



HOW TO DO SAN FRAN LIKE A LOCAL TRAVEL (page 11)

FASHION WEEK HAS SPRING IN ITS STEP STYLE (pages 23-24)



FALL ARTS: WHAT TO SEE IN THE CITY (pages 19-22)

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Get your butts out of Times Square

► Smoking ban will soon be extended to parks, beaches and pedestrian plazas under mayoral plan ► Most of Times Square to become a no-smoking zone (page 02)



► Patrizia Muschette, 18, a college student from the Bronx, enjoys a smoke while she can in Time Square.

News

New class warfare: What is it?

► As debate over tax cuts gets hot, definitions of middle class get murky ► Obama puts just 3% into upper crust (page 06)

Emotions at the root of yawning

Researchers look into why we just can't help but catch others' yawns (page 07)



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ELMO'S HEALTHY HEROES

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In the news

Women sue bank

Three former employees are suing Goldman Sachs for gender discrimination. The women say they were denied raises and promotions given to male workers. ● METRO

In the news



9/11 messages at auction

A 16-foot banner that hung near Ground Zero and was signed with messages by passers-by is to be sold at a Guernsey's auction on Sept. 24. The owner is a first responder who is ill with lung disease. ● METRO

Man shoots would-be burglar

BROOKLYN. A Brooklyn man shot an alleged burglar who broke into his Mill Basin home with an accomplice early yesterday. Retired teacher Larry Goldstein, 62, shot Alexander Manigat of Flatbush twice in the abdomen and once in the arm with a licensed handgun. Manigat was in critical condition. ● METRO

8 hurt in suspicious Bronx fire

BRONX. Eight people were hospitalized yesterday after a suspicious blaze tore through a two-story building in the West Farms section of the Bronx. Firefighters rescued a two-year-old boy and a 20-year-old mother who were found unconscious. The child was in serious condition and his mother and three other adults were in critical condition after the 6 a.m. fire. One firefighter was also seriously injured. The fire, still under investigation, was started in the basement. ● METRO

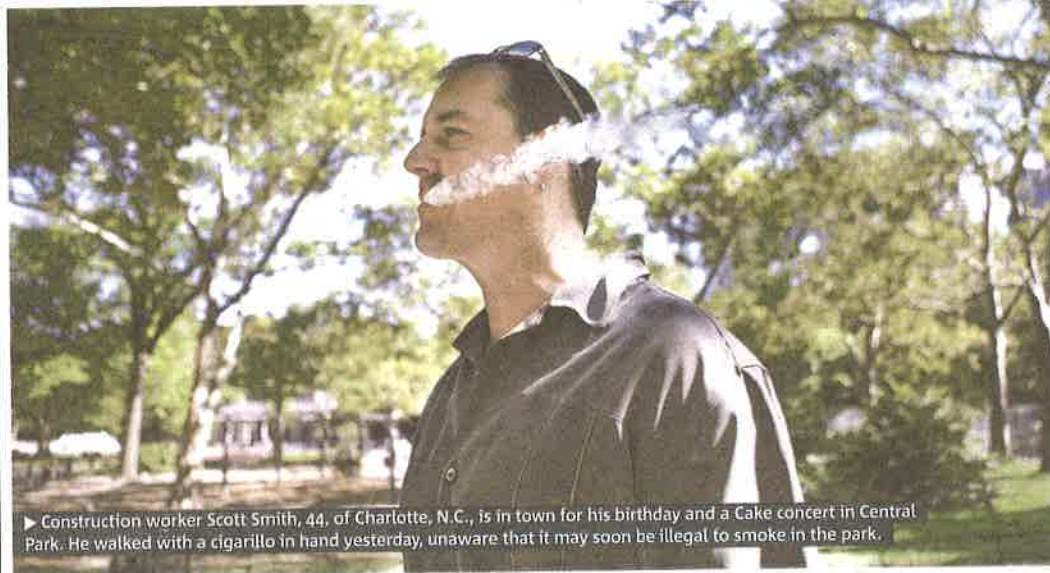
Five more women accuse man

NEW YORK. A man claiming to be an accomplished French-language TV journalist, initially charged with rape, trespass and harassment involving a July incident with a Russian tourist in Riverside Park, was indicted yesterday on various sex crimes charges against five more women, according to reports. Hugues-Denver Akassy, 42, pleaded not guilty. A prosecutor said that nearly 40 women had contacted the district attorney's office about Akassy. ● METRO/AZ



All lit up and nowhere to go

► Mayor tells smokers to butt out of parks, beaches and pedestrian plazas
► 'They'll come after us in our homes, just watch,' one smoker fumes



► Construction worker Scott Smith, 44, of Charlotte, N.C., is in town for his birthday and a Cake concert in Central Park. He walked with a cigarillo in hand yesterday, unaware that it may soon be illegal to smoke in the park.

Smokers will be barred from most of Times Square, all of Central Park and Coney Island's boardwalk and beach under Mayor Michael Bloomberg's plan to extend the smoking ban to the city's 1,700 parks, 14 miles of public beaches and public plazas.

"All of the science keeps saying again and again that second-hand smoke is not quite as bad as if you smoked yourself, but it is bad enough," he said.

Bloomberg's 2003 bar-and-restaurant smoking ban may have reduced the number of smokers here by 350,000, but health officials say nonsmoking New Yorkers are well above the national average in terms of having elevated levels of nicotine byproducts from second-hand smoke (57 percent compared to 45 percent).

"I'll just sneak it in. It's like beer: You can't drink it in a park, but people find ways."

PATRICK MAXWELL, 41, AN OCCASIONAL SMOKER

The City Council is expected to introduce legislation today to give NYPD and parks enforcement the power to slap smokers with quality-of-life summons of roughly \$50. But Council Speaker Christine

Quinn envisions citizens as the first line. "This is largely going to be enforced by New Yorkers talking politely and in a dignified way to other New Yorkers," she said.

"I don't mind it, really. I hate smoking around people" said pack-a-day smoker and Manhattan lawyer Brian Fredericks, 31. "But it is a slippery slope. A lot of things are harmful.

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Worries that government going too far

New York is actually following the lead of Chicago and Los Angeles, which implemented similar bans three years ago.

Some smokers said they were sympathetic to the plight of nonsmokers, but many complained about increasing government interference.

"I pay my taxes and deserve my liberties," said David Cruz, 51, a copier technician who

75%

The amount of litter on New York City beaches comprised of cigarette butts.

3ft. Someone sitting within three feet of a smoker outdoors is exposed to similar levels of indoor second-hand smoke, health officials said.

smokes one and a half packs a day. "They're trying to force us to quit with these bans and the taxes. If we want to smoke it should be up to us. ... All these little laws, I've had it. I'm going to retire myself to Florida."

● METRO/AZ



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