

The Villager

West Village, East Village, Soho, Tribeca and Lower East Side

Pataki makes it official; pledges \$100 million for Hudson R. park

BY MICHAEL HABERMAN

Standing on one of the West Side's few usable piers, Gov. George Pataki announced last Thursday that the state will "unequivocally" provide \$100 million for the creation of a Hudson River Park.

In addition, the Governor said a task force will revisit a proposal to build a temporary ballfield on the Village's Pier 40,



Villager photo by Lorenzo Ciaglio
Pataki, left, and Albert
Hudson River Park



Dance

fulfilled a promise made by former Gov. Mario Cuomo in 1992. In a Memorandum of Understanding, Cuomo and former Mayor David Dinkins pledged \$100 million each to the creation of a park and established the

Guilty verdict

THE KITCHEN, 512 W. 19 St., 255-5793: TWO LIES, Thurs.- Sun., Apr. 10-13, 8 p.m., \$15, choreography by Lucy Guerin.

ROGERS

is convicted yesterday of killing graphic designer Bonnie Bear four years ago in Tribeca. Walker, already serving a life sentence for an upstate murder five days before Bear's shooting, could get another life term when he is formally sentenced April 29.

As the verdict was being read and the jury was polled, Walker, 28, leaned back resting his head on his fist -- while he stared at the jury silently. After the jurors left, he smiled once briefly, but remained silent as he was walked out of the court room with his legs shackled.

His reaction was in sharp contrast to last year, when he was convicted of murdering Michael Monsour upstate. That time, he yelled vulgarities at the jurors and called them "white racists," even though they still had to consider whether or not Walker deserved to be executed. One hold-out juror voted to spare Walker's life, and he and his accomplice, Walter Diaz, also known as Eric Rogers, were sentenced to life in prison

Continued on page 3

Recreation Complex, said in a written statement. "The \$100 million committed by the Governor's office and the \$100 million already allocated by New York City are continuing signs that this region and this waterfront have a bright future. Soon, a beautiful park will grace the Hudson, one of the great rivers of the world."

The Governor said if the Legislature approves, he will take the money from the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act approved last year and from the Environmental Protection Fund. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver did not return calls seeking comment on the proposal.

The announcement drew praise from a wide range of people including several Democratic legislators and many environmental groups. State Senator Franz Leichter, who represents a large portion of the West Side, said it is a move in the right direction.

"His decision is a major step forward in

Continued on page 7

Poetic voice for a generation, Allen Ginsberg is dead at 70

BY ROBERT HICKS

Early last Saturday, Allen Ginsberg, the poet laureate of the Beat Generation, died of liver cancer at his apartment in the East Village at the age of 70.

For more than a decade, Ginsberg had lived on E. 12th St. strolling through the East Village, delighting in the sights and sounds of its habitants. People singing on the street corners. Poets declaiming at Cafe Sine, at St. Mark's Poetry Project and at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. Body-pierced

teenagers hanging out on the curb in front of The Pyramid. Homeless people sleeping in cardboard shacks along Avenue A. Rioters fighting with police in Tompkins Square Park. Squatters fending for themselves in abandoned buildings while gentrification flourished around them. Drug addicts strung out on stoops. These are but a few of the images that he had cause to reflect on. But what became a growing preoccupation of his mind as he

Continued on page 4

Dropped from C.B.2, Dormuth to oppose Freed

BY MICHAEL HABERMAN

When the list of new Community Board appointments was released by the Borough President on Monday, it came as no surprise to most members of C.B. 2 that Councilmember Kathryn Freed did not reappoint the chairperson of the zoning committee, Marie Dormuth. Over the past year, they have had several private, and public, disagreements.

But in an unexpected move, Dormuth said on Monday she will challenge Freed in the Democratic primary later this year. When she makes the official announcement within the next two weeks, there will be three candidates seeking the Democratic

nomination to represent the First District. Jenny Lim of Bleecker St. has already entered the race.

"There is so much I'm concerned about right now that it makes sense for me to run," Dormuth said on Monday afternoon. "There are many problems in this district. The art industry is losing its footing. We're at a crossroads and there are so many positive steps that can be taken that haven't been taken."

Freed, who prides herself on her knowledge of the zoning laws, has disagreed with Dormuth on several zoning issues that have come before C.B. 2 in recent months. Last summer, when the City Council was

considering Mayor Giuliani's proposal to allow megastores in manufacturing neighborhoods, including Soho, a special C.B. 2 committee was supposed to be established to examine the proposal. The committee was never established and board member Lora Tenenbaum, worried that the City Council would vote on the proposal without hearing from the board, proposed a resolution from the floor. Dormuth opposed the resolution because it had not been through the zoning committee, but Freed spoke in favor of it because she wanted the board to take an official position before the council vote.

Continued on page 8

Inside

- 3 14th St. Armory for sale
- 10 Editorial, Talking Point, Letters
- 11 'Hardest play' at Irish Rep
- 15-22 Villager Guide
- 29 'Home-made' ice cream

80 Eighth Ave. New York 10011
Copyright © 1997 Clean Slate Corp.