



SPRING STYLE AWAKENING
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'Boardwalk': Fall TV's best bet
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Smoked out

Puffers fume as city moves to ban lighting up at parks, beaches
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If the bill passes, it will be illegal to smoke at Union Square Park, and other similar places. (AP/WIDEWORLD)

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City to kick more 'butts'

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
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Smokers, at least you still have sidewalks on which to indulge your bad habit — for now.

Today, a bill is being proposed that will nix smoking in city parks, beaches, boardwalks and pedestrian plazas — even the one in Times Square.

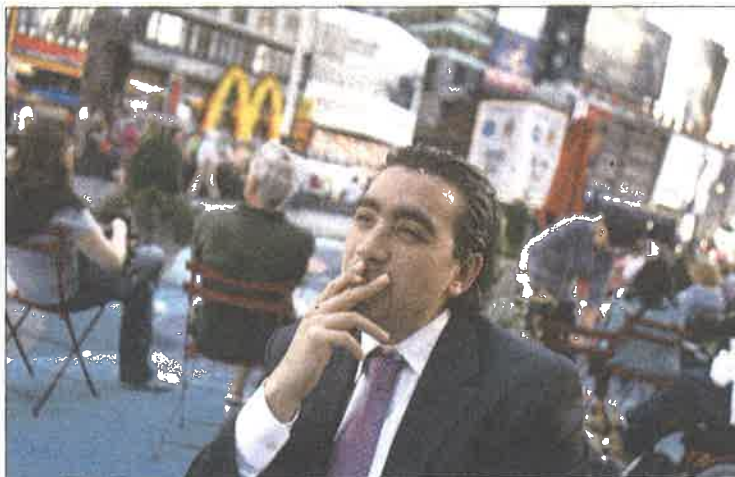
If passed, cops or parks police could fine those caught sneaking a puff \$50 to \$250.

Smokers were fuming yesterday.

"It's a hate campaign, not a health campaign!" gasped Audrey Silk, the founder of NYC Citizens Lobbying Against Smoker Harassment. "Sidewalk smoking bans will be next," she predicted, "and then it will be our homes."

Proposed by City Councilwoman Gail Brewer, the bill has key support from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

The legislation is not envisioned as a money-raiser, stressed a spokeswoman for Bloomberg. Rather, she said, it is hoped that people



"For \$250, no, I wouldn't smoke," said Aldo Miranda, 29, of Mexico City as he puffed in Times Square yesterday. "There should be a reserved smoking area." (ANDREW HINDERAKER)

will voluntarily comply.

The law is designed to improve not just the appearance of public space (75 percent of the garbage on beaches is tobacco-related), officials said, but also to improve public health: 7,500 New Yorkers a year die from smoking.

At a news conference yesterday, Bloomberg lauded the law enacted in

2003 banning smoking in bars and clubs, saying it helped to reduce the number of smokers in New York by 350,000.

Evelyn Rivera, a social worker and a mother of four from the South Bronx, said that if Bloomberg wanted her to quit smoking he should reinstate after-school programs. "Stress brings the cigarettes back

every time: Reduce the stress of New Yorkers and they'll stop," she added.

Annie Dixon, a counselor from Harlem, greeted news of the proposal rather fatalistically.

The proposed ban, she said, while finishing a Newport cigarette, "is a good idea for the people who want to stop."

(WITH TIM HERRERA)

STUB IT OUT

The city's proposed smoking ban expansion would reach new grounds, including:

- Times Square and Herald Square pedestrian plazas
- The High Line
- The beaches and boardwalks of Coney Island, Rockaway Beach and Brighton Beach
- Central Park
- Grand Army Plaza
- Water Taxi Beach

LI man charged with funding failed bomber

A Long Island businessman was arrested yesterday on charges that he unwittingly financed the accused Times Square bomber through uncensored money transfers. Mohammad Younis, 44, gave thousands of dollars to Faisal Shahzad, 31, for his failed May attack, authorities said. (AMNY)



Suit calls Shaq a hacker

Is Shaquille O'Neal a computer-hacking nerd?

Shawn Darling, O'Neal's former tech guy, is suing the NBA star, al-

leging that Shaq hacked into computers, broke into voice mails and tried to frame the ex-employee for child porn possession, RadarOnline.com reported yesterday. Darling filed the lawsuit last month.

O'Neal's attorney called the suit "utter fabrication." He alleged that Darling copied Shaq's e-mails, then demanded \$12 million not to release them. When O'Neal refused, Darling filed suit in Miami. (AMNY)

News In Brief

DA: St. John's fundraiser stole \$1M from university

A longtime fundraiser for St.



Brown

John's University was charged yesterday with stealing more than \$1 million from the college to fund casino trips, meals, shopping sprees and her son's tuition, said Queens District Attorney Richard Brown. Cecilia Chang, 57, of Jamaica Estates, said that the money was used to benefit the university.

Goldman Sachs accused of underpaying women

Goldman Sachs was slapped with a gender bias lawsuit yesterday by three female ex-employees who claim the Wall Street giant paid men more and gave them more promotions. The women asked the U.S. District Court in Manhattan to certify the case as a class-action lawsuit. They are seeking unspecified damages.

More sex abuse claims hit 'fake' TV reporter

Three more women came forward yesterday to accuse a man claiming to be an accomplished French-language TV reporter of sexual assault after he had already been charged with attacking three others, Manhattan prosecutors said. Hugues-Denver Akassy, 42, said the women were not strangers and the encounters were consensual.

Former teacher charged with selling weapons

Former city public school teacher Theophilus Burroughs was indicted yesterday on charges that he sold weapons to undercover officers. Burroughs, 49, who was on paid leave from the Department of Education, brokered the sale of AK-47s, assault rifles and other guns, authorities said. There was no proof of any terrorist connection, prosecutors said. (AP)

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