

# MANHATTAN REVIEW



Threats to the Status  
Quo in NYC

Volume IV, Issue II

# Letter from the Editor

Dear Reader,

It is with great pride that we present to you the Second Issue of the Fourth Volume of the MannHattan Review! After months of preparation, we are thrilled to publish an issue that we feel represents a return to the traditional excellence of the MannHattan Review.

We have taken great care to provide articles suited for even the most exotic tastes- we cover everything from Governor Paterson's scandal to New York-Fashion Week. The theme of this issue is "Threats to the Status Quo in NYC." This is a tumultuous time for our city- everything from city politics to the financial crisis has tremendous local implications. Because of this, we've decided to examine just what makes New York so great and what some of these threats are.



We hope you enjoy our second and final issue of this year as much as we've enjoyed putting it together. We look forward to continuing the fantastic work we've done so far and continuing to work with the fantastic team of the MannHattan Review! Keep an eye out for us next year!

Yours truly,

Justin Burris  
Nicholas Demas  
Editors-in-Chief

P.S. In the past months, we've taken steps to reorganize the publication and would like to thank Daniel Burko and Nicky Harnik for their tremendous support.

**MannHattan Review**  
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# ALL EYES ON THE GOVERNOR

## DAVID PATERSON'S HAPLE

**By David Yassky**

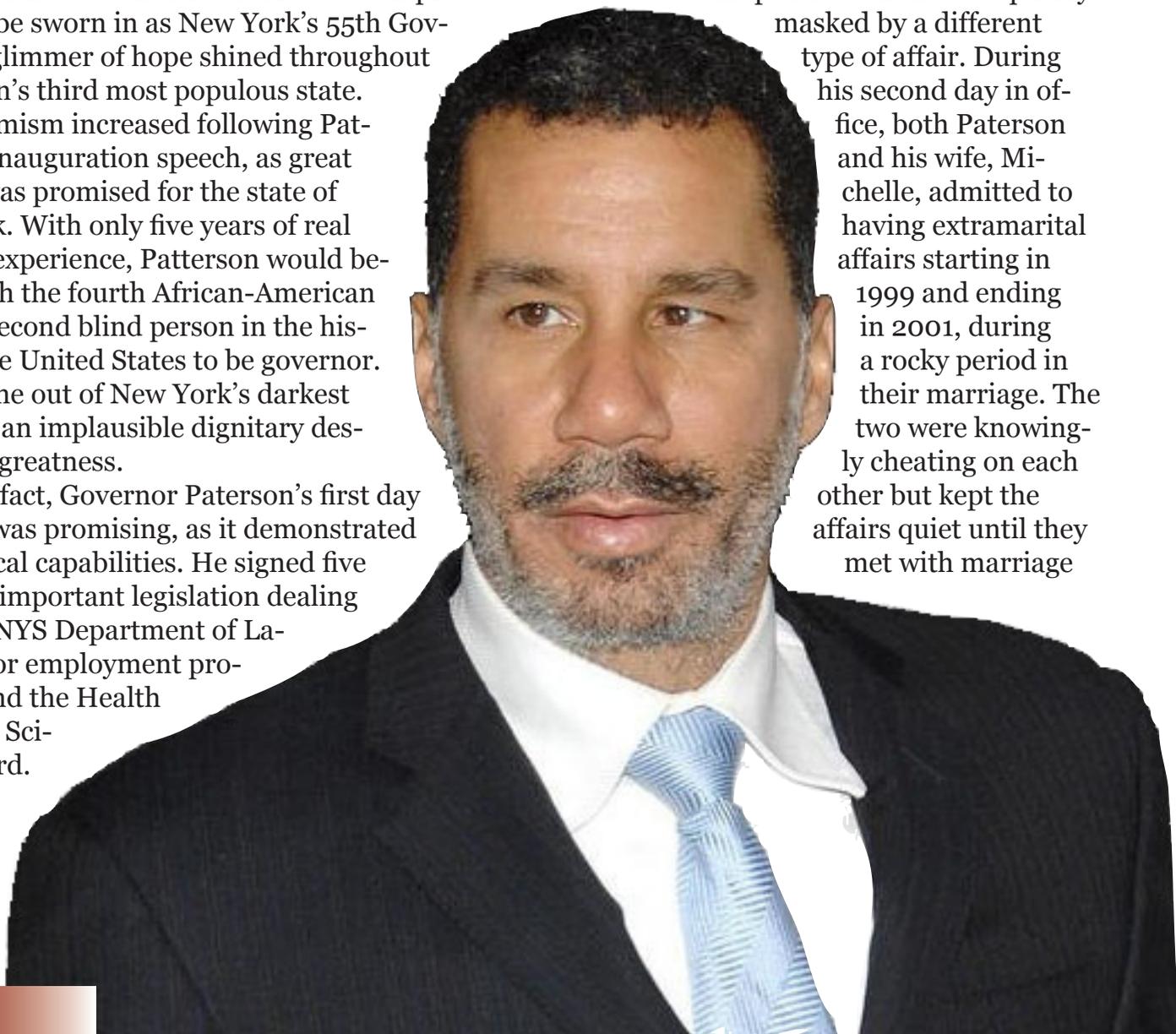
Following Governor Elliot Spitzer's resignation, New Yorkers didn't know where to turn. The constant bombardment of bad news left the state despondent over its government, only to be reinforced by other national political scandals and the escalating financial crisis. But, as Lieutenant Governor David A. Paterson prepared to be sworn in as New York's 55th Governor, a glimmer of hope shined throughout the nation's third most populous state. This optimism increased following Paterson's inauguration speech, as great change was promised for the state of New York. With only five years of real political experience, Patterson would become both the fourth African-American and the second blind person in the history of the United States to be governor. What came out of New York's darkest days was an implausible dignitary destined for greatness.

In fact, Governor Paterson's first day in office was promising, as it demonstrated his political capabilities. He signed five pieces of important legislation dealing with the NYS Department of Labor, senior employment programs, and the Health Research Science Board.

In order to gain flexibility within

his office, he asked all of Spitzer's appointed cabinet members to give him letters of resignation. This did not mean that they were forced to resign, but rather that Paterson had the ability to make changes within his cabinet if he desired to. His bullish actions during his first day in office conveyed a "message of hope to New Yorkers," as said by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Unfortunately, the hope generated by his political affairs was quickly masked by a different type of affair. During his second day in office, both Paterson and his wife, Michelle, admitted to having extramarital affairs starting in 1999 and ending in 2001, during a rocky period in their marriage. The two were knowingly cheating on each other but kept the affairs quiet until they met with marriage



# NOR: ESS DOWNFALL

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counselors during the early 2000's. As rumors began to circulate during his years as Lt. Governor, he decided it was best to admit the affairs before the rumors caught up to him later in his time as governor. The confessions quickly distressed New Yorkers, as it was the second time in a week that a New York State governor was reportedly involved in a sex scandal. Paterson's path to greatness was immediately marred and much of the faith that New Yorkers had in him was quickly lost. To everyone's dismay, it all went downhill from there.

On October 28th, 2009, Paterson attended the first game of the World Series at Yankee Stadium with his son, a cabinet member and other colleagues. Each ticket was worth \$425, putting the group in some of the best seats in the house. Later in the year, he was asked under oath whether he paid for the tickets, and he responded that he had. But, after suspicions grew earlier this year, the State Commission on Public Integrity reported that Paterson had actually received the tickets for free from the Yankees. Not only did Paterson lie under oath, he also illegally received a gift from a lobbyist organization. After being accused of criminal activity, in order to appear innocent, Paterson wrote a check dated around the time of the Yankee game. He said that he intended to pay for the tickets but never did. The state is continuing an investigation regarding these crimes and is deciding whether Paterson should face criminal charges.

Paterson recently evoked former President Richard Nixon's style of running government. On this past Halloween, one of Paterson's top aides, David W. Johnson, reportedly grabbed his live-in girlfriend, Sherunna Booker, by the neck and abused her after coming

home to her wearing a Halloween costume that he didn't like. After requesting an order of protection from the state, Booker complained that state police were constantly contacting her and advising her to drop any charges against Johnson. The case was eventually dismissed because Booker did not appear in court to testify against Johnson. On February 26th, 2010, the New York Times reported that it was Paterson who ordered state police to convince Booker not to testify in court. His crime, known as witness tampering, has been treated harshly throughout American history and even resulted in the resignation of President Nixon in 1974 amidst the Watergate Scandal. Paterson's crime has even taken on the name "Troopergate."

The two recently discovered scandals involving Governor Paterson have completely ruined his chance at achieving the greatness that his inauguration promised. Although he has accomplished a lot since becoming governor, his successes have been buried under a mound of political and personal scandals. After the public found out in February about the scandals, Paterson dismissed any notion that he would run for re-election in later this year. The National Organization for Women and many state legislators are even calling for Paterson's immediate resignation. Many of his aides, such as his top spokesman, Peter Kauffmann, have already resigned due to Paterson's corruption. If his resignation occurs, there will have been two New York governors in a row to prematurely leave their post. It is possible that by the time this article is published, New York State may have a new governor.

# Hot Times in New York City

By Michael Herschorn

Global warming is a highly controversial and pressing issue in our world today. We residents of New York City tend not to think of it as an immediate danger, but, in the next few decades, it could prove to be a deadly threat. Global warming is the gradual increase in overall temperature of the Earth caused by the Greenhouse Effect, the trapping of the sun's warmth by greenhouse gases in the lower atmosphere. Greenhouse gases, such as methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, are emitted in a variety of ways, both naturally and synthetically. According to environmental scientists, an increase in greenhouse gases is able to cause more heat to be trapped in our atmosphere, raising Earth's temperatures.

Global warming will affect the lives of many NYC residents if it continues to worsen. The earth's temperature is estimated to increase by four degrees Fahrenheit or more by 2100. This rise in temperature will cause more heat related deaths as well as increased

amounts of smog, resulting in respiratory issues for New Yorkers. In New York State, the forests, eco-systems, and the overall health of people will be affected. It is believed that global warming will cause stream flows to lessen and the water temperature of the streams to increase. This increase is unfavorable to trout and other cold-water fish, a tribulation for our state's fishermen. The rising temperature is favorable to the pathogens and parasites that plague humans and wildlife alike. The thriving of parasites and pathogens could culminate in more infection-related deaths.

Many New Yorkers are worried about the possibility of increased sea levels due to the melting icecaps of the North and South Poles. Some scientists believe that sea levels around New York could increase by up to 20 inches by year 2100. Other scientists feel that this estimate is exaggerated and that sea levels may only rise a few inches during this time span. Regardless of who is correct, a combination





of both rising sea level and increased warmth poses a threat. Scientists believe that this could result in fiercer storms and winds that are not usually common for New York. These storms would cause many deaths and billions of dollars worth of damage.

The Department of Environmental Protection of New York City is also planning to implement some new techniques such as reserving water by modernizing the water supply system for our city. To do this, it is studying the amounts of water used all over the city to set a target amount of water they plan on distributing. They will add new electronic monitoring systems as well as use new materials for pipes in order to improve the system. The DEP is also planning on utilizing bio-fuels that do not give off greenhouse gases. All of these plans can potentially save our planet, but it is up to you to participate and support these actions.

Our federal government, in an attempt to try to decrease the progression of global warming, has posed several solutions. The “Climate

Stewardship Act” was proposed in the Senate by Senators McCain and Lieberman and in the House of Representatives by Reps. Gilchrest and Oliver. The Act creates a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and other greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generators and other large industrial and commercial sources, covering 85% of the nation’s emissions. Under a cap-and-trade system, a certain number of emissions allowances, or permits, are distributed to emitters. A single permit allows the holder to emit one metric ton of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of other gases. Companies that do not exceed this amount can sell their allowances to other companies who do, giving companies incentives to lower their carbon footprint. Under this kind of system, only companies who can realistically and economically reduce their emissions actually will do so, thus minimizing the economic impacts. To save our planet, we need everyone to help.

# *Pursuing the Parks*

*By Olivia Silberman*

How far do you live from a park? Despite the government's addition of 300 acres of park space in the last five years, over two million people live more than 10 minutes from a park. Open space and fresh air from parks benefit the environment and our own health. PlaNYC, created by Mayor Bloomberg, is a 127-point plan to make New York City the first "environmentally sustainable" modern and large city by accomplishing 10 goals by 2030. An improvement and expansion to the city's land and park system is one of these goals.

There are various initiatives within this "Open Space" goal: to open schoolyards and make them public playgrounds, to make fields and areas for competitive athletes to play and practice on, to complete unfinished parks, to make more multi-purpose fields, to install lights on existing fields to make them available for use at night, to create or improve public plazas, and to make streets and sidewalks "greener."

Most schoolyards are underutilized. They are either closed after the school day ends, they are poorly equipped, or both. The enhancement and opening of these schoolyards gives children proper places to play as well as keep the number of children in the

playgrounds within the proper limit. As of April 22, 2008, 69 schoolyards have been opened as playgrounds; 3 schoolyards have been renovated, designs for 32 schoolyards have been made, and more designs and renovations are being planned.

The city's park system is based upon various regional and large parks, each of which provide a range of resources and attract many. There are 500 acres of "underdeveloped parkland and underutilized facilities" that will be transformed and developed into more of these wonderful parks. As of April 22, 2008 various plans for these upcoming parks have been made.

There are very few fields for athletes to play on. High-quality fields are being constructed for use by both school and community teams, making it easier to find a place to practice. The previous expansion of the park system focused mainly on providing more baseball diamonds and basketball courts, both of which were popular at the time. Since then, New Yorkers have changed their interests and are now more invested in sports played on grass or turf fields, such as soccer, field hockey, cricket, and rugby. To accommodate all of those interested in these games, many asphalt sites will be converted



into environmentally friendly, multi-use turf fields. Construction and designs for many of these fields have already begun. Fields are virtually unusable after the sun goes down. The installation of new lights to these fields will maximize playtime (2 hours in the summer and 4 hours in the spring and fall) for only a fraction of the price for a new field.

Public plazas will be made reflecting the culture and style of each community. These plazas enhance and bring neighborhoods closer together. A few plazas and plans for even more have already been made to guarantee that all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of open space.

The last initiative is to “green the cityscape.” Trees are essential to the environment. They not only are beautiful but they also help us breathe by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, cool air temperatures, conserve energy, decrease air pollution, and “reduce storm water runoff.” The Department of Parks and Recreation is filling various areas with trees around the city. They are campaigning to fulfill every street tree opportunity. The Million Trees project plans to plant a million trees around New York City as well as replacing dead trees. The expansion of

the Greenstreets program will also help green the city. This program replaces and substitutes unused road space into green space; 40 new Greenstreets projects will be made every planting season over the next 10 years.

Studies show that each person in New York City has less open space than almost any other person in major cities in America. The plan PlaNYC is working to change this. The seven open space initiatives target each faulty area on our park system and improve them. “With the vision and resources provided by PlaNYC, the Department of Parks and Recreation will launch the most ambitious parks program in half a century, creating new open spaces and expanding the city’s urban forest.”

# TRANSIT WOES- HERE TO STAY

## BY ALEXANDRA SAALI

On November 10th 2008, The New York Times published an article regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's proposed \$1.2 billion budget deficit in 2009. Required new fare and toll increases or service reductions were expected unless the MTA received new state and city aid or found new sources of revenue. Although the response to The New York Times' estimate was horror, the debt payments in 2009 alone were actually equal to \$1.9 billion. Despite the implementation of approved fare/toll increase and service cuts, the MTA's most recent projected

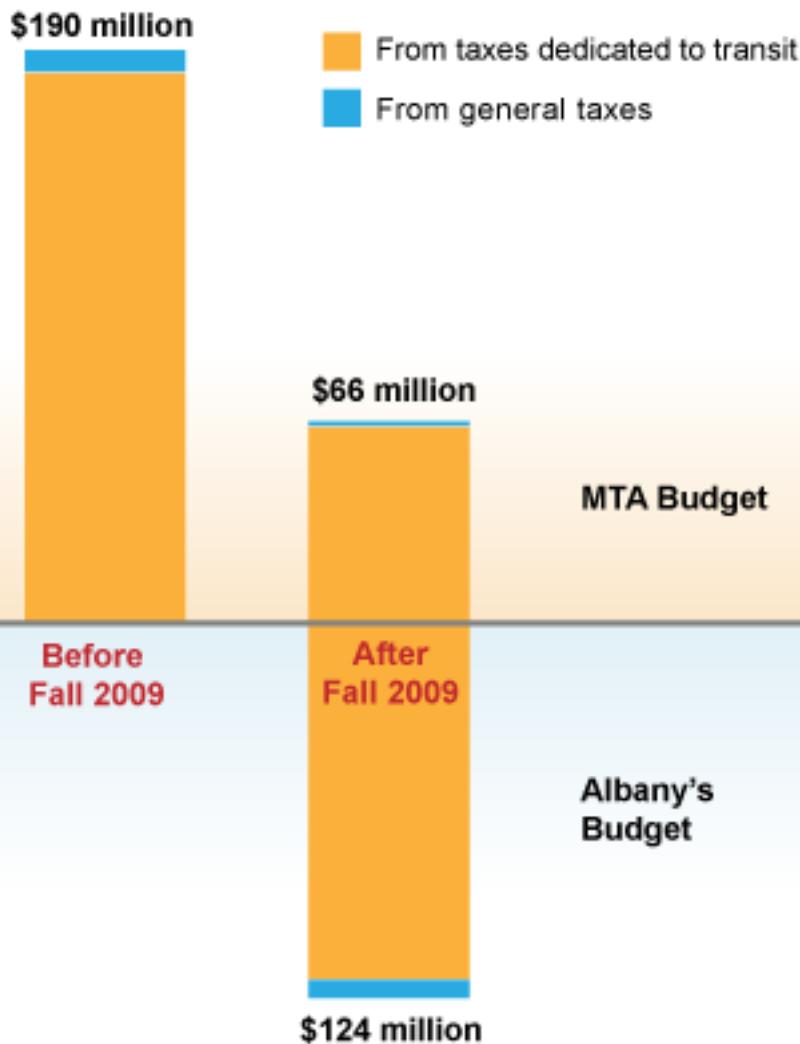
budget deficit is \$621 million deficit in 2009. Debt payments increased by 45 percent between 2003 and 2008 and are expected to rise another 51 percent by 2012. Inflation rates also rose between 2003 and 2008 from 2.60% to 4.28%. Overall, the MTA has \$25.5 billion in outstanding debt and was forced to raise fares.

New York is the nation's largest regional economy and generates \$901 billion in economic activity per year. Thus many argue that the federal government should increase its funding for the MTA, the nation's largest mass transit system and a vital piece of our national transportation infrastructure, at a rate similar to major road

and highway projects. Currently, new highway projects that receive federal funding are supported by between 80 and 90 percent of the project's total cost. Transit projects that receive federal funding are eligible for a maximum 60 percent share of federal funds but federal contributions are often much lower. Changes to federal funding formulas are not in the direct control of the New York State legislature, but Albany needs to work with New York's Congressional delegation to confirm parity in federal transportation funding between road and transportation projects.

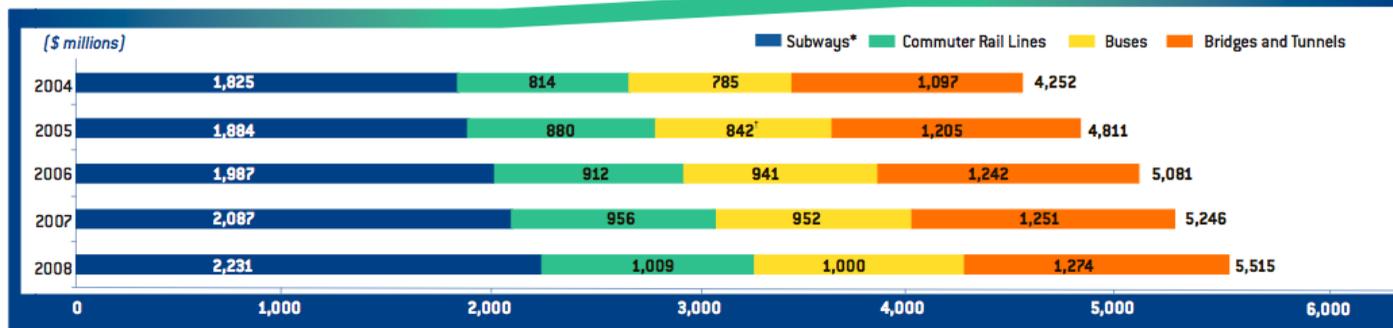
The MTA's current budget crisis is the direct result of a series of irresponsible political decisions that have prioritized the state legislature's popularity over adequate investment in mass transit. While the dramatic declines in state and city contributions to capital planning and labor costs played a minor roll in the debt crisis the MTA faces, the root cause was runaway debt. Money has been taken from the MTA funds for the past 15 years, allowing former Governor Pataki and the state legislature to

Where Did Albany's MTA "Subsidy" Go?



STREETSBLOG

Fare and Toll Revenue

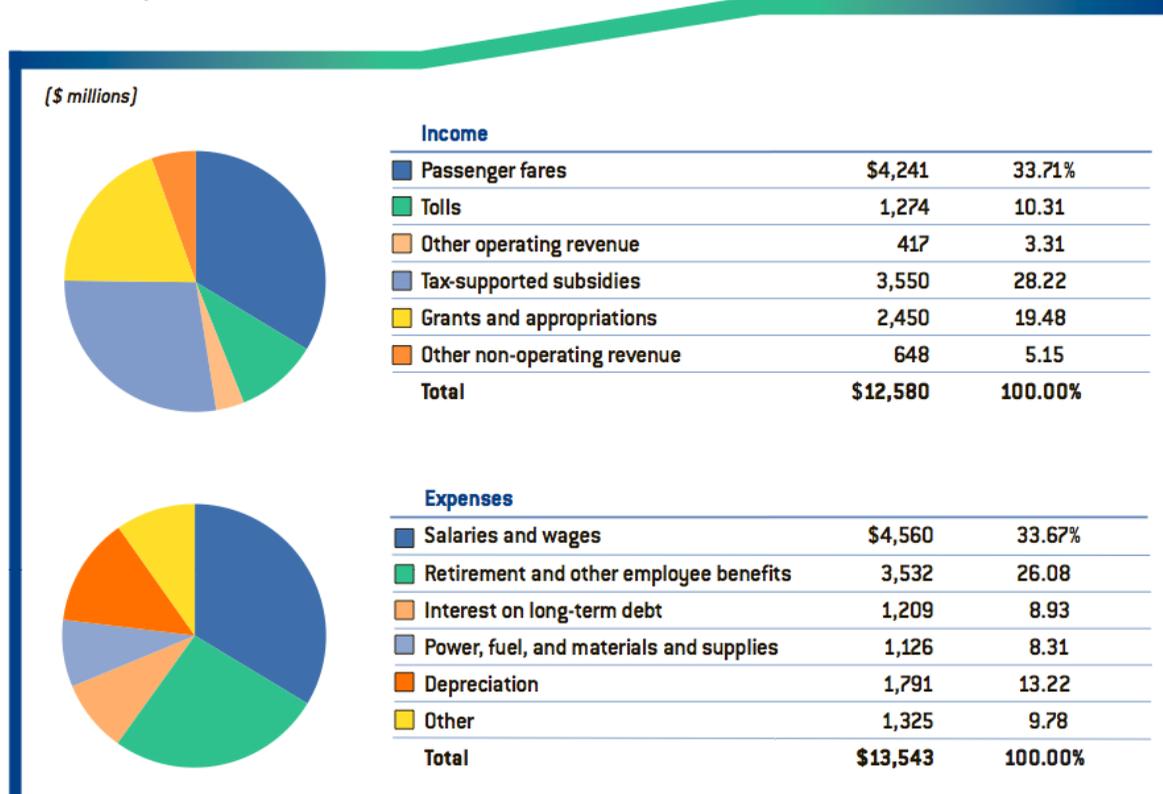


\* Includes Staten Island Railway.  
 † Includes partial-year results for MTA Bus.

seek popularity by giving the money away. The members on the MTA Board maintained their position on the MTA Board by going along with this and borrowed massive amounts to make up the difference. Tax dollars were diverted to other more politically potent interests, like the health care non-profters via Medicaid and the over-funded schools in the portions of New York State outside New York City. The immediate result was lower fares, richer pensions, tax cuts, breaks and giveaways. Taxes that were diverted away from the MTA provided benefits, such as half fares for senior citizens all day (not excluding rush hours), and higher prices for contractors on capital

contracts were. Between 2003 and 2008, debt service payments and non-labor expenses grew at a rate of 45 percent and 40 percent, while inflation rose 1.68% during this period. Labor costs grew at the much slower rate of 16%. Additionally, payroll expenses grew at a slower rate than the number of employees. Increases in labor costs are attributable to the growth in health care costs (21% during 2003-2008) and the growth in pension costs (138%). Obviously the end to transit related tribulation does not seem near. Expect more cuts and fare increases.

Income and Expenses\*



# St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Tyler Finkelstein

Like many, you may not know the purpose of St. Patrick's Day or its meaning. Nevertheless, you probably know that celebrations take place all over the world and annual traditions are continued. In Illinois, the Chicago River is dyed green using forty pounds of vegetable dye. In Washington, D.C., the White House's fountain is also dyed green. At the Missouri University of Science and Technology, city blocks are painted green with mops. Of all of the festive and even bizarre St. Patty's Day celebrations that occur across the country, none compare to New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

dream, God told him to go to Ireland as a missionary; after fifteen years of studying Christianity, he went back to Ireland to fulfill his destiny. By incorporating traditional Irish beliefs and customs into Christianity, he was able to win over much of Ireland and changed its religious history forever.

The Irish have traditional meals to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Irish-Americans who like to be a part of the St. Patrick's Day traditions often eat Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage. Most Americans believe this to be a traditional Irish meal, but this is not the case; in Ireland, many

Every March 17th, an estimated 2 million New Yorkers line city blocks to watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The extraordinary parade consists of 150,000 marchers, including firefighters, soldiers, policemen, band members, members of county associations, representatives for emigrant societies, and leaders of social and cultural clubs. The NYC parade, which is the 2nd oldest in the United States dating back to 1762, runs along 5th avenue, from 44th street to 86th street. Each year, a Grand Marshal for the parade is chosen. This year, the honorable Raymond Kelly, the NYC Police Commissioner, was chosen.

Although most people do not see the religious aspect of St. Patrick's Day, it is indeed a religious holiday honoring a saint. St. Patrick lived from 387-493 AD. Surprisingly, St. Patrick was British, not Irish, but was significant in spreading Christianity in Ireland. He was born into a wealthy family in England and was taken prisoner by the Irish. While a prisoner, he believed that God spoke to him and told him to leave Ireland, spurring his escape back to England. In a second

eat either ham and cabbage or bacon and cabbage. But, in both the United States and Ireland, drinking is customary. Sometimes, even beer and whiskey are dyed green. The tradition of drinking did not always exist; the holiday used to have a deeper religious meaning, and all pubs were closed. Imagine if that were the case in NYC.

Many symbols are associated with St. Patrick's Day. The most obvious is the shamrock. The legend is that St. Patrick used a Shamrock to explain the doctrine of the Trinity, which states that God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He used the shamrock as an example because it is one leaf with three distinct parts. Another symbol of St. Patrick's Day and Ireland is the leprechaun, which is representative of "the luck of the Irish." Leprechauns are traditional Irish fairies who are no taller than 2 feet, hairy, and dressed like a shoemaker with a crooked hat and a leather apron. If you are lucky enough to hear the sound of a leprechaun's hammer, catch him, and physically threaten him while staring him down (to make sure he doesn't vanish), he may lead you to his pot of gold.

# EMPIRE STATE ENTREPRENEURS: THE NYC STARTUP COMMUNITY

BY JUSTIN BURRIS

It's no secret that New York attracts the world's most ambitious and creative people. New York's decidedly dynamic vibe acts as a magnet that draws industrious entrepreneurs seeking an opportunity capitalize on the funding and talent available in New York. These entrepreneurs engender job creation and a healthy local economy, and their fledgling enterprises are essential to ensuring that New York remains a global metropolis in the future.

Emerging technologies have always formed the basis for the hottest startup sector. Currently, that means that biotechnology and internet companies lead the pack as the businesses in vogue. Although New York may not be the technological talent pool that Silicon Valley is, it certainly has no shortage of tech-savvy venture capitalists seeking promising companies to invest in. Venture Capitalists like Union Square Ventures' Fred Wilson, the effective dean of the New York tech startup scene, provide the funding and experience that empowers entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams and develop their products.

New York is the media capital of the world. Multinational media powerhouses like Viacom, CBS, and Condé Nast are all based in New York and serve as gateways for entrepreneurs' products' entry into the marketplace. The ability to utilize New York's innumerable advertising and public relations agencies to take advantage of these media outlets ensures that a product developed in New York will reach its target market.

For an entrepreneur, there's nothing as important as building a network of contacts.

Early stage startups often rely on the founder's personal contacts for guidance and a mutually beneficial ex-

change of services. This exchange of services is the lifeblood of startups, because no startup company can survive without the assistance of others. Startup Incubators like Y-Combinator and Dogpatch Labs serve as forums that promote cooperation between startups and other essential service providers such as lawyers and accountants.

New York's hyper-capitalist setting provides the perfect backdrop and inspiration for emerging companies. After all, it was in a fictionalized New York City where Gordon Gekko proclaimed "greed is good." Wall Street's commercial emphasis pervades the entire city and inspires entrepreneurs and innovators to think mercenarily. Moreover, New York's wealth of Fortune 500 corporations serves as a model to strive for. By coexisting alongside the proverbial big dogs, startups receive daily inspiration as they glimpse the rewards of success. New York's fantastic educational institutions such as Columbia University and New York University supply the intellectual capacity required to attain this success, and provide a steady stream of workers prepared to power New York's startups to profitability.

New York's startup community has boomed in recent years, and it is entirely the result of New York's entrepreneurialism-conducive milieu. The innovation, social context, and financing that abounds in New York is beginning to be taken advantage of for the first time since the dot-com bubble burst of the early 2000s, and New York is on its way ascending to its rightful position as a world-class startup hub. This status is essential to New York's future, for without the economic benefits and constant creativity of startups, New York would cease to exist as a global financial capital.



# Atlantic Yards

By Ashley Gerber

At the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues in downtown Brooklyn, one man's "mega-project" is finally underway to becoming reality. The proposal for Atlantic Yards was introduced in 2003, by developer Bruce C. Ratner, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Forest City Ratner Companies. This project entails residential and commercial buildings, with at least 30 percent of the residential units pledged for moderate- and middle-income families, surrounding an 18,000-seat arena. The Barclays Center arena, the future home of the New Jersey Nets, would be the centerpiece of the 22-acre Atlantic Yards development. Frank Gehry originally designed Atlantic Yards and the estimated cost of the project called for a \$1 billion development. However, due to the increasing difficulty to raise money for the project in such dire times for real estate, the design was repealed, one of the many set backs Mr. Ratner has faced. It has been very difficult to acquire investors and the proper

financing for this project, even with \$700 million in tax-exempt financing.

Forest City Ratner Companies has been to court numerous times, most recently in November 2009. The New York Times had coverage of this case, set forth before the Court of Appeals, stating that "The Court of Appeals ruled of 6 to 1 that the state could exercise eminent domain in claiming businesses, public property and private homes for economic development projects like Atlantic Yards." In the seven years since the design was first proposed, all five previous designs have failed. However, on Wednesday September 9, 2009, the sixth and final design for this project was released. The architect of the 18,000-seat Barclays Center arena and the commercial and residential buildings of the Atlantic Yards project is SHoP. Forest City Ratner Companies has made great headway with the Atlantic Yards project after 7 years of court cases, revoked designs, and initial financing difficulties for the project. March





11th 2010 is the Atlantic Yards groundbreaking. There is a countdown clock on the Barclays Center website next to an image portraying the external view of the planned arena, completed. Mr. Ratner is very aware of the commotion he has created with this project, and tends on having police at the groundbreaking ceremony to control protestors who are surely attending the ceremony.

A group of critics named “Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn,” is gathering protestors for the ceremony. Develop Don’t Destroy Brooklyn brought Forest City Ratner Companies to court over the controversy of using eminent domain. Although they did not win the case, they plan on continuing the battle with Forest City Ratner Companies and the Atlantic Yards project that has been going on for years. The New York Times and Wall Street Journal has many full-page advertisements sponsored by Barclays Capital, advertising the groundbreaking. In a statement from the advertisement, Barclays Capital seems very enthusiastic about the project, “We are proud to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The Barclays Center will be the home to Nets Basketball and a vibrant entertainment venue for the entire region. Barclays is pleased to be a part of the partnership that is bringing professional sports back to Brooklyn and providing economic opportunity to the community. It is through this dedication to teamwork and excellence that we will build success together.” The seeming motto of the Atlantic Yards project is “Building success from the ground up.”



# NYC As a Concert Hub

Charlotte Christman-Cohen

Let's establish some facts about New York City, one of the greatest cities in the world. On the small island of Manhattan alone, 1,634,765 people go about their daily lives. Each street corner provides a distinct vibrant atmosphere, infused with all types of culture. New York City has everything from museums to galleries to Broadway and Off-Broadway theaters to film centers. But, the most multifarious and ample type of entertainment that the City provides is concerts. Why, you may ask, is New York the king of all concert locations? Well, statistically it makes sense. New York City is one of the densest cities, in terms of population, in the country. It is extremely diverse, holding communities of varying races, religions and backgrounds. Diverse people means diverse musical desires. Concerts in New York City provide the bridge between all of these musicians and the 8,000,000+ people in the city.

Apart from the diversity that makes concerts special, New York City is home to some of the most famous venues in the world, one of the most recognized being Madison Square Garden. MSG was built in 1968 and now holds around 320 events per year. It is home to the New York Knicks and the New York Rangers. Along with sporting events and special shows, MSG has hosted some of the biggest headliners in the world including Kanye West, The Police, Jay-Z and Elton John. John Lennon even played his last concert at MSG. Musicians across the world dream of playing in front of MSG's 20,000 screaming fans. Elton John has said, "Madison Square Garden is



my favorite venue in the whole world... Madison Square Garden is the center of the universe as far as I'm concerned. It has the best acoustics, the best audiences, the best reputation, and the best history of great artists who have played there." Well said, Elton.

Another iconic City venue is Radio City Music Hall, built in 1932. With 5,933 seats and longstanding historical value, Radio City is a concert hall that big-name musicians aspire to play at. Dave Matthews performed there in 2007 and just last April, Paul McCartney and Ring Starr played at Radio City for a charity event. Along with large iconic venues that make New York City's concerts known worldwide, many smaller venues have opened relatively recently. Some of these venues include: Terminal 5, The Bowery and Mercury Lounge. Smaller venues, like these, provide a more intimate and personal experience. Unlike Madison Square Garden or Radio City, where you may have to watch the performer at a distance (or pay a lot of money to get up close), smaller venues allow anyone the



chance to have a more personal concert experience (as long as you get there early). As frequent concert attendee, David Yassky ('11), puts it, "I wanna see the sweat pouring down from the drummer's face. Now that's rock." Well said, David.

Okay, enough talk about the diversity of New York and the great music venues. What about the musicians? Well, it just so happens that great musicians also contribute in making New York City the concert hub it has become. Let's take a look at some recent examples. Vampire Weekend, Dirty Projectors, MGMT, and Yeasayer all have one thing in common: they're all relatively new bands that have found fame and success. Most importantly, they're all from Brooklyn. But, these are just new bands. It goes without saying that since the Jazz Age (pioneered by NYC-based musicians), the City has produced a disproportionately large amount of influential and groundbreaking musicians.

Whether it's the people, the venues, or the musicians, take your pick, one thing is certain: New York City is one of the greatest places in the world to see a concert. As new artists emerge on the music scene, new venues are established - and in some cases, old venues are revived. In NYC, there is no shortage of great music. If you're at MSG watching a well-established band or at a small venue listening to an up-and-comer, New York City's concerts remind us that even in such a diverse place, people still find music as a common ground.



# Joe Siegal's Quest for the

Every New Yorker has an opinion on where to get the best slice of pizza, but now, asking someone where to find a great burger can spark a debate as well. Many restaurants now offer gourmet hamburgers on their menus, and new fast-food style restaurants have been opening up all over the city, specializing in hamburgers. Here, three of the best burgers in the city are rated according to their quality, value, and restaurant service.

## Shake Shack

Locations at Madison Square Park (23rd and Madison), 77th and Columbus, The Mets' Citi Field, and opening at 44th and 8th and 86th and Lexington this summer.

The popularity of Danny Meyer's Shake Shack restaurants has been booming recently, with new locations opening to complement the original outdoors Madison Square Park location. The restaurants offer single and double burgers, as well as hot dogs, fries, and shakes. The burgers have good quality lettuce and tomatoes on top and use soft potato rolls for buns. The meat is very juicy and flavorful, but the burgers are a fairly small size, making the double a strong choice. A single burger sells for \$4.75, and a double for \$7.25, with the prices inflated by \$2 at



the Citi Field location. The Madison Square Park location is the original and best, even though lines can take over half an hour at peak lunch times, leaving few tables open, though patrons can eat on the surrounding park benches and grass. The Upper West Side location is indoors, and has scarce cafeteria-style seating. However, lines are much shorter at this location. At Citi Field, hungry fans generally will miss at least an inning or two waiting in line for food, as Shake Shack has become the most popular concession at the new stadium.

Quality-4/5 (great tasting, but small burgers, fresh vegetables, and good buns)

Value-3/5 (Burger, fries, and drink costs about \$10, more if you want a double burger or a shake instead)

Service-4/5 (multiple locations are accessible, clean, and bright, but be prepared to wait at Madison Square Park)

# Best Burger in Manhattan

## J.G. Melon

74th and 3rd

J.G. Melon opened in 1972, and its burger has become well known in New York since. The burgers are sizeable, juicy, and cooked to order. However, they do not come with anything on them other than cheese. The buns are generic white bread. A hamburger costs \$8.50, with an extra 25 cents for cheese, and served with fries. The restaurant has a moderate amount of seating, and is moderately busy at lunch, but is usually quite crowded at night. Wait times to simply get a table can range from 20 to 45 minutes. Once seated, service is slow, but understandable for the usually crowded dinner service.



Quality-3/5 (meat is good quality, buns lacking, and no vegetables)

Value-3/5 (Burger, fries, and a drink costs slightly more than Shake Shack due to the more expensive burger)

Service-2/5 (Getting a table is one matter, but slow kitchen service will leave you waiting even longer)

## Burger Joint at Le Parker Meridien

119 West 56 Street

Located down a dark, inconspicuous hallway in the lobby of the Parker Meridien Hotel, past a neon sign of a burger, and through some floor-length curtains, Burger Joint is a not so well kept secret among New Yorkers. The hot, wood-paneled walls are covered with movie posters and sports-page clippings from years past. The menu board plainly states “If you don’t see it, we don’t have it.” There is little seating available, and lines stretch out into the lobby of the hotel. The large burgers are great, with lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickles on top of flavorful patties and cheese. A cheeseburger is \$7.35 and cooked on a flat-top grill in plain sight of the customer as the cashier and staff yell out orders over the sound of the kitchen and whatever game happens to be playing on the TV overhead. Despite the long lines and few tables, Burger Joint serves great burgers in a truly New York style locale.

Quality-5/5 (good size, great combination of meat, cheese and toppings)

Value-2/5 (Burger, fries, and a drink will set you back about \$15)

Service-3/5 (Once past the line, service is quick, but finding a table is always difficult)



# Alice, Daphne, and Zoe on New York Fashion Week

By Alice Taranto, Daphne Taranto, and Zoe Kestan

After this year, Bryant Park will no longer be New York Fashion Week's main hub. The weeklong frenzy of shows and presentations for the upcoming seasons will be held at Lincoln Center. This news comes as a big change for many as fashion week has grown to be synonymous with the park and its big white tents. Bryant Park represents the appreciation of the fashion world and industry that has become custom in New York. Before Bryant Park, shows were held in various clubs, warehouses, or other uncentralized locations, creating gaps between various designers, editors, marketers, etcetera. Although some shows have been and are held outside of Bryant Park, the compilation of presenting many of the shows in one major location has joined the fashion community and legitimized it as a serious element of New York business and culture. While this conception will continue despite the new location, the departure from the park is sentimental in its transformative history.

When browsing the online photos of the New York Fashion Week collections, all three of us felt underwhelmed. While American style, and NYFW in particular, is known for its basis in practical sportswear and wearability, for the most part, gone was the artistic excitement from the NY autumn/winter collections this year.

Jeremy Scott, whom we count on for wild-n'-wierd garments, had a rather subdued lineup. Yes, we know New Yorkers are infamous for wearing only black, but this sea-



son stormy colors (shades of gray, black, and white) were abundant. In fact, many of the looks seemed interchangeable between shows, since designers' wavelengths seemed to coordinate in "dark, serious, and stern" this season. Nearly every show, including Vivienne Tam, Marc Jacobs, and Zero +

Maria Cornejo, featured a "fresh" iteration of the gray suit - while we can appreciate tailoring, we feel for the (although fortunate) editors who are paid to attend all of the collections. A lineup of gray pantsuits does not make for the greatest show, although it may sell well in a department store.

The usual smattering of sequins and textures found their home again on the runway in the form of chunky sweaters, sequined tanks, and the occasional fancy pant. There were some exceptions to the otherwise solemn shows this season - the never-fail-to-impress Suno (of "I would never have thought to put this with that!" pattern-pairing fame), Chris Benz (who showed the usual loud prints and interesting embellishments), and Rodarte (this season, the Kate and Laura Mulleavy, despite the trend in NY, lightened up and showed frothy, romantic whites and pastels).

Perhaps the lesson for this fall is you need not buy a whole new wardrobe to adopt a whole new look - simply buying one investment, "it" item and a few cheaper, trendier items will open your eyes to the options your closet already holds.



# Giants Season Review

**By Charles Scherr**

After coming off a very successful 2008 season, the reigning NFC number one seed, New York Giants looked to close out their last season in the Meadowlands with a fifth consecutive playoff birth. Injuries and an untimely collapse, however, left the Giants heading into their new stadium with an 8-8 record, good for only 3rd place in the NFC East.

The Giants started off strong with a 5-0 record, and the playoffs seemed more than likely. After losing their next four games, the Giants flaws became well noticed, and a fall from the league's elite was inevitable. Recovering to win their next three games, the Giants fans had hope, and believed that with a little luck, the Giants would be in the playoffs. No such luck though for the Giants, as they laid absolute eggs in the final two games, especially the Week 16 loss to the Panthers. To add insult to injury, this was the final game the Giants would ever play in Giants Stadium. The Giants were outscored those last two weeks, 85-16, ending their season, clearly not the same dominant team that won the Super Bowl in 2007 nor the team that went 12-4 in 2008.

Overall, the Giants offense was much better than expected. They scored 402 points, averaging 25 points per game. Their 8th ranked offense was mainly a result of Eli Manning's best year of his career. He threw for over 4,000 yards and 27 touchdowns, all career highs, while leading a group of talented, yet inexperienced, receivers to become one of the league's best groups.

The Giants' receiving core also had a great year: they were led by 3rd year man Steve Smith, whose 1,220 yards and 7 touchdowns landed him in his first Pro Bowl. Mario Manningham started strong, catching 4 touchdowns in the first six games, only to cool down later on in the season. The Giants also benefited from a fantastic rookie year

by Hakeem Nicks, catching 6 touchdowns and 790 yards, the second greatest yardage from a rookie receiver in the NFL.

The weak link in the Giants' offensive was the rushing game and offensive line. The tough, power football the Giants used to play totally disappeared with the aging offensive line and an off year from Brandon Jacobs. He rushed for only 835 yards, averaging a miniscule 3.7 yards per attempt.

The defense was clearly the Giants' biggest letdown. Sometimes, they just didn't show up. The Saints, Eagles (twice), Panthers, and Vikings all put up 40+ points against the Giants. Those five games (all losses) contributed greatly to the 427 points allowed by the Giant defensive -- third worst in the league, only behind the dreadful Lions and Rams.

Hopefully, with a new Defensive Coordinator, draft picks, and free agents, the Giants, in their inaugural season at the new stadium, can restore the glory they once had. Maybe they could look across the Hudson and take advice from the guys in the Bronx who knew how to open their new stadium the right way.



# Knicks and Nets

By Matt Citak

With the long awaited summer of free agents finally here, the 2009-2010 season has been one to forget for Knicks and Nets fans. While the Knicks still have a chance of making the playoffs, the Nets are struggling just to get through this season without making history. With the end of the season quickly approaching, and the Nets still with only 5 wins, it is looking more and more like the Nets will end up with the worst record ever in an NBA season.

After having a slow start to their season, the New York Knicks stepped it up in the month of December, with the help of all-star forward David Lee, winning 9 out of their 15 games. However, this hot streak ended quickly, with the Knicks coming back down to earth in January and February. The Knicks did make a splash

around the trade deadline. The day after trading fan favorite and three-time Slam Dunk Champion Nate Robinson to the Boston Celtics for Eddie House and Bill Walker, the Knicks were part of a blockbuster trade with the Houston Rockets and Sacramento Kings. New York ended up with former all-star Tracy McGrady, along with guard Sergio Rodriguez. However, the key factor for the Knicks in this trade was that they were able to clear about \$9 million dollars off of the salary cap for this summer. Not only could this trade end up propelling the Knicks into the playoffs (depending on the play of McGrady), but it also spurred them ahead of the Nets as the team with the most cap space this summer. After Isiah Thomas spent several years destroying this franchise, new General Manager Donnie Walsh has already



# Season Review

made Thomas an afterthought. The road to the playoffs will not be easy for the Knicks, but after their great play during the month of December, anything is possible for this unpredictable team.

While the Knicks still have a chance to make the playoffs, the same cannot be said about the New Jersey Nets. The Nets have by far the worst record in the NBA, with the next closest team having 9 more wins. New Jersey is more than 20 games out of the eighth and final playoff position in the Eastern Conference. At the pace they are winning games, it seems as if they are content with setting a new NBA record for fewest number of wins in a season. The current record is 9 wins by the 1972-1973 Philadelphia 76ers. As of the end of February, the Nets only have 5 wins this season. After trading all-time great Jason Kidd in 2008, the Nets failed to reach the playoffs, breaking their record of six straight years of postseason play. Their losing ways have carried over into this season. Although this season is one no one wants to remember, there has been one shining part of this team: second year center Brook Lopez. After a solid rookie season, Lopez has truly stepped it up in his second year in the league, averaging almost a double-double per game. He is the building block for the future of this franchise that desperately needs to rebuild this upcoming off-season.

With both the Knicks and the Nets in major need of help, this will be a crucial off-season. One source of hope for the Nets season is that they will have the best chance to win the first pick of the NBA draft. Whoever wins this pick will win the right to draft John Wall from the University of Kentucky. Wall is the best college basketball player in the country, and is almost guaranteed

to be the first pick in the draft. With this dismal season, the Nets could not think of a better way to start their off-season then by drafting John Wall, who has the potential to become a future NBA superstar. After the draft is over, things will start to get really interesting around the NBA. This off-season is considered to have the best free agent class of all time, with players such as LeBron James, Dwayne Wade, and Chris Bosh leading the way. Both the Nets and the Knicks would do anything to sign LeBron, but with



the success the Cleveland Cavaliers are having this season, it seems probable that LeBron will stay in Cleveland. With Wade expected to stay in Miami or possible go to the Chicago Bulls, it leaves superstar Chris Bosh as the Knicks most likely target. However, LeBron will likely at least consider playing in New York, the biggest market in the country. It is also known that LeBron is friends with both John Wall and Nets minority owner Jay-Z. The upcoming Nets move to Brooklyn, and the possibility of winning the John Wall sweepstakes, could create a possible LeBron-Wall combination for the Nets next season. Only time will tell what these two teams will look like a year from now. But with each teams' roster consisting of at least 8 expiring contracts, both the Knicks and the Nets will certainly have very different looks next season.

# METS AND YANKEES

BY DAVID GOODMAN

## Mets:

Jeff Wilpon, the Mets principal owner, reportedly lost between 500 and 800 million dollars as a result of Madoff's Ponzi scheme. Whether the money lost played a role in the reduction of the Mets' payroll or not is unknown. Regardless, the Mets entered the offseason with a small budget. One main concern that the Mets needed to address was their lack of power hitting; the Mets finished the 2009 season with a mere 95 homeruns, earning them the last place spot in all of baseball. The Mets addressed this problem by signing outfielder Jason Bay, a former player for the Boston Red Sox. Bay brings power and stability to the Mets' Left Field, which was occupied in 2009 by a rotating cast of Gary Sheffield, Cory Sullivan, Angel Pagan and other non-descript role players. The Mets also had to address their pitching woes, after a somewhat lackluster season from behind the mound. They came up short in the John Lackey sweepstakes and failed to bring in any other pitchers of merit. The Mets did manage to take fliers on other pitchers who could provide some upside. Among these pitchers was injury-riddled starter/reliever Kelvim Escobar who pitched for the Angels before he was shut down by injuries.

The Mets are bringing back the same infield they carried for much of last season. David Wright hopes to re-discover his power stroke at third base. Jose Reyes will look to bounce back from an injury-plagued year at shortstop. Luis Castillo aspires to keep up his Renaissance numbers from last year and deliver another strong



season at second base. Daniel Murphy seeks to gain experience and improve at first base. The Mets have signed an array of journeyman catchers hoping to catch lightning in a bottle. Omir Santos will be the starting catcher, backed up by either Henry Blanco, Shawn Riggans or Chris Coste. The outfield, which should have been anchored by perennial all-star center fielder, Carlos Beltran, will be missing his services for at least the first month or two of the season because of his knee surgery. Jeff Francoeur, who came on strong for the Mets after being traded from the Braves for Ryan Church in the middle of last year, will man Right Field. Left



Field will be occupied by Jason Bay, hoping to inject the Mets lineup with the power that they were missing during last year's season. The pitching rotation may be a problem area for the Mets;

besides Johan Santana, the Mets really have no sure things. Mike Pelfrey, John Maine, Oliver Perez and Fernando Nieve round out the Mets rotation, all with their own hurdles to overcome. The bullpen should be a strong suit for the 2010 Mets, with closer Francisco Rodriguez finishing games and bullpen stalwarts Shawn Green and Pedro Feliciano bridging the gap to Rodriguez. Overall, The Mets of this year is very similar to the Mets of last year. I predict they will go 76-86 and finish in third place behind the Philadelphia Phillies and Florida Marlins.

# SEASON PREVIEW

## Yankees:

The World Series Champion New York Yankees came into the off-season needing to upgrade Center Field, sign a Left-Fielder and add a fourth starter to solidify their rotation. The Yankees accomplished two of these needs through trade, receiving Center fielder Curtis Granderson



from the Detroit Tigers and right-handed pitcher Javier Vasquez from the Atlanta Braves. The Yankees also signed Left-Fielder Randy Winn to back up Brett Gardner as well as first baseman/

Designated Hitter, Nick Johnson. The Yankees took home the World Series last year from the strength of their lineup and their three horses in the pitching rotation. The lineup will be very similar to last year, anchored by Alex Rodriguez, Mark Texiera, Derek Jeter and Jorge Posada. Although, there will be differences: Nick Johnson will replace Hideki Matsui and Curtis Granderson will replace Johnny Damon. Jorge Posada will continue to catch for the Yankees, backed up by rookie Francisco Cervelli. The positioning of the outfielders is one of the few things that is still left un-



decided by manager Joe Girardi. Brett Gardner who is a superior defensive outfielder to Curtis Granderson may wrestle the Center Field job from Granderson by the end of spring training; otherwise, Gardner will stay in Left Field while Granderson continues to play Center Field.

The rotation will have Yankee-sophomores, C.C. Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, at the front end, followed by Andy

Pettite and Javier Vasquez. The fifth spot in the rotation is up for grabs between Philip Hughes, Joba Chamberlain and Chad Gaudin. Hughes is the early favorite due to Joba's struggles in the rotation last year, but this battle is still a

toss up. Vasquez did not perform well in his last stint with the Yankees. However, the last six years have provided Vasquez with more seasoning, al-

lowing him to better handle New York. The bullpen, occupied by many Yankee farmhands, looks to stay strong, with Mariano Rivera shutting the door at the end of games. Even with the improvements that Boston has made during this off-season, I still predict that the Yankees will win the A.L. East Crown with a record of 101-61.



# New York Olympians

By Harrison Finkelstein

## Andrew Weichbrecht:

Andrew was born in February 1986 and grew up in Lake Placid, the host city of the 1980 Winter Olympics. He attended Dartmouth College and his nickname is "Warberg". This dense 5'6" 180 pound American skier competed very respectably in his first Olympic games, taking home the bronze in the men's super-G.



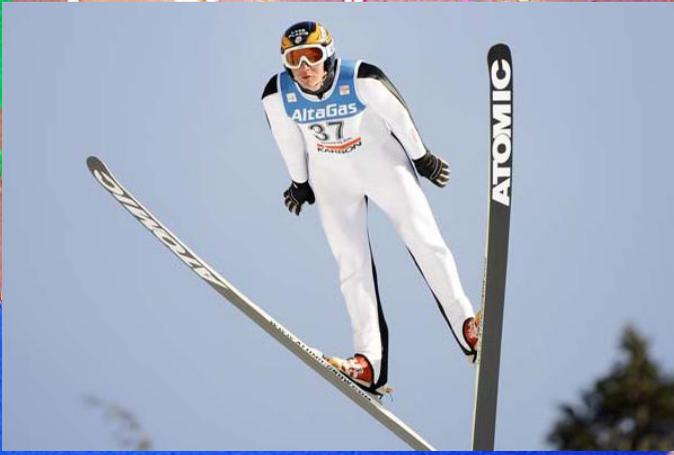
## Tim Burke:

Biathlete Tim Burke is now a Lake Placid resident, although he was born in Paul Smiths, New York in February 1982. He began competing in biathlons at the age of twelve. After Burke competed in five events, his best finish was eighteenth. An interesting fact about Tim is that he always carries a bottle of hot sauce with him on the road. In addition, he dates Andrea Henkel, who was a double gold medalist at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

## John Daly:

John was born in June 1985 and is a native of Long Island, New York. He now resides in Smithtown, New York. Daly began skeleton in 2001. Previously, he was an All-American decathlete. John successfully competed in the Olympic games with three top 20 finishes.





**Bill Demong:**

In the 2010 Winter Olympics, Bill Demong became the first American Nordic Combined champion. Bill was born in March 1980 in Lake Placid, New York; only a month after the 1980 Winter Olympics. The same night that he won the gold medal, he was selected to represent the United States as the flag bearer for the closing ceremony. On that very same day, Bill courageously proposed to his girlfriend.

**Chris Drury:**

Chris may be the most well known and most accomplished of these athletes. Even as a young boy, Chris was a stud as he won the Little League World Series in 1989. He now plays in the NHL and is currently the captain of the New York Rangers. Before these Olympics, Drury had already won a silver medal at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. He added another silver medal to his resume in these Olympics as the American hockey team lost a heartbreaking overtime game in the finals to Canada.



**Julie Chu:**

Julie became the first Asian-American to compete for the US women's hockey team in the 2010 Winter Olympics. This New Yorker was a standout hockey player at Harvard. She set the NCAA record for points and was a three time All-American. After Julie made the 2002 Olympic roster, her whole family got tattoos commemorating the event. The US women's hockey team, like its male counterpart, lost in the finals of the 2010 Olympics, to the home team Canada.

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