



THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING will be lit tonight and through the weekend with green and white lights for Pakistan's independence.

DATA

\$11M Amount a former Lehman Brothers broker tried to launder in drug proceeds for the then-governor of the Mexican State of Quintana Roo, federal prosecutors said yesterday. Consuelo Marquez, who worked for Lehman from 1995 to 2000, allegedly helped the former governor hide proceeds of a massive cocaine cartel, officials said. METRO

EDITED BY MICHAEL P. VENTURA
michael.ventura@metro.us

Cyclists to city: ease up

One year after RNC, Critical Mass riders say NYPD harassment continues unabated

LOWER MANHATTAN Ever since last summer's Republican National Convention, city bicyclists who participate in Critical Mass — a monthly ride to raise awareness for cycling — feel they've been increasingly harassed by the NYPD.

A group of them — called the FreeWheels — who have been arrested at various rides this year, invited Mayor Michael Bloomberg yesterday to ride in a pedicab during tonight's event to see

Your turn how police have infringed on their "civil rights, including equal rights to the

streets." They also started a letter writing campaign to the mayor and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly to ease up on harassment.

"I assumed the people getting arrested must be belligerent," said Liz Shura, 36, who bikes from her apartment in the Brooklyn Navy Yard to her job in the Financial District as an art director at the Wall Street Journal. That's what she thought, until she was arrested at a ride in October.

Shura had been riding with the group near Times Square when she noticed a police blockade. She got off her bike and began to walk with it on the sidewalk to get out of the way when she was arrested and charged with "disorderly conduct" and "failure to parade with-



DAVID RANKIN, a recent law school graduate who was arrested at a Critical Mass ride during last August's Republican National Convention, holds up an invitation for Mayor Michael Bloomberg to join tonight's ride. He and members of his group delivered the note at City Hall.

out a permit."

Both charges have recently been dismissed, but Shura no longer participates in the ride. "It's been getting increasingly

scary, so I do legal support instead," she said. "I calm someone's boyfriend or girlfriend down after someone gets arrested."

Chris Neff, from Carroll Gardens, who was arrested at February's Critical Mass, hadn't been on a bike in 18 years before the subway fare hike to

Arrest record

- According to FreeWheels, more than 500 cyclists have been arrested and prosecuted since Aug. 27, 2004.
- Critical Mass takes place on the last Friday of every month. METRO

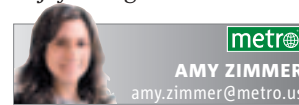
\$2 inspired him to buy a \$30 bicycle. "I was willing to pay \$1.50 to go underground and ride in a hot, sweaty place with people who hate me, but it wasn't worth \$2."

For Neff, participating in Critical Mass wasn't explicitly political, but he speculated that the police crackdown had to do with the political nature of the ride during the RNC. "I know there were a number of politically motivated cyclists at that ride and that event drew a lot of attention of officials," he said.

The mayor's office and the NYPD declined to comment.

'Normal city people'

Kelly Tisdale, 28, who owns the café Teany in the Lower East Side, and who recently got her bike back after it was confiscated when she was among 33 people arrested at last month's ride, wanted to disabuse people of the idea that the riders represent political fringe groups. "It's not a bunch of radicals and anarchists and communists and socialists doing this," she said. "It's normal city people who enjoy riding their bikes."



metro

AMY ZIMMER
amy.zimmer@metro.us

Amtrak: Service restored today

MANHATTAN After three days of extensive delays and cancellations caused by a freight train derailment, Amtrak announced yesterday that it anticipated normal train operation between New York City and Boston this weekend. Regular service between the two East Coast cities will resume today, although an Amtrak statement warned that riders could expect 10- to 15-minute residual delays between Pennsylvania Station and New Haven, Conn. Service on the Acela and Metroliner trains also will resume. AP

Probe gives cause of Playland death

RYE, N.Y. An investigation into the death of a 7-year-old boy at Playland Amusement Park earlier this month found that he slipped through a 14-inch-wide gap in the ride's floor and became wedged under its conveyor belts. AP

NEWS IN BRIEF

• **HOMICIDE** Police yesterday declared the death of a Bronx man found on the tracks of a 6 train tracks last May to be a homicide. The victim, Enrique Soriano, 66, of the South Bronx, was discovered underneath a southbound 6 train by its conductor as it entered the Westchester-Whitlock Avenue station on May 31. Police did not name suspects yesterday and an investigation is ongoing. METRO

• **SMUGGLING RING** An international smuggling ring that allegedly imported more than \$10 million worth of hashish into New York has been dismantled, officials said yesterday. Ten men were arrested in connection to the ring, which imported more than 1,000 pounds of hashish into the United States and sold the drugs in the city between 2002 and August, said U.S. Attorney David Kelley. METRO

Rough going for outsiders on the ballot

MANHATTAN "Undecided" showed a strong second to front-runner Fernando Ferrer in the last two polls ahead of the Democratic mayoral primary.

In a race that's almost certain to include a runoff election, a second-place finish could ultimately win the Democratic nomination.

At least that's what Arthur Piccolo was banking on when he showed up with more than 7,500 signatures just before the July 14 midnight deadline at the city's Board of Elections.

"Somebody's got to finish second," he said. "I looked at the weak field of candidates and thought, with a little attention, this could be my Cinderella story."

Money rules

Having raised no money, Piccolo chose not to file with the city's Campaign Finance Board for matching funds.

"Hypothetically, if I got into the debate, I could still become a factor," said Piccolo, the chairman of the Bowling Green Association, a nonprofit community group

"This could be my Cinderella story."

ARTHUR PICCOLO

in Lower Manhattan.

Yet the first official mayoral debate was sponsored by the Campaign Finance Board, which required that the contestants should raise at least \$50,000.

"It's the minimum threshold set by the city law," explained CFB spokesperson Andrea Lynn.

"If the government is going to organize debates, then they should include

everyone on the ballot," argued Piccolo, who filed a complaint contesting the law in U.S. District Court.

He quickly got a hearing last week, but Judge Kenneth Karas found that Piccolo did not "meet the test" for a preliminary injunction.

Piccolo's mayoral bid will still get a little exposure, thanks to the "Video Voter Guide." The program by the city's Voter Assistance Com-

mission has invited the six Democrats for mayor — as well as all 106 people on the ballot — to tape a four-minute statement that will then be broadcast in rotation on NYC TV.

"We're nonpartisan, so we include as many candidates as possible," said the commission's executive director Onida Coward Mayers.

When Christopher X. Brodeur, the other Democrat left out of the mayoral debates, showed up to tape his statement, he learned he was prohibited from men-

tioning the opposition.

"I was not allowed to say 'Ferrer,'" he said. "It was a flagrant violation of my First Amendment rights. 'Ferrer' is protected speech."

He ended up having to re-tape his segment. "I said 'crap,' I said 'hell,' I said 'screwed,'" Brodeur said. "Having to do it again would have been fine if we lived in Iran, but we don't. I'll be giving up politics."



metro

PATRICK ARDEN
patrick.arden@metro.us