devotion continued to the day Nana died.

“She was a private person who did not display feelings, but felt things very deeply. She opened her apartment to family members needing a place to stay after college. Over the years she typed up every kind of application we ever had to submit, did it after working all day, and never made a mistake.

“While Theresa never gave physical birth, she was a second mother to many. She was like a big sister. She took charge of situations. She was a formidable woman. Her nephew Bob said she could be counted on for anything, ‘the one person you could turn to in a time of crisis.’

“When my son, J.P., was four years old, he said something about Uncle Luke ‘and his wife, Aunt Theresa.’ I explained to him that they were not married – that Uncle Luke was a priest and Theresa was his sister. But the point really was that J.P. sensed the special bond between them. It was always Luke and Theresa – one word – like one individual – a partnership.

“We always wanted to believe that Theresa would always be there – strong, caring, utterly no nonsense about every aspect of life. Right by Luke’s side, smiling, enjoying his stories, telling you about ‘Lukey’s busy life,’ about what he was doing at church, about some person he was helping. None of us wanted that ever to change.

“At funeral masses Uncle Luke prays with special emphasis, ‘I believe in the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.’ Amen to your life, Theresa McCann – daughter, sister, aunt, friend. Amen to all you gave and all you taught about loyalty and love.”



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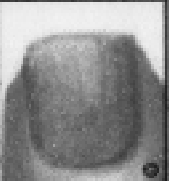
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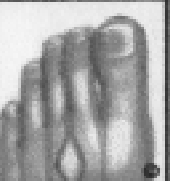
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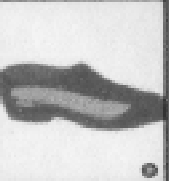
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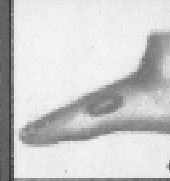
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Bordes from page 1

she takes up her woodworking tools. Yet the story of her introduction to this art is one of some hesitation and fear.

In 1994, she commissioned Sanon, a well-known artist in Haiti, to create a work from a five-foot root she had rescued from a building project. Each time she visited his workshop in the hilly Petionville suburb of Port-au-Prince, she would give him suggestions.

One day, Sanon responded. "He looked at me and said, 'Madame Bordes, you can carve.'" She politely thanked him but secretly doubted. She could picture the possibilities of the wood but not herself working with it. He sensed her interest and finally offered to teach her. She bought a book on wood-carving and some tools. When Sanon saw them, he laughed at the dainty set and made some for her that were almost three times the size. Every Sunday, for several hours, Sanon patiently guided her hands as she pounded a piece with a mallet, then gouged, carved and sanded with the custom-made tools.

Over the next couple of months she followed his lead, not making a move without consulting him. During the week, after her regular job, she would take up her tools to complete his assignments. The physical work, which she did all by

hand, was challenging. But over the months, she developed an attachment. "I fell in love with the wood," she says.

Then, Sanon did something that pushed her to a new level. With no explanation, he discontinued the

Marika Bordes

lessons. Confused and angry, she continued working on her own. In anger and frustration she pounded and carved a root, not caring if she was making a mistake.

One Sunday, as she was working in her studio, Sanon walked in. "He was so happy," Bordes recalls. "He told me, 'This is exactly what I wanted to produce. When I was here, you couldn't get out of yourself. But I made you so mad you started do-

ing it.'" By withdrawing his support, Sanon had forced her to rely on her own skill. "From that day, I was not afraid of the wood," Bordes says.

Over the years, Bordes's love affair with the wood has only increased. She describes her style as that of a "story builder." As she looks at a root, she says, she begins to see a story. It may be the love between mother and child. It may be the agony a woman experiences in childbirth. Or, in the case of one of the pieces in her current show, it is Bordes's response to the horror visited on this country on September 11. She peels away bark to reveal various colors and textures. She may smell or taste the wood to help her imagine its shape. She says she speaks to it, too: "I don't want to break you." She adds, by way of explanation, "There is a communication."

No two pieces are alike. Her works range from six-inch figures to sculptures towering more than eight feet.

While she searches for a regular studio, Bordes works on smaller pieces in her home. A member of the Roosevelt Island Visual Arts Association, she participated in a group show on the Island in May. She says she may work with other materials in the future. But her love for the essence in her wood sculpting ensures her loyalty. "I will always come back to the wood," she says.

Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

The works of Marika Bordes are currently displayed in the Westview gallery window.

RIOC Execs Talk About Their Days at Ground Zero

by Robert Laux-Bachand

“Everybody’s got a story,” Robert Antonek, Vice President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), said this week when asked about his experiences at ground zero in the hours and days after the collapse of the Twin Towers.

That’s about all you’ll get out of him. While hundreds of Island residents and hospital personnel were standing transfixed on the East River promenade, watching the great plume of destruction, Antonek was hitching a ride from his home in the Bronx, driven, as were so many others on Sept. 11, to be there, to do something.



Robert Antonek

He knew people who worked in the World Trade Center; he knew there were State agencies with offices in the Towers. He is a State employee, and he felt that he needed to do something – that he couldn’t just go to work as he normally would on such a day. He arrived at ground zero about an hour after the towers collapsed and was among those who dug into the vast pile in a vain attempt to find survivors or even the bodies of the victims.

He found a few scraps of evidence in those first hours. Later, he learned that no one he knew was among the victims; they all got out. He also took a picture, he doesn’t remember exactly when, and it looks like Hell.

The photo, framed, is about the only thing on the walls of the

office of RIOC President Robert H. Ryan. It’s smudgy and dark and looks as though it was taken in black and white, although Antonek says it was a color photo. It shows two firefighters on the rubble, some intact structures of the World Trade Center in the background and a mountain of rubble. Ryan says there’s a flag in the picture, but it’s hard to make it out.

Antonek and Ryan spent two weeks at ground zero; about ten other RIOC workers, including Island residents Carl Crews and Eddie Perez, who work in RIOC’s program management, and engineer Vincent Kopicki, also volunteered their time.

“We were just helping out where we could help out,” Ryan said. “We were doing logistical stuff, we were helping see that food and supplies were delivered. We were working out of Pier 40, which is a State facility. We were basically seeing that whatever needed to get down to ground zero, whether it be food or water, clothing or equipment, that it was moved and got down there. We were all working like 18, 19-hour days.”



Robert H. Ryan

“We were there every day, 20 times a day,” Ryan said. “The first night, myself and Rob Antonek, we spent the whole night driving around, distributing water to the firemen. They had no water at the site, no drinking water, we were driving around with a vehicle loaded down with cases and cases of water for the rescue workers.”

“The first day, after I was sure everything was secure here, we all felt we’ve got to do something,” Ryan said. The RIOC

personnel worked out of the Hudson River Park Conservancy facility on Pier 40, close to ground zero, which had small all-terrain vehicles that could get into the site.

Ryan said that Perez and Crews were involved in the bucket lines in the first days, helping to remove debris from the pile. “I’ll never forget one night, it was like one in the morning and the two of them (Crews and Perez) were just sitting there on a couch in the office, totally exhausted, and I said, ‘You guys gotta go home,’ and they looked up at me and said, ‘We can’t, Mr. Ryan, we got to go down there and help.’”

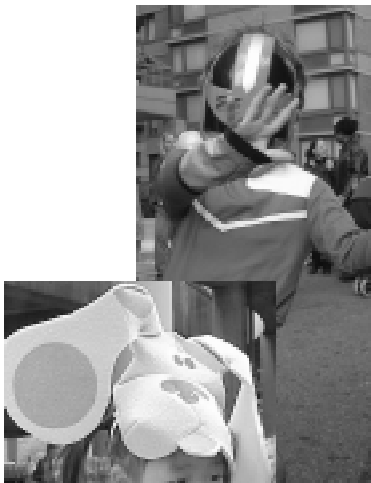
Ryan also paid tribute to RIOC’s homefront, praising Frank Nazario, RIOC’s Director of Human Resources, who camped out at the office overnight for the first few days, and Board members Patrick Stewart and David Kraut, who he said helped out at the office, and visited with RIOC’s commercial tenants and tried to bring some calm to the situation.

“I don’t think that anybody who was down there and saw everything will ever forget it, and I think we’re all probably changed a little bit,” Ryan said.

Scenes from the Island’s Family Album

Once Again, the Island’s

Photos by Margery Rubin and Susheel Kurien



Briefs from page 1

as bicycles for people who have difficulty using their legs. Two will be walking, and two more will be propelling push-rim wheelchairs. All this follows four months of training with the Achilles Track Club, a worldwide organization that supports athletes with disabilities. The competitors are being helped by volunteers, by Wheelchair Charities, and by a sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals.

The Eastwood Building Committee has new officers: Byron Gaspard will serve as chair, with co-chair Nellie Velez; Margaret Gaspard has signed on as secretary, and Harry DeVine is treasurer. Fay Vass, who with husband Ron Vass has headed the organization for years, is serving as an advisor.

Police Officer Daniel Rodriguez and his *Broadway Magic* group will return to the Island December 14 for a Christmas Concert in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd – another community fundraiser for the Chapel organ following on the financial and critical success of an appearance October 14 by the same singers and musicians. Tickets are available after Catholic services or from Sister Regina at the Thrift Shop, or by calling Mary Fitzgerald at (212) 751-1347. Fitzgerald, whose committee organized the October event, points out that seating will be more limited in the Chapel. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors and disabled.

A Free Emergency Readiness Workshop is scheduled for Thursday night at the Main Street Theatre, with Shauli Lev of Israel, co-author of *Survival* (see ComingUp, page 3).

Website NYC10044

www.nyc10044.com

It’s not just for the insiders.

Ghosts and Goblins Come Out of Hiding



Octagon from page 1

Joyce Mincheff, Site Director for the New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL), pointed out that successful use of the Octagon courts by NYJTL depends upon having surrounding area available where children can wait for court time and still be under adult supervision.

Opposition to the overall plan stemmed, in part, from resident concerns that the GDP is being amended piecemeal by RIOC, or that amending the GDP may set a precedent that would ultimately result in the loss of ten acres of parkland at Southpoint, designated as FDR Memorial Park in plans for the Island. A few residents expressed a wish that other uses might be preferable – such ideas as a botanical garden or museum.

Bruce Becker told the audience of about 100 at the meeting that, though landmarked, the Octagon tower is in such bad shape, as the result of two fires and general decay over the last 20 years, that the building was in danger of losing landmark status. He said that landmark status was finally upheld, but estimated that renovation and reconstruction of the building would cost some \$8.5 million, far more than originally thought.

The plan, in its current form, has added a dogleg to one of the wings, so that the overall shape is like the letter J. Some residents objected that this arrangement turns most of the park area into a courtyard; Becker, in fact, referred to the area as a courtyard at one point. The area might include a swimming pool, patios outside ground-floor units, and a cafe or restaurant.

The main purpose of the session was to hear resident comments on the plan presented by Becker and Becker. Here’s a sampling:

On parking:

An unidentified man: “...It is almost elitist that this complex should have private parking... The concept of [taking] the tennis courts for private parking is outrageous.”

Joan Christianson: “Southtown (the development planned by Hudson/Related between the Tram station and existing Northtown buildings) is required to build an additional section onto Motorgate. By touching the tennis courts, you’re on parkland... It’s up to us [residents] to get in touch with members of the RIOC Board and tell them how we feel about it.”

Joe Cristiano: “Even if it’s never used, I think [the parking] should be there. I fear we’re going to have the law of supply and demand at some point, where there’s not enough space at Motorgate, and the prices are going to shoot up. I’d rather have more supply than demand, and I think it’s a good concept.”

Judy Berdy: “The parking has gotta go. It’s ridiculous for you to waste tens of millions of dollars. Make a deal with Coler [Hospital], for God’s sake.”

Steve Marcus: “The parking lot’s gotta go. That’s an insult.”

Lee Edelman: “It’s clear [to me] that Becker and Becker has no desire to put parking there. It’s clear RIOC doesn’t want to foot the bill for additional parking.”

On making the decision:

Edelman: “In any other local community... democratically-elected local representatives would be able to choose... Here, we have no local democracy. The decisions for our community and about our lives are made by appointees who, for the most part, have no intimate knowledge of, or long term commitment to, Roosevelt Island or our community. This being the case, there is only one way for such a project to be fairly and democratically judged: submit it to a vote by the community. That is, hold a referendum.”

(Both Becker and City Councilmember Gifford Miller, who attended the meeting to hear resident comments, distanced themselves from the idea of a referendum – Becker because it would subject much work to a single yes/no vote; Miller saw it as impractical to submit such decisions to the electorate at large.)

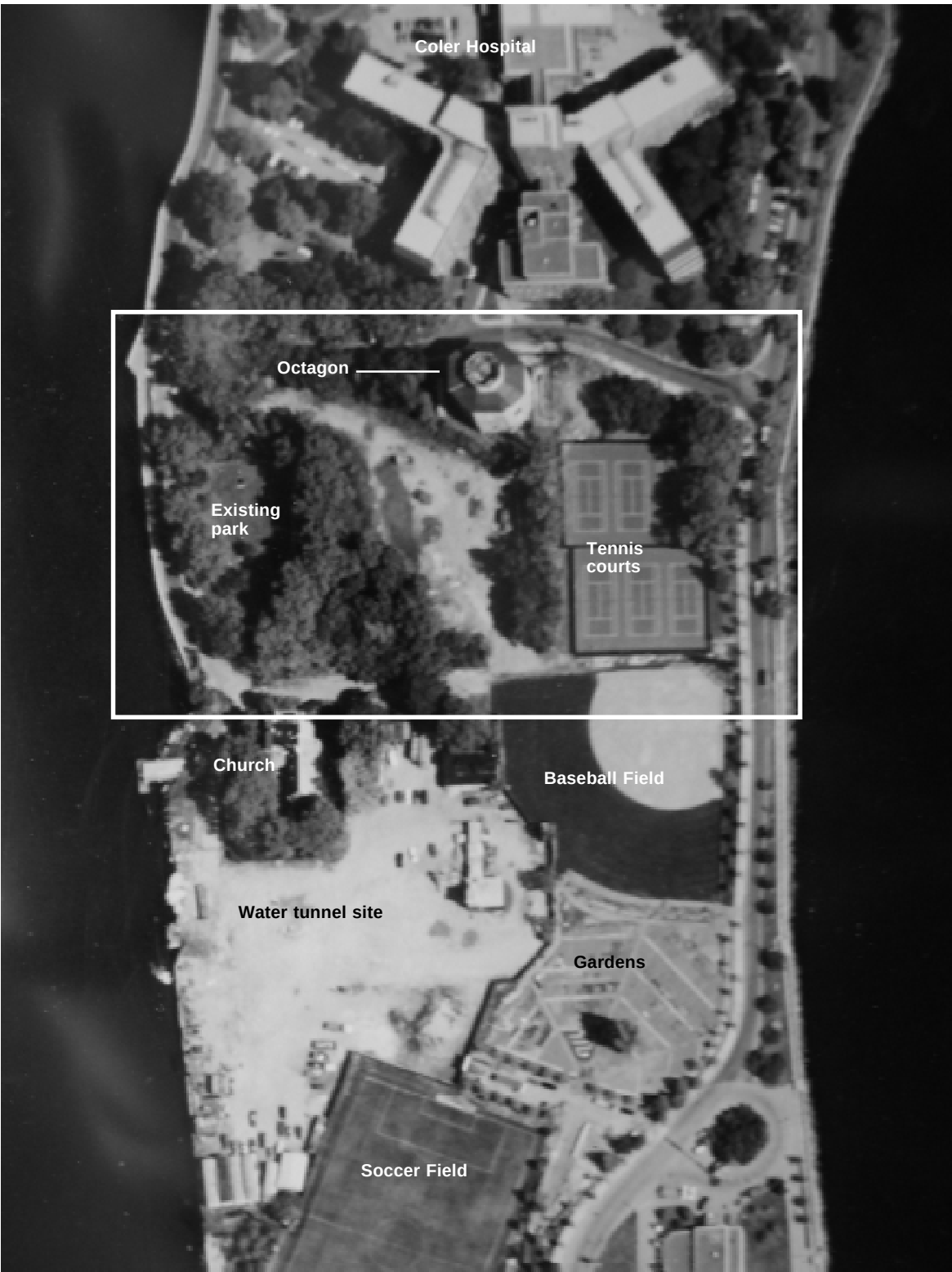
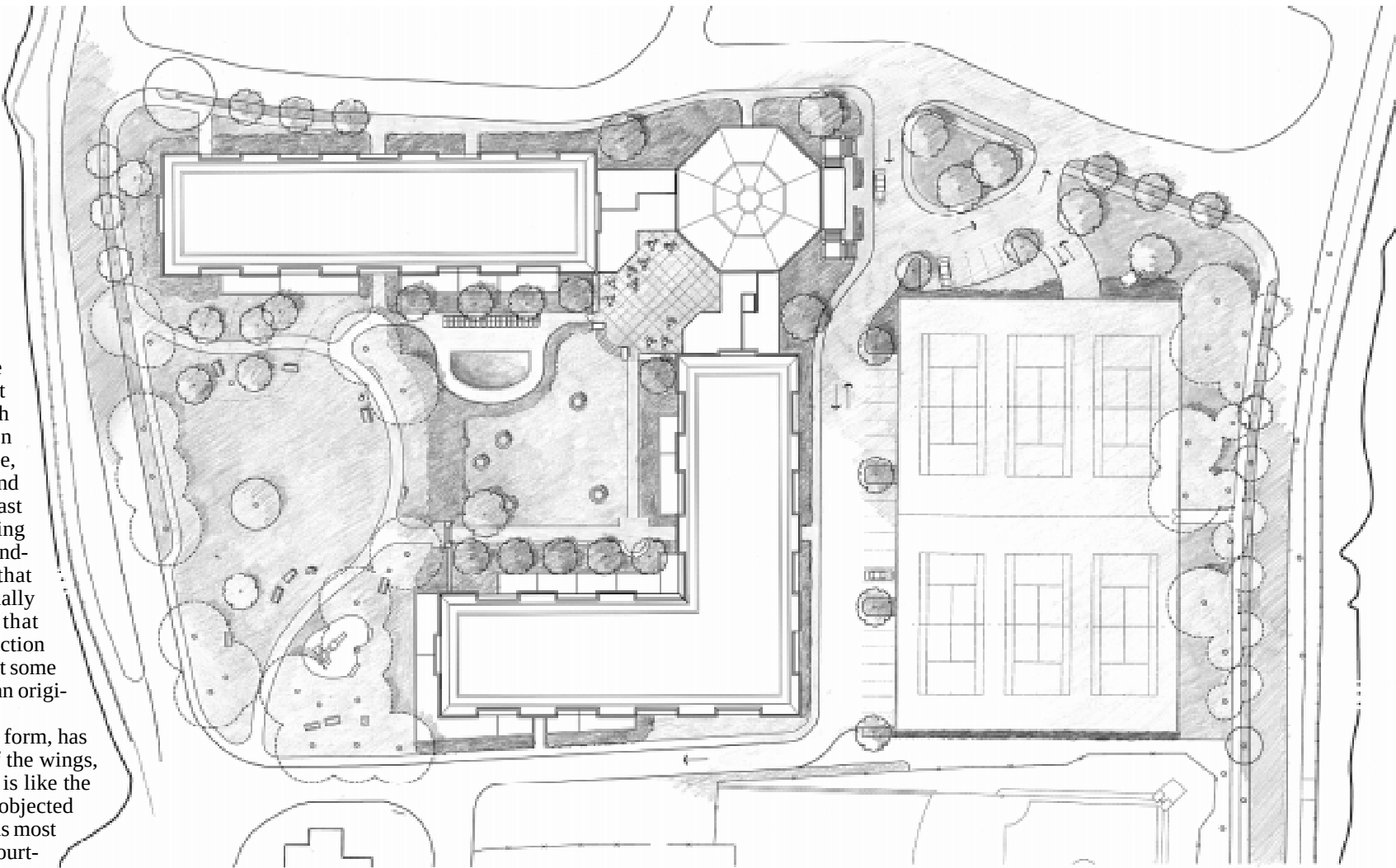
Margie Smith: “I’m very glad you’re acknowledging that this plan violates the GDP. This is a planned community. We want it to stay planned. We want to make sure the community is looked at as a whole, and that’s why we’re objecting to this piecemeal modification.”

Byron Gaspard: “I have a problem with the continuous amending of the General Development Plan. This is a planned community...”

On parkland:

Steve Marcus: “The General Development Plan says the area between Coler and Manhattan Park has to be parkland.” Marcus, who heads Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development, is suing RIOC over loss of parkland at the north end of Southtown. He decried the loss, and potential loss, of the Island’s parkland and open spaces.

In an aerial survey photograph and architectural site plan, both provided by Becker and Becker, features of their current plan for the Octagon Park site are shown, including the new “J” shape of the wings added onto the Octagon tower structure. Bruce Becker and his architectural team welcomed resident comments, and were praised by several residents for their past attention to resident concerns about the development plans. Labels have been added for clarity.



Find out more about the Octagon and its history on Website NYC10044. Go to www.nyc10044.com, and use the Search capabilty on the term “Octagon.”

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Limmer from page 3

ment at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland. A rigorous disciplinarian as well as a skilled molder of talent, her insistence on excellence brought her a faithful coterie of former students who called on her through the 20 years since her retirement, seeking her advice and encouragement. She was the epitome of a lover of language; at her dinner table there was always room for a book on a stand.

During the period when Patricia Harris was Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Limmer's former Western College student, Donna Shalala, then an Undersecretary, invited her to a stint in Washington in the Office of Policy Analysis. When Shalala accepted the Presidency of Hunter College of the City University, Ruth got the call to come back to New York City as Shalala's Assistant.

While pursuing her other, full-time professional life, Limmer began a connection with Louise Bogan, the former literary critic of *The New Yorker*, writing and co-authoring a number of books on the life and works of Bogan. She eventually assumed the role of literary executor for the Louise Bogan Trust, contributing support to poetry programs at the 92nd Street Y. After retiring from full-time professional work, she maintained an active connection with the literary world, editing serious non-fiction works such as the first biography of Nikita Krushchev, writing a biographical essay on Rolfe Humphries, and doing the foreword to a book by Bella Spewack.

Ruth Limmer lived her life as a supporter of all things good. On Roosevelt Island she was a pillar of the Roosevelt Island Community Literary Associates (RICLA) during the time the Associates were responsible for the operation of the Volunteer Library. She served the Library as President for several annual terms. While President or not, she assumed the major burden of cataloguing several major groupings of books for the Library. In addition to RICLA, she devoted energy to the Maple Tree Group efforts to bring representative democracy to Island government, and to

the Committee for Fair Play in Rivercross. She frequently joined *The WIRE's* Friday-morning stuffing crew, assembling this newspaper and its advertising inserts for distribution. She was willing to take both a leadership role and to actually do the most ordinary things required of a successful community.

On a city-wide basis, she played a vigorous role in the development of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum on Orchard Street. She was acutely aware of the energy and courage of the immigrants who made New York the vital place it remains. For several years she edited the *Tenement Times*, the newsletter of the Museum, and contributed to the aggressive management of the significant memorial to the successive waves of people who entered the United States through the threshold of the Lower East Side. She put together the book, *Six Heritage Tours of the Lower East Side*.

An amateur musician herself, she had a deep appreciation of musical performances, being a subscriber to year-long series at the Metropolitan Opera, and various orchestra and dance series. She was a regular attendee at the rich collection of museums of the City. She had a strong affinity for efforts directed toward improving the life of people who have serious economic, social, and identity problems; she made frequent contributions to support the people and groups in the front line of these efforts.

In addition to all of the above, she appreciated the Great American Pastime, having a love affair with Major League Baseball as it once had been.

She left only one relative, Ethel Reich of Florida.

The cause of death was listed as encephalopathy by Dr. Jack Resnick, who supported Ruth Limmer with regular house visits during the last three weeks of her life.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a date to be announced. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Roosevelt Island Community Literary Associates, or to the scholarship programs of Hunter College and Brooklyn College.

—David Bauer

Public Safety from page 1

to 12 hours, because those 16 hours shifts are really, really taxing on individuals."

Fry said he keeps in contact with the NYPD, who are maintaining the highest state of alert, and with the security personnel at the Coler-Goldwater Memorial Hospital. "We're still covering all those posts that we consider to be sensitive," he said, suggesting, as just one example, that part of Public Safety's responsibilities are associated with the Island's close proximity to the United Nations.

The City police are guarding the subway and Queensboro Bridge, while Public Safety is running a checkpoint of vehicles headed for the Main Street ramp from the 36th Avenue Bridge. RIOC President Robert H. Ryan said the intent is the same as the procedure at the Midtown Tunnel: "Everybody slows down, and either a cop or a Guardsman basically looks at you, and some cars they pull over and they search."

Fry said it's a preliminary check. "You're supposed to look for things that look out of place, that's what law enforcement people look for. In legal terms, the lowest level of suspicion is when something looks out of place, it's called 'mere suspicion.'"

Although some residents have questioned why the police are not inspecting cars that enter Motorgate, Fry said that the procedure is aimed primarily at the many commercial vehicles that arrive every day for jobs with the housing companies – the types of vehicles that are more likely than a passenger car to pose a potential threat to targets such as the Queensboro Bridge.

"The focus is looking at people who are showing up here as contractors or have other business," Fry said. "Now, if it's somebody we recognize by sight, that's a different story; otherwise, the management company is going to have to verify to us that you are doing business with them."

Fry and Ryan said that the Island has had relatively few scares since Sept. 11, and Fry suggested that he has been especially vigilant in combating rumors that could fester in a climate of fear.

The most troublesome incident was an obvious hoax involving a knapsack with wires sticking out, that was left at the Tram, causing a Tram shutdown and tying up Island security personnel. Fry said the individual responsible for that disruption has yet to be identified.

Another incident involved an Island resident, a former military man, who came to Public Safety to report a suspicious inquiry he had received in an Internet chat room. Public Safety passed on the information to the Joint Terrorism Task Force, Fry said. The inquiry concerned details of the radar system at the Stewart Air National Guard Base in Newburgh, N.Y. Fry, who had experience in radar when he was

in the military, said, "In a time like this you don't make a decision that this is not significant. You pass the information along."

Ryan mentioned an incident that illustrates "the state of affairs we're in" with the anthrax threat. Last week, he said, there was a big commotion in the afternoon not far from RIOC's office in Westview. There were sirens, and the fire department had been called, he said. What had happened? "The M&D Deli had gotten a delivery and they're unpacking this stuff," Ryan said. "And there's a busted box of Cream of Wheat, and the guy goes and throws it out for the pigeons, and the next thing you know, we have reports there's an Arab throwing a white powder!"



Margery Rubin

Public Safety has been operating a checkpoint at the 36th Avenue Bridge since September 11.

The story might have been merely amusing were it not for concerns that some Island residents were acting against what Fry referred to as the Island's Muslim-owned businesses.

However, he said, "I can say unequivocally that there were no threats" against these businesses. "That speaks positively for the community that you don't have that kind of craziness here," he said, adding that he has worked to quench false reports of threats against the families working in these stores.

Fry, who is quite involved in community relations, was asked to assess the Island's mood in these jittery times. He cited the Halloween parade Saturday, which, he noted, "had quite a turnout." He said, "I think that is indicative of the relative calm that we find here on Roosevelt Island in the midst of all the anxiety. I think that people feel relatively safe here, not that they're not aware and not that they don't share any of the anxiety, but I think that their presence on the Island, the fact that they engaged in their normal routines, that they participated in things like the parade and brought their kids out – it's one thing as an adult to do something, it's another thing to participate in something with your kids, your most precious commodity. That speaks for itself in terms of your feeling of confidence."

Tennis Association Posts Final Tallies

The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association (RITA) ended its official season with two competitive tournaments. In club championships, held September 22-23, players posted these results:

- Men A:** Tonderai Chikuhwa vs Jan Buenner – 7-5, 6-3
- Men B:** Nick Arvanitis vs David Lawson – W.O. (default)
- Women:** Joyce Mincheff vs Atsumi Kolba – 6-2, 6-2
- Men’s Doubles:** John Dougherty & Jan Buenner vs Alain VanderBorghht & Jim Doran – 6-1, 6-3
- Mixed Doubles:** Joyce Mincheff & Paul Russo vs Atsumi Kolba & Michael Kolba – 8-4
- Men’s Consolation:** Antonio Valerio vs Andrea Cuccolini – 9-8

In the finals in the singles challenge ladder October 20, these were the results:
A Division: Jan Buenner vs Alain VanderBorghht – 6-2, 6-3
B Division: John Dougherty vs Atsumi Kolba – 6-1, 6-1
Consolation: Andrea Cuccolini vs Mike Conroy – 8-3
The winners and finalists all decided to donate the money that normally would have been used for trophies and awards to help the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. A \$250 check was given by RITA to the RIRA relief fund.
Even though the Tennis Association has officially ended its season’s activities, the courts will remain open to all valid permit holders. The nets will remain in place over the winter and players can turn on the lights for evening play from inside the courts.



Mike Kolba
Club Champs and their opponents: Jan Buenner, Atsumi Kolba, Joyce Mincheff and Tonderai Chikuhwa



Mike Kolba
Top of the Ladder: John Dougherty, Jan Buenner, Atsumi Kolba, Alain VanderBorghht

Classified

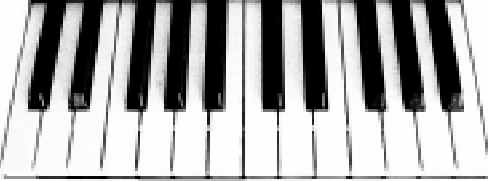
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Junior Tennis Program Opens Today – Free Morning Lessons for 8-18 Set

The New York Junior Tennis League Winter Early-Morning program begins today (Saturday, November 3). There’s no advance registration requirement for the program, which will continue through March, with sessions 6:00-8:00 a.m. at the Roosevelt Island Racquet Club, just south of the Queensboro Bridge.

The program provides free instruction and equipment for all children aged 8-18. They must provide their own appropriate attire, including rubber-soled footwear.

In addition to tennis activities, the League provides educational supports such as college trips for high school juniors and seniors, and Princeton Review prep for the SAT tests.

Adult volunteers are welcome, and are asked to contact Joyce Mincheff at (212) 486-1997.



FLAG FOOTBALL After five weeks of play in the Youth Program’s Flag Football League age 12-14 Division, the Raiders remain in first place in a very tight race:

	Wins	Losses	Ties
Raiders	3	1	1
Giants	2	2	1
Jets	2	3	
Broncos	2	3	

In October 27 action, the Broncos handed the Raiders their first loss of the season, 24-13, and the Jets defeated the Giants 19-18. In the Bronco-Raider clash, the Broncos took an early 6-0 lead when Steven Morabito caught a short touchdown pass from Rahim Drame, following a 50-yard completion to Byron Gaspard off a deflected pass. The Raiders came right back as Quincy Leon took a short screen pass and ran 70 yards for the score. Tyrell Anderson caught a pass for the extra point, and the Raiders led 7-6. It looked as though the Raiders were going to get an additional score in the last minute of the first half, but Omani Guy intercepted a pass headed for the end zone and returned the interception 95 yards to give the Broncos a 12-7 halftime lead. In the second half, Rahim Drame connected on a long pass to Omani Guy to give the Raiders an 18-7 lead, but Anthony Santiago hit Quincy Leon with a touchdown pass to bring the Raiders to within six points at 18-13. Then, as the clock was winding down, Rahim Drame threw a pass to Seif Dorani for the final score of the game. Sean Suarez, Jake Russem and Stevano Jones of the Broncos keyed the defensive effort that held the Raiders to their lowest offensive output of the season.

In the Jets-Giants encounter, Le-Quan Francis, Eyosyas Tadesse and Matthew Brodsky scored for the Jets in the first half as they opened a 19-12 halftime lead, and held on for the victory. Thomas Herlihy and Paul Brown scored for the Giants.

In October 20 action, the Raiders defeated the Jets 46-31 as Remy Armenakis, Eric Miranda, Tyrell Anderson, Quincy Leon and Anthony Santiago scored for the Raiders, and Maurel Clark, Adam Silverschotz, Damon Wolford, and Jack Huang scored for the Jets.

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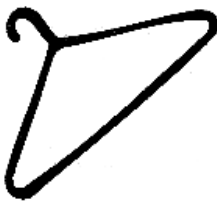
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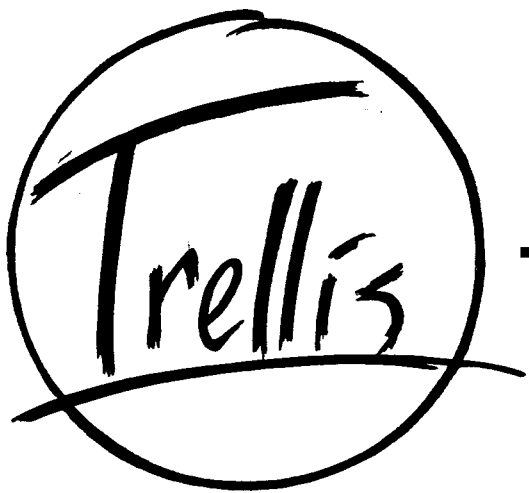
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