



Vontag Reopens Queens Plant

Wednesday marked the grand reopening of Vontag Industries Queens Tool & Die facility.

The plant has been closed for the last two months for renovations and expansion. These upgrades doubled the facility's capacity while utilizing state of the art automation to reduce its total workforce and increase safety.

"This is the start of a new day for Vontag," said Harold Gregori, Vontag Vice President for Heavy Industry. "Utilizing the technologies pioneered in this facility, over the next year we will upgrade the rest of our domestic manufacturing plants, placing Vontag on the cutting edge of technological development and insuring our continued dominance of this field."

This renovation is simply one facet of a series of larger Vontag initiatives designed to bring the company fully into the 21st century, according to Vontag spokesman Daniel Thomas. Other aspects of this process are an

increased focus on security, privacy and reducing expenses.

Vontag's efforts in this final area have caused some dissatisfaction among its workforce. In an effort to reduce costs, Vontag has already forced out dozens of employees in the New York area alone. Although Vontag offering very favorable buyout packages, some employees were simply not happy to go.

"The union sold us out, man. We had our jobs, we had contracts and they think they can just wipe that away?" said Carlos Garcia, a former Vontag foreman. "We've got rights, and we're going to stand up for them." Garcia is the informal leader of a group of former Vontag employees who have fought hard against the layoffs.

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Suspected Coney Island Drug Dealer Found Murdered

Police acting on an anonymous tip discovered Staten Island resident Vincent "Vinnie" Prodi was found murdered in his apartment this morning.

Prodi was a suspect in over a dozen drug-related homicides being investigated by the NYPD. Police also discovered a macabre collection of human thumbs, suspected to be from people killed on Prodi's orders.

Large quantities of marijuana, heroin and cocaine were recovered from the apartment by police. Prodi was believed to have controlled drug distribution to most of Coney Island, as well as parts of Staten Island, according to a NYPD detective who wished to remain anonymous. "We certainly noticed him after the Coney Island gang fights earlier this year. He moved in and snapped up a lot of the area."

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New York Housing Authority Faces Shortfall

One year after announcing plans to raise rents, cut costs and appeal to federal and state officials for help in closing a \$168 million budget gap, the New York City Housing Authority is facing an even bigger budget shortfall.

The agency, which serves as landlord to more than 400,000 low-income New Yorkers and is the largest public housing authority in the country, is confronting a \$225 million deficit in its operating budget for the 2007 calendar year.

Authority officials blame a continuing rise in expenses like pensions over which they have no control, a widening gap between operating costs and federal subsidies, and their inability to get federal permission to cover day-to-day expenses with

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money usually intended for other purposes.

11 Brooklyn Jail Guards Indicted

Eleven federal jail guards, including a captain and three lieutenants, were charged yesterday with beating two inmates at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, one so badly, officials said, that a pool of his blood and bits of his hair lay on the floor of his cell when it was over.

The guards were also charged with covering up the beatings by filing false reports that blamed the inmates for having instigated the attacks. Eight of them pleaded not guilty yesterday at arraignments in Federal District Court in Brooklyn and were released on bail. The three others are expected to be arraigned in federal court within days.

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You have a tendency toward overconfidence, and a bad habit of avoiding your emotions. Don't be surprised when you break down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The dead can weigh onto your life more heavily than the living some days. Don't be afraid to confront them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your life is a twist web of relationships right now. Don't get to entangled. You'll have to make a choice eventually.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Sometimes the villains in your life are human too. Remember that this week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You did WHAT!? I'm not really that sorry anymore.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll find you've lost one friend only to have another fall into your lap. Never let that friend go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're having to come to terms with the fact that you DO have an emotional side. Don't be afraid of it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Jeez... again. The influence of the dead abounds this week. See Taurus for more info.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The world is going to be very strange some days. This is something you will have to accept.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) And I thought Leo was fucked up...

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Beware! Death surrounds you this evening: You are thick with it and the darkness you have awakened cannot be undone! Either that or you will have a new boat soon. I can't tell.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

It's time to try to get back into the loop. Reconnect with people you haven't heard from for a while.

