

# NEW YORK Day by Day

## Lost: a Heroic Bear

**A**n incredibly heroic teddy bear, lost in the Feb. 11 snowstorm, is being sought by the Sanitation Department's East Bronx headquarters. Even now, the victim may lie beneath the snow remnants lining the Bruckner Expressway as "wanted" posters, offering a \$100 reward, plead: "Lost bear wants to come home. Owner grieving un-bear-ably."

The cry for help came in the department's weekend mail from 27-year-old Robin Miller, a graduate student who lives in Florence, Mass. She wrote that the bear was "lost while helping to push stranded cars," and enclosed a map that included East Tremont Avenue, I-95 and the Cross Bronx Expressway's Webster Avenue ramp.

"My life has been very hectic with personal relationships, professional relationships, school, everything," Miss Miller, a native of the South Bronx, said yesterday. "The bear has served as a major part of my support system." Purchased three years ago, she said, the 10-inch-tall, brown and beige bear's most distinguishing feature is a smile.

Charles Leal, the department's East Bronx superintendent, said Miss Miller was concerned that the bear had been scooped up with the snow and deposited somewhere. "But we don't haul snow from the expressways — we push it to the side and it just lies there and melts." He said he would get the posters she had provided put up and put out a bear-hunt alert.

"Everybody can identify with a teddy bear," Mr. Leal said. "Or a blanket."

## Whimsy and Hamantaschen

**A**lthough no match for the matzoh ball, hamantaschen still hold a special place among Jewish culinary delights, and the taste is cultivated early. Yesterday was the traditional day to eat the three-cornered pastries filled with apricot jam, poppy seeds or sweet prune jam. It was Purim, the celebration of Queen Esther's triumph over the evil vizier Haman in ancient Persia.

At New York University nearly 2,000 people, including many costumed youngsters in tow, jammed the Loeb Student Center on West Fourth Street for a handful of hamantaschen, a dash of klezmer music and plenty of conversation.

The fine points of hamantaschen were a hot topic among friends of David and Martin Zeitlin, both 6. ("We're twins," explained David,

"except we're fraternable.") Eschewing the usual King Ahasuerus or Haman costumes, the brothers dressed like the holiday pastry. Pointing to a blue spot on his cardboard costume, David declared, "I'm a blueberry hamantaschen."

"I'm . . . I forget, that orange kind — apricot!" announced Martin.

But Jordan Hollender, 7, played the skeptic, asking, "Is there such a thing as blueberry hamantaschen?"

"Once my mother made me one," countered David.

"Yeah," said Paul David Newell, 7. "I had one once — they're good!"

The twins' mother, Nancy, shook her head. "He just liked the color blue," she said.

## A 'Ceremonial

**T**he protest sign showed Rodin's "The Thinker" holding a cigarette. "Tobacco sponsorship of the arts? Think again," was the message.

The occasion was a "ceremonial picketing" of the Metropolitan Museum on Saturday to protest the sponsorship of the Vatican art show by Philip Morris Inc. Leaders said they had mailed a protest to C. Douglas Dillon, the chairman of the Met's board of trustees.

The 35 or so pickets were organized by DOC (Doctors Ought to Care), a national coalition of health professionals, and the New York City and New Jersey chapters of GASP (Group Against Smoking Pollution).

"Didn't the Vatican realize the ethical implications?" asked Dr. Alan Blum, a family physician from Long Island, while conceding that museum visitors found the protest "a little abstract at first."

The New York Lung Association did not participate, but Edith Ewenstein, its general director, said it was "in sympathy" and planned to "communicate" with the museum and the Archdiocese of New York.

Msgr. Eugene V. Clark, a former archdiocese spokesman who represented the Vatican Museum in some negotiations, said, "The sponsor is not Philip Morris as a cigarette company, but Philip Morris Inc." Since the corporation's \$3 million grant is to the museum, he said, "the Vatican does not have any necessity to answer" such objections.

## Waffling in the 'Village'

**T**hat is not an old railroad car plunked on the corner of Greenwich Avenue and Seventh Avenue South. The Diner on Wheels takes of-



The New York Times/Dith Pran

Youngster in elephant costume during Purim festivities yesterday in Borough Park area of Brooklyn.

fense, says a co-owner, Tony Bosco. "It's a wagon on wheels meant to move on the road. You'll notice when people come in and out it rocks — it's on springs."

After "starving," as Mr. Bosco put it, for a year at 39th Street and Ninth Avenue, the peripatetic red diner, a 1920's vintage moved four weeks ago to an empty lot in Greenwich Village where it serves fragrant homemade waffles and hot maple syrup, among other confections. Mr. Bosco and his partner, Stephen Janks, who bought the diner in Boston five years ago, are having its wheels restored with wooden spokes so horses can pull it to special events.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bosco said, they're applying to have the diner, with its oak interior, pink marble counters and etched windows, entered in the National Register as "the only movable landmark in the country." The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission has also been contacted.

For now, Mr. Bosco would like to put down roots in the rented Village lot. "After one week here we had a day better than anything we had on Ninth Avenue," he said. "The Village must be a waffle area of town."

Robin Hermar  
Laurie Johnston