



EDITED BY MICHAEL VENTURA
michael.ventura@metro.us

MONSIGNOR ASKED TO QUIT

Monsignor John Woolsey, pastor of St. John the Martyr Church on Manhattan's Upper East Side, who was accused in a lawsuit of bilking a parishioner in her 80s out of nearly \$500,000, was asked yesterday by the New York archdiocese to give up his pastoral duties until questions about missing money at his church are answered. AP



PATAKI PADDLES HUDSON

New York Governor George Pataki paddles a kayak in the final leg of the Great Hudson River Paddle yesterday in Manhattan to encourage conservation along the Hudson River waterways. AP

Protesters march at City Hall

Convention protest group wants permit for Central Park rally, not West Side Highway

MANHATTAN Several dozen protesters marched outside City Hall yesterday, demanding the city allow them to hold a rally in Central Park on the eve of the Republican National Convention.

United for Peace and Justice members were hopeful that another meeting scheduled for today with representatives of the NYPD would improve negotiations over the location of its Aug. 29 rally that is expected to draw some 250,000 people.

"We're quite confident that there will be a permit granted," Leslie Cagan, national coordinator for United for Peace and Justice, said at yesterday's protest. "It may not be that everything is settled tomorrow."

Ultimatum

On Wednesday, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly warned the group that a permit to

rally on the West Side Highway was the city's final offer.

"New Yorkers have a right to be heard, but based on this location protesters are likely to be heard louder in New Jersey than Madison Square Garden," said David Chai, a spokesman for City Council Speaker Gifford Miller. "Protesters have a right to be in a central place and the Republican Mayor should reconsider."

A rally in Central Park — the group's first choice — could damage the grass, the city has determined.

"They put one proposal on the table and start issuing ultimatums," Cagan said.

A spokesman for the NYPD said the commissioner's position remained the same.

Organizers said the West Side Highway is too hot in August and would stretch the group over three miles as they tried to listen to

Protests permitted

- The city has issued 14 permits for marches, prayer vigils and rallies coinciding with the Aug. 30-Sept. 2 convention, officials said.

METRO

speeches against the war in Iraq and other Bush administration policies.

The park, they said, is the only place that would let such a large group meet and cool off from its city-authorized march past Madison Square Garden the day before the convention.

Bill Dobbs, United for Peace and Justice's media coordinator, said they deserved equal treatment.

"Is this really about lawn care and protecting the park or is he interested in protecting the party he belongs to?" Dobbs said.

MATTHEW SWEENEY



TONY CALANCA/METRO

PROTESTERS STAGED a noon rally outside City Hall yesterday to demand access to Central Park during the GOP convention.

Office announces new disaster system for city emergencies

MANHATTAN The New York City Office of Emergency Management announced yesterday the Corporate Emergency Access System (CEAS), a program which will let corporations issue credentials to essential employees during a city-wide emergency or disaster.

CEAS will let business employees cross police lines to execute orderly company shut down procedures, gain access to damaged facilities, and obtain and secure client and company records. Companies are given a certain number of credentials based on the percentage of their total number of employees.

"The CEAS program will make it easier for businesses to recover in the unfortunate event of an emergency or disaster," said Joseph Bruno, commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management. "It also improves the city's ability to more quickly recognize the legitimacy of employees trying to gain access to a restricted area."

Brookfield Properties US Commercial Operations took part in the six month pilot program from December 2003 to February 2004



TONY CALANCA/METRO

POLICE COMMISSIONER Raymond Kelly, second from left, and Joseph F. Bruno, third from left, commissioner of the Office of Emergency Management, and corporate representatives attend the announcement yesterday.

with 20 other companies — including Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Morgan Stanley, and Citigroup. Dennis Friedrich, president and Chief Operating Officer of Brookfield Properties said the pilot program was successful, and proved that it was necessary to have this system in place in event of another disaster in New York.

"This program will expedite the recovery process during a time of crisis such an 9/11. Having experi-

enced the distress of recovering from a disaster first hand, we are grateful to have a new system in place," he said.

"It is important to get critically needed people back to work in an emergency. This makes it happen and helps the police know who is who," said New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Implementation of the program will be complete by December 2004.

HITHA PRABHAKAR
hprabhakar@metro.us

Convention to detour, delay trains

NEWARK, N.J. NJ Transit's 53,000 daily rail riders are being advised to travel light during next month's Republican National Convention in New York.

State troopers and NJ Transit police will inspect all New York-bound trains, the agency said. Commuters won't be allowed to use overhead luggage racks. All trash cans will be sealed, and some restrooms will be closed.

NJ Transit Executive Director George Warrington said passengers should expect delays during convention week, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, when security measures will put added pressure on New York Penn Station. The station, the busiest in the country, lies directly below the Madison Square Garden convention site. During the convention, commuters who jostle their way through the station to and from 1,200 NJ Transit, Amtrak, Long Island Rail Road and New York City subway trains, will face altered service, heightened police scrutiny and limited pedestrian access. AP

MTA considering service cuts

MANHATTAN Just two weeks before releasing its budget, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is considering service cuts and higher fares that could come as soon as next year. The agency, which faces a \$540 million budget shortfall next year and deficits of over a billion dollars over the next two years, could decrease the frequency of overnight bus and subway service or increase the price of unlimited-fare MetroCards. METRO

Schumer's interest matches Mills' cash

NEW YORK Sen. Charles Schumer still wields a Goliath-like advantage over rival Howard Mills in the money race for the 2004 Senate campaign. Mills, a Republican assemblyman from Orange County, reported just over \$300,000 in contributions for the three-month period that ended June 30, according to papers filed with the Federal Election Commission.

By contrast, Schumer made nearly that much in interest alone on his campaign cash over the past three months. AP

CALL 212-307-4100 TODAY!
OR VISIT WWW.TICKETMASTER.COM

A RAGS TO RICHES CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN DREAM
IN CLASSIC RHYTHM AND DRIFT

FROM MY HOMETOWN

THESE 30 HIT SONGS
INCLUDE:

- "I FEEL GOOD"
- "SITTING ON THE ROCK OF THE BAY"
- "MAMA BAMB"
- "I LOVE MUSIC"
- "WAKE UP BEEN HERE"
- "HOLD ON, I'M COMING"

LIVE ON STAGE!
TICKETS FROM \$21

MONDAY-SATURDAY 8PM, WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY 9:30
BOX OFFICE: 212-777-4900

GRAMERCY THEATRE 177 EAST 23RD STREET (BETWEEN PARK & LEXINGTON)
www.FromMyHometown.net