

TAXI

INSIDER

Vol. 7, No. 1

"The Voice of the NYC Transportation Industry."

January 2006

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Driving A Taxi in New York City: The Most Secure Job in the World

Editorial by David Pollack

You have just read the title of my editorial, and no, I am not crazy, nor have I been smoking those funny cigarettes. But I did get your attention. Now read on.

We all know that New York City taxi drivers do not have a pension plan. Fear not, for we are not alone. According to the Center for American Progress, 40% of employees who work for private companies across America, have no pension plans either. The number of jobs with benefits is also declining each year. The reality today is that having a pension plan is no guarantee that employees will have any money when it is time to retire. (The key word here folks is employee, not independent contractor.)

Pension funds are a prime financial target for creative accountants and company heads that need to maneuver cash in their budgets so they may look dividend worthy. Some other companies are just run by crooks. Then there are the "ENRON scenarios" that totally wipe out 401k pensions that employees contributed to. Financially destroying innocent workers is hardly a classy point on one's resume, but it is more common than you know.

Even 401k's in a "good" company are somewhat of a crap shoot today anyway. 401k's



Cabdrivers Work Out, Outside Cab - See Page 2

take employee's money and corporate matched funds and place it in mutual funds. The mutual funds then invest in the stock market. In today's world, one must pray for a bullish market and a corporate management team that doesn't cook the books for the benefit of stockholders.

The New York City Transit Union's great contract, worth striking over, now has employees doing something they never did before, contributing to their own benefits. The MTA

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**Holiday Present For Yank Fans!
Johnny Damon Comes
To The Bronx!
See Story on Page 24 !**

**Free Gas
For Cabdrivers!
No Kidding !
See Page 16 !**



**The Committee for Taxi Safety
WWW.TaxiSafety.com**

Phone: (718) 706-8294 • E-mail: taxihail@aol.com

TAXI INSIDER

**Publisher &
Editor-in-Chief**
David Pollack

Columnists:
Matthew W. Daus
Denis Drew
Tony Falese
Peter Mazer
Robert Scott
Vinnie Sapone
John Trapp
Michael Spevack, Esq.
Annie Weinstein, Esq.

Theatre Critic
Stephanie Pollack

Layout & Graphics
Pathway Communications

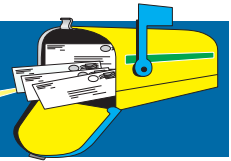
Taxi Insider
23-10 Jackson Avenue
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101
Phone :(718) 706-TAXI
Fax:(718) 472-4739
E-mail:TaxiHail@aol.com
Website: TaxiSafety.com

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TAXI INSIDER is published monthly at a subscription rate of \$48.00 per year.

Letters



Mayor Should Have Praised Us First

Dear Insider,

I was saddened by how Mayor Bloomberg addressed the problem of over-charging by cab drivers during the Transit Strike in his press conferences. I wish that he would have commended us FIRST, AND THEN have given the public a warning about overcharging and what they could do about it. Although I am sure the problem existed, I believe NYC Cab Drivers overall did a magnificent job moving the riding public. I often did not charge my passengers the full amount I was allowed by the Zoned Fare Structure and I am certain I was not the only one.

We need our regulators to not only acknowledge the quality of the service we provide but acknowledge it in public, like those press conferences the Mayor Bloomberg gave during the Strike. By doing so, they will help us cope with the everyday challenges that arise from driving a cab in NYC and put some of the dignity that has been lost, back into the job. **WE DESERVE IT!**

E.T.

Zoning Can Combat Illegal Hails

Dear Insider,

The only way to put the illegal FHV street hails out of business is to change the way we do things during rush hour.

In Manhattan, between the hours of 4:00pm to 7:00pm, yellow taxis should be allowed to pick up group rides the same way we did during the transit strike.

The fare should be up to \$7.00 for the first zone and \$3.00 each additional zone. Not only is it fair to the public and provide more service, but it will put those rip-off FHV's out of business.

Charbel S.

Myth and fiction: the fallacies of the hybrid electric cab proposition

Dear Insider,

In light of the swiftly passed taxicab rule amendments allowing the selection of up to eight new models for hackup, I want my fellow cabbies to keep these thoughts in mind next time they moan and groan about \$2.80 gasoline:

A) The EPA estimates (which are overrated to begin with) fail to account for the driving style of the cab driver. "Hybrid" means that the car has to roll around at speeds of less than 10mph to operate solely on electricity. If we all slowed down to a grinding halt, would we be better off?

B) \$19,000 for a car? I don't think so. The Civic and Prius both lack leather seating. Cough up another \$5,000 for conversion. The TLC-prohibited 4x4 drive on the SUV's usually cancels out leather seating options as well. So maybe the Accord and Lexus RX 400h don't sound so bad after all. More horsepower. But wait, power windows, power doors have to go!

C) Partition. Who will give up the partition to put a camera which may fail and generate a summons during a pullover? Is it really worth the 2 inches of legroom? What if you can't fit inside the drivers seat of the smaller car and want to push it all the way back? Think of your protection before you think of someone's comfort. Its not an eight hour plane ride!

D) Insurance. Think back to the wheelchair accessible taxi. Companies are going to eat owners up in liability premium increases about as much as someone will save on a lower cost medallion.

Is this something to get hyped up about?

Krystian Karkulowski

Working Out, Outside Of the Taxicab

The NY Times first reported a story claiming up to 2000 yellow taxi drivers work out at the 24 hour BQE gym in Woodside. At 3:00AM on any morning, you will find this gym filled with yellow taxi drivers which has plenty of parking.

Politics and religion has no place here, but preventing illness has always been a key issue affecting NYC cabbies.

Manjit Singh starts his shift at 5:00PM. At 1:00AM he puts on his Off Duty and heads to the gym at least 4 days a week. Manjit wants to tell all taxi drivers to exercise at least 20

minutes a day.

Exercise is the best release from the daily stresses of driving a taxi in New York City. Here, there is no traffic, no pedestrians, no passengers in a hurry and no worries. If you can find a vacant taxi stand, I mean any taxi stand, park, stretch and take a short brisk walk.

Forty five year old Mohammed Raju Ahmad says, a "When health is good, mind is good. When mind is good, passenger feels good because I don't lose my temper so much."

The 1st week of January, all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sale calls.....you will be charged for these calls. To prevent this, call the following number from your cell phone: 888-382-1222.

Or you can go to the website at: <http://www.donotcall.gov/> to do this online. It is the National DO NOT CALL LIST. It will only take a minute of your time. It blocks your number for 5 years.

Insider News

City Announces Record Number Of Visitors to The Big Apple

Have you been picking up more fares from out of town? Here is why; Mayor Bloomberg announced that in 2005, a record 41 million out-of-towners flocked to the Big Apple — including 8.25 million in November and December.

"This is not just something that is restricted to Midtown Manhattan, it is a phenomenon that's taken place throughout all five boroughs, and that's important because in many ways tourism really is the backbone of our local economy," Bloomberg said.

With most of the 41 million visitors needing places to stay, hotel occupancy rates — and prices — have swelled to near-record levels.

More than 86 percent of the city's 70,000 rooms were full in December, even though the cost for a hotel room averaged \$233 a night.

Livery Cars Flag TLC's crackdown

by Frank Lombardi
Daily News City Hall Bureau
Reprinted from The
New York Daily News

The Taxi and Limousine Commission's crackdown on the licensing of livery-car services drew honks of complaints yesterday at a City Council hearing late in December.

Since January, the commission has been imposing stricter procedures and requirements for both new licenses and renewals of the existing licenses for the hundreds of on-call car services operating throughout the city.

The car services operate from base stations that generally consist of a dispatching facility and business office and, occasionally, a garage. The base stations are in effect the business entities that operate their respective car services.

Each year, half of the 504 base stations licensed by the commission come up for renewal. They operate about 23,000 vehicles.

In the past, base-station renewals were approved on the staff level but, since January, renewals have required a review and approval of the TLC's nine-member board.

At a hearing of the Council's Transportation Committee, several Council members and representatives of the livery industry grumbled that the TLC

has made the licensing process more cumbersome and costly.

The panel's chairman, Councilman John Liu (D-Queens), said that he and many other Council members have received calls about "the pressure" the TLC has been exerting on the livery industry.

But TLC Commissioner Matthew Daus testified that the procedures are aimed at ending noncompliance abuses that routinely allowed some noncomplying car services to continue to operate for a year or more with expired TLC licenses.

"There are several bases, many bases, throughout the city that have horrendous records of dispatching drivers without licenses, of dispatching drivers who have suspended licenses, vehicles that are not undergoing inspection and pose safety problems to the community," Daus said, in justifying the commission's crackdown.

Daus reported that 179 license renewals have been approved this year, out of 220 applications. Corrective actions are being sought from applicants who have yet to be relicensed.

Driver Busted in Cabby's Crash Death

By Joe McGurk and
Cynthia R. Fagen
Reprinted from the NY Post

The hit-and-run driver who caused a fiery crash that killed a hardworking taxi driver was arrested yesterday after witnesses identified him in a lineup, police said.

Freddy Romalchan, 27, of Brooklyn, was taken into custody at the 106th precinct station house at 3 p.m. and charged in the death of Gurbaj Singh.

Singh, 40, was driving a yellow cab when he was broadsided by a Chevy Astro minivan that witnesses say blew a red light at Rockaway Boulevard and 114th Street in Ozone Park at 1 a.m. Monday.

The impact was so great that Singh's Ford Crown Victoria erupted in flames, killing him.

Romalchan, who was at the wheel of his stepfather's 2000 Astro, took off on foot with his passenger, authorities said.

Police said a second person is still being sought.

In addition to being hit with a murder rap, Romalchan was charged with criminally negligent homicide and criminal possession of a weapon, a .25-caliber pistol he allegedly left behind in the van, police sources said.

Romalchan had been eyed as a suspect since shortly after the crash.

At the station house, police sources said, he had injuries consistent with a car accident — including a bruise across the chest where a seat belt would have left an impression.

Romalchan told investigators he was about to report the van stolen when police hauled him in for questioning. But witnesses identified him as one of two men abandoning the van and fleeing.

NYC's Chinatown, Little Italy designated tax-free business zones

Chinatown and parts of Little Italy in Lower Manhattan were designated Empire Zones, providing businesses that locate or expand there with tax breaks.

The Legislature and Pataki have used the zones for economically hard-hit areas. The

state compensates local schools and governments for the lost taxes.

"No community in New York state is more deserving of Empire Zone benefits than Chinatown and Lower Manhattan," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who represents the area. "The economic hardships experienced by business in lower Manhattan since Sept. 11 have been significant. This announcement is a tremendous step forward in rebuilding our downtown community."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg applauded the designation for the two Lower Manhattan districts.

"Over the past four years, the more than 1,200 businesses in the city's Empire Zones have created over 23,000 jobs, and in no place will the benefits of a new Empire Zone have a more far-reaching impact than in Chinatown and the Lower East Side, whose businesses have suffered more than their fair share of hardship in recent years," Bloomberg said.

NYC Gas Prices As Of January 9

New York	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current	\$2.573	\$2.752	\$2.811	\$2.984
Yesterday	\$2.557	\$2.736	\$2.794	\$2.989
Month Ago	\$2.398	\$2.565	\$2.620	\$2.981
Year Ago	\$2.069	\$2.214	\$2.261	\$2.393

World Gas Prices As of Late December '05

Nation	City	Price in USD Regular/Gallon
Netherlands	Amsterdam	\$6.48
Norway	Oslo	\$6.27
Italy	Milan	\$5.96
Denmark	Copenhagen	\$5.93
Belgium	Brussels	\$5.91
Sweden	Stockholm	\$5.80
United Kingdom	London	\$5.79
Germany	Frankfurt	\$5.57
France	Paris	\$5.54
Portugal	Lisbon	\$5.35
Hungary	Budapest	\$4.94
Luxembourg		\$4.82
Croatia	Zagreb	\$4.81
Ireland	Dublin	\$4.78
Switzerland	Geneva	\$4.74
Spain	Madrid	\$4.55
Japan	Tokyo	\$4.24
Czech Republic	Prague	\$4.19
Romania	Bucharest	\$4.09
Andorra		\$4.08
Estonia	Tallinn	\$3.62
Bulgaria	Sofia	\$3.52
Brazil	Brasilia	\$3.12
Cuba	Havana	\$3.03

Extended Hours At Woodside Safety And Emissions Division

Full Hack Up— 4:00 pm

•
Rerecked Failed
Hack Up — 5:30 pm

•
Full Used Car
Inspection — 3:30 pm

•
Meter Changes—6:00 pm

•
Used Car Reinspection
5:30 pm

•
Returned Credentials
6:30pm
Retest Inspection
5:30 pm

•
Full Chassis
Inspection - 3:30 pm

•
Chassis Reinspection
5:30 pm

•
Condition Correction
NOV — 5:30pm

•
Collect Retest Fee
6:00 pm

EPA Fuel Economy Ratings Have Shortfalls Of Up To 50 Percent

Window Stickers Vastly Overstate MPG, Consumer Reports Study Finds

Fuel economy tests conducted by Consumer Reports show that government figures posted on new-car window stickers can have shortfalls of up to 50 percent, according to an investigation published in Consumer Reports magazine.

Findings

Here are some of the test results reported by Consumer Reports.

SMALL SUV - Jeep Liberty Diesel Ltd. (4WD)
EPA CITY MPG: 22
CR CITY MPG: 11
EPA SHORTFALL: 50 percent

HYBRID - Honda Civic Sedan
EPA CITY MPG: 48
CR CITY MPG: 26
EPA SHORTFALL: 46 percent

LARGE SEDAN - Chrysler 300C
EPA CITY MPG: 17
CR CITY MPG: 10
EPA SHORTFALL: 41 percent

MIDSIZED SUV - Chevrolet TrailBlazer EXT LT (4WD)
EPA CITY MPG: 15
CR CITY MPG: 9
EPA SHORTFALL: 40 percent

MINIVAN - Honda Odyssey EX
EPA CITY MPG: 20
CR CITY MPG: 12
EPA SHORTFALL: 40 percent

LUXURY SEDAN - BMW 745Li
EPA CITY MPG: 18
CR CITY MPG: 11
EPA SHORTFALL: 39 percent

Members of the Committee for Taxi Safety and the staff of Taxi Insider pray that both Mr. Shahjedur Rahman and Humayun Kabir recover speedily. We also send our deepest sympathies to the family of taxi driver Gurbaj Singh.

Alternative Parking Rules Suspended On:

Idul-Adha
January 10-12,
Tuesday-Thursday

—
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
January 16, Monday

—
Asian Lunar New Year
January 29, Sun

Lincoln's Birthday
February 12, Sunday

—
Lincoln's Birthday (Observed)
February 13, Monday

—
President's Day
February 20, Monday

—

Brakes That Pay Attention When The Driver Doesn't

By Tara Baukus Mello
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AFTER years of concentrating their efforts on reducing injuries caused by collisions, auto engineers are increasingly turning their attention to what happens in the moments before an impact.

Stability control systems have become ever more capable of catching spins before they end in a crash; brakes can now be programmed to recognize panic stops and apply maximum force for hesitant drivers. BMW's "active steering" will counter a driver's overly aggressive moves at the steering wheel in an emergency maneuver, and Infiniti offers a system that warns when the car is drifting toward an adjacent lane - and a possible fender-bender.

Some luxury cars already have systems that put the car into protective mode when sensors indicate a collision is imminent - cinching down seat belts, closing the sunroof and windows. Automakers are proposing computers that decide how aggressively to act based on how closely the driver is paying attention to the road.

In a demonstration drive held on a parking-lot test course here, I tried one of the newest safety

technologies: brakes that apply on their own when a crash seems likely.

As I accelerated the 2006 Acura RL toward a target - a foam rear bumper attached by a long bracket to the side of a moving car - my senses told me I was closing in too quickly. A series of warnings - part of what Acura calls a collision mitigation braking system - activated, first alerting me to the danger with a warning tone and a flashing light on the dashboard, then gently tugging the driver's seat belt. Finally, the system applied the brakes forcefully to slow the car. It all happened with no action required by me to prevent a (simulated) rear collision.

Rear-end collisions are a logical starting point for any effort at reducing accidents: of the 6.2 million crashes reported in the United States during 2004, more than 20 percent were rear impacts, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Acura's system, like others that act pre-emptively, takes advantage of onboard computers already in the car to control features like antilock brakes and pretensioners that pull seat belts taut in a collision.

The common denominator of all the pre-emptive systems is an advanced feature called adaptive cruise control. Unlike conventional

speed controls, which are designed simply to hold a steady speed, adaptive controls can also maintain a set distance to cars ahead. The car speeds up or slows down in response to measurements from a laser or radar unit.

Taking advantage of the adaptive cruise control technology and hardware, the pre-emptive safety systems use existing sensors to monitor cars or even stationary objects in the vehicle's path, continuously evaluating the possibility of a collision.

Mercedes-Benz was the first automaker to feature a pre-emptive safety system in the United States. Its S-Class luxury sedans were equipped for 2003 with a system it called Pre-Safe, which took action milliseconds before a crash to reel in any slack in the seat belts, close the sunroof and adjust the seat to place the occupant in the safest position.

The next generation of the Mercedes system adds functions: it closes the side windows and gives the driver full braking power the moment the brakes are applied, increasing the pressure if they are not applied with enough force to prevent a collision. It will be standard equipment in the 2007 S-Class, which goes on sale next month.

The Lexus Pre-Collision System

operates much the same way. When it senses an imminent collision, it retracts the seat belts and primes the brake system so that full braking power will be available immediately. The system is an option on the Lexus LS and GS models.

Infiniti also offers two pre-emptive safety features on some of its vehicles. Pre-Crash seat belts, which retract prior to a collision, are standard on M and Q-series sedans. Preview Braking, which uses cruise control sensors to identify potential crash situations, primes the brakes to assure that maximum stopping power is immediately available. It is optional on the M, Q and FX models.

Acura's system is the only one that will automatically apply the brakes without driver intervention. An option on the 2006 RL, the system uses a radar unit in the grille to continuously monitor the rate at which the car is closing in on a vehicle ahead, up to 300 feet away. When sensors determine that a collision is likely, the electronics begin a three-stage procedure.

First, a warning lamp that says "brake" flashes on the dashboard, directly below the speedometer,

Continued on page 22

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R0020)

Third Generation Brokerage
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New York, NY 10036
718-582-5721 (R0018)

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MAIN STREET	FROM STREET	TO STREET	Side Of Street
1 Avenue	East 14 Street	East 16 Street	E
1 Avenue	East 16 Street	East 18 Street	E
1 Avenue	East 18 Street	East 20 Street	E
1 Avenue	East 20 Street	East 22 Street	E
1 Avenue	East 22 Street	East 24 Street	E
1 Avenue	East 24 Street	East 26 Street	W
11 Avenue	West 45 Street	West 46 Street	E
3 Avenue	East 42 Street	East 43 Street	W
3 Avenue	East 44 Street	East 45 Street	W
3 Avenue	East 44 Street	East 45 Street	W
3 Avenue	East 50 Street	East 50 Street	W
3 Avenue	East 72 Street	East 73 Street	E
3 Avenue	East 72 Street	East 73 Street	E
4 Avenue	East 10 Street	East 11 Street	E
5 Avenue	East 82 Street	East 81 Street	E
5 Avenue	East 89 Street	East 88 Street	E
6 Avenue	West 42 Street	West 43 Street	W
7 Avenue	West 31 Street	West 30 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 33 Street	West 31 Street	W
7 Avenue	West 35 Street	West 34 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 40 Street	West 39 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 50 Street	West 49 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 51 Street	West 50 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 52 Street	West 51 Street	W
7 Avenue	West 53 Street	West 52 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 54 Street	West 53 Street	E
7 Avenue	West 56 Street	West 55 Street	E
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8 Avenue	West 13 Street	West 14 Street	W
8 Avenue	West 31 Street	West 33 Street	E
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8 Avenue	West 41 Street	West 42 Street	W
8 Avenue	West 48 Street	West 49 Street	W
8 Avenue	West 55 Street	West 56 Street	W
8 Avenue	West 57 Street	West 58 Street	W
9 Avenue	West 41 Street	West 40 Street	E
Amsterdam Avenue	West 72 Street	West 73 Street	W
Amsterdam Avenue	West 73 Street	Broadway	W
Avenue Of Americas	West 13 Street	West 14 Street	W
Avenue Of Americas	West 45 Street	West 46 Street	W
Avenue Of Americas	West 53 Street	West 54 Street	W
Avenue Of The Americas	Canal Street	Grand Street	W
Avenue Of The Americas	Thompson Street	Grand Street	E
Avenue Of The Americas	West 18 Street	West 19 Street	E
Avenue Of The Americas	West 35 Street	West 36 Street	W
Avenue Of The Americas	West 52 Street	West 53 Street	W
Broad Street	South Street	Water Street	N
Broadway	East 18 Street	East 17 Street	E
Broadway	West 43 Street	West 42 Street	E
Broadway	West 43 Street	West 42 Street	W
Broadway	West 48 Street	West 47 Street	E
Broadway	West 51 Street	West 50 Street	E
Broadway	West 53 Street	West 52 Street	E
Broadway	West 137 Street	West 136 Street	W
Broadway	West 138 Street	West 137 Street	W
Broadway	West 179 Street	West 178 Street	W
Canal Street	Broadway	Essex Street	N
Carlisle Street	Washington Street	West Street	N
Central Park South	7 Avenue	Avenue Of The Americas	S
Central Park South	Avenue Of The Americas	Grand Army Plaza	S
Central Park West	Columbus Circle	West 61 Street	W
Chatham Square	East Broadway	Catherine Street	E
Church Street "E Rdwy	Franklin Street	White Street	W
Columbus Avenue	West 65 Street	West 62 Street	W
Columbus Circle	West 60 Street	Eighth Avenue	W
Corlandt Street	Broadway	Church Street	N
Dey Street	Greenwich Street	Church Street	S
Dyckman Street	Vermilyea Avenue	Broadway	N
East 16 Street	5 Avenue	Union Square	N
East 17 Street	Irving Place	Park Avenue South	N
East 20 Street	Unnamed Street	Avenue C	N
East 28 Street	Fifth Avenue	Madison Avenue	S
East 28 Street	Lexington Avenue	Third Avenue	N
East 35 Street	F D R Drive	1 Avenue	S
East 36 Street	Avenue Of The Americas	Fifth Avenue	S
East 36 Street	Qns Midtown Tunnel	First Avenue	N
East 41 Street	Madison Avenue	Park Avenue	S
East 42 Street	Lexington Avenue	Vanderbilt Avenue	N
East 44 Street	2 Avenue	1 Avenue	N
East 44 Street	Lexington Avenue	3 Avenue	N
East 44 Street	Lexington Avenue	3 Avenue	N
East 45 Street	Vanderbilt Avenue	Madison Avenue	N
East 46 Street	Madison Avenue	Vanderbilt Avenue	S
East 47 Street	1 Avenue	2 Avenue	N
East 51 Street	Lexington Avenue	Park Avenue	N
East 56 Street	7 Avenue	Avenue Of The Americas	N
East 57 Street	Park Avenue	Lexington Avenue	S
East 57 Street	Park Avenue	Lexington Avenue	S
East 63 Street	Third Avenue	Lexington Avenue	S
East 68 Street	First Avenue	York Avenue	S
East 78 Street	Lexington Avenue	Third Avenue	N
East 78 Street	Park Avenue	Lexington Avenue	N
East 78 Street	Park Avenue	Lexington Avenue	S
East 86 Street	Park Avenue	Lexington Avenue	S
East 86 Street	Third Avenue	Lexington Avenue	N
East 86 Street	Third Avenue	Lexington Avenue	N
East 89 Street	1 Avenue	2 Avenue	S
East 100 Street	Fifth Avenue	Madison Avenue	S
East 125 Street	Lexington Avenue	Park Avenue	N
East 125 Street	Madison Avenue	Park Avenue	S
East 125 Street	Park Avenue	Park Avenue	N
East 125 Street	Park Avenue "W	Park Avenue "E	W
Eighth Avenue	West 39 Street	West 40 Street	W
Eleventh Avenue	West 17 Street	West 18 Street	E
Exchange Place	William Street	Hanover Street	N
Fifth Avenue	West 18 Street	West 17 Street	W
Fifth Avenue	West 84 Street	West 79 Street	W
Fifth Avenue	West 84 Street	West 79 Street	W
Fourth Avenue	East 27 Street	East 28 Street	E
Franklin Street	Greenwich Street	Hudson Street	N
Front Street	Maiden Lane	Pine Street	E
ft Washington Avenue	West 178 Street	West 179 Street	E
Fulton Street	Broadway	Church Street	S
Fulton Street	Pearl Street	Water Street	S
Grand Army Plaza	Central Park South	West 58 Street	W
Grand Street	Essex Street	Norfolk Street	S
Great Jones Street	Bowery	Lafayette Street	S
Greenwich Street	North Moore Street	Franklin Street	E

Taxi Stands in Manhattan

as of September 20, 2005 - If you know of others, contact Taxi Insider !

Irving Place	East 20 Street	East 19 Street	W
Lexington Avenue	East 29 Street	East 28 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 40 Street	East 39 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 43 Street	East 42 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 44 Street	East 43 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 45 Street	East 44 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 48 Street	East 47 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 49 Street	East 48 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 50 Street	East 49 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 51 Street	East 50 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 54 Street	East 53 Street	E
Lexington Avenue	East 56 Street	East 55 Street	E
Liberty Street	Church Street	Broadway	S
Liberty Street	Church Street	West Street	N
Madison Avenue	East 28 Street	East 29 Street	W
Madison Avenue	East 29 Street	East 30 Street	E
Madison Avenue	East 121 Street	East 122 Street	E
Maiden Lane	Front Street	South Street	S
Marginal Street	Leroy Street	West Houston Street	W
Nassau Street	Liberty Street	Cedar Street	W
Park Avenue	East 32 Street	East 33 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 36 Street	East 37 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 36 Street	East 37 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 40 Street	East 46 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 48 Street	East 49 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 49 Street	East 50 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 51 Street	East 50 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 58 Street	East 57 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 60 Street	East 59 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 62 Street	East 61 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 63 Street	East 62 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 92 Street	East 92 Street	W
Park Avenue	East 126 Street	East 125 Street	E
Park Avenue	East 160 Street	East 159 Street	W
Park Avenue "E Rdwy	East 49 Street	East 50 Street	E
Park Avenue "W Rdwy	East 51 Street	East 50 Street	W
Park Avenue South	East 16 Street	East 17 Street	E
Park Avenue South	East 27 Street	East 28 Street	E
Pleasant Avenue	East 120 Street	East 121 Street	W
Seventh Avenue	West 23 Street	West 22 Street	W
Seventh Avenue	West 56 Street	West 55 Street	W
Seventh Avenue South	West 10 Street	Christopher Street	E
South End Avenue	Dead End	Gateway Plaza	W
South Street	Old Slip	Gouverneur Lane	E
St Nicholas Avenue	West 124 Street	West 125 Street	E
St Nicholas Avenue	West 124 Street	West 125 Street	E
St Nicholas Avenue	West 180 Street	West 181 Street	E
St Nicholas Avenue	West 181 Street	West 182 Street	E
St Nicholas Avenue	West 191 Street	West 190 Street	W
State Street	State Street	Front Street	E
State Street	State Street	Whitehall Street	E
Straus Square	East Broadway	Essex Street	S
Third Avenue	East 49 Street	East 50 Street	W
Union Square	East 16 Street	East 17 Street	E
Vanderbilt Avenue	East 42 Street (Starts On 43rd)	East 45 Street (Ends 44th)	E
Vesey Street	West Street	North End Avenue	N
Water Street	Broad Street	Old Slip	E
Water Street	John Street	Fulton Street	E
Water Street	Whitehall Street	Broad Street	E
West 15 Street	8 Avenue	9 Avenue	S
West 28 Street	11 Avenue	10 Avenue	N
West 28 Street	Tenth Avenue	Ninth Avenue	N
West 32 Street	7 Avenue	Avenue Of The Americas	N
West 32 Street	Broadway	Fifth Avenue	S
West 33 Street	Ninth Avenue	Tenth Avenue	S
West 34 Street	7 Avenue	Avenue Of Americas	S
West 34 Street	Broadway	5 Avenue	S
West 42 Street	11 Avenue	10 Avenue	S
West 44 Street	8 Avenue	Broadway	S
West 44 Street	Broadway	6 Avenue	N
West 44 Street	Eleventh Avenue	Tenth Avenue	S
West 44 Street	Times Square	Avenue Of The Americas	N
West 45 Street	Broadway	8 Avenue	S
West 46 Street	8 Avenue	Broadway	S
West 47 Street	Broadway	8 Avenue	S
West 48 Street	9 Avenue	8 Avenue	N
West 49 Street	Broadway	8 Avenue	S
West 49 Street	Rockefeller Plaza	Avenue Of The Americas	S
West 51 Street	Broadway	8 Avenue	N
West 51 Street	8 Avenue	9 Avenue	N
West 51 Street	Eleventh Avenue	Twelfth Avenue	N
West 53 Street	Eighth Avenue	Ninth Avenue	N
West 54 Street	Seventh Avenue	Avenue Of The Americas	N
West 57 Street	Tenth Avenue	Ninth Avenue	S
West 60 Street	Broadway	Columbus Avenue	S
West 61 Street	Columbus Avenue	Broadway	N
West 68 Street	Amsterdam Avenue	West End Avenue	S
West 72 Street	Broadway	West End Avenue	N
West 74 Street	West End Avenue	Broadway	S
West 116 Street	Adam C Powell Boulevard	Eighth Avenue	N
West 125 Street	Lexington Avenue	Park Avenue	N
West 125 Street	Old Broadway	Broadway	N
West 134 Street	Fifth Avenue	Lenox Avenue	N
West 181 Street	Fort Washington Avenue	Broadway	S
West 181 Street	Pinehurst Avenue	Fort Washington Avenue	S
West 207 Street	Broadway	Vermilyea Avenue	S
West Street	Cedar Street	Liberty Street	W
West Street	Laight Street	Harrison Street	W
West Street	Laight Street	Vesey Street	E
West Street	Liberty Street	Vesey Street	E
West Street	Rector Street	Carlisle Street	E
Whitehall Street	Whitehall Street	State Street	N
William Street	Wall Street	Pine Street	N
York Avenue	East 68 Street	East 70 Street	E
York Avenue	East 70 Street	East 71 Street	E
York Avenue	East 76 Street	East 79 Street	E

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LOMTO General Membership Meeting: at St. Bernards Church 328 West 14 Street, New York, New York • See Our Website For The Date & Time !

TLC Commissioner's Corner

— By Matthew W. Daus —

Commissioner/Chair of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission

December 2005 was quite a month, indeed. We made it through a three day transit strike the first in 25 years, and hopefully the last we will ever see!

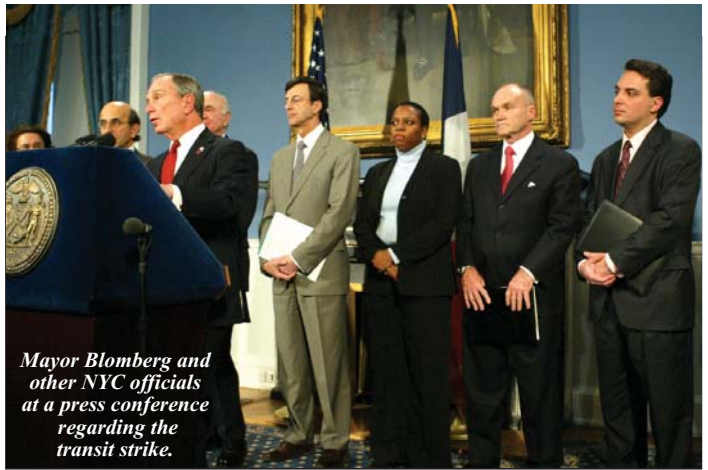
During my almost 10 years of having worked at the TLC, I have participated in planning for several citywide transit strikes that had thankfully never happened. My staff and I had also successfully implemented private bus strike contingency plans that provided us with the critical experience that was put to good use. After all those years of planning, I must say that I was very impressed with the plan that was developed, and even more so by the professionalism, dignity and skill with which it was implemented by our TLC team and our regulated industries.

As Mayor Bloomberg said, while all of us hoped for the best, we also needed to prepare for the worst, which is exactly what the City's Contingency Plan did. The TLC's portion of the plan was designed to "supplement not replace" bus and subway service for displaced commuters by providing one of several alternate service options. The two primary goals of this plan were its "simplicity" and "efficiency." The plan permitted "group riding" and provided additional economic incentives for drivers who picked-up

additional passengers, promoting the most efficient use of for-hire ground transportation services. The plan also included a simple "zone fare" system that was the same for for-hire vehicles and taxicabs.

By and large, the system worked well, with drivers working hard to match their capacity with riders in need. The TLC's regulated industries moved more passengers in three days than they have probably ever moved during any comparable period in New York City history. Despite media reports which highlighted the few glitches and problems that occurred, the number of complaints against drivers was less than expected given the new system and the increased number of passengers transported. The TLC received a record number of hits on its website, totaling approximately 1.3 Million for the week; and there were fewer questions than expected about how the plan worked, which was a testament to its simplicity.

There was a significant amount of media attention that was focused on alleged "price gouging" during the strike. I know that the overwhelming majority of business owners and drivers did the right thing by carrying out the plan legally and with a desire to help their fellow New Yorkers. However, there were



Mayor Bloomberg and other NYC officials at a press conference regarding the transit strike.

unfortunately a handful of individuals who overcharged customers by not implementing the system correctly, or who were just downright greedy. Some passenger calls alleging price gouging actually turned out to be either venting about the increased fares under the plan or just simple misunderstandings about what they could be charged. However, you can rest assured that all complaints are under active investigation, and the few individuals who violated the law will be prosecuted to its full extent.

Over the next weeks and months, the TLC will be reviewing every aspect of the implementation of the Contingency Plan in conjunction with its government partners, including the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management and the New York City Department

of Transportation. As a part of that review, the TLC will be looking for and hopefully collecting the stories that make up the most human side of why this plan worked so well, and the ways in which it could have worked even better. I hope your story will be among them.

I would like to again offer my most heartfelt thanks to the tens of thousands of men and women who make up New York City's taxicab and for-hire vehicle industries. You helped New York City to shine, and although you could not truly replace the missing mass transit service, it never for a moment stopped you from trying.

Once again, thank you so much - and Happy New Year!

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Telling It Like It Is

By Vincent Sapone, Managing Director of LOMTO

I salute every New York City Cab Driver for your help in keeping our City moving during the Transit Strike. Between street closures, insane traffic and needing at least three passengers to get into Manhattan south of 96th Street you all did an incredible job. Dedicated taxi lanes on the avenues and allowing taxis to make turns where regular traffic can't, would have made it a little easier. I know of some drivers that made less money than usual because of the strike. Even though the City set up fare zones, a lot of you gave your passengers a break because you just couldn't charge as much as you were allowed to (an example is the cab driver that picked up a family of four at LaGuardia Airport and charged them less than the approved \$20.00 per person). You all stuck with it and did what you could to help people get to where they needed to go. Once again, New York City Taxis bailed the City out. You all deserve a great big THANK YOU from our City....and then some.



just the past month the cost of regular gas has increased by between 15% and 20%. LOMTO submitted a petition to the TLC for a gas surcharge back in September 2005. The TLC's response to a very reasonable request (that most other major U.S. cities gave to their cab drivers): NO! The rule makers of our City need to realize the cost of everything is going up. Since 1996 the cost of living has increased by over 24%. How are we supposed to survive?

Speaking of rules, the annual drug test rules where changed on November 17, 2005. By now you should all know that the TLC stopped sending reminder cards for drug testing to licensed taxi driver's. You're supposed to know when you need to be tested. OK, here's the short version:

1. You need to take a drug test every year.
2. You need to take this test no more than 30 days before the month and day of your license expiration date. (Failure to do so results in license suspension).
3. If you are not tested until 30 days after the month and day of your license expiration date you will be fined \$200.00.

REMEMBER; GET YOUR DRUG TEST EVERY YEAR!

Your latest reward for being the best Taxi Industry in the world is rising gas prices. In

And speaking of reminder cards, the TLC stopped sending reminder cards for vehicle inspection. After you are inspected, keep your vehicle inspection report (VIR). The next date and time for inspection is on that report. If you miss an inspection your medallion goes on suspension and you will pay a fine.

I think it's time for the City to start trying to make life easier for cab drivers and pay more attention to our problems. Taxis are an important part of keeping this city moving. We serve almost a million people a day and that's a lot of people. Sometimes I think we are our own worst enemy. A lot of you sit back and complain about how tough it is being a cab driver. How about doing something to help yourselves? Join an organization that has been fighting for cab drivers rights for over 70 years. Join LOMTO. As more and more of you join, our voice gets louder and louder. Don't sit back. Don't just complain. Do something to help yourself. Do something you can be proud of.

LOMTO is working on several issues now that will help make life better for cab drivers. Keep you eyes open for my next column. I hope to be able to share some good news by then.

Happy New Year!!!

Until next time...be careful out there.

—

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EVENTS & MORE IN THE BIG APPLE

Recommendations to passengers always increase the opportunity for a big tip!
Here is a listing that will help keep all taxi drivers in the loop on what's going on
in New York City! Mention these events & promotions and watch the tips grow!



January 14, 2006-January 15, 2006

Gregory La Cava: An Encore Presentation
www.moma.org

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
| 11 West 53rd Street | 212-708-9400 | Manhattan

Back by popular demand, MoMA presents an encore presentation of Gregory La Cava's subversively funny *The Half-Naked Truth* (1932) and *Bed of Roses* (1933). La Cava (1892-1952) was responsible for some of the most caustic screwball comedies and political satires of the Great Depression.

January 14, 2006

Family Fun! Workshops: What's in a Word?
www.whitney.org/family

Whitney Museum of American Art
| 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street | 212-671-5300 | Manhattan
Workshops encourage kids (ages 5-10) and their families to learn about art and culture together through interactive tours and art projects. Monthly themes focus on the Whitney's permanent collection and our temporary exhibitions. Art supplies are provided. From 10-11:30AM. \$8 per family; \$6 for members.

January 14, 2006

Family Art Project: Bits of Cloth and Lots of Freedom
www.wavehill.org

Wave Hill
| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
The expansive sky, lawns, and vistas at Wave Hill give many people a sense of freedom from cramped city life. In the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and with an eye to traditional African quilts, create a colorful fabric vision of your personal dream of freedom at the Kerlin Learning Center from 1pm-4pm.

January 14, 2006

Garden Walk: Collection Highlight - Cactus and Succulent House
www.wavehill.org

Wave Hill
| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
From colorful Echeveria to woody Dioscorea, Wave Hill's cactus and succulent collection runs the gamut from the beautiful to the down-right weird. Join Joe DiMattio, garden volunteer and hobbyist, for an insider's look at the Cactus and Succulent House; Joe also shares his favorite easy-care plants for apartment dwellers in the conservatory at 2pm.

January 14, 2006

Jennifer Shahade vs. the World!
www.noguchi.org
The Noguchi Museum
| 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard) in Long Island City | 718-204-7088 | Queens

From 2pm-5pm, visitors of The Noguchi Museum will have the opportunity to challenge Jennifer Shahade, 2003 United States Women's Chess Master, in a game of chess. Shahade has been hailed as the strongest American-born female chess player in history. *Programs are subject to change; please call 718.204.7088 for updates.

January 14, 2006

All-Day Participatory Reading of

Homer's Iliad

daheshmuseum.org
Dahesh Museum of Art
| 580 Madison Ave., New York, NY. 10022 | 212-759-0606 | Manhattan

From morning to night, experience epic poetry with 200 kindred spirits. Members of the audience take turns reading continuously from Robert Fagles's acclaimed translation of the Iliad. Organized in conjunction with www.TheReadersOfHomer.org, this extraordinary event includes coffee service, live music, a copy of the book, Greek lunch, and supper.

January 14, 2006

Free Lamaze Pregnancy and Childbirth Workshop
Borders Books
| 576 Second Ave. | 212-685-3938 | Manhattan

Join Judith Lothian, nurse, childbirth expert, and coauthor of "The Official Lamaze Guide: Giving Birth with Confidence" for a pregnancy and childbirth workshop. Judith will introduce Lamaze concepts and strategies for a healthy, happy, and fulfilling birth, and she will be available to answer questions or sign books after the presentation.

January 14, 2006

Giving Thanks
www.brooklynkids.org
Brooklyn Children's Museum
| 145 Brooklyn Ave. | 718-735-4400 | Brooklyn

Celebrate Thank You Week by saluting someone special in your life. Decorate a gorgeous card to show your gratitude to a loved one. Ages 5+, 3-4pm, Admission \$4; free for members and children under one year.

January 14, 2006

Melting Pot Food Tour
enthusiasticgourmet.com
The Enthusiastic Gourmet
| Lower East
Side/Chinatown/Little Italy
646-209-4724 | Manhattan

Explore unique food shops and markets and learn about ethnic flavors and cultures. The Lower East Side is a vast immigrant community. See how this diverse neighborhood embraces the new and the old. We visit Latin, Kosher, Chinese, and Italian markets, sampling goodies along the way. Tours are \$45 and last 2.5-3 hours. Reservations are required.

January 14, 2006

Rainforest Science
www.nyscience.org
New York Hall of Science
| 47-01 111th Street, Queens
718-699-0005 | Queens

Every weekend in January, the New York Hall of Science celebrates the diversity of rainforests with special activities including a puppet show (\$2 per person), mask-making (\$1 per person), crafts (\$2 per person), storytime (free with museum admission), and a rainforest science film festival (free with museum admission).

January 14, 2006

Museum of Natural Hysteria Scavenger Hunt for Families
www.watsonadventures.com
Watson Adventures
| Call for meeting place | 212-726-1529 | Manhattan

At the Museum of Natural History, kids and adults search together for a monster squid, rampaging dinosaurs, a crouching cannibal and more. Come with a team, or we'll

help you form a team with others. Ages 7 to 12, \$20; everyone else, \$25. Prices include museum admission. Time: 10:30am-12:30pm. RSVP required.

January 14, 2006-January 15, 2006

The Chocolate Tree
www.brooklynkids.org
Brooklyn Children's Museum
| 145 Brooklyn Ave. | 718-735-4400 | Brooklyn

Meet the chocolate tree and uncover the ancient roots of chocolate making. See a real Cacao tree in the Greenhouse, look at South American objects used to make hot chocolate, and enjoy a spicy taste of a traditional Mayan chocolate drink. Ages 5+, 3-5pm, Admission \$4; free for members and children under one year.

January 14, 2006-January 18, 2006

Mid-Winter Memoir Writing Noble Maritime Collection
| 1000 Richmond Terrace
Building D, Staten Island, NY
10301 | 718-447-6490 | Staten Island

The bleak mid-winter is always warm in our writer's workshop. Start or continue to develop your voice through a personal memoir or essay. 6 sessions meeting on Saturdays 1:30pm-3:30pm. For more info, visit www.noblemaritime.org.

January 15, 2006

Best Of Broadway Featuring the Songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts
| Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College Located on Flatbush & Nostrand Ave.
junction | 718-951-4500 | Brooklyn

This unforgettable journey through Andrew Lloyd Webber's greatest hits is a brilliant musical showcase of his wildly popular Broadway shows: *Sunset Boulevard*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and others. For more info, visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

January 15, 2006

B.B. King - Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.!
www.lehmancenter.org
Lehman Center for the Performing Arts
| 250 Bedford Park Blvd. West
Bronx, New York 10468 | 718-960-8833 | Bronx

The King of Blues comes to Lehman Center for an exclusive NYC engagement. His reign as King of the Blues has been as long as that of any monarch on earth. Yet time has no apparent effect on B.B., other than to make him more popular, and more relevant than ever with 18 Grammy Awards, enshrinement in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame & countless honors.

January 21, 2006

Just Kidding: Storytelling in the Thalia
www.symphonyspace.org
Symphony Space
| 2537 Broadway at 95th Street,
New York, NY 10025-6990 | 212-864-5400 | Manhattan

A delightful morning of storytelling in the Symphony Space tradition, featuring captivating tales told in high style to enrapture listeners of all ages. This event starts at 11am.

January 21, 2006

Anniversary Ball

www.statenislandmuseum.org
Staten Island Museum (of Staten Island Institute of Arts & Sciences)

| 75 Stuyvesant Place (2 blocks from the Ferry) | 718-727-1135 | Staten Island

Save-the-Date Saturday, January 21, 2006 for our Anniversary Ball at the Excelsior Grand Honoring Senator & Mrs. John Marchi, Mary & James Regan & Al Lambert. Contact Bonnie Bell Nalwasky at ext. 25 for more information.

January 21, 2006

Chinese New Year Global Gala New Tang Dynasty
| Radio City Music Hall (6th Ave. and 50 & 51 St) | 212-307-7171 | Manhattan

A magical evening and entertaining Chinese New Year celebration. New Tang Dynasty Television proudly offers you 2006 NTDTV's Chinese New Year Global Gala at Radio City Music Hall. Over 1,000 Asian and Western artists will join together for this spectacular evening of performance. [Please call 1-888-260-6221 for ticket or visit gala.ntdtv.com]

January 21, 2006

Family Art Project: Family Roots and Traditions
www.wavehill.org
Wave Hill

| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
Design your own family-tree book after sketching trees from around the globe. Assemble a hand-made family album. Bring family photos to include at the Kerlin Learning Center from 1pm-4pm.

January 21, 2006

Riverside Symphony
Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center
| 225 W 99th Street, NY, NY 10025 | 212-864-4197 | Manhattan
Olivier Charlier is featured in an all-French program: Still possessing the savoir faire that once bowled over no less a master than Henryk Szeryng,

Charlier returns for an unprecedented third appearance. Youthful flair & fire have become something deeper along this audience-favorite's journey from wundurkind to virtuoso. www.riversidesymphony.org.

January 21, 2006

Burdetsky Family Circus
www.brooklynkids.org
Brooklyn Children's Museum
| 145 Brooklyn Ave. | 718-735-4400 | Brooklyn

Come one, come all to the phenomenal Burdetsky Family Circus! See Russian circus performer Arkady Burdetsky attempt acrobatic and juggling stunts with his family and their delightful dancing dogs. All ages, 1 & 2pm, and admission \$4; free for members and children under one year.

January 30, 2006-February 3, 2006

Winter Restaurant Week 2006
www.nycvisit.com/restaurantweek
NYC & Company
| Citywide | 212-484-1222 | All
"Restaurant Week," now in its 15th year, celebrates the leading restaurants of New York City. This winter will promote New York City as "The City That Never Sleeps." 24 hours, 7 days a week, New Yorkers can get anything at anytime of day. There will be a \$24.07 prix-fixe lunch and \$35.00 prix-fixe dinner.

January 27, 2006-April 23, 2006

Solos: New Design from Israel
www.cooperhewitt.org
Cooper-Hewitt Nat'l Design Museum, Smithsonian Institution
| 2 East 91st Street, New York, NY 10128
212-849-8420 | Manhattan

The first museum exhibition of contemporary Israeli design in the United States, Solos: New Design from Israel features the work of nineteen designers who are exploring the sculptural, material, functional, and conceptual possibilities of useful things.

Continued on page 18

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INSIDE MONEY

Saving Money On Car Insurance

By the Editors of Edmunds.com

There is a very good chance that you are — this very moment — paying too much for your car insurance. There is an even better chance that you could get a better rate, from another insurance company, than you could from your existing insurer.

So why not take an hour or so and review your policy for potential savings? Or, if you're fed up with the high insurance rates from your current insurer, shop around for a new company.

The Internet has created increasing competition between car insurance companies. It is easier than ever for consumers to shop for low insurance rates, to analyze coverage and compare premiums. Still, studies have shown that people don't shop around for insurance in the same way they might shop for a new car. Also, people tend to stay with the same car insurance company for years. Why not prove these studies wrong? Put the power of the Net to work for you and save money in the process.

You can save on auto insurance in five ways:

- Make sure you get all discounts you qualify for
- Keep your driver's record clean and up-to-date
- Adjust your coverage to assume more risk
- Drive a "low profile" car equipped with certain money-saving safety features
- Shop around for a good, low cost insurance provider

First, let's look at the discounts you might qualify for. Discounts fall into a number of categories:

- Low-risk occupations
- Professional organizations
- Combined coverage
- Discounts for safety features
- More risk assumed by driver
- Discounts for senior citizens

Low-Risk Occupations

Insurance is a numbers game. Adjustors collect information about what types of people get into accidents. Over the years they see a trend. Drivers that work as engineers tend to get into fewer accidents. Why? It would be fun to speculate about the reasons (pocket protectors — need we say more?) but the insurance companies don't really care about that. All they know is that, in fact, engineers are a low risk. Since there is less chance that they will wrap their cars around the trunk of a horse chestnut tree, they charge engineers less for insurance. Simple.

But you say you are a teacher instead of an engineer? You might still be in luck. There may be discounts for teachers. You never know unless you ask — and unless you shop around. Not all insurance companies are the same.

Professional Organizations and Auto Clubs

Have you ever been about to pay \$100 for a hotel room, only to discover that a AAA discount saves you 15 percent? Now you're paying \$85 and feeling proud of yourself. It's similar in the insurance business.

Affiliation with AAA — and certain other professional organizations — will lower your rates. You should check with your employer to see if there are any group insurance rates.

At the same time try checking directly with

Continued on page 22

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\$10 GAS VOUCHER COMPLIMENTS OF
THE NEW JUMEIRAH ESSEX HOUSE.**



The group of taxi drivers and taxi industry heads pictured above attended a press conference that was helped by U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. Senator Schumer called upon the Ford Motor Company to initiate an aggressive program to retrofit all Crown Victorias in the New York City taxi fleet with a gas tank shield at no expense to the taxi industry.

Watch Those Pink Tickets; Complaints About Other Drivers

By Michael Spevack, Esq.

This article is for information purposes only and in no way constitutes legal advice. If the reader desires legal advice, please contact the author.

Hello everybody and Happy New Year! I hope you are all working hard and making good money.

First, I am noticing that police are writing a lot of pink/criminal summonses at this time. If you get a pink summons, please be careful it is for criminal court and is much more serious than a regular yellow summons. If you fail to appear on a pink summons return date, a warrant will likely issue for your arrest and you could wind up with a criminal record. Please contact a lawyer to see if you need representation for such a ticket.

Second, the police are writing a lot of bus lane tickets along with improper turn tickets. Please be careful on Madison Avenue as the police seem to be writing many tickets at this location.

Third, please be extra careful near Penn Station as police are writing a ton of tickets at this location. If you are at Penn Station, don't do anything improper or you will get multiple summonses.

Fourth, remember to call me at 866-LAW-MIKE if you have any problems like customer complaints or DMV or pink tickets or if you have a question you want me to answer in the column.

Fifth, please be careful to avoid domestic disputes. If you hit your wife or girlfriend (or if you woman drivers hit your husband or boyfriend), you can get arrested. If you get arrested, more than likely, TLC will suspend your hack license while a criminal case pends against you. This could result in your being out of work for many months. TLC sometimes won't reinstate your license even if the complainant (wife, etc) withdraws her complaint. TLC will only return your hack license if the case is finished and charges are dismissed or adjourned in contemplation of dismissal or other similar result. Please don't get into any fights!!

Sixth, if you are a driver, I would urge you NOT to go to TLC with a complaint against another driver, even if you see misconduct on the road by another driver. TLC is not a good place to "get even" or to "settle a score." TLC could wind up getting the complaining driver in trouble. Now I am not saying if

another driver punches you that you should settle it outside the TLC. In such a case, I would rather see TLC handle it then for it to wind up in the hands of the police. But, in general, I would urge drivers to refuse to complain to TLC about conduct of other taxi drivers.

Please, have a productive and safe month. Be well!



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EVENTS & MORE IN THE BIG APPLE



— Continued from page 12 —

January 27, 2006-February 5, 2006
Contemporary Iranian Films
www.asiasociety.org
 Asia Society

| 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street)
 | 212-517-ASIA | Manhattan
 Highlights from the Twelfth Annual Boston Festival of Films from Iran include some of the latest dramas that explore life in a changing Iran. Programmed by Bo Smith, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and made possible with support from the ILEX Foundation. Films in Persian with English subtitles from 7pm-9pm. \$7 members; \$10 nonmembers; \$5 students w/ID.

January 27, 2006-January 30, 2006
Revolutionary Era Walking Tour
www.patriottoursonyc.com
 Patriot Tours, Inc.
 | City Hall | 718-717-0963 | Manhattan

Walk through historic lower Manhattan and discover NYC's pivotal role in the American Revolution. Visit historic sites that include Trinity Church, Federal Hall and Fraunces Tavern. Hear about the political factions that pit neighbor against neighbor, patriot against loyalist. Learn about real NYers who fought for their dream of freedom at 1:00pm.

January 26, 2006-May 27, 2006
Andrea Zittel: Critical Spaces
www.newmuseum.org
 New Museum of Contemporary Art

| 556 West 22nd Street (at 11th Avenue) | 212-219-1222 | Manhattan
 One of the most influential American artists to emerge in the last fifteen years, Andrea Zittel investigates

contemporary life in Western societies through work that engages with both architecture and design, exploring the psychological, biological and economic aspects of domestic and urban existence.

January 26, 2006-January 29, 2006

The Outsider Art Fair
 Sanford L. Smith & Associates
 | The Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 | 212-777-5218 | Manhattan
 Roberta Smith from The New York Times, raved that The Outsider Art Fair "gives the New York art world an annual dose of smelling salts." Held at the Puck Building in Soho & comprised of 33 exhibitors, the event gathers dealers who have brought some of the most important Outsider artists to the attention of the art world. Visit www.sanfordsmith.com.

January 25, 2006-April 17, 2006
The Compulsive Line: Etching 1900 to Now
www.moma.org
 The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

| 11 West 53rd Street | 212-708-9400 | Manhattan
 In recent years a large number of artists have contributed to a major revival of the etching technique, discovering that its intricate processes and delicate lines are perfectly suited to their personal, introspective approaches to art making.

January 25, 2006-April 24, 2006
Transforming Chronologies
www.moma.org
 The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

| 11 West 53rd Street | 212-708-

9400 | Manhattan
 A two-part exhibition that approaches the drawings collection from a new direction, presenting works not by date but by specific sequences of forms. Just as anthropologists see a myth as the summation of all of its many versions, we may say that in art history a form, motif, or theme is the sum of its variations and differences.

January 24, 2006-January 29, 2006

Outsider Art Week
www.folkartmuseum.org
 American Folk Art Museum
 | 45 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019 | 212-977-7170, ext. 346 | Manhattan

Don't miss our week-long series of informative special programs, including panel discussions, field trips, tours, and receptions. And be sure to visit the museum's booth at the Outsider Art Fair (January 27-29) for a selection of recent publications from the museum's book shop and information about current and upcoming exhibitions.

January 24, 2006-January 29, 2006

Shapiro & Smith: Anytown
www.joyce.org
 The Joyce Theater
 | 175 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10011 | 212-242-0800 | Manhattan

In the NY premiere of Anytown, Shapiro & Smith's trademark wit and physical toughness join with the music of Bruce Springsteen, his rocker wife, Patti Scialfa, and E-Street Band member Soozie Tyrell. A dialogue between contemporary dance and music, Anytown takes its keen storytelling, down-to-earth tone and musicality directly from the

songs.

January 22, 2006
Tap Kids

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts
 | Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College Located on Flatbush & Nostrand Ave. junction | 718-951-4500 | Brooklyn

Tap takes center stage with this extraordinary group of nine young tap dancers. This show celebrates the energy of American youth culture through the art of tap dance, amazingly mastered by these young entertainers. Tickets are \$15, \$12, \$10, and \$8. For more info, visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

January 22, 2006
Mozart's Mass in C Minor and Requiem in D Minor

www.lincolncenter.org/search/results.asp?txtKeyword=romantique

Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center
 | 65th St. and Broadway | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan

Sir John Eliot Gardiner, one of the world's foremost Mozart interpreters, celebrates the 250th anniversary of the great composer's birth by conducting the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique and the Monteverdi Choir in Mozart's two most celebrated choral works - the Mass in C minor and Requiem in D minor.

January 22, 2006
Ainadamar

www.lincolncenter.org
Rose Theater, at Lincoln Center
 | Frederick P. Rose Hall, 60th Street and Broadway | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan
 New York premiere of Golijov's one-

act chamber opera, which was first performed at Tanglewood in 2004. Sung in Spanish (with English subtitles), the moving 70-minute work is a stirring evocation of the life and work of Federico Garcia Lorca, as seen through the eyes of his friend, muse, and artistic collaborator, Catalan actress Margarita Xirgu.

January 22, 2006
Wave Hill Concerts: Daedalus Quartet

www.wavehill.org
 Wave Hill
 | West 249th Street and Independence Avenue, Bronx, New York 10471 | 718-549-3200 | Bronx

Join us at 2pm for a performance by the Daedalus Quartet, Grand Prize Winners of the 2001 Banff International String Quartet Competition, watch them display their virtuosity in Dvorák's "American" quartet, inspired by an encounter with traditional Native American music. Works by Mozart and Benjamin Britten complete the program.

January 22, 2006-February 21, 2006

The Passion of Osvaldo Golijov
 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
 | 65th St. and Broadway | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan

A festival dedicated to the exuberant contemporary Argentine-American composer that reveals his remarkable range and influences, from opera, to klezmer-infused chamber music lashed by tango rhythms, to Schubert and film. Golijov's works "arouse extraordinary enthusiasm in audiences, because they revive

— Continued on page 25 —

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
 Circle in the Square Theatre
 1633 Broadway
 New York, NY 10019

Avenue Q
 John Golden Theatre
 252 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Awake and Sing
 Belasco Theatre
 111 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Barefoot in the Park
 Cort Theatre
 138 West 48th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Beauty and the Beast
 Lunt-Fontanne Theatre
 205 West 46th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Bridge & Tunnel
 Helen Hayes Theatre
 240 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Chicago
 Ambassador Theatre
 219 West 49th Street
 New York, NY 10019

Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life
 Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre (formerly Plymouth)
 236 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
 Hilton Theatre
 213 West 42nd St.
 New York, NY 10036

Color Purple, The
 Broadway Theatre
 1681 Broadway
 New York, NY 10019

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels
 Imperial Theatre
 249 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Doubt
 Walter Kerr Theatre
 219 West 48th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Fiddler on the Roof
 Minskoff Theatre
 200 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Hairspray
 Neil Simon Theatre
 250 West 52nd Street
 New York, NY 10019

History Boys, The
 Broadhurst Theatre
 235 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Jay Johnson: The Two and Only March
 Helen Hayes Theatre
 240 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036



Jersey Boys
 August Wilson Theatre (formerly Virginia)
 245 West 52nd Street
 New York, NY 10019

Latinologues
 Helen Hayes Theatre
 240 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Lestat
 Palace Theatre
 1564 Broadway
 New York, NY 10036

Light in the Piazza
 Vivian Beaumont Theater
 150 West 65th Street
 New York, NY 10023

Lion King, The
 New Amsterdam Theatre
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 New York, NY 10036

Mamma Mia!
 Cadillac Winter Garden Theatre
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Mary Poppins
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Odd Couple, The
 Brooks Atkinson Theatre
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Pajama Game, The
 American Airlines Theatre
 227 West 42nd Street
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Phantom of the Opera, The
 Majestic Theatre
 247 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Producers, The
 St. James Theatre
 246 West 44th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Rabbit Hole - January 12
 Biltmore Theatre
 261 West 47th Street
 New York, NY 10036

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 Nederlander Theatre
 208 West 41st Street
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Ring of Fire: The Johnny Cash Musical
 Ethel Barrymore Theatre
 243 West 47th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Seascape
 Booth Theatre
 222 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Shining City April
 Biltmore Theatre
 261 West 47th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Souvenir
 Lyceum Theatre
 149 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Sweeney Todd
 Eugene O'Neill Theatre
 230 West 49th Street
 New York, NY 10019

Sweet Charity
 Al Hirschfeld Theatre
 302 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Three Days of Rain
 Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre (formerly Royale)
 242 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Threepenny Opera, The
 March Studio 54
 254 West 54th Street
 New York, NY 10019

Touch of the Poet, A
 Studio 54
 254 West 54th Street
 New York, NY 10019

Wedding Singer, The
 Al Hirschfeld Theatre
 302 West 45th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Well March
 Longacre Theatre
 220 West 48th Street
 New York, NY 10036

Wicked
 Gershwine Theatre
 222 West 51st Street
 New York, NY 10019

Woman in White, The
 Marquis Theatre
 1535 Broadway
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Insider Editorial

— Continued from front page —

wanted all employees to pay 6% towards pensions, a demand they later backed down from. Some current employees wanted only new employees to pay the threatened 6% of their total income (including overtime) into the pension fund. (Easy to say screw the new guy) Instead, every current Transit Union worker will be paying 1 1/2% of their salaries into the health insurance fund. This seems to be the beginning of the end of the pension and benefit system in America as we know it. How long will benefits be a benefit?

Yet, if I had any type of retirement plan, it would probably supply a certain comfort level regarding my future and my family's future. No one can live solely on social security. Fairly speaking, no one can live with the fear that twenty years of contributed money will evaporate into a pension plan containing only zeros either.

The present federal administration gives the biggest tax breaks to the biggest savers, the top 1% of the wealthiest Americans. Meanwhile, a portion of the middle class suffers with declining pension coverage, employers that are cutting back on their contributions to 401k's and high risk exposure on existing 401k's. This places the highest level of financial uncertainty ever on the future of formerly secure Americans. The system is breaking down. Are we all better off totally without pensions? Corporate America believes we are.

Recently I attended a meeting with the management team of one of the largest American car manufacturers. They bluntly stated that \$1,500 of each car produced goes to pay for a certain employee benefit while only \$1,200 of each vehicle made, goes for steel. I cannot stop thinking about that statement. It put things in order in my mind about outsourcing. Why do you think every company that can is now outsourcing?

Speaking of outsourcing; Recently, I needed to speak with a teller at the bank across the street. I called information, dialed the number and got a person with an accent. I happened to ask where my call was connected to. The answer was India. Amazing isn't it. To call across the street and having the call connected to New Delhi, India. The worst part about my call is that New Delhi could not help me with my problem nor would they give me the local branch's phone number. In my case, customer service simply did not work with fiscal outsourcing of jobs!

My point is simple. With no pensions provided for workers in New Delhi or Thailand or Mexico (and the list goes on), any corporation simply

becomes more profitable. It is more cost effective for any corporation to have employees with NO benefits. If every American car cost \$1,500 less to build, foreign vehicles would not have the unfair financial advantage as they do now.

Thirty years ago bumper stickers advertised the words BUY AMERICAN. It may be too late to buy American today because American companies are located in other countries in order to reduce expenses.

While world trade may ultimately end up providing the world's population with a higher standard of life, be thankful for any benefits you have. Be thankful you have a job. Your job may end up being transferred to China next year.

About the only good thing to come from this worldly financial scenario is that we do not have to worry about pensions or our jobs. Driving a New York City taxi can only be done in one place, New York City.

— CITY SCENES —



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Inside Money

— Continued from page 16 —

the insurance company representative when you inquire about the cost of policies.

Combined and Renewal Discounts

A big source of savings is to insure your cars with the same company that insures your house. Make sure you ask if combined coverage is available. This will lower your payments on your car insurance and make your homeowner's policy cheaper too.

It's also important to make sure you are getting a "renewal" discount that many car insurance companies offer. This is a discount given to people who have been with the same insurance company for an extended period of time. If you have carried insurance with a company for several years, and not had an accident, your insurance company likes you. Think about it. You paid them a lot of money and they didn't have to do anything except send you bills and cash your checks. True, they were ready to do something if you got in an accident. But you didn't get into an accident so they're happy and want to continue their relationship with you. A renewal discount is a good incentive to urge you to return. And it's a good reason for you to stay with them.

Discounts for Auto Safety Features

Auto safety features will also lower your payments. Heading the list of money saving safety features is antilock brakes. Certain states — such as Florida, New Jersey and New York — encourage drivers to buy cars with antilock brakes by requiring insurers to give discounts. Check to see if you live in such a state, or if the insurance company you are considering gives a discount for this feature. Automatic seatbelts and airbags are also frequently rewarded with insurance discounts.

Assume More Risk

Two powerful ways to bring your coverage down is to assume a higher risk. This is done in two ways. The most dramatic reduction can be realized by dropping your collision insurance on an older car. If the car is worth less than \$2,000, you'll probably spend more insuring it than it is worth. The whole idea of driving an older car is to save money, so why not get what is coming to you?

Another way to redesign your policy — and save money in the process — is to ask for a higher deductible. The deductible is the amount of money

you have to pay before your insurance company begins paying the rest. In other words, you pay for the little dings and bumps and let your insurance company pay for the heavy hits.

For example, a common deductible amount is \$500. This means if an accident you're in causes \$1,500 worth of damage, you pay \$500 and the insurance company pays \$1,000. You could, however, set your deductible to \$1,000. This still covers you against heavy losses, but it may decrease your monthly premium by as much as 30 percent.

As a final note, if you are being strangled by high insurance costs, keep this in mind when you go car shopping next time. The more expensive and higher-performance the car is, the higher the premium will be. This is particularly true of cars that are frequently stolen, or are expensive to repair. The insurance company keeps this in mind when setting its insurance rates for this vehicle. Shop for a low-profile car and get your kicks in other ways. You'll love the savings you'll see on your auto insurance.

Brakes That Pay Attention

Continued from page 4

and a warning tone rings through the audio system. If the distance between the two vehicles does not increase, the system begins a second stage of actions, applying the brakes lightly while an electric pretensioner takes the slack out of the driver's seat belt with a gentle warning tug. If this is still not enough to prevent the crash, the system's third stage will forcefully retract both front seat belts and apply stronger braking to reduce the car's speed.

While it will not bring the vehicle to a complete stop on its own, the system will apply about 75 percent of the car's braking capacity. Acura has asked insurance companies to consider offering discounts to owners of RL's with the system, said William Walton, a product planner at Acura.

While pre-emptive safety systems are now offered on only a few vehicles, they are expected to become more available. Mike Thoeny, an engineer at Delphi, the automotive supplier, said the company was working with several automakers to develop new applications, including systems that use a camera to differentiate moving objects from stationary ones.

By the end of the decade, Mr. Thoeny said, pre-emptive safety systems will also monitor the driver and tailor responses based on alertness, issuing a warning sooner if the driver's eyes are not on the road. Lexus showed just such a concept at the Tokyo auto show in October.

"We have this technologically ready today," Mr. Thoeny said. "It's simply a matter of integrating it into the vehicle."

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TAXI DRIVERS SPEAK OUT !!!

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Lamborghini Miura Concept worldwide debut

by Chris Paukert



In much the same mold as Ford's reinterpretation of the legendary GT-40, Italy's raging bull, Lamborghini has mined one of its most endearing supercar designs, to create a modern counterpart. Different in every way, yet instantly recognisable as a Miura, the concept met with a warm reaction from a typically jaded press. The unveiling was a dream realized for Lamborghini design bigwig Walter DeSilva, and apparently for a few press people as well.

While de' Silva was quick to point out that there are no immediate plans for production, word on the street is that Automobili Lamborghini may park this one in showrooms by late next year. His first design for Lamborghini since coming on board (he's also the head of the Audi Design Group). While waiting for the press conference to begin, I had the occasion to speak with a number of

Audi execs, and based upon what I heard, this isn't a runner, as it lacks a working drivetrain.

Still, others had pegged the Miura Concept as lacking an interior, and the wiley souls at Sant'Agata Bolognese never so much as cracked its shapely, heavily-tinted doors. If you'll pardon the shoddy photo quality, a Nikon lens and a strong flash give lie to the rumor that the car lacks any sort of interior whatsoever (below). In point of fact, it appears to have a nicely-integrated instrument panel dominated by two metal-bezeled gauges, presumably a tachometer and speedometer. The center console has six smaller gauges that echo the theme, and a prominent metal-bracketed transmission tunnel houses a traditional Lamborghini gated shifter.

Safe Bets for Your Family

by Eric Peters for AOL

It's easy enough to pick out a fast car -- or a pretty one. Or the least expensive one, for that matter. But safety's more subtle. Unlike engine size or horsepower, it's not there on the window sticker -- and you can't pop the hood to take a look at it.

Especially if you're looking for something other than a minivan. With minivans, it's hard to go terribly wrong on the safety front as all current models are pretty good performers.

However, not everyone needs -- or wants -- a minivan.

But that doesn't mean you have to give up minivan-levels of occupant protection.

There are a number of safety standouts in the family sedan category to consider, too.

These include:

Chrysler 300 : This full-size, rear-drive sedan earned top marks across the board in NHTSA crash testing -- no surprise, given it shares its underlying chassis with the Mercedes-Benz E-Class. The 300 also offers side curtain air bags, Brake Assist and ESP stability control. And for power, there's no beating the 340-hp Hemi-Equipped 300C.

Chevy Impala : An affordable, nicely-equipped five passenger sedan with a standard 3.4 liter V-6 engine and impressive 5-Star performance in government crash tests. And with a restyled model on deck for next year (and combined with GM's employee discount pricing incentives) it's also a great time to get a great deal on an '05 Impala.

Continued on page 26



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Beantown Boobies Lose Damon

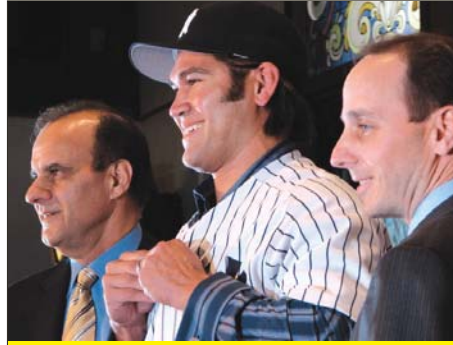
Article & Photos by David Pollack

It was a historic day at Yankee Stadium. A day like this has not been seen since the Boston Red Sox (oops) sold Babe Ruth to the much hated New York Yankees in order to finance a Broadway show!

This time, Johnny Damon, the man who beat the NY Yankees for the pennant single handed in 2004 (with a little help from Mo) was bought and brought to New York right under the noses of Red Sox management.

The Yankees actions lead by Brian Cashman proved to Damon that the Yankees wanted him more than the Red Sox did. King George has been known to put money where his mouth is and he initially offered more years and money than the Beantown Boobies.

Listening carefully to everything Damon stated at the Yankees press conference, what stuck in this writers mind is when JD



Johnny Damon, donning the Yankee cap and uniform for the first time, with Yank skipper Joe Torre and Yank GM Brian Cashman.



Yankee Announcer Susan Waldman (R) was also thrilled at the signing of JD!

other as they baffle and destroy opposing pitchers. Damon made his goal clear at the press conference, getting New York another World Series.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year New York, another World Series is on the horizon



This Sign At Yankee Stadium Says It All !



Warner Wolfe (L), sporting the "No Hair, No Beard, No Problem" T-Shirt, with David Pollack (C) and the PR Rep Howard Rubenstein (R).

stated "The call from ARod made all the difference in the world.... The Yankees said and did all the right things....The Yankees have a tradition of winning and I am here to help them win a World Series.... There are no weak spots in the Yankee lineup.... We have a hall of fame lineup."

Today, Johnny Damon said and did all the right things for New York.

Was Damon happy? As he put on the Yankee pinstripes and hat for the first time, a big smile developed. Oh yeah! He couldn't say enough positive things about the Yankees. After listening to JD speak, I was ready to buy World Series tickets in the middle of December. Damon also has class. He thanked the Boston fans for their support during an interview with Keith Oberman.

The Yankees now have the perfect one two punch to leadoff every game. Damon and Jeter (or vice versa) will show their natural superstar abilities and feed off each

College Bowl Stars



Chris Graythen, Getty Images

Brad Smith, Missouri
Independence Bowl
282 pass/150 rush, 4 TDs



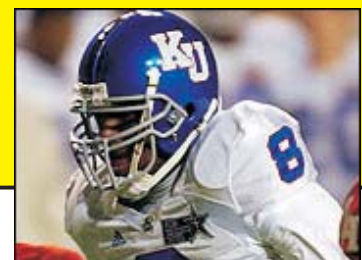
Matt York, AP

Rudy Carpenter, ASU
Insight Bowl
467 passing yards, 4 TDs



AP Image

Vince Young, Texas
Rose Bowl
467 Total Yards
Scores game-winning TD
on scramble w/ 8 seconds left



LM Otero, AP

Jason Swanson, Kansas
Fort Worth Bowl
307 passing yards, 4 TDs



Rob Carr, AP

Bruce Gradowski, Toledo
GMAC Bowl
298 passing yards, 5 TDs

EVENTS & MORE IN THE BIG APPLE



— Continued from page 18 —

music's elemental powers." - The New Yorker

January 20, 2006-January 21, 2006
9th Annual Japanese Contemporary Dance Showcase
www.japansociety.org
Japan Society
 | 333 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 | 212-832-1155 | Manhattan

The annual staple of cutting-edge dance celebrates its ninth season! This year's line-up features the three-woman group Shinonome Butoh, who have broken new ground in the "dark dance" of butoh by transforming it into their own energetic and bright aesthetic; Ape's comic and expressive movement collages, and much more.

January 20, 2006-January 22, 2006

Cycle World International Motorcycle Show
 presented by Toyota Trucks Advanstar Communications
 | Jacob K. Javits Center, Halls 3A-3B, 655 West 34th St., New York | 800-331-5706 | Manhattan
 See the 2006 motorcycles from the major manufacturers, ATVs, one-of-a-kind custom bikes, vintage displays, thrilling live-action entertainment and more. Attendees can purchase accessories and gear and talk to industry experts. Fun for the entire family! For info, visit www.motorcycleshow.com.

January 20, 2006-January 29, 2006

Winter Antiques Show, a benefit for East Side House Settlement Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street
 | East Side House Settlement, 337 Alexander Avenue, Bronx, NY 10454 | 718-292-7392 | Manhattan

Now in its 52nd year, this centerpiece of New York's Americana Week features the world's experts in American, English, European, and Asian fine and decorative arts in a fully vetted show. The 2006 loan exhibition is from George Washington's Mount Vernon. Daily tickets are \$20. For more info, visit www.winterantiquesshow.com.

January 19, 2006-June 11, 2006

The Pajama Game
www.roundabouttheatre.org
Roundabout Theatre Company
 | American Airlines Theatre, 227 West 42nd Street | (212) 719-1300 | Manhattan

International recording star Harry Connick, Jr. is set to make his theatrical debut as Sid Sorokin in The Pajama Game. With a score featuring standards like "Hey There," "Steam Heat" and "Hernando's Hideaway," The Pajama Game is set in the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory during a strenuous labor negotiation.

January 18, 2006-January 22, 2006

World Premiere - 5 Streams
www.asiasociety.org
Asia Society
 | 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street) | 212-517-ASIA | Manhattan

Using ancient texts from Islamic and Hindu traditions, 5 Streams is internationally acclaimed director Ibrahim Quraishi's personal rumination on a world torn apart by conflicts and brought together by shared histories and identities. Explosive sounds, hypnotic voices, live video, and installation of bodies offer a sensory journey.

January 18, 2006-January 30, 2006

Medusa: Films from an Italian Studio, 1995-2005
www.moma.org

The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)
 | 11 West 53rd Street | 212-708-9400 | Manhattan

A retrospective on the tenth anniversary of the founding of Medusa, an Italian film company that produces and distributes films from around the world. This selection of fourteen Italian films associated with Medusa provides a window onto contemporary Italian culture.

January 18, 2006-January 22, 2006

The American Antiques Show
www.folkartmuseum.org

The American Folk Art Museum
 | Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 West 18 Street, New York City | 212-265-1040 | Manhattan

The American Antiques Show, a benefit for the American Folk Art Museum, is the only antiques show held in New York City during Americana Week in January that is all-American. The impressive roster of 44 American dealers is noted for the wide range and variety of important, idiosyncratic, and historical Americana and American folk art.

February 4, 2006

Coca-Cola Family Program Series:

Family Day - Lunar New Year
www.asiasociety.org
Asia Society
 | 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street) | 212-517-ASIA | Manhattan

The Family Day Program Series offers fun for the whole family. Through a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds, take an afternoon journey across Asia. Encounter adventure at every corner. It could be Vietnamese dancers sharing stories, Japanese origami or an animated film from Iran. Learn about Lunar New Year on February 4. Free with museum admission.

February 4, 2006

DanceBrazil
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts
 | Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College Located on Flatbush & Nostrand Ave. junction | 718-951-4500 | Brooklyn

DanceBrazil offers the best of traditional and contemporary Afro-Brazilian dance, including the sensational art form of capoeira. Tickets are \$35, \$30, \$25, and \$15. For more info, visit www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

February 4, 2006

Cristobal Repetto
www.lincolncenter.org
The Allen Room at the Frederick P. Rose Hall
 | 60th Street, Broadway at Columbus Circle | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan

This rising young tango vocalist will take the stage at 10:30 PM. In his hometown of Buenos Aires, he has been hailed for single handedly bringing back the traditional voice of the tango. Although only in his 20s, he leads the pack of a new generation of artists breathing new life into the style of the tango's past.

February 4, 2006

The Kronos Quartet
www.lincolncenter.org
Rose Theater, Frederick P. Rose Hall
 | 60th Street, Broadway at Columbus Circle | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan

The quartet will perform short chamber pieces written or arranged by the composer. Artist Dawn Upshaw will sing a special

arrangement of eleven songs written especially for her, ranging from Sephardic folk tunes to Semitic electronica to Arabic poetry. The melodies represent a melding of three cultures --- Christian, Islamic, and Jewish.

February 4, 2006
Everybody Dance Now!
www.lincolncenter.org
Alice Tully Hall
 | 65th Street and Broadway | 212-721-6500 | Manhattan

Part of the "Family Musik" series. Features dancers from the New York-based Sean Curran Company and Judith Gordon at the piano, with music from Brahms to Copland. Program takes place at 2 and 4 PM, is an hour in length, and features audience participation. Tickets are \$25.

February 4, 2006
Garden Walk: Winter Color In and Out
www.wavehill.org
Wave Hill

| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
 Even in winter, cheery colors can be found in flowers, twigs, and berries. Join Garden Interpreter Charles Day to discover showy plants that thrive in winter, both in the garden and in the greenhouses. Meet at the Perkins Visitors Center at 2pm.

February 4, 2006
The Harlem Gospel Choir
Queensborough Performing Arts Center
 | 222-05 56th Ave, Bayside, Queens, NY 11364 | 718-631-6311 | Queens

Come to the Queensborough Performing Arts Center for the most exciting year-long celebration in Queens! The Harlem Gospel Choir is one of the pre-eminent gospel choirs in the world. Sharing its joy of faith through its music. Call or purchase tickets on-line at www.theatermania.com. Tickets are \$35, \$32, \$29 and for more info, www.qcc.cuny.edu.

February 4, 2006
The Orphan Singer
Queensborough Performing Arts Center
 | 222-05 56th Ave, Bayside, Queens, NY 11364 | 718-631-6311 | Queens

An exciting and moving multimedia musical production, based on the book by award-winning author Emily Arnold McCully introduces young audiences to the life and work of Vivaldi and features a live, all-female chamber ensemble and Broadway-quality cast. Call or purchase tickets on-line at www.theatermania.com. Tickets are \$18, www.qcc.cuny.edu.

February 4, 2006
Happy Concert for Young People, Party Down With Mozart!
littleorchestra.org
The Little Orchestra Society
 | Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center | 212-971-9500 | Manhattan

Come and join in a birthday salute to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart! Celebrate 212/2 centuries of one of the world's greatest musical whiz kids. Today's prodigies will offer their musical tributes to the amazing Amadeus. This event is for ages 6-12.

February 4, 2006
Just Kidding: Cirkus Inferno
www.symphonyspace.org
Symphony Space
 | 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York, NY 10025-6990 | 212-864-5400 | Manhattan

Lucky and Lady are the world's most dangerous clowns, and their wild adventure at the Cirkus Inferno is a hilarious slapstick romp that

features thrilling pyrotechnic effects and unbelievable sight gags that'll have kids yelling for more. This event starts at 11am.

February 4, 2006-February 5, 2006
Family Art Project: Fibers Galore for Paper Forming
www.wavehill.org
Wave Hill

| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
 Cotton, linen, abaca (a plant in the banana family), and recycled newspaper are some of the sources for the raw materials you can use to make unique sheets of handmade paper. Papermaker Randy Brozen is your guide in the Kerling Learning Center from 1pm-4pm.

February 5, 2006
Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival
www.sibg.org
Staten Island Botanical Garden
 | 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301 | 718-273-8200 | Staten Island

Celebrate the Year of the Dog at the New York Chinese Scholar's Garden. Located within the Staten Island Botanical Garden from 12 noon-3 pm. \$8 adults/ \$5 children.

February 5, 2006-February 21, 2006

Thalia Film: Screwball! Comedy Series

www.symphonyspace.org
Symphony Space
 | 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York, NY 10025-6990 | 212-864-5400 | Manhattan

Double feature of the American life in the 30's and early 40's is urbanely satirized in this unique brand of farce. The six titles in this series include My Man Godfrey, His Girl Friday, The Philadelphia Story, The Awful Truth, The Palm Beach Story, and The Fuller Brush Girl. Showings are on Sundays and Tuesdays with varying times.

February 2, 2006-February 27, 2006

19th-Century Valentines
www.merchantshouse.com
Merchant's House Museum
 | 29 East 4th Street | 212-777-1089 | Manhattan

An exhibition of ornate and extravagant lace cards, the humorous 'vinegar valentines', and the mass-produced 'penny valentines' that made the 19th century the Golden Age of Valentines.

February 11, 2006-May 7, 2006
Holy Madness: Portraits of Tantric Siddhas
www.rmanyc.org
Rubin Museum of Art
 | 150 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011 | 212-620-5000 | Manhattan

The more than eighty-four Indian Adepts comprised of kings, monks, scholars, boatmen, cobblers, men and woman, all contributed to the source of the rich Tantric tradition known as Vajrayana Buddhism.

February 11, 2006
Lolli-Pops Concert for Children, Tubby the Tuba & the Big Brass
littleorchestra.org
The Little Orchestra Society
 | The Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College - 68th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues | 212-971-9500 | Manhattan

Celebrate Buzz's birthday with the "buzzzz" of the Brass Family as he and Toot act out the story of Tubby the Tuba, who wants to trade in his dull oom-pah-pahs for an exciting hit tune! This event is for ages 3-5.

February 11, 2006

Just Kidding: Dumbo
www.symphonyspace.org
Symphony Space
 | 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York, NY 10025-6990 | 212-864-5400 | Manhattan

This classic tale of the baby elephant whose ears are so big he can fly is arguably the finest Disney movie ever and any chance to see it on the big screen shouldn't be missed! This event is for ages 7 and up and starts at 11am and 2pm.

February 11, 2006
Marilyn Hacker and Reginald Hacker - Harold Clurman Poetry Reading Series
Stella Adler Studio of Acting
 | 31 W. 27th St., 3rd Fl. | 212-689-0087 | Manhattan

Reginald Shepherd and Marilyn Hacker will read their poetry and take questions as part of the Stella Adler Studio's Harold Clurman Poetry Series at 2pm. Please call 212-689-0087 to confirm event and for reservations for two people or more. For info, visit www.stellaadler.com.

February 11, 2006
Black Tie & Blackjack Casino Night
The New York City Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

| The Down Town Association, 60 Pine Street (between Pearl and William Street), New York | 212-448-9206 | Manhattan
 Guests will enjoy dinner, open bar, games of chance and dancing well into the night. Test your luck at poker, roulette, blackjack and craps with the chance to win fantastic prizes including dinner gift certificates, luxurious hotel stays, spa treatments and more! All proceeds help fund research. For info, www.lls.org/nycblacktieblackjack.

February 11, 2006
Family Workshop: Musical Valentines
www.sonywonderdtechlab.com
Sony Wonder Technology Lab
 | 550 Madison Ave. | 212-833-7875 | Manhattan

Get ready for Valentine's Day by making a special greeting card that speaks from the heart- with music! Especially for younger audiences. No reservation is required and space is limited from 3pm-4pm. \$5.00 per participant.

February 11, 2006
Garden Workshop: Propagating Plants from Cuttings
www.wavehill.org
Wave Hill

| 675 West 252nd Street, The Bronx | 718-549-3200 | Bronx
 Demystify the process of vegetative propagation in this hands-on workshop. Practice taking stem, leaf, and root cuttings to increase your favorite garden or houseplants; cuttings made in class are yours to keep. At Wave Hill House, 2 PM. Pre-registration required. Fees \$15/\$10 for members.

February 11, 2006
The Sensational Temptations and Marvelettes
www.lehmancenter.org
Lehman Center for the Performing Arts

| 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West | 718-960-8833 | Bronx
 The legendary Motown quintet, The Temptations, brings unforgettable hit after hit to Lehman Center including "My Girl", "Just My Imagination", "Ball of Confusion", and "Papa was Rolling a Stone". The marvelous Motown girl group, The Marvelettes, will begin the party with their sing-along hits including "Please Mr. Postman".

Cars Are Talking; Safety Is The Topic

by JEREMY W. PETERS
MILFORD, Mich.

ON a blustery afternoon here at General Motors' proving grounds northwest of Detroit, engineers whipped around the track in a Chevrolet Suburban and a pair of Cadillac CTS sedans, seemingly intent on causing a collision.

For a moment, that seemed to be exactly what would happen. The big Suburban, blocking the view of a Cadillac at the head of the pack, suddenly swerved out of its lane to reveal the lead car stopped in the middle of the track. But before the second Cadillac slammed into the rear of the stopped car, the driver was alerted to the danger by a series of vibrations through the seat. At the same moment, the brakes automatically clamped down to slow the car.

The technology that took control to prevent a crash, which G.M. calls a "sixth sense" system, is an example of the next-generation collision-avoidance systems that automakers are increasingly developing.

"The cars talk digitally," said Larry Burns, vice president for research and development at G.M. "They're putting out a signal saying, 'Hey, I'm a car and I'm

here.'"

The system, which G.M. calls V2V, for vehicle-to-vehicle communication, uses a transponder connected to the car's OnStar communications system. The transponder, or radio communicator, reports the car's position, speed, acceleration and braking action to other similarly equipped vehicles, up to a quarter-mile away.

In addition to helping prevent rear-end collisions, V2V technology may also help reduce accidents that occur when one car enters another's blind spot.

There is a catch: initially, only G.M. vehicles equipped with OnStar and the transponder will be able to share information. But G.M. says the transponder, which costs about \$50, could be adapted to a global positioning system in any vehicle.

The technology is 5 to 10 years away for G.M. vehicles, Mr. Burns said. As for when all cars might be able to sense one another, he said: "With 230 million cars and trucks in the United States today, it might take a while." JEREMY W. PETERS

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Safe Auto Bets For Your Family

Continued from page 23

Subaru Outback : A fun vehicle with standard full-time all-wheel-drive, the Outback is available in both sedan and wagon forms, with an available high output 3 liter six cylinder engine for enthusiast drivers. The Outback also scored highest in its class -- 5 Stars for all seating positions in both frontal and side-impact crash testing.

Toyota Avalon : Roomy, quiet and exceptionally comfortable, the just-redesigned Avalon is another 5 Star performer in both frontal and side-impact crash testing. Head and side impact airbags for driver and passenger are standard equipment.

Mitsubishi Galant : An excellent choice for families looking for something that isn't another Honda or Toyota -- but which scores just as well in crash testing -- and costs thousands less, too. Don't forget to cross-shop this one if you're considering an Accord or Camry.

Pontiac G6 : The sporty family sedan made famous by Oprah is another solid choice in the safe sedan category that's also a fun to drive choice. Unique features include an available panorama-style electric sunroof that gives this sedan a convertible feel when it's opened all the way.

Ford Crown Victoria : This traditionally styled sedan offers six passenger seating, a huge trunk and a standard V-8 engine for under \$25k. With 5 Star ratings across the board, the Crown Vic (and its sister car, the Mercury Grand Marquis) is also one of the safest family cars on the road.

Honda Accord Hybrid : The Accord has long been a well-regarded staple of the family sedan market -- in part because of its reputation for quality and safety. Now you can get superb fuel economy (40 mpg on the highway) as well as 5 Star occupant protection.

VW Passat : German engineering -- and safety -- at a still-family friendly price. The Passat can be ordered as a sedan or wagon -- and with 4-Motion all-wheel-drive for excellent traction in poor weather. VW offers a super-efficient 2 liter TDI diesel engine, too.

Volvo V70 wagon : A modern-day Vista Cruiser that can handle large families and road trips with equal ease. The V70 also offers a Whiplash Protection Seating System, head and side curtain air bags -- and 71.4 cubic feet of cargo capacity.

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