

The Daily Dirge



Serious journalism for a world beset with woe. | Friday, March 16, 2007

Coney Island's Eerie Calm

After a brief spurt of incredible violence, Coney Island is entering a state of seeming normalcy. This façade of calm, however, covers up the deep anxieties felt by the area's residents.

What has been dubbed the Battle of Coney Island came to an end a month ago. Involved were two large rival street gangs, the Orphans and the Furies, who were fighting for as yet undetermined reasons. During the course of the week-long period of intense violence, over a hundred confirmed gang members were killed, as were 36 innocent bystanders. The struggle was marked by the intensity of the Orphans, who were undeterred by the strong winter storms that occurred during the week and who used as yet unidentified hallucinogenics against the Furies.

Although the outbreak of violence initially caught police by surprise, the burst of violence was finally contained with the assistance of

officers pulled from all over the Greater New York area. Officers from New Jersey and upstate New York also traveled to New York to help contain the problem.

The police sweep, however, was ultimately only partially successful. Although many members of the Furies were arrested, most of the Orphans eluded capture when police closed in. Since then, little progress has been made, despite an intense effort on the part of the NYPD. The NYPD is particularly interested in locating and detaining the elusive leader of the Orphans, who is believed to have orchestrated the use of hallucinogenics in this conflict.

Despite an increased police presence and considerable effort on the part of the city to return the area to normal, most residents are still in shock over the incident. "I still jump every time I here a car backfire," said long-time Coney Islander Melinda Green, "and I haven't been able to look at tomato juice since."

"I just don't feel safe here," said Henrick Tusseldor, owner of a The HTD, a local diner. "Sure, there are more cops around, but that didn't stop the gangs before. I'm thinking about retiring and moving out to California with my daughter."

PCP Use on the Rise

The NYPD this morning confirmed earlier rumors, first reported here yesterday, that the men involved in the 'trunk attacks' of the past few nights were each heavily under the influence of the drug PCP, often referred to as angel dust.

It is still unknown, however, how or why these attacks occurred.

In each case, a highly enraged young man burst from the trunk of a car which then sped off. These individuals each showed classic signs of PCP use including typical symptoms of extreme detachment and anger. Due to this, these individuals simply ignored efforts by the police to detain them into custody.

"This is not the first time and won't be the last time that something like this happens, unfortunately," said police spokesman Sam Trotter. "It is a fairly simple case in that aspect. The question is who put these people there and why."

There is some speculation that this is merely some sort of elaborate prank. "It is likely just another disgusting example of youths gone wrong," said a detective who wished to remain anonymous. "They likely just find a homeless person, covertly sedate them and then administer the PCP before 'trunking' them and driving around until they wake up. I'm sure the ones responsible find it incredibly amusing."

General dismissed after claims of mistreatment at military hospital

Volunteer Auxiliary Police officers Yevgeniy Marshalik, 19, and Nicholas T. Pekearo, 28, were shot dead Thursday night.

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The officers were pursuing ex-Marine David Garvin after he shot dead pizzeria bartender Alfredo Romero at DeMarco's Pizzeria & Restaurant at West Houston and MacDougal Streets. The shootings were caught in startling detail by a nearby traffic surveillance camera.

Police officers followed Mr. Garvin and fatally shot him on Bleecker Street.

The deaths of the two other men, who had chased an armed suspect — something auxiliary officers are instructed not to do — shocked the city in large measure because they were unarmed volunteers, not full-fledged police officers.

No one felt it more powerfully than the real police officer, Nelida Flores, who trained them. Last night she told a group of auxiliary officers, "They were my kids."

Friends and family of the two officers, asked what drew them to the role, spoke of their earnestness and altruism, of a simple wish to do good.

"The moment they met, they clicked," Officer Flores said.

Mr. Marshalik hoped to become a prosecutor in the district attorney's office, and Mr. Sabas said he held a part-time job at the Olympic Tower on Fifth Avenue in Midtown, where he worked as an elevator operator and a doorman. Friends said he was generous with his time, driving once to Binghamton to visit a homesick friend at college there.

"That was one of his most amazing qualities," the friend, Irina Kaplan, said in an e-mail message. "He was fiercely loyal, and he would do anything for the people he cared about."

Mr. Zaretsky said relatives who

gathered yesterday at the parents' home in Valley Stream, on Long Island, struggled to understand how Mr. Marshalik could have been caught so defenseless. "They are not blaming the Police Department," he said, "only questioning why he was so ill-prepared."

His partner, Mr. Pekearo, grew up in the neighborhood he served. That was the whole idea, said his girlfriend, Christina Honeycutt, 34.

"He'd gone through the dark years of New York City as a kid, tripping over hypodermic needles in the street, and he'd come into this time of relative ease in the city and he just wanted to give back," she said. "He wanted to help anyone, like talking down a guy who wanted to kill himself one night. Nick was the one who stood with him."

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Spent some time relaxing this week. There may be a storm ahead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Jesus! I'm sorry! Don't know what to say, really. I hope it gets better.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You have been placed in a number of awkward situations this week. Try to navigate them with a calm and rational mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Never lose your sense of wonder or your creative spirit. They are your most precious assets

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

My editor has suggested I skip you for a while. If I were not skipping you, I should like to indicate that your week will be pleasant and that you will find new romantic opportunities. But I won't, Leo. I am skipping you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Lucrative opportunities await around every corner. Don't jump the gun though. Also, cut Taurus some slack.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Sometimes we all make mistakes. We only can learn from them, however, if we are first willing to admit them

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are successful and well loved.

Unfortunately unforeseen very small meteorites can put an end to that

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your lucky number is 666. I'm not joking and this isn't a Satanic message. Really. Don't step on any sidewalk cracks

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Even if it seems that nobody appreciates you, you are cherished by your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You seem at a crossroads regarding what to do with your life. Don't waste too much time making a decision.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Make sure you adhere correctly to what you profess to believe. Otherwise, consider changing your outlook.