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Landmark church

Riverdale Presbyterian Church looks back and looks forward on its 125th birthday. Pages A2 and B1.



Israel revisited

A Riverdale rabbi travels to Israel and returns saddened and uncertain about the future. Page A15.

The RIVERDALE PRESS

Vol. 39, No. 8

Thursday, April 28, 1988

40 Cents

Primary vote illuminates changes in Bronx politics

By TOM WATSON

The Democratic candidates for President have moved on now, but they've left road signs along the landscape of city politics. In the Bronx, the numbers gathered from last week's presidential primary provide a clear map of the state of the borough politically and a glimpse at its political future.

Blacks turned out in astonishing numbers, giving Jesse Jackson an easy victory in the borough. Hispanics also backed Mr. Jackson in large numbers. He won 57 percent of the vote, to 36 percent for Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and six percent for Tennessee Senator Albert Gore.

An incredible 151,489 voters turned out to vote in the Bronx—more than 50 percent of all the borough's registered Democrats. Compare that number to the 1985 campaign for borough president, a hotly-contested, heavily-advertised boroughwide campaign that pitted a white incumbent, Stanley Simon, against an energetic Hispanic challenger, Assemblyman Jose Serrano. That year, 112,239 Democrats voted in what was considered a heavy turnout.

Results were less illuminating and more predictable in the Riverdale-Kingsbridge area, where Gov. Dukakis won easily in a heavy turnout.

What's clear from the 1988 New York results is that while Riverdale can still be counted on as a white-dominated, fairly liberal center of Democratic politics, the rest of the Bronx continues to move away from traditional party politics.

In the 80th Assembly District, Mr. Dukakis won 12,042 votes or 66 percent, to 3,702 votes or 20 percent for Mr. Jackson, and 2,559 votes or 14 percent for Mr. Gore. Turnout here was approximately 54 percent.

The Riverdale-Kingsbridge area seemed to follow the trend in the rest of the city, where voters turned out (Continued on Page A16)

PS 24, CLASS OF 1970



"DEMON" Takashi Kogure, a Japanese rock star who attended PS 24 from 1967 to 1970, returned to his alma mater April 18 to say "hello" to the students. See page A5.

IRT to shave commuters' travel time

By PHILIP BOROFF

The No. 1 subway line will become two lines in August, when the Transit Authority implements skip-stop service on the Broadway IRT, making the commute to Manhattan faster.

The TA plans to run the Broadway local on a semi-express schedule between 242nd and 116th Streets on weekdays, making the trip to or from Manhattan quicker by as much as three minutes.

The TA will operate the No. 1 train, which currently stops at every station, and a new line, the No. 9, on the same track. Trains on both lines will pass through some stations without stopping.

For example, the No. 1 train will not stop at either 225th or 207th Streets. The No. 9 train will skip the 238th and 215th Street stations.

Both lines will stop at 242nd and 116th Streets, and at four of the busiest stations on the line, 231st, 191st, 168th and 137th Streets, which the TA calls "all-stop" stations.

Daily passengers of the No. 1 line said they see the change as part of a general improvement in service.

"This sounds like a great idea," said Vincent Montoni, a biology student at Manhattan College, in an interview on a northbound No. 1 train on Monday morning. "I wish they had instituted it sooner. I have a 9:05 class. If this train had been going express, I probably would have made it on time. Today, I'll definitely be late."

"The savings for me will probably be sixty seconds in all, but it's still a savings," said another rider.

The No. 1 line will skip four of the 13 stations between 242nd Street and 116th Street, while the No. 9 will skip five.

The trains will not speed through stations, a TA spokesman said. According to a TA rule, a train may only go at a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour through a station at which it is not stopping.

Most passengers will not have to wait longer for trains. A third of the (Continued on Page A16)

242 St.	1	9
238 St.	1	
231 St.	1	9
225 St.		9
215 St.	1	
207 St.		9
Dyckman St.	1	
191 St.	1	9
181 St.	1	
168 St.	1	9
157 St.		9
145 St.	1	
137 St.	1	9
125 St.		9
116 St.	1	9

City (finally) hears historic area pleas

By BERNARD L. STEIN

After 22 years of prodding and pleading, New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission heard a proposal to protect four square blocks overlooking the Hudson with Historic District status last week.

More than 30 residents, most of whom live in the proposed district bounded by Independence Avenue, Palisade Avenue, W. 254 St. and the fence of Wave Hill, waited for hours at City Hall the night of April 19 for a

chance to tell the commission why they think their neighborhood is special, and why it is in need of protection.

Two homeowners protested their inclusion in the district, however, after the Landmarks Commission expanded the boundaries proposed by Robert Kornfeld, who initiated the landmark proposal and kept it alive through two decades of rebuffs. One of them, New York Times executive editor Max Frankel, threatened "to challenge the entire districting effort" (Continued on Page A16)

'Help wanted' sign still up in schools

By LARRY DUBLIN

Community School Board 10 appointed six new assistant principals at its public meeting Monday night, continuing an exhaustive process aimed at hiring enough new administrators by June to manage the district's overcrowded schools.

Minutes after filling the jobs, the board announced it will hold interviews for six more.

Board 10 intends to hire 21 assistant principals and six principals this spring, so that schools can open with full supervision in September. It has

hired nine of the assistant principals, so far.

Some parents have expressed concern that board members are not spending enough time deliberating each appointment. And Borough President Fernando Ferrer said he believes each school's parents are not adequately represented in the hiring process.

In recent interviews, all seven board members said the board's appointment discussions have been marked by unusual unity. They also stressed that they have eliminated (Continued on Page A12)

EMERGENCY RUN



ETHEL LEIB gets set to run for a new KVAC ambulance as SAR principal Rabbi Jonah Fuld cheers him on. See story, page A3.

Biaggi fights link to stock

By TOM WATSON and BERNARD L. STEIN

When the Wedtech jury considers the case against Congressman Mario Biaggi, it may decide that the most important witness last week was the man who wasn't there.

As prosecutors worked to establish a paper trail of corruption between Wedtech and the Congressman, they called three accountants from the

firm of Cogan, Bell & Co. to the witness stand. They did not call the firm's senior member, who built the Congressman's personal fortune and "was

like Mario Biaggi's father with regard to finances," according to his partner.

The government sought to connect the Congressman to 112,500 shares of Wedtech stock, once worth as much as \$4 million. The stock transfer is a complicated and crucial part of the case against Rep. Biaggi, who before his legal troubles was one of the most powerful politicians in the city.

The government charges Wedtech concealed a bribe to the Congressman by issuing the stock to his son Richard. The defense contends the stock was paid to Richard for

work performed by Biaggi & Ehrlich, Rep. Biaggi's former law firm, in which his son was a partner.

Evan Bell and his father David, partners in the accounting firm, and Irwin Wolf, an associate, testified about documents and conversations concerning the stock. On cross-examination, however, David Bell testified that he had only a passing acquaintance with the Congressman's finances.

James LaRossa, Rep. Biaggi's lawyer, led the jury to wonder why they weren't hearing from the man who knew Rep. Biaggi's investments best. Mr. Bell's retired partner David Cogan.

Mr. Cogan, Mr. Bell testified, invested for Rep. Biaggi and advised him on all matters of finance. The Congressman became comfortable as a result, didn't he? Mr. LaRossa asked. "Very," Mr. Bell replied. Before the testimony was stricken from the record, Mr. LaRossa won an acknowledgment that "Mr. Biaggi blindly followed Mr. Cogan in terms of financial matters."

Mr. Cogan is healthy, and, although he has sold his interest in the firm, continues to come to the office from time to time. Mr. Bell told the jury. Nevertheless, he did not take the stand, and his name is not on a list of potential witnesses included with pretrial papers.

Prosecutors did introduce the first (Continued on Page A16)

