

NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1993 / Sunny, 40-45 today; cloudy, chance of rain, upper 30s tonight / Details, Page 2

50¢

FOUNDED IN 1801 BY ALEXANDER HAMILTON



An urgent appeal to Post readers: HELP!

To the readers of this paper from the editorial staff of the New York Post:

We need your help. Our paper — your paper — is being taken over by Abe Hirschfeld, a man we believe will destroy The Post, a part of this great city for 192 years. We believe Mr. Hirschfeld's basic ignorance of the way our business operates — and his refusal to educate himself — means The Post will permanently cease publication in

days. We take no issue with Mr. Hirschfeld's right to own a newspaper, but we feel The Post is too important — not only to us, but to all New Yorkers — to entrust it to him and his new partner, Wilbert Tatum. We believe Mr. Tatum's view of reality — as expressed by the journalism practiced in his Amsterdam News — is repugnant to most fair-thinking New Yorkers. The Post is more important than one man's vanity and another

man's bigotry. And it's more important than whether a bankrupt millionaire can legally escape his obligation to his workers and the nation. We ask for your help. We ask that you call Mr. Hirschfeld today at (212) 815-8152 and ask him to sell this paper to someone who will allow it to survive. Please call your representatives in City Hall, Albany and Washington and ask them to help us in any way they can. Please care.

IS THE POST PETER-ING OUT?

By MIKE PEARL, DON BRODERICK, MARIANNE GOLDSTEIN and LEO STANDORA

The New York Post's life-and-death drama reached Chapter 11 yesterday as Peter Kalikow sought bankruptcy protection for his troubled tabloid.

The surprise move came amid a bitter and rapidly changing legal battle over plans to sell the newspaper to real-estate mogul Abraham Hirschfeld.

Hirschfeld further deepened the crisis yesterday with the attempted helter-skelter firing of 72 employees, but most of the dismissals later were rescinded.

Court sources said Kalikow's unexpected bankruptcy action clearly seemed to be designed to keep a growing list of creditors off his back until the sale to Hirschfeld — or someone else — is completed.

The sale is being contested by debt-collection tycoon Steven Hoffenberg, who a month ago came in at the last minute to save The Post from closing, and thought he was going to be The Post's new owner.

According to sources, Kalikow fears that if his deal with Hirschfeld falls through or stalls, anxious creditors — including Uncle Sam — will begin suing him for what's due them.

Kalikow's lawyers showed up in Bankruptcy Court yesterday to file the papers at 8:55 a.m. His legal crew used the same get-there-early and strike-first strategy to save their boss' financial skin two years ago, when Kalikow filed for personal bankruptcy protection.

In the intervening years, Kalikow has maintained a lavish lifestyle of luxury cars, opulent homes, yachts and expensive parties — while The Post was financially hemorrhaging.

He even had the audacity to wage a costly legal battle with East Hampton zoning officials to build a special dock alongside his vast Mon-

ABE, WILBERT AND THE POST: EDITORIAL / P. 24

tau estate to provide parking for his extra-large yacht.

Kalikow apparently continued to take care of No. 1 as the current crisis began taking shape in late 1992.

Although \$4.5 million in FICA payments was withheld from Post employees' paychecks, he never turned that money over to the federal government.

If he doesn't ante up soon, he could be prosecuted.

He apparently was so strapped for money he also withheld \$30,000 in payments to the 401K retirement accounts of his New York Newspaper Guild's employees, but never passed the funds on to the mutual-fund company.

The Manhattan district attorney is poised to investigate if he doesn't pay up soon.

In addition, creditors ranging from ink and paper suppliers to elevator repairmen and messenger services all report Kalikow has stiffed them for hundreds of thousands.

Kalikow also has reneged on his promise to give the unions a 20 percent stake in the paper — in exchange for their 20 percent payout.

He has mortgaged The Post's headquarters at 210

South St. — the paper's single asset, its underpinning for future operations and the sole source of funds to cover the employees' severance liability for retirees and other staffers in the event of a shutdown.

The continuing chaos at The Post kept the newspaper from publishing Monday's editions — the first time the newspaper has failed to reach the newsstands since a citywide newspaper strike in 1978.

Contributing greatly to the confusion was Hirschfeld's announcement Sunday night that he planned to fire 270 randomly chosen employees.

The "hit list" supposedly was drawn up by Hirschfeld and the man he said is his new partner — Amsterdam News publisher Wilbert Tatum.

Hirschfeld, who changes his mind as quickly and as often as a traffic light blinks, yesterday told The Associated Press that if Gov. Cuomo comes forward with a new group of investors, he would consider stepping out of the picture.

"The best thing I would like is to buy the building, not The Post," said Hirschfeld, 74, admitting, "I don't know anything about newspapers."

Cuomo, at a news conference yesterday, said he and state Economic Development Commissioner Vincent Tesse were getting calls from people interested in helping.



SPORTS EXTRA
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1993 / Mostly sunny, low 30s today, chance of snow, 30 tonight / Details Page 2

Post staff to Abe Hirschfeld...



Real estate developer Abe Hirschfeld yesterday was assailed by Post reporters and editors after he ordered a "hit list" of 270 workers. He also denied firing Post editor Pete Hamill but the newspaper's executives called Hirschfeld a liar.

GET LOST!

Reporters, editors outraged over planned layoffs

Top editor quits over hit list for 270 employees: Page 2

LOST & FOUND: This is Page 1 of yesterday's Post, which never made it to newsstands because of technical problems at the tumultuous tabloid.

He would not reveal any names.

"The bottom line is we're trying to keep the paper alive," Cuomo said.

"It is kind of zany at the moment," the governor had said earlier in the day. "But it can be righted. We can get an established owner, whether it's Mr. Hirschfeld or someone else."

Although most union members fired yesterday were rehired, the fate of 20 managers and non-union employees who were canned remained unclear last night.

Part of the ongoing battle over The Post was fought in State Supreme Court yesterday, where Hoffenberg sought a temporary restraining order to stop the sale to Hirschfeld.

At the hearing, Justice Stanley Sklar told lawyers for Hoffenberg that he could not overrule the federal order giving Hirschfeld the right to assume ownership from Kalikow.

Ed Wallace, one of Hoffenberg's lawyers, told the court his client had been betrayed by the man he brought in as

"his partner."

At the hearing, the paper's vice president and comptroller, Stephen Bumbaca, testified that The Post had run out of funds and told reporters he needs \$1.5 million immediately to keep the paper operating this week.

"I need it now," Bumbaca said.

The legal action later switched to Bankruptcy Court, where a judge set a hearing on a raft of motions for Friday.

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WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny. High 40 to 45.
TONIGHT: Cloudy, chance of rain. Low in the upper 30s.
TOMORROW: Cloudy, rain likely. High 45 to 50.
EXTENDED OUTLOOK: Sunny Thursday and Friday; chance of snow Saturday. Highs in the 30s; lows in the teens to the 20s.
SUNSET: 6:04 **SUNRISE TOM'W:** 6:05

LOTTERY The Post uses recycled paper

NEW YORK	NEW JERSEY	Pick-6 Lotto nos. for Mon.
Daily no. for Mon.: 444	Pick-3 no. for Mon.: 666	5, 22, 23, 29, 39, 42
Win-4 no. for Mon.: 4836	Straight payoff: \$435.50	Pick-6 bonus no.: 94965
Pick-10 nos. for Mon.:	Pairs payoff: \$43.50	CONNECTICUT
1, 4, 7, 8, 14, 18, 23, 25,	Pick-4 no. for Mon.: 0756	Daily no. for Mon.: 363
32, 39, 40, 41, 42, 48, 50,	Straight payoff: \$2636	Play-4 no. for Mon.: 2550
58, 61, 65, 72, 77	Box payoff: \$109.50	

WHO IS THIS NUT?



YECHEE! Miami Herald reporter Bonnie Weston turns away in disgust after finding herself a-wearin' of the green — in the form of a slimy hock of Abe Hirschfeld's opinion of her coverage of his political campaigns and his ownership of the Clarion Castle Hotel.

Post isn't only hostage Abe's taken

By COLIN MINER

Real-estate mogul and Post owner-wannabe Abe Hirschfeld prides himself on being spontaneous, on not getting bogged down by planning too far ahead.

It's just that quality, he recently told a reporter, that led him to get involved with the New York Post.

That quality also has immersed him in perhaps the biggest controversy of his career:

"The entire staff does not want him here," one editor said.

"Maybe on this occasion, he should have thought ahead."

What has The Post staff concerned is Hirschfeld's apparent instability.

"Hanging out with Abe Hirschfeld is like inhaling secondhand smoke from an opium pipe," wrote Molly Gordy in a 1992 Newsday profile. "Hour by hour, it gets harder and harder to distinguish reality from fantasy."

The 73-year old developer, who made his money in parking garages and health clubs, bought his first building in 1954 and was embroiled in tenant problems and building-code violations when he resold it a couple of years later.

It was Hirschfeld's parking-garage interests that first gave him a special place in the annals of New York City.

In 1976, he went into the office of Dorothy Green, head of the city's environmental-impact division, and announced he was holding her hostage until she approved a clean-air permit for one of his garages.

She was eventually rescued by officials who broke down a door. She later filed suit against Hirschfeld and settled out of court for approximately \$35,000.

Another Hirschfeld controversy involved Lincoln West, the massive development he proposed for Manhattan's Penn Yards — now the site of Donald Trump's proposed Riverside South, of which Hirschfeld owns 20 percent.

That controversy involved a 1982 meeting between Hirschfeld and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, which resulted in D'Amato pledging his support for the Lincoln West proposal.

News reports later alleged that the meeting had been set up as the result of a \$10,000 payment to a Long Island lawyer friendly with both D'Amato and Hirschfeld.

While all parties denied wrongdoing, it was never disputed that Hirschfeld's partners paid the lawyer.

Hirschfeld has been described as vengeful by those who have been

See NUT on Page 18

Part of her job was taking a gob from angry slob

Bonnie Weston's 15 minutes of fame came when Abe Hirschfeld spit on her and a Miami television news crew caught it on tape.

Weston, a reporter for the Miami Herald, was covering the auction of a Hirschfeld property when Hirschfeld let the spittle fly.

His reason: Weston had been responsible for most of the Herald's coverage of "Honest Abe," as he likes to call himself.

Hirschfeld had a stormy relationship with Miami Beach, where Weston is based. From May 1990, when she arrived at the Herald, through Hirschfeld's stay in Miami Beach, Weston covered the carpetbagger from New York — from his controversial ownership of the Clarion Castle Hotel through his unsuccessful run for mayor.

Weston covered all his foibles and follies, and Hirschfeld was not appreciative.

She was there in October 1990, when Hirschfeld found it necessary to auction off one of his money-losing properties. And that's when he felt there was only one way he could properly express his feelings about her coverage.

By spitting on her.

Weston did not wish to discuss the incident yesterday. She said lawyers for the Herald had asked her not to comment because of a pending lawsuit filed by Hirschfeld in January against her newspaper.

Still, Weston continues to cover Abe's Miami operations. People at the newspaper said yesterday that its coverage of Hirschfeld has not been affected by the incident, and Weston continues to cover him.

Colin Miner

It's adios ads if Terrible Two take over

By CHARLES CARILLO

The Post can say goodbye to about a quarter of a million dollars worth of ads right off the bat, if Abe Hirschfeld stays at the helm of the newspaper.

Two significant clients in particular made it clear that if things stay as they are, they'll pull their ads. Both requested to remain anonymous.

"We don't want any part of the paper if the scenario remains the same," a client worth about \$200,000 per year told The Post.

A second client, worth about \$50,000, vowed: "If Mr. [Bill] Tatum is controlling this place, we're out

of here, because he's a racist."

Tatum, publisher of the Amsterdam News, was named by Hirschfeld as the Post's co-publisher and a managing editor. He is perhaps best known for his decision to print the identity of the Central Park jogger who was raped and assaulted by a gang of youths.

Tatum also supported Tawana Brawley in the face of a grand-jury conclusion that she fabricated a story that she was abducted and raped by cops.

"Clients have been calling all morning," a Post employee, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said yesterday.

"They want to know what's happening, and whether we're going to publish or not.

"I told them to sit tight, that we're not sure what the whole scenario's going to be, and not to make any hasty decisions.

"They said they would. These people are going to sit tight. I told them, 'The hand is not played out yet.'"

Callers who placed classified ads were calling to pull them from the paper because "they said [Hirschfeld and Tatum] are crazy . . .

They definitely think [Hirschfeld is] nuts," said the Post employee.

Display- and classified-advertis-

ing clients were not the only ones calling The Post for updates on whether the paper would continue to publish and whether advertising was being accepted.

"Hey, we love you," one would-be advertiser said. "But these guys who are coming in to take it over . . . I don't know whether I could stay with you."

Out of the hundreds of calls received by the Post city desk, not one call was in support of Hirschfeld and Tatum.

"I am a black American and I'm against Hirschfeld and Tatum because they cater to the radical fringe," said David

White, a Post reader.

A woman who is a history teacher in the New York City school system said, "It's totally outrageous that Tatum is going to be the editor of The Post. He already has a voice in the Amsterdam News. He is a racist. He printed the name of the jogger during the [Central Park] trial when no other paper did. It's just outrageous."

A male caller said: "As long as Hirschfeld and Tatum are running The Post, I will never buy it again. And I know many other loyal Post readers who feel the same way."

HONEST, ABE DOESN'T KNOW SPIT ABOUT JOURNALISM

WE are living through the Marx Brothers version of the Hitler-Stalin pact here at South Street. Only this time The Post is Poland.

Fifteen years ago I named Abe Hirschfeld one of the 10 worst landlords of New York. While I was preparing the article, he offered me the bribe of a free apartment if I left him out. I put him in.

The next time I saw him was in 1990, on TV, spitting in the face of a Hispanic woman reporter in Miami. The wild spray of saliva perfectly symbolized Hirschfeld's attitude toward working reporters.

That was the last time I saw him until he came up to me in the city room last week and gave me a polyester \$2 tie, made in Korea, as a gift. He also told me he was nominating me for a Pulitzer Prize.

The next day he fired Pete Hamill as editor in chief and then lied about it to the press. Yesterday, he fired me, but he doesn't own the paper — and lacks all moral and legal authority over it. It's not over until the fat landlord is carted away in a straight jacket.

As for our new Vichy editor, Wilbert Tatum, I direct the citizens of this already divided city to the content of his racist and anti-Semitic Amsterdam News.

Tatum's paper editorialized in support of Tawana Brawley's rape hoax. (Maybe he'll name Brawley editor of Page Six). Tatum's paper supported the anti-Semitic ravings of City College Professor Leonard Jeffries. And it supported the rapists of the Central Park jogger — going so far as to repeat-



JACK NEWFIELD

edly print the jogger's name on the front page, while the rest of the press, with the exception of The New York Times, The Midnight Globe and WNBC-TV News, respected her privacy.

That's why the alliance between Hirschfeld and Tatum brings to mind the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939.

For the three weeks Pete Hamill was the editor of The Post, this was a different newspaper. It was like watching Willie Mays play centerfield. Hamill hired four black reporters his first week, after years of The Post being an apartheid publication. For years, Post bosses said they couldn't find "qualified minorities." Hamill found them in a week.

He launched a training program for minority journalists. He also developed a marketing strategy to attract women and new immigrant readers. He got The Post favorable notice in The New York Times, in New York magazine, on the Charlie Rose TV show — those upscale outlets that could attract advertisers to The Post.

Hamill gave Joe Nicholson a column on merit and only incidentally gave an outlet to the first openly gay columnist in town.

Hamill also named two women as columnists — Karen Phillips and Andrea Peyser. Yesterday Peyser was fired. So was Peter Faris, the paper's last un-

convicted financial officer.

In Hamill's three weeks, there was joy in the city room. People laughed and worked overtime for fun. The paper got scoops like the food poisonings at The Plaza hotel. The reporter who broke the story, Bill Hoffmann, was on the hit list yesterday.

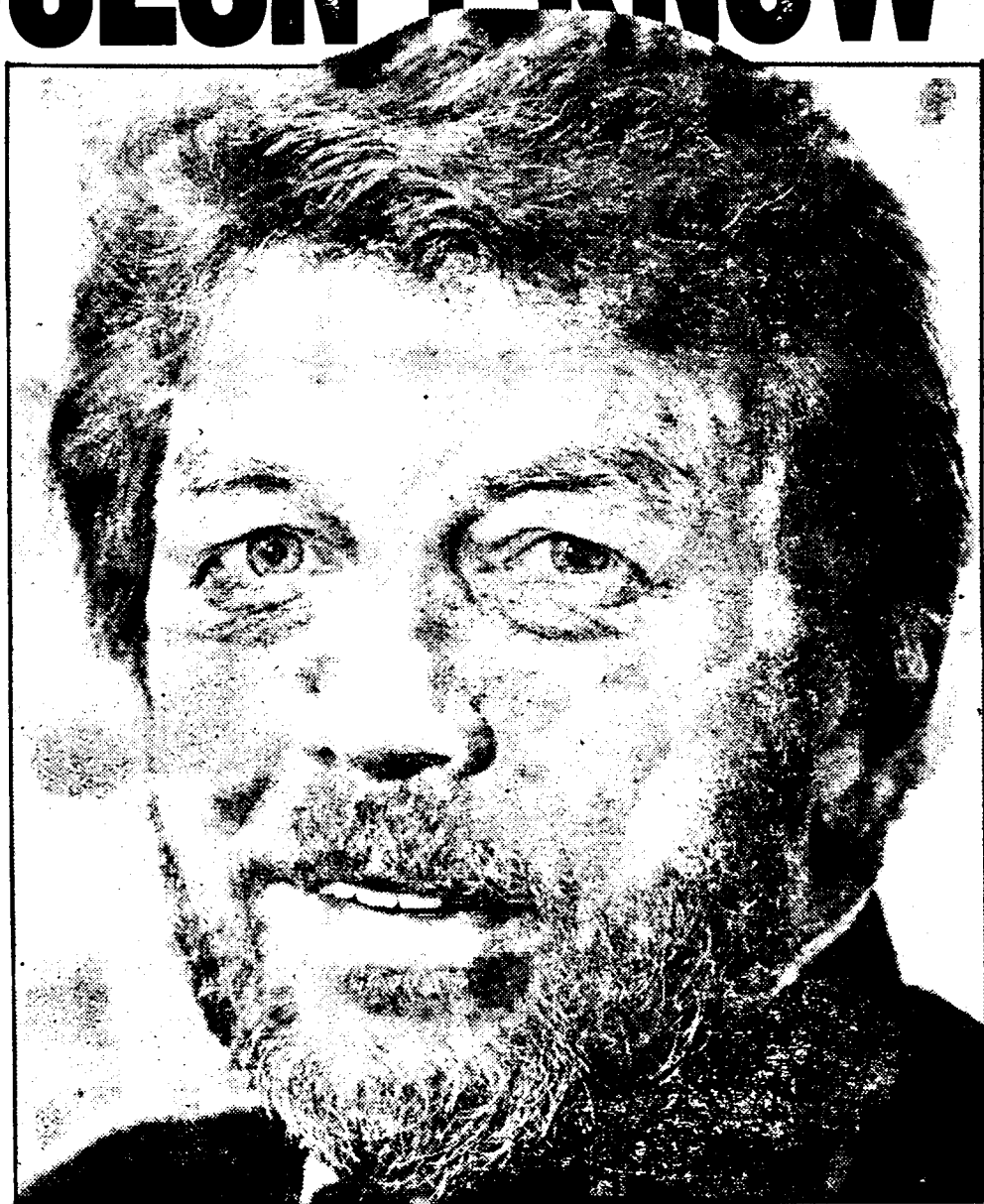
So too were City Hall Bureau Chief Dave Seifman and Albany Bureau Chief Fred Dicker, both of whom regularly came up with exclusives during the past three weeks. In addition, Murray Weiss' scoops on the National Guard were verified in a state report. And Karen Phillips proved to be one of the best baseball writers in New York.

Hamill is our Yeltsin standing on a typewriter.

The arrangement that made Hirschfeld the temporary operator of The Post raises questions. The decision was made by a visiting Bankruptcy Court judge from Vermont, who didn't know Hirschfeld's history as slumlord-spitter-screwball. He had not presided over any of the previous court proceedings involving The Post.

The problem with bankruptcy court is that it has a metal detector in the lobby, but not a CAT-scan. There should be a sanity test to get into a courtroom there.

Honest Abe would never have gotten in.



FREDDIE KREUGER WAS HERE: Abe the Ax cut through the top staff of The Post with a vengeance, leaving in his wake a host of rolling heads. Editor-in-chief Pete Hamill got the chop Friday, setting off a storm of protest.



PETER FARIS
Senior Vice President.



FRED DICKER
Albany Bureau Chief.



DAVID SEIFMAN
City Hall Bureau Chief.

Hate twins' plans for news are noose to us

THE man who spits on reporters sat in the spacious sixth-floor office that overlooks the East River and the Brooklyn Bridge. The publisher's office at 210 South Street had been occupied in succession by Dolly Schiff, Rupert Murdoch, Peter Kallikow, Steve Hoffenberg and now, by the most perverse of fates, this little man who spits on reporters.

Abe Hirschfeld was where he has always wanted to be: before an array of cameras. Behind him hung a poster of the founder of America's longest continuously published daily newspaper. In that poster, a triumph of kitsch, Alexander Hamilton, who gave America the Federalist Papers and the New York Post, is told to sleep well, that his legacy is in fine and reliable hands.

Honest Abe, as he calls himself, was there. He sat in a row



MARK KRIEGEL

with his henchman, a transparent self-promoter named Wilbert Tatum. Their wives were there, too. Zipora Hirschfeld is described by her husband as a poet. But nothing lyrical could be detected in her worn, weathered features. Elinor Tatum wore a sad, sallow look. Her husband, publisher of the Amsterdam News, fondly brags of her Jewish heritage. But in this surreal setting, liberated from all decent notions, you

could not help but wonder what she had done to make an anti-Semite of her spouse.

The husbands wore striped shirts, which Hirschfeld delightfully proclaimed an obvious harbinger of destiny. They wore matching ties, provided by Hirschfeld: 100 percent flammable polyester in the design of a blank crossword puzzle.

Hirschfeld, the man who spits on reporters, then announced his great journalistic vision. "I vant deh paper to be like deh Ofra Winfrey show," he said.

"My life is booming," spat the spitter, "when I see reporters. I can only speak to the people through the reporters." Speak to the people? Hirschfeld's is a pathetic lust to be recognized. But until Sunday's press conference, his most notable, most recognized, most revealing moment had been

See KRIEGEL on Page 20

HATE-'EM TATUM READY FOR SLIME TIME



New York Post: Robin Graubard

LIP SERVICE: Salivating Abe Hirschfeld plants a big, sturpy, sloppy wet one on his editor-appointee, Wilbert Tatum, at a Post press conference.

Assemblyman: We'll boycott Post if Wild Bill is the editor

A PROMINENT Jewish lawmaker yesterday vowed to lead a "citywide boycott" of the New York Post if Amsterdam News publisher Wilbert Tatum becomes the new editor-in-chief. Democratic state Assemblyman Dov Hikind, an influential Orthodox Jew from Borough Park, said he would lead the boycott because Tatum has fomented "anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hysteries" on the pages of his black-oriented newspaper. Meanwhile, other lawmakers were also warned that The Post would, in the words of one, "lose all credibility" if erratic millionaire Abe Hirschfeld was allowed to remain as the paper's owner. "Bill Tatum's newspaper, with its racially inflammatory articles, shares the blame for the 1991 Crown Heights riots," said Hikind. "The thought of Tatum now becoming editor of The Post would be terrifying to all New Yorkers and especially Jewish New Yorkers because he has re-

FREDRIC DICKER

INSIDE ALBANY



peatedly published viciously anti-Semitic articles," said Hikind. The assemblyman said it was especially "outrageous" that Tatum's newspaper repeatedly printed highly slanted articles backing the anti-Semitic and anti-white rantings and racial theories of disgraced City College Professor Leonard Jeffries. Both Gov. Cuomo and Mayor Dinkins strongly denounced Jeffries' remarks as racially divisive. Hikind, meanwhile, said it was

"shocking" that current Post boss Hirschfeld, who is Jewish, had hired Tatum. "It's one thing to laugh at Hirschfeld, which I think a lot of people have been doing for a long time. It's another thing to have him do something this damaging," said Hikind. "The Jewish community will boycott The Post with Tatum there and I and many others will lead the boycott," said Hikind, an increasingly influential politician who is eyeing a race for city

By MEL JUFFE

Bill Tatum, the man just named editor of the New York Post by Abe Hirschfeld, brings a controversial journalistic record to his new job. As chief editor of the Amsterdam News, Wilbert Tatum vigorously supported the likes of Tawana Brawley, Prof. Leonard Jeffries and the youths who were convicted of rape in the Central Park jogger case. He also opened his paper's pages to virulent anti-Semitic comment. Mayor Koch, saying he detected "rank racism" in the Amsterdam News, once said Tatum was "guilty of polarizing this town." Pete Hamill, the Post editor fired by Hirschfeld to make way for Tatum, said: "Under Tatum, the Amsterdam News has published more anti-Semitic drivel than anything since [the Nazi newspaper] *Der Stuermer*. The man has no dally-newspaper experience and has never explained his blind support of the Tawana Brawley hoax. "Instead of using his paper to calm people's emotions and to remove hatreds, he fed it — by supporting the Brawley hoax and the guys who raped the jogger in Central Park." In a report last June, the Anti-Defamation League said the Amsterdam News was "the most

provocative" of the three black newspapers in the city that evidence a pattern of hostility toward Jews. The paper's "tone and content often have an emotional, even incendiary, quality, largely representing the point of view of its editor, Wilbert Tatum," the report said. Tatum, the report went on, "was regarded by the Jewish community as someone with whom dialogue could be conducted, and he encouraged that notion. In the Crown Heights crisis, however, Tatum emerged as an influential figure willing to inflame community passions." At the jogger trial three years ago, Tatum showed up at the court house to make a public display of his support for the defendants. He stood proudly with the defendants' supporters as they chanted: "The boyfriend did it!" He tried to stop a Post photographer from taking the picture of the mother of one defendant. Tatum even provided transportation for the defendants' backers to the courthouse, according to reporters at the scene. But what really shocked the city was Tatum's decision to publish the name of the gang-rape victim — while other

See TATUM on Page 17

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Abe Hirschfeld's sick jokes

Page Six™

By FRANK DiGIACOMO,
FLORENCE ANTHONY
and TIMOTHY McDARRAH

Dial B for Bill

Back in August 1990, when Bill Tatum ran the name of the Central Park jogger rape victim in his Amsterdam News, most of the media was outraged. But Screw publisher Al Goldstein took matters into his own hands. As we reported then, Goldstein ran Tatum's home address and phone number in his paper and repeated it on his late night cable sex show, "Midnight Blue." "He wants equal treatment of blacks and whites?" Goldstein said of the controversial Tatum. "Well, here it is." Responded Tatum that week: "Bleep him. I'll run his mama's name and address in my paper next week." One problem: Goldstein's mom had been dead for years.

Koch vs Tatum

July 12, 1984: Mayor Ed Koch and Amsterdam News editor Bill Tatum, in a bitter radio debate, last night accused each other of polarizing the city racially. In the shouting match, Tatum accused Koch of "exacerbating the schism" between blacks and whites. Koch, defending his refusal to use racial quotas, shot back that Tatum was being typically "outrageous and unfair."



MASON: the name game.

WE don't know what Jackie Mason thinks of Abe Hirschfeld these days. We are certain that back in 1989 the comedian had a very low opinion of the real-estate developer. These are just some of the names that Mason called Hirschfeld at a deposition, according to a 1989 Post story. That's the time when the two bigshots were suing each other over Abe's claims that he had gotten Jackie's career on track. Before Mason's attorney, Raoul Felder, could muzzle his client, Jackie said of Hirschfeld: "... you phony bastard. ... You are a sick liar. ... You bleeping pig. You are a common deranged maniac. ... You should drop dead by Thursday. ..."

IF Wilbert Tatum does end up working with Abe Hirschfeld, the Amsterdam News publisher should refrain from asking his purported partner if he's heard any good jokes.

Back in Jan. 14, 1991, PAGE SIX reported that some racially charged comments by Hirschfeld had Miami Beach City Commissioners wondering if the real-estate developer and former New York office-seeker has a vacancy problem — between his ears.

Hirschfeld had city planners gunning for his resignation from the commission — to which he was elected in 1989 — after he told two off-color ethnic gags and accused another city commissioner of public drunkenness.

The Miami Beach brouhaha began on Dec. 19, 1990 when, shortly before a commission meeting, Hirschfeld decided to entertain the

waiting citizens with an ethnic joke that involved blacks and Jews.

According to minutes of the meeting obtained by PAGE SIX, the brassy builder persisted in telling the yarn despite the protests of Miami Beach Mayor Alex Daoud, who apparently already had heard the off-color story.

"Abe was the only who laughed," said one source who witnessed the event. "Everyone else looked astounded."

On Dec. 26, 1990, Commissioner William Shockett called an emergency meeting to demand Hirschfeld's resignation. Instead, Hirschfeld retold the joke to an incredulous crowd, substituting Arabs for blacks.

That same evening, a local Miami television station aired Abe's comment that Shockett often came to commission meetings "drunk."

Shockett sued Hirschfeld for slander but dropped the complaint when Hirschfeld issued a formal letter of apology.

Shortly after Hirschfeld's repeat performance, the commissioners decided against seeking Abe's resignation, because, said Commissioner Martin Shapiro: "It's obvious Commissioner Hirschfeld is not a man who can be embarrassed or humiliated."

Hirschfeld, at the time, said he "was just trying to entertain the people in the room prior to the meeting."

Hirschfeld said that he retold the joke to point out that it "came from a book, 'The Last Official Jewish Joke Book.' What's wrong with that?"

"I'm extremely happy that I told the joke," admitted Abe. "I never would have gotten the publicity that I'm getting if I hadn't told it."



ABE HIRSCHFELD MANAGES THE POST WITH THE STYLE AND DIGNITY THAT'S BECOME HIS TRADEMARK OVER THE YEARS

Pay up, Abe

IF multimillionaire Abe Hirschfeld wants to know why he's always losing, perhaps it's because he doesn't know how to act like a

champ. Hirschfeld is refusing to pay from 50 to 60 New Yorkers — many of them unemployed — who were hired to pass out his congressional campaign literature outside polling places on primary day during his failed Congressio-

nal seat bid. Back then, the developer claimed at first that "everyone has been paid." But after we'd talked to more than six who say they're each owed \$112.50 for 15 hours of work, and called Hirschfeld back, he said: "I told [coordinator] Tom Bartosiewicz to hire a maximum of 18 people, and he hired 65 people." Says one man: "I started at 6 in the morning and worked until 9 o'clock at night. I'm not trying to cause trouble for anybody, but it's wrong."

Also-ran Abe loses another one

THE jury punished Abe Hirschfeld for unfairly evicting a restaurateur in his Castle Hotel in Miami, but it could do nothing about his singing. Back in the summer of 1991, the parking lot mogul was being sued for \$1.2 million by restaurateur Lella Hunter, owner of Blackie's in his Castle Hotel in Miami. Hunter claimed that on the day after Christmas and without warning, Hirschfeld had sent 11 men to escort her from her restaurant, forcing her to leave everything — including the money in the register — behind. After lawyer Howard Talenfeld reportedly "took Hirschfeld apart on the stand," the jury came back in 20 minutes awarding Hunter double what she'd asked for. "It shows that no matter how much money you have, it's not cool to go above the law," Hunter told PAGE SIX then. "What happened was, we had to put up a temporary wall and were only using half the space we rented. All of a sudden one day we heard things on the other side of the wall. He had moved a competitor — Sharon Bagel — into my space." Worse, Hirschfeld "reopened the restaurant two days" after her eviction, Hunter says. "He started using my food and my equipment. It was rather ludicrous." But not as ludicrous as his TV performance after the verdict. The developer, who somehow won election to the Miami City Council after losing bids for the Senate, City Council, and lieutenant governor in New York, announced his campaign for mayor of Miami. When a Miami Herald reporter asked about the restaurant case, Hirschfeld said he hadn't lost "a minute's sleep," put on a hard hat and broke into "The Star Spangled Banner."



SMITH: rape case.

In addition to naming the Central Park jogger, Bill Tatum also named the victim in the Willie Smith rape case down in Palm Beach before she went public. The first one to attack him was Lisa Sliwa, the Guardian Angel-turned-morning radio host on WABC with hubby Curtis. When, as we reported, she asked Tatum on the air last April why he printed Patricia Bowman's name, Tatum replied: "that's between you white folks." When Sliwa pointed out that Tatum's wife, Susan, is white, the portly publisher said he didn't want to talk any longer and hung up.

Block that pix

WHILE his Amsterdam News was printing the Central Park Jogger rape victim's name, publisher Bill Tatum was running interference for one of the defendant's mothers. Back in July 1990, The Post reported that Tatum — his press credentials dangling from his neck — tried to block Post photographer Paul Adao, who was snapping a picture of Cheroney Salaam, the mother of Central Park jogger rape case defendant Yusef Salaam, as she left the courthouse. Tatum, a supporter of the defendants, later denied that he had tried to interfere with Adao's newsgathering.



Associated Press

DEAL-A-MEAL: This is the Garment District's old Dubrow cafeteria, where OTB is building a state-of-the-art teletheater and restaurant run in part by Wilbert Tatum's friend Lee Dunham.

DAVE PAL AWARDED KEY OTB CONTRACT

By DAVID SEIFMAN
City Hall Bureau Chief

**POST
EXCLUSIVE**

The Off-Track Betting Corp. has awarded an upscale restaurant franchise in a Midtown teletheater branch to a partnership that includes Lee Dunham, a major financial backer of Mayor Dinkins, The Post has learned.

Contending that it doesn't have to follow city contract rules, OTB gave the franchise in its new facility at Seventh Avenue and 38th Street to Dunham and his partners without a public-bidding process.

Dunham donated \$16,000 to Dinkins' mayoral campaigns in 1989 and 1992. Dunham also headed a fund-raising drive for the mayor's trip to South Africa and donated \$7,500 himself.

In 1991, two high-ranking city officials — Wallace Ford and Sally Hernandez-Pinero — wrote letters and made calls on Dunham's behalf to help Dunham secure the purchase of what was then his ninth McDonald's fast-food franchise.

Dunham said he became involved in the project to help the

city and the mayor — not to make another buck.

"I make \$14 million a year," said Dunham, 61. "I don't need another headache."

In fact, he said he sold six of his fast-food franchises last April because his wife wanted him to slow down a little.

"I want to prove two things," Dunham added. "When it's a success, it'll look good for the mayor. [And] I want to show black folks can do a super job and run a four-star restaurant."

Dunham has been in the restaurant business 32 years.

He said he was approached by OTB last year to help find someone to operate an upscale eatery in the 18,000-square-foot branch, site of the old Dubrow's cafeteria in the heart of the Garment District.

OTB has spent some \$2 million on remodeling and is paying \$700,000 a year in rent on the sprawling betting parlor, which

the mayor officially opened last night.

OTB is counting on huge profits from the branch, since it includes a separate mezzanine "Winner's Club" where races will be telecast as they are run, luring big-time bettors.

Dunham said he sought out John Ward, a management expert who owns a guard service, and formed a food-service company, Ward, Ward & Ward Inc., to run the concession.

He owns 40 percent of the firm, but said he'll leave the day-to-day operations to Ward once it gets off the ground.

They've brought in two star chefs, one from Tavern on the Green and one from the New York Yacht Club, said Dunham.

Marjorie Longley, a spokeswoman for OTB, said the agency doesn't have to follow the city's contract procedures, which require franchises to be publicly advertised and bid, and has an opinion from the corporation counsel to back up its exempt status.

Koch: I won't work for 'em

By MEL JUFFE

Former Mayor Ed Koch yesterday announced he was quitting as a columnist for The Post because the paper has fallen under the control of Abe Hirschfeld and Wilbert Tatum.

"I think they are destroying what was once a great newspaper," Koch said.

"It will no longer be The Post I wrote for."

Koch, who became a Post columnist three years ago, said, "I thought The Post had the best editorial page and commentary in the country under editorial-page editor Eric Breindel. But they fired Breindel."

Koch said Tatum, The Post's would-be new editor, has long been "critical of the moderate positions" of The Post's editorial pages.

Tatum "will want to change that and I don't want to be part of that change," the former mayor said.

Dear Abe:

Due to the changes that you have made, I have decided that I would prefer not to write for the New York Post; therefore, I am terminating my relationship with the Post immediately.

There is currently an outstanding payment due to me in the amount of \$11,000.00, representing monies due for the 11 columns that I wrote during the period January 1-March 12. In addition, invoices for Nexis expenditures used in the preparation of my columns were also submitted in the aggregate amount of \$2,724.77. I would appreciate your reimbursing for that amount as well.

All the best.

Sincerely,

E. I. Koch
Edward I. Koch

HEY, DEADBEATS: Koch's resignation — and last bill.

Koch went on: "The fact that Hirschfeld fired Breindel shows that he doesn't value The Post's editorial excellence. "He fired the guy who made it the best editorial page in the country.

"So with that new leadership,

I'm leaving."

Koch was already a best-selling author when he joined The Post in January 1990. He had penned the book "Mayor" in 1984, lashing his political opponents, as well as another hard-hitting tome, "Politics."

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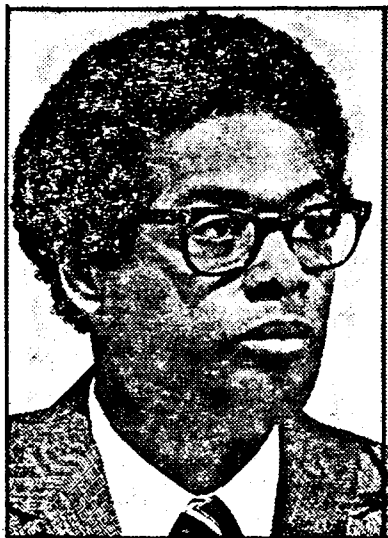
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STRAWBERRY

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THOMAS SOWELL
Endangered columnist?

TATUM'S PAPER

By JIM NOLAN
and DEBORAH ORIN

Jewish leaders yesterday charged that the Amsterdam News has "fanned the flames of hatred" and supported anti-Semites under its current editor, Wilbert Tatum.

Tatum will be named editor-in-chief of The Post if builder Abraham Hirschfeld succeeds in completing his purchase of the nation's oldest continuously published newspaper.

That sharply negative reaction from American Jewish leaders came as Hirschfeld was quoted in an Israeli newspaper, Yedioth Aronoth, as claiming he wants The Post to be "the international spokesman for the state of Israel."

Hirschfeld — who has a long history of antagonistic relations with reporters and once spat on a woman reporter for the Miami Herald — later claimed he had been misquoted by the Israeli paper.

Jewish leaders claim he would ruin Post diversity

"Unfortunately, the coverage of the Jewish community by the Amsterdam News under Bill Tatum has been divisive and has fanned the flames of hatred," said Anti-Defamation League

national director Abraham Foxman.

"From time to time it has published anti-Semitism and has supported anti-Semites and anti-Semitic views."

Anti-Defamation League: Tatum's a force for evil

The following analysis of the Amsterdam News under Wilbert Tatum — who is in line to become editor of The Post if Abraham Hirschfeld purchases the paper — is reprinted verbatim from the Anti-Defamation League's 1992 report on "The Anti-Semitism of Black Demagogues and Extremists":

Long considered the mainstream black newspaper, the Amsterdam News has undergone a metamorphosis in recent years. As recently as 1987, The New York Times wrote of it: "The Amsterdam News, founded in Harlem in 1909, speaks with the authority of the black leadership establishment, according to many prominent figures in the black community."

The Times did note, however, that while there was "still power and prestige attached to the city's black newspapers," in general they no longer hold the overwhelming importance to the city's black population that they had in the days of segregation.

For many years, the editor of the Amsterdam News, Wilbert A. Tatum, was regarded by the Jewish community as someone with whom dialogue could be conducted, and he encouraged that notion. In the Crown Heights crisis, however, Tatum has emerged as an influential figure willing to inflame community passions.

The anti-Semitic views of Professor Leonard Jeffries were championed by the Amsterdam News in the days preceding the Crown Heights riot. Tatum's lead editorial in the Aug. 17 issue states that "the black community had organized in order to save itself and the people of this city from conflagration that will surely come should any kind of incident occur, by accident or design, that threatens the well-being of Professor Jeffries."

The same issue of the Amsterdam News included a vintage anti-Semitic tract by Joseph R. Mack in which the author wrote:

"Those who live in glass houses should refrain from throwing stones. Let the Jews purge their Torah of anti-Africanism before they accuse any African man of anti-Semitism. The children of Ham [Africa]; Punt [Somaliland]; Mitrain [Egypt]; and Kush [Sudan, Ethiopia], who were cursed by the Torah of the Jews, have risen to defend their fathers and to uncover and ridicule the nakedness of Adam; Jacob, Noah, Hymie, Cecile (sic) — B. Demille and the Wels-

In the Crown Heights crisis, Tatum emerged to inflame community passions.

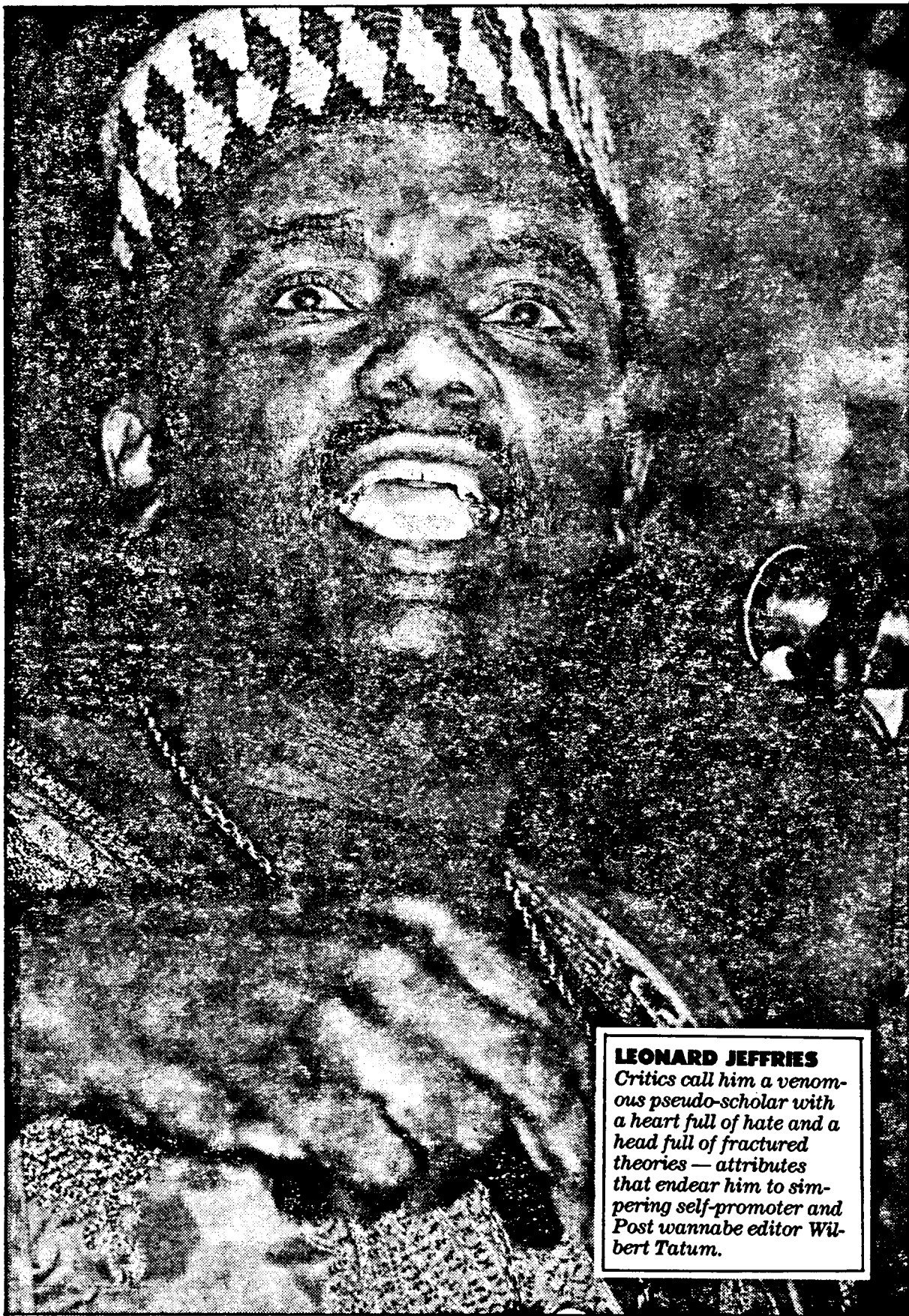
burgs, none of whom ever were our father . . .

"Let the purveyors of slavery initiated by the Torah's myth of Joseph . . . stand on the verandas of their glass house and cry anti-Semitism as we Africans make inquiry as to whether the religion of the Jews was in fact gutter, particularly in the sense that it is anti-African."

Even before the controversy on Jeffries started, the Amsterdam News featured an article by Jeffries in its July 27, 1991, issue attacking the New York Post for reporting that prominent members of the black community (including Wilbert Tatum) were sponsoring and attending a meeting in honor of Louis Farrakhan at Harlem's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

In its Aug. 10 issue, the Amsterdam News published an article entitled "Dr. Jeffries Defends His Views Without Apology." The writer noted Jeffries' association with the melanin theory, which maintains that blacks — having more of this skin pigment — are superior to whites. The article stated:

"Let me clarify my views," Dr. Jeffries said, after a long exegesis on the role of Jews in the African slave trade, "if they say we are destroying Western civilization with our proposals, then I say let it happen quickly, because Western civilization is nothing more than an in-



LEONARD JEFFRIES
Critics call him a venomous pseudo-scholar with a heart full of hate and a head full of fractured theories — attributes that endear him to simpering self-promoter and Post wannabe editor Wilbert Tatum.

stitutionalized, sophisticated form of barbarism . . .

"Wherever the white man has gone, he has left his three D's: domination, destruction and death. It is for these reasons that we must destroy white supremacy in order to save the planet.

"The elimination of white supremacy and white male hegemony are at the base of Dr. Jeffries' 'curriculum of liberation,' and when he concluded, the audience a half-hour later was still abuzz with his speech."

with adulatory coverage of Jeffries and reports of threats to his life. The Page One article, "Support Grows for Dr. Jeffries," had a subhead: "Concern about his safety following death threats." The article

Business

Dow up 14, bonds off, buck mixed

Associated Press

Stocks advanced yesterday in light trading, as cautious investors looked for bargains among depressed stocks amid fears about interest rates and the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 14.59 points to 3,442.41.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 11 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Volume on the floor of the Big Board was 192.72 million shares. It was the slowest session so far this year.

Bonds edged lower on fresh news of rising commodity-price inflation, and fear over a report on the Consumer Price Index due later this week. The government's bellwether 30-year bond slipped 7/32, while its yield rose to 6.89 percent.

The dollar was mixed. It rose to 118.65 yen, vs. 118 yen on Friday, and slipped against the mark to 1.6625 vs. 1.6650 Friday. The pound was higher, closing at \$1.4350 up from \$1.4340.

Some cyclical stocks posting gains were Aluminum Co. of America rose 1 1/4 to 70%, Georgia Pacific up 2 1/4 to 65 1/2 and Louisiana Pacific up 2 1/4 to 72 1/2.

In actively traded NYSE issues, RJR Nabisco was unchanged at 8 1/4 and Philip Morris fell 1/4 at 64 1/4. Tobacco stocks have taken a beating



J.I. LOPEZ
Buying time?

GM exec is out one day, in the next

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. purchasing chief J. Ignacio Lopez de Arriortua did his second about-face in two days yesterday, abruptly telling the automaker he will be leaving after all.

It was an embarrassing episode revealing top-level confusion at the world's leading automaker.

Lopez, who had said he was quitting GM for Volkswagen AG and then changed his mind, surprised GM chief executive officer Jack Smith with a handwritten resignation letter yesterday afternoon.

"Unfortunately, a short time ago, Mr. Lopez sent me a letter saying he was not going to accept

DOT OKs Brit stake in USAir

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration grudgingly approved British Airways' \$300 million investment in ailing USAir yesterday, but called on Britain to open its skies so U.S. carriers can expand trans-Atlantic routes.

Transportation Secretary Federico Pena said that the British Airways-USAir deal could be killed next year if the British do not make new air travel concessions that will allow U.S. carriers greater access to Europe.

Overriding opposition from the nation's three largest airlines, Pena said he had little choice but to approve the merger for now because of a U.S.-British aviation treaty.

"U.S. carriers need a new agreement to gain fair access to the British market and beyond," Pena told a news conference. Mean-

while, he said, he was bound to abide by the two-nation pact.

Pena also said British Airways' plans to invest another \$450 million in USAir hinges on the British government's willingness to open their skies and airports to U.S. carriers, and to relaxation of a federal law limiting foreign ownership of U.S. airlines.

A foreign company now is permitted to hold up to 25 percent of the voting stock of a U.S. airline. The \$300 million investment gives British Airways a 19.9 percent share in USAir, and the proposed additional money would put it over the 25 percent mark.

Foreign investment is seen by many as a key to bailing out the struggling U.S. airline industry, which has lost about \$10 billion over the last three years.

But Pena's decision prompted



FEDERICO PENA
Gives nod to deal.

an angry reaction from among the so-called Big Three U.S. airlines — Delta, United and American — which view the deal as a threat to their dominance of lucrative international traffic.

Pena also allowed USAir and British Airways for one year to link their flight schedules between 38 U.S. cities and London, and he let USAir furnish crew and aircraft to operate British Airways flights between London and Baltimore and London and Pittsburgh.

How not to sell a paper

By PAUL THARP

Three times he told us.

"God sent me Wilbert Tatum to save the Post," Abe Hirschfeld kept saying to a group of reporters assembled in a sixth floor office of The Post where Hirschfeld has en-

weekly Amsterdam News, which he bought a decade ago in a bankrupt court fire sale for 10 cents on the dollar, for \$150,000 in borrowed money.

Tatum, who also is Hirschfeld's new editor at The Post, is eager to

"We're not sure," Tatum said.

Most marketing people were puzzled by the three-headed masthead, which Hirschfeld said would probably run three times a week, "Maybe more, maybe not."

Most astounded by the plan that

...from \$1.4340.

Some cyclical stocks posting gains were Aluminum Co. of America rose 1 1/2 to 70%, Georgia Pacific up 2 1/2 to 65% and Louisiana Pacific up 2 1/2 to 72%.

In actively traded NYSE issues, RJR Nabisco was unchanged at 8% and Philip Morris fell 1/2 at 64%. Tobacco stocks have taken a beating in recent weeks on concerns the government will impose an excise tax on cigarettes and alcohol.

Storage Technology rose 1/2 to 27%. The stock has been flying since Thursday on various rumors, including some surrounding the company's Iceberg data storage system.

Nike rose 4% to 76% on good earnings.

Digital Communications fell 2 1/2 to 17% after forecasting poor third-quarter earnings.

Sunbeam-Oster Co. fell 1/2 to 16% after an analyst cut its rating.

...revealing top-level confusion at the world's leading automaker.

Lopez, who had said he was quitting GM for Volkswagen AG and then changed his mind, surprised GM chief executive officer Jack Smith with a handwritten resignation letter yesterday afternoon.

"Unfortunately, a short time ago, Mr. Lopez sent me a letter saying he was not going to accept the position and is leaving General Motors," Smith told a news conference called to announce Lopez was staying.

Lopez apparently gave no reasons for his decision. "There was no further explanation," Smith said.

GM general counsel Harry Pearce told reporters he believed Lopez felt bound by his signed agreement with Volkswagen. Pearce said he reviewed the VW contract, but, "It was in German, and I really couldn't read it."

General Motors did not have a written contract with Lopez.

HOW TO SELL A PAPER

By PAUL THARP

Three times he told us.

"God sent me Wilbert Tatum to save the Post," Abe Hirschfeld kept saying to a group of reporters assembled in a sixth floor office of The Post where Hirschfeld has encamped himself these past days.

Hirschfeld's vision of how he and prospective co-publisher Wilbert Tatum will remake The Post is unique, but neither has ventured from the sixth floor to explain the plan to employees.

The two took a stab Sunday night at a news conference, with Hirschfeld and Tatum showing an early disagreement between themselves on what the plan will be.

Tatum started to answer a reporter's question about the new marketing plan for the Post but Hirschfeld cut him off, "Wait, I'll tell this."

"I see this, across the top of the [front] page," Hirschfeld holds up an imaginary page, "it says — The New York Post, then under it, the New Amsterdam, uh, the Amsterdam News, and then the El Diario, three of them across the top," Hirschfeld said.

So, Tatum and Hirschfeld will merge The Post with Tatum's weekly and also El Diario/ La Prensa, the city's largest Spanish language daily?

"No, no," Hirschfeld says angrily, "listen to me..."

Tatum takes a turn, "We're not exactly sure how the pages will be."

He suggests that The Post will be an amalgam of pages from each paper, but Hirschfeld clasps Tatum's arm to cut him off. Tatum corrects himself, "No, probably an insert of some kind. Yes, inserted into the paper. Right?" He nods at Hirschfeld for approval.

The reporters seem almost embarrassed for the two of them.

Tatum, likable and intelligent, is also owner and editor of the

weekly Amsterdam News, which he bought a decade ago in a bankruptcy court fire sale for 10 cents on the dollar, for \$150,000 in borrowed money.

Tatum, who also is Hirschfeld's new editor at The Post, is eager to get his hands on The Post to advance his agenda and his wealth, as any sane person would.

Although he's heavenly sent, Tatum's first task is to get rid of that marketing plan from hell.

Their goal defies any marketing logic, experts say — how can three niche products be lumped into one package, with three separate logos on the package?

Hirschfeld and Tatum insist that the audiences of each paper — white, black and Hispanic — will discover each other in the pages of The Post.

"This is the way we bring world peace to all the urban centers of America," Hirschfeld said.

"We're going to do this in Miami next, and then on to every other

"We're not sure," Tatum said.

Most marketing people were puzzled by the three-headed masthead, which Hirschfeld said would probably run three times a week, "Maybe more, maybe not."

Most astounded by the plan that would make El Diario part of The Post was the editor-in-chief of El Diario, Fernando Moreno.

"It's impossible. It's the craziest thing I've heard. We just had a director's meeting on this and no one has ever heard of such a plan," said Moreno, also a director of the country's large daily with a circulation of more than 90,000 daily and Sunday.

"Why would we want to compete against ourselves and let our masthead be used on The Post or any other paper? The idea is absurd from a marketing point of view. Editorially it's impossible. It will never happen. We're investigating how this idea got started and why our name is being used."

"You can't mix readers."

History shows that even newspaper identities cannot be blended. A tragic example was the merger of the three New York dailies in 1964 — The World-Telegram & Sun, the Journal-American and the Herald-Tribune, all with different income and education demographics. It closed in nine months.

The Amsterdam News was a venerable paper in the 1960s with circulation approaching 100,000. But after Tatum took control and slashed pay, benefits and even ad commissions, so that the average pay was about \$300 a week, the paper went on a six-month strike and was published each Saturday by 11 management employees.

Although the city enjoys the largest and most sophisticated black audience in the country, the Audit Bureau of Circulation says Tatum sells only 90,624 copies of the Amsterdam News each week.

Itch salves scratched

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six over-the-counter ointments made by Magna-Bon Co. are being recalled after the Food and Drug Administration advised that they pose a risk of chemical burns to the skin, the manufacturer said yesterday.

The FDA said an analysis of the products determined that the ointments "would reasonably be expected to cause chemical burns to intact skin and could lead to possible permanent injury and scarring" even if used according to label instructions.

The FDA said it was not aware of any confirmed injuries involving the products.

Magna-Bon Co. of Okeechobee, Fla., said in a news release that the FDA had requested the recall.

Consumers were urged to stop using the ointments which have been marketed in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.

The following products are being recalled:

- Magna-Bon Antiseptic Cream
- Magna-Bon Facial Cream
- Magna-Bon Burn Spray
- Magna-Bon Magnum Strength
- Magna-Bon Medium Strength
- Magna-Bon Mild Strength

The six products have been indicated for use with burns, control of bacteria, viruses and fungi, and for sunburn, acne, cold sores, diaper rash and warts.

ANALYSIS

city. We'll be so big, we'll..." he trails off.

How will you make money? What about the ad rates?

"Don't you worry how I'll make money with The Post," he slapped the table.

"I make money."

Any specifics how you'll package it all?

Tatum answered, "It's too early, and we haven't worked out all the details."

Hirschfeld said: "He sells 52,000 New Amsterdam [sic] papers every week, and The Post sells 480,000 every day. Now can you imagine what he will do if he sells 480,000 New Amsterdams[sic]?"

Any details how the product will look, or be priced for advertisers?

'FANS RACE HATRED'

Foxman said he was particularly disturbed by a huge Amsterdam News headline during the Crown Heights crisis — "Many Blacks, no Jews arrested in Crown Heights."

He contended: "It's racist. It incites to bigotry. It creates the idea that Jews were getting special privileges."

Kenneth Bialkin, who has headed many Jewish organizations, said Hirschfeld's decision to make Tatum the editor-in-chief of The Post amounts to a

"death wish" for the newspaper.

"Unfortunately, I think the Amsterdam News represents the worst public policy viewpoint on many of the crucial issues that face New York, particularly with regard to the Jewish community," Bialkin said.

"An alliance with the Amsterdam News will snuff out the diversity that The Post represents, to say nothing of the hostility the Amsterdam News has shown almost without exception to Israel and to the Jewish community."

Bialkin said issue isn't a question of blacks versus Jews but rather, of attitude, noting that one of his favorite Post columnists is black conservative Thomas Sowell.

"I read Sowell religiously — he is brilliant, he is decisive," Bialkin said. "I believe that with Tatum as editor, Sowell would be doomed as a columnist in The Post."

Bialkin, a prominent lawyer, predicted The Post would have little popular appeal if turned in

the direction that Tatum has pointed the Amsterdam News, adding neither he nor his friends would be likely to buy it.

"I don't think there'd be any reason to support it any further — it would sunk with that point of view. I think the hiring of Bill Tatum is part of a death wish for The Post," Bialkin added.

Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Organizations (representing over 1,000

synagogues across the country) had the hiring of Tatum is disturbing to him.

"It has to be cause for concern, because of the record of things he has written and allowed to be written," Rabbi Stolper said.

"It's worrisome. He has to acknowledge the fact that this is not a paper beholden to one community, that it speaks to all citizens of New York. What connection he has [to Hirschfeld] is beyond me."

Jogger raped again in Amsterdam News

Tatum loves park teens — & Tawana

By DEBORAH ORIN

Under Wilbert Tatum's editorship, the Amsterdam News stood alone in claiming that the real victims in the Central Park jogger case were the youths convicted of the brutal beating that left the jogger near death.

Nor was that the only instance where the Amsterdam News painted reality in a very different light from other newspapers in this town:

■ The Amsterdam News also in-



case were the youths convicted of the brutal beating that left the jogger near death.

Nor was that the only instance where the Amsterdam News painted reality in a very different light from other newspapers in this town:

■ The Amsterdam News also insisted that Tawana Brawley had been raped by white policemen, although a state grand jury concluded that Brawley's claims were nothing more than a hoax and an in-depth investigation by The New York Times debunked her account.

■ At the height of 1991 Crown Heights rioting, the Amsterdam News ran a huge headline declaring: "Many Blacks, no Jews arrested in Crown Heights" and complained that there was a "double standard."

■ The Amsterdam News' account focused on the death of a black child who was hit and killed by a car driven by a Hasidic Jew but barely mentioned the retaliation stabbing murder of Yankel Rosenbaum a few hours after the fatal auto accident.

The Amsterdam News report also said black residents of Crown Heights were "steaming mad" that the Jewish driver and passengers in the accident car had been escorted away from an angry crowd to safety.

In the Central Park case, an Amsterdam News editorial, on July 20, 1990, claimed the convictions were "a legal lynching."

"There is just no evidence of rape, none," Tatum himself told the Washington Post in an Aug. 21, 1990 interview — though some of his paper's editorials acknowledged there had been a rape.

The Amsterdam News also claimed that the jogger is "up and about, almost new," in an editorial on April 7, 1990.

That portrait of the victim was in stark contrast to what reporters at the trial saw — a young woman whose face was partially disfigured, who had trouble speaking, who walked uncertainly and



DISGRACE TO JOURNALISM:
Friend to rapists, defender of hoaxers and a champion of racist crackpots — Wilbert Tatum may soon have The Post to push his vile and vicious crusades.

needed a cane.

The paper's editorials also contended that the convicted youths had been coerced into giving their videotaped confessions in the jogger case.

"The fear of law and authority looms large in children in the Black community and it is not unreasonable to suggest that these children may have been coerced," the Amsterdam News editorialized on April 7, 1990.

Tatum's paper also claimed that the jogger prosecution just wanted to convict some black, any black based on the rationale "that blacks

are interchangeable anyway."

Columnist Amy Pagnozzi — then at The Post, now at the Daily News — pointedly added this footnote to Tatum's claim that whites see all blacks as interchangeable:

"Too bad Tatum's front-page photo [on the jogger trial] misidentifies defendant Antron McCray as defendant Raymond Santana, who's Puerto Rican. Way to go, Bill!"

The Amsterdam News also claimed that it was an "outrage" and a "double standard" for newspapers like the New York Post to give the names of the attackers but

not identify the jogger by name.

The Amsterdam News repeatedly identified the jogger by name — while The Post, the News, Newsday and all TV stations except NBC decided it was inappropriate to use her name.

In an editorial on May 13, 1989, Tatum's Amsterdam News defended its use of the jogger's name and blasted those who criticized the use of her name.

"The criticism, to our way of thinking, was total hypocrisy and came about as a consequence of terminal racism on the part of some few writers in the white

media," the Amsterdam News complained.

"This is hypocritical, claptrap bull—, and this newspaper mightily resents racist white newspapers for making an effort to impose their phony morality on us," Tatum's paper added.

The Amsterdam News also ran dozens of articles defending City College Professor Leonard Jeffries, who claims — contrary to historic reality — that Jews played a leading role in financing the African slave trade.

Jeffries also claims that whites

See AMSTERDAM on Page 21

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Let's all sing 'Loon Over Miami'

By COLIN MINER

Abe Hirschfeld apparently has a thing about newspapers.

He's buying one in New York. And he's suing one in Florida.

The Florida case, a \$120 million suit against the Miami Herald, is the latest chapter in a story that started in 1987 when Hirschfeld purchased the Castle Hotel and Resort in Miami Beach.

Hirschfeld wasn't pleased with how the Herald covered the hotel's problems — particularly its problems complying with local building and fire codes.

Hirschfeld became more and more incensed as expose after expose was published in the Herald about his hotel. Eventually, he be-

came spitting mad — literally — and spat upon Herald reporter Bonnie Weston.

The Herald's coverage detailed the hotel's continued failure to meet city building and fire codes, and, in early 1990, reported that the resort had been cited several times for code violations.

Because of the violations, the hotel's theater and ballroom were ordered closed by the city.

And the Herald, which had scheduled a 1,700-person luncheon at the hotel, moved the banquet to another location.

Earlier this year, Hirschfeld struck back, filing suit in Manhattan Supreme Court charging Knight-Ridder — owner of the Her-

ald — with breach of contract, fraud and interfering with business relations.

Knight-Ridder believes the suit has no merit and doesn't understand why it was filed in New York instead of Florida.

"We don't think this suit has any merit," said Knight-Ridder lawyer Norman Kleinberg. "We have asked the court to dismiss the suit."

Hirschfeld, who has until March 22 to file papers, did not return phone calls for comment on this matter — although he has been holding court regularly with reporters about his bizarre "visions" for The Post.

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POST FOCUS ON LABOR



Unions finding Abe difficult to believe

By RICHARD STEIER

Abe Hirschfeld's stormily confrontational relationship with The Post's largest union, the Newspaper Guild, is not his first brush with labor troubles — nor is it the first time his high-handed conduct has baffled and frustrated the union officials with whom he's locked horns.

When he owned the oceanfront Clarion Castle Hotel in Miami Beach five years ago, Hirschfeld provoked a strike by Local 355 of the Hotel, Motel, Restaurant and High Rise Employees Union that lasted more than a year.

Picketing began in September 1988 after the National Labor Relations Board cited the hotel for violating its union contract.

At the time, Hirschfeld was being sued by Miami city officials for numerous code violations at the hotel. He twice agreed to settlements under which he was supposed to correct the violations but failed to live up to them.

Even after the strike was supposedly settled in October 1989, union officials found it difficult to hold Hirschfeld to his commitments.

Local 355's lawyer, Joe Kaplan, was wary even when the deal was first reached, telling the Miami Herald, "Mr. Hirschfeld signed a similar agreement in June 1988 and did not live up to it... I hope he will play it straight this time."

Kaplan's hope did not become reality, however. By June 1990, when Hirschfeld's failure to pay

charging that Hirschfeld had not made required contributions to Local 355's health benefits fund for six months.

Local 355's treasurer accused Hirschfeld of not paying employees for accrued vacation time when he issued their final checks before giving up the hotel, which went on the auction block.

Throughout the dispute, Hirschfeld offered some novel interpretations of his obligations under the contract.

Under the settlement, he was to

"Mr. Hirschfeld signed... (an) agreement in June 1988 and did not live up to it... I hope he will play it straight this time."

JOE KAPLAN, Local 355 attorney

pay 70 unionized workers one-third of the wages they would have received had they been working the final eight months of the strike.

Hirschfeld claimed this sum would total only \$20,000, predicated on his belief that he could deduct money his employees received "from the union for picketing."

Although Hirschfeld often

seemed modeled on the slightly less brazen dismissal of 182 Daily News workers by Mort Zuckerman when he became that paper's publisher in January.

Zuckerman enjoyed a unique advantage in making the dismissals at The News: the paper's bankruptcy status lifted many of the strictures of the contract with the Newspaper Guild that govern procedures and circumstances under which employees can be fired.

When Hirschfeld sought to impose the mass firings Sunday, The Post — unlike its owner, Peter Kalikow — was not in bankruptcy, and the Guild contract required him to negotiate on any reductions of unionized staff.

Hirschfeld chose to ignore that obligation at first. After technical problems prevented the paper from publishing Monday's editions, he reconsidered and scaled down the number of Guild firings to 51 — again without consulting the union.

When the Guild vigorously protested, Hirschfeld rescinded all but one of those firings, subject to future negotiations.

One union official said Hirschfeld's whimsical way with facts — he insisted Sunday that Post editor Pete Hamill had quit the paper, but top Post managers say Hirschfeld's first act upon entering the paper's South Street headquarters last Friday was to order that



HONESTLY: Abraham Hirschfeld says people call him Honest Abe. Union members here and in Miami who have dealt with him find this claim curious.

Hamill be fired — made negotiating with him difficult.

"I don't know any way that you can deal sensibly with Mr. Hirschfeld," the official said.

Hirschfeld's would-be co-publisher, Bill Tatum, had some labor problems of his own at the Amsterdam News a decade ago when 49 of the paper's 60 employees — also represented by the Newspaper Guild — went on strike for 28 weeks

after Tatum and his two partners demanded staff reductions.

Tatum, who has since bought out his partners and is sole publisher of the black-oriented weekly, heatedly denied that he engaged in union-busting tactics during the 1983 strike when questioned about it Sunday.

"There was not any intent to break the union," Tatum said. "There was an intent to survive."

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Kaplan's hope did not become reality, however. By June 1990, when Hirschfeld's failure to correct hotel code violations led an exasperated federal judge to evict him from his penthouse home in the Clarion Castle, Kaplan was

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JOE KAPLAN, Local 355 attorney

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Although Hirschfeld often seems to follow some voice in his head that no one else can hear, his initial attempt to fire as many as 272 Post staff members Sunday

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UFA burned by arbitration

RICHARD STEIER



expected to run against Boyle in June, railing at the chairman of the three-member arbitration panel, Mark Grossman.

"This arbitrator was hardballing us because he's owned by the city, him and the other two," DeRoss sneered from the podium in the Ramada La Guardia ballroom.

"That other contract was so open-ended we didn't know what we were getting into," Bob Gaynor, a union delegate for Ladder Co. 38 in The Bronx, said of the deal Boyle made last September, only to have delegates reject it and force arbitration. "Guys were afraid the city's gonna eff 'em: they want specifics."

Specifics they got: a markdown of the \$1,000 recurring annuity payment won by Boyle to a \$500 one-shot annuity bonus, the loss of the chance for firefighters hired after 1973 to "buy" more generous Tier 1 pension benefits, a new requirement that firefighters spend much of their \$1,000 uniform allowance on protective clothing.

All this occurred because they balked at Boyle's 30-month deal that provided a 4½-percent raise over 15 months but froze wages for the latter half of the contract.

That proposed freeze has looked a lot less onerous since the major civilian unions in January negotiated a contract with a \$700 one-time bonus but no pay raise in the 15-month period overlapping the

end of Boyle's deal.

You add that one-shot and the arbitration-awarded \$500 annuity payment together, weigh them against the chance the firefighters blew to have a recurring \$1,000 payment into a fund that yielded a nine-percent return a year ago, and it's obvious how bad a choice they made in forcing arbitration.

At least 200 of the UFA delegates who voted down Boyle's deal also rejected Mancuso's contract in late 1988 to compel the disastrous arbitration in which the city gained the right to cut staffing on engine companies.

Having been proven woefully wrong in their second-guesses of two different presidents — who, it should be noted, negotiated from dramatically different perspectives — it might seem those delegates should either resign or all run for the UFA presidency.

But Gaynor, who voted for Mancuso's deal and against Boyle's, said the delegates merely reflected the sentiments of the rank-and-file.

"This union is too democratic," he said. "That's the problem with this thing."

Actually, the problem is that firefighters can't accept the screwy attrition-based bargaining that has left them short of the cops the last two contracts because a higher police turnover rate means the city pays less for cops' benefits pegged to longevity.

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Abe, Wilbert and The Post

The most straightforward way to understand what is happening at The Post is to ask the classic question of political analysis: Who benefits?

Wilbert Tatum, the editor and publisher of the black-oriented Amsterdam News, has been named by Abe Hirschfeld as The Post's editor-in-chief (and co-publisher and managing editor).

Tatum — who replaces Pete Hamill, summarily fired by Hirschfeld Friday — has harbored a special animus against The Post for many years.

He has long used his weekly to slander individual Post editors with unwarranted charges of racism — largely because The Post, among other things, never hesitated to call Tatum's bluff on the Tawana Brawley hoax, to object to the Korean grocery boycott, to label Professor Leonard Jeffries as the anti-Semitic bigot that he is and, indeed, to point out the generally anti-Semitic nature of the Amsterdam News itself.

So it was no surprise that Tatum turned the Amsterdam News into a virtual mouthpiece for individuals trying to organize a boycott designed to destroy The Post.

Now Abe Hirschfeld has called upon Tatum to edit the paper whose destruction he has long sought. Chalk up a plus for Tatum and his curriculum of exclusion.

Meanwhile, Mayor David Dinkins himself is an obvious beneficiary.

Dinkins and Tatum are friends and business partners. So there's every reason to think that Dinkins supports the Hirschfeld-Tatum "vision" for The Post. Indeed, Hirschfeld said just that — invoking the mayor's name — at his disorderly, sometimes inane, Sunday afternoon press conference.

In any event, City Hall has issued no statements to contradict Hirschfeld's assertion. Usually the administration is quick to issue denials if something is said about the mayor that it deems inaccurate.

Finally, what is there to say about Abe Hirschfeld? What has motivated him to try to rip the guts out of America's longest-tenured daily newspaper?

He is what political theorists might call a "useful idiot." He is a relatively wealthy, mean-spirited, insecure, disheveled, profoundly angry and frustrated man.

He has failed in numerous bids for elective office. He conducts himself in ridiculous fashion — handing out, for instance, letters he has received from important people to virtually everyone he encounters.

Given that he is a Jew and that his new business partner is notorious for his animus toward Jews, Hirschfeld might well be classified as a "self-hater" — or even a kapo.

Heretofore known as a comic-opera would-be player in New York Democratic Party politics, Hirschfeld has for

LETTERS

VOTER REGISTRATION AT THE DMV? HORRORS!

IF the motor-vehicle bureaus of the other states are anything like New York's, the idea being pushed in Washington that motor-vehicle bureaus will register voters is ludicrous.

I think most New Yorkers would rather chew nails than go to our Motor Vehicle Bureau. The last time I was there it was to replace a missing license plate and I stood on line for three hours. It would have taken longer except that the employees speeded things up as closing time approached.

The employees are frequently surly and

indifferent. And this is their attitude when the matter presumably concerns their area of expertise, namely matters having to do with autos. What could we expect if we were to require them to register voters?

After all, not everyone who walks in on motor-vehicle business is eligible to vote. voter-application registrations have to be carefully scrutinized to be sure that the applicant is eligible to vote.

Voter registration is too important to be left to those without the expertise.

ELIZABETH JANE DOUCEY, Jamaica

Dashed dream

I HAVE lived in Brooklyn for over 65 years; I have been married for 40 years (with two children and four grandchildren), and I worked at various jobs for over 45 years.

Like millions of other New Yorkers, I am a decent and law-abiding citizen who had a simple dream: I wanted to retire and live relatively comfortably during my remaining years.

I never earned a very big salary, but I took care of my family, sent my children to college, paid my bills and saved some money for the "golden years." I knew Social Security benefits would not be enough to pay all my expenses, so I worked overtime to make extra money that I could

save. When I retired I had my income from savings, so I thought my dream might come true.

That is why I get so aggravated when I read how ordinary people are allegedly happy that interest rates are so low.

What baloney! Millions of senior citizens like myself have lost more than half their income — money we desperately need to pay our rent and to pay for food and other necessities of life.

Low interest is wonderful for rich people, who can borrow at low rates and then speculate in the stock market or real estate. But the falling rates are killing senior citizens. We're too old to invest in long-term growth stocks. We need a fair interest rate so we can have a safe and steady source of income.

ABRAHAM GRABSTEIN, Brooklyn

Meditation is for all

READER John Bethell complained in his March 7 letter about his son being taught meditation and biofeedback techniques in school. His son is very lucky. Modern medicine has finally begun to realize that the mind has a very big role to play in healing.

A very respected professor of medicine at Yale University, Bernie Siegel, teaches cancer patients to meditate as part of their fight to overcome cancer.

help people overcome stress, which we now know can kill. Meditation has nothing to do with religion, nor is it pseudopsychological in nature, nor is it mystical.

If I had had the chance to learn to meditate when I was just a girl, maybe I would have been spared a lot of pain and medical bills over the years, never mind achieving a peaceful attitude.

Please, Mr. Bethell, support your son. He is lucky someone is being brave enough to want to teach meditation in the schools.

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The Post was the only one of four New York dailies that did not endorse Dinkins in the 1989 mayoral campaign. The Post has also, on many occasions, been critical of the mayor and his administration — especially with regard to the pogrom in Crown Heights.

Aside from the fact that David Dinkins doesn't take well to criticism, to the extent that The Post's voice is silenced Dinkins can anticipate a somewhat easier path to re-election.

Ned Regan's last warning

Not nearly enough attention has been paid to outgoing state Comptroller Ned Regan's scathing last assessment of New York City's fiscal circumstances.

"The city is offering very little in the way of solutions to its long-term problems. Rather than facing up to [those] problems, the city has set for itself a short-term horizon [featuring] quick solutions . . . just to squeak through."

The pressures on the Dinkins administration — brought by advocates for the so-called homeless, the municipal unions, the public-education lobby, etc. — are indeed relentless and daunting.

There's no way the city can please everybody, but the urge to try — particularly in a mayoral election year — is considerable. No wonder the administration is trying to "squeak through."

Take, for instance, payroll costs. "The city's recent labor settlement," says Regan, "provides for higher costs than the city had planned for."

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Given that he is a Jew and that his new business partner is notorious for his animus toward Jews, Hirschfeld might well be classified as a "self-hater" — or even a kapo.

Heretofore known as a comic-opera would-be player in New York Democratic Party politics, Hirschfeld has for years displayed a Harold Stassen-like tendency to seek office despite minimal support from the voters.

His attempted takeover of The Post comes as his years have advanced and his faculties, apparently, have declined.

Frankly, it's a tragedy that he has been allowed to maneuver himself into a position to ruin an institution that has long been a vital part of New York's political and cultural life.

Abe: Mazeltov. Wilbert: Shalom.

Peace with municipal unions in an election year is — and for many years has been — the cornerstone of fiscal policy as far as City Hall is concerned.

But while the city has granted raises to most municipal workers through 1995, Regan says the mayor's spending plan "makes no allowance for salary increases." (And expected raises for the city's teachers have yet to be negotiated.)

Of such omissions are multi-billion-dollar budget gaps born.

Regan, who has resigned effective April 30, has been a diligent watchdog. Witness his latest report.

City taxpayers will be fortunate if Regan's successor — scheduled to be chosen by the Legislature later in the spring — is nearly as effective.

As for the issue at hand — the city's exploding budget gaps — Regan's legacy is clear enough: New York City has been fairly warned.

Meditation is for all

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Please, Mr. Bethell, support your son. He is lucky someone is being brave enough to want to teach meditation in the schools.

JEANNE REED, Manhattan

Smart-aleck

WHY doesn't Ross Perot get lost with his dimwitted humor? It was because of him we people are stuck with Slick Willie and his crew of losers.



Ross Perot

Perot can't talk unless he has a pile of papers in front of him.

After watching him on the Povich show and listening to the questions by Povich, I still cannot decipher his answers.

Perot never gives a clear, straight answer. He thinks his smart-alecky comments are bright; however, he is the only one who thinks that.

JOHN R. DOZIER JR., Maspeth

Rave notice

AS far as I am concerned, Consumer Affairs Commissioner Mark Green is the only bright spot in the Dinkins administration.

Green is relentless in going after consumer fraud. By doing so, he not only protects the public from being ripped off, but also protects honest business from dishonest competition.

This man really gives the taxpayers their money's worth.

KEVIN O'LEARY, Kew Gardens

WRITE: The Editor, New York Post, 210 South St., New York, N.Y. 10002. Please sign your name and include your address. No unsigned letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit and condense all letters.

The fortunate

LIKE reader H.V. Hurewitz ("Compassion exhausted," Letters, March 9), I have found the sight of people lying in the subways and public buildings disturbing, but for a much different reason. It saddened me that you, H.V. Hurewitz, could refer to these people as "human refuse" and "parasites."

Yes, we have shelters for the homeless. Have you every seen the inside of one? Have you ever spoken with anyone who has had to stay overnight in one? I have, and some of the stories about what goes on in these places alarm me. They are the best the city can provide now, but they are not the solution.

H.V. Hurwitz, your letter expressed quite a bit of anger and frustration, much of which I can understand, but I can't believe (or don't want to believe) you have no compassion left. Please re-examine your feelings.

The words "human" and "refuse" do not belong together. You and I are very fortunate, we don't have to sleep in the subways or the shelters.

STEPHANIE B. ALIBERTI, Astoria

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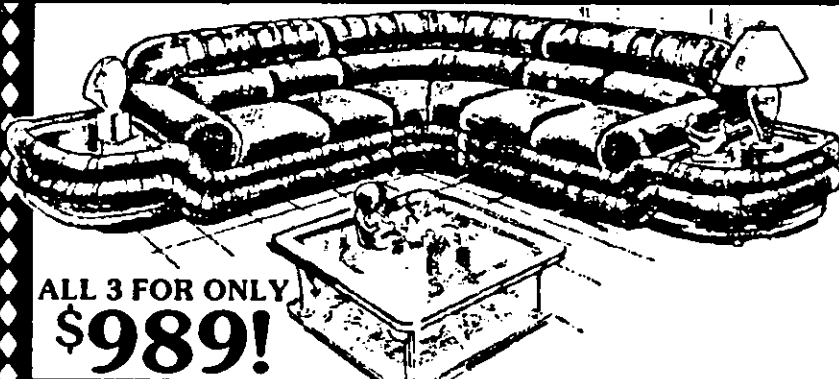
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The hate twins' new plans for news are noose to us

KRIEGLER from Page 4

spitting in the face of a Miami Herald reporter whose stories he did not like.

Hirschfeld began to float his private delusions. "I am an idea man," he began. He said something about saving the planet, about saving the city from disharmony, about his dear friend Henry Kissinger, about the New York Post creating 3 million jobs. You thought he would pull the note from Ethel Kennedy from his pocket. He is fond of that note. He carries it around. He makes complete strangers recite it aloud.

And then it was Tatum's turn. Tatum, in his posture as a healer, rallied against newspapers as the perpetrators of divisiveness in New York. But he neglected to qualify his remarks. He forgot that his own paper's editorial pages read like a seminar conducted by the hateful Professor Leonard Jeffries. He forgot to say that his Amsterdam News printed the name of the woman who had been brutalized while jogging in Central Park. Bill Tatum made her identity a *cause celebre*, cloaking it in race, standing with the ghouls who cried, "The bitch raped herself."

Honest Abe and Brother Bill announced themselves "co-publishers of the New York Post."

Then they moved from delusions to outright lies. A few hours after ordering an editor to draw up a roster of 272 people to be fired, they swore there was no "hit list," that there would only be some "temporary layoffs."

And they said that Pete Hamill, editor-in-chief of this newspaper until last Friday, had quit rather than work for Honest Abe.

The press conference was thrown into a rage. Pete Hamill was fired by a coward, Abe the spitter, who could not tell him to his face.

And that is the greatest of all shames here, obscured by Honest Abe's lousy, surreal comedy:

South Street was to be our Agin-court.

Under Pete, we would battle. We would make something of this place with desire, hustle and brains. Even if we were to die, we would die well.

Pete Hamill — and there is no man who stands in starker contrast to Abe Hirschfeld — believes in the power of words, that there is something honorable about constructing good, truthful sentences. He believes that a newspaper reporter can learn from Yeats, from Joyce, from Isaac Bashevis Singer and from Isabel Allende. Much has been made of Hamill's remembrances of the '50s, of his role as a protagonist in the '60s. But all the fondness for Pete Hamill's melodic nostalgia — for the Brooklyn Dodgers, for Sugar Ray Robinson, for a sweetheart named Kathleen — overshadowed his vision for the future.

Hamill understands that the city has changed since the time of his sweetest remembrances. That "gangster" is now spelled "gangsta." That New York is a repeating tale of succession, a cast transformed and energized each generation by new immigrants.

He had plans, realistic designs, for a new Post. His contract prohibited any editorial interference by any prospective owner. The clause is an absolute prerequisite for a newspaper's credibility. It was also the reason Hirschfeld fired him.

Hamill envisioned a magazine-style insert to provide the paper some breadth. He worked tirelessly with his writers, believing a good newspaper, a paper that made sense, would sell. Under Pete Hamill, there were women columnists — in the sports section. Under Pete, The Post even hired black reporters.

On Friday, Hirschfeld fired him. Pete Hamill took the photograph of

finish with black lacquer accents.
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than work for Honest Abe.

The press conference was thrown
into a rage. Pete Hamill was fired
by a coward, Abe the spitter, who
could not tell him to his face.

And that is the greatest of all
shames here, obscured by Honest
Abe's lousy, surreal comedy.

Pete Hamill could have made
something of this paper. He came
to The Post in 1960, after working
the docks of the Brooklyn Navy
Yard, after a brief career as a com-
mercial artist. At The Post, he be-
came a professional writer.

His return as editor-in-chief three
weeks ago was greeted with much
applause. He was our Henry V. And
we, his weary, wounded troops.

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mill, there were women columnists
— in the sports section. Under
Pete, The Post even hired black re-
porters.

On Friday, Hirschfeld fired him.
Pete Hamill took the photograph of
Ray Robinson from his office wall,
stuffed it into his bag, and began to
walk away. He walked into a dark,
brisk evening on South Street.
"Whatever they do," he said, "don't
let them destroy the black report-
ers. People have been saying fore-
ver: The Post can't get, won't hire
black reporters. They were wrong.
We proved that. Make sure those
reporters get their chance. And
make sure it isn't a chance to fail."

A Con Ed truck barreled down
South Street. The driver leaned out
the window, raised his fist. "Yo
Pete Hamill," he shouted.

On Sunday, after Hirschfeld's
press conference had ended in a
rage, Pete Hamill called the paper.
"There's some meals," he said,
"you just don't eat."

Yesterday, Honest Abe Hirsch-
feld tried to serve up more: pink
slips. A procession of cameras be-
hind him, Hirschfeld walked into
the South Street Diner. There, he
sold George McDonald — boss of a
consortium of newspaper unions
known as the Allied Printing
Trades Council — a crossword-
puzzle tie for two bucks. I don't
know whether this says more
about the second act of Hirschfeld's
lousy comedy or the buffoonery of
our labor leaders.

I only know that while Honest
Abe was peddling poor jokes, just-
ing for attention, we were upstairs
at 210 South Street. We were put-
ting out The Post. We're awfully
tired of being spit upon.

Pol: We'll boycott a Tatum-run Post

DICKER from Page 5

council president this fall.

Tatum, whose black-oriented newspaper is subsidized by a large number of taxpayer-funded legal advertisements, was named by Hirschfeld Sunday to replace both fired famed journalist Pete Hamill and his successor as editor, Gerard Bray, who resigned rather than carry out a massive series of layoffs.

Meanwhile, many influential state lawmakers here view Tatum as a behind-the-scenes political hustler who tries to trade endorsements of his small weekly newspaper for legal advertising and other benefits.

"He's not a journalist, he's a political operator," said one Assembly staff member who knows Tatum well.

Hirschfeld, meanwhile, is known to be viewed as bizarrely erratic, and possibly downright crazy, by Gov. Cuomo and many of the state's leading political figures, Democrat and Republican, insiders here said.

That's because of a long trail of political double-crosses and betrayals that have accompanied a series of unsuccessful forays by Hirschfeld into the political world.

For instance, he scheduled a press conference to endorse Republican gubernatorial candidate Andrew O'Rourke in 1986 and then failed to show up.

Then, a few hours later, he endorsed Cuomo.

"Abe is a crazy guy with money," said one prominent state lawmaker who has known him for years.

"If he was as crazy as he is without money, maybe he'd be put away," the lawmaker added.

Several other lawmakers warned that The Post would be permanently damaged with Hirschfeld as the owner.

"This guy is so crazy that nobody would want to deal with

Jogger raped again in Amsterdam News

AMSTERDAM from Page 9

are "ice people" with racist and anti-social characteristics while blacks are warm "sun people."

The New York Post broke the story of how Jeffries delivered anti-Semitic and anti-Italian statements at a state-subsidized black cultural forum in Albany that was later broadcast on state-funded TV.

"There was a conspiracy planned and plotted and programmed out of Hollywood with people named Greenberg and Weissberg and Trigliani and whatnot.

"Russian Jewry had a particular control over the movies and their financial partners, the Mafia, put together a system for the destruction of black people," Jeffries claimed.

The Amsterdam News, on Aug. 17, 1991, reported that it had viewed the tape of Jeffries' speech and "concluded that there is nothing anti-Semitic, racist or chauvinistic in its content."

Nor were Jeffries' attacks limited to whites. He also denounced the head of Harvard's African American Studies program, Henry Lewis Gates Jr., as "a faggot and a punk,"

according to an interview in the Harvard Crimson, a student newspaper.

In a column bylined Frank Yancy on Aug. 24, 1991, the Amsterdam News defended Jeffries and his "eloquent" views and painted Jews as "rich undesirables" who had better watch out.

That column predicted a rise of fascism in America and declared: "Jews ought to be wary; although poor folks are the first to be slaughtered, the rich undesirables always follow close behind."

In the course of defending Jeffries — whom it portrayed as "an icon" in the black community — the Amsterdam News also regularly denounced the Post.

The Amsterdam News ran an editorial on Aug. 17, 1991 — and repeated it a week later — that blasted the Post's coverage of Jeffries and declared: "Blood will be on the hands of the Post should violence occur."

On Aug. 24, 1991, the Amsterdam News quoted Jeffries as saying: "The New York Post is a paper that should not exist. All that can be done by the Black community to

destroy the Post should be done."

But the Amsterdam News also blasted the New York Times for its coverage of the Jeffries controversy, singling out Times columnist Abe Rosenthal in particular.

The New York Times editorial pages as well as the Post were blunt in criticizing Jeffries' angry rhetoric.

On Aug. 25, 1991, a New York Times editorial described Jeffries' views as "hate and distortion parading as scholarship" and said his speech in Albany "makes it clear he is a confused man whose ramblings are as unintelligible as they are hateful."

In Nov. 1991, when City University trustees voted 10-4 to limit Jeffries' term as chairman of the City College Black Studies Department, the Amsterdam News wrote:

"There is a continuing and profound belief in the belly — the very vitals of the Black community — that through their economic and political might, Whites and Jews somehow control our lives in this city and have their feet planted firmly up our derrieres."

When City College trustees voted

12-0 to remove Jeffries as chairman of the Black Studies Department last May because of his remarks, the Amsterdam News editorialized that it was a violation of free speech.

"Is it because he is a Black man — proud, outspoken and fearless with real attachments to the community from which he came?" Tatum's paper wrote.

"No, Jeffries told his truth as he believed it must be told and took the risk of having the chips fall where they may in spite of the fact that he knew that the deck was stacked against him, particularly by White media in this city."

The Amsterdam News has painted white journalists who don't share its views as "white racists disguising themselves as journalists."

The paper has often slammed The Post but not just The Post — in an Jan. 10, 1992 editorial it described Joe Klein (then of New York, now with Newsweek) as "the worst offender" claiming he showed "palpable hatred of blacks."

Plastic Surgeon Discusses:

Eyelid, Nasal Surgery

Complements to a More Youthful Appearance

By Marjorie Cramer, M.D.

The eyes and nose are the first things people notice when we meet them. This focal point either enhances or detracts from other facial qualities. These two facial features can add years to our appearance.

Tired, baggy, drooping eyes can make even the highest of cheekbones fade from the vision of others. A nose that is too big, too crooked, too thick or too pointed can likewise overshadow other pleasing facial features, minimizing their beauty. There are times when people mistake their perception of our focal point for our ability and vigor.

Our eyes and nose are what people notice first when we meet them.

The tip of the nose changes as we age because its underlying supportive tissue weakens, allowing it to droop and sag.

time may produce overhanging skin folds that result in partial vision obstruction. Some conditions leading to rather early aging changes are repeated swelling due to allergic or related systematic problems, and a variety of anatomical characteristics that are genetic in origin.

In addition to the wrinkling and sagging of the eyelid skin, so-called "baggy" may become evident under the lower eyelids and at the inner corners of the upper lids. This is the result of protrusion or out-pouching of the fatty tissues under the lid. Occasionally, this tendency is strongly hereditary in origin,

Any temporary bruises can be covered with a dash of talcum powder or makeup.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cosmetic surgery is not as expensive as you might think, even when it's elective. Most health insurance carriers cover procedures for breast reduction, gynecomastia, torn earlobes, cysts, moles or similar growths, and in some cases, where medical necessity indicates, noses and upper eyelids.

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public gubernatorial candidate Andrew O'Rourke in 1986 and then failed to show up.

Then, a few hours later, he endorsed Cuomo.

"Abe is a crazy guy with money," said one prominent state lawmaker who has known him for years.

"If he was as crazy as he is without money, maybe he'd be put away," the lawmaker added.

Several other lawmakers warned that The Post would be permanently damaged with Hirschfeld as the owner.

"This guy is so crazy that nobody would want to deal with him as the publisher because you could never trust anything he said," said one statewide political figure.

"To have him as the publisher of The Post is to sign the paper's death warrant," said the prominent politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT**

Pursuant to Article 15 of the General Municipal Law ("GML") and Section 1804 of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") is proposing approval by the Mayor of the acquisition of certain real property in the Upper Park Avenue Urban Renewal Area ("Area") through condemnation proceedings.

The area consists of certain property located in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York, and generally bounded by East 124th Street, Park Avenue, East 125th Street, and Lexington Avenue. The Upper Park Avenue Urban Renewal Plan ("Plan") for the redevelopment of the Area provides for the acquisition of certain real property in the Area known as:

Block	Lots
1771	1, 2, 3

On the Tax Map of the City ("Properties To Be Acquired"). The acquisition of the Properties To Be Acquired by the City is necessary to carry out a program of renewal in the Area, as is more particularly described in the Plan.

The Plan is available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 9C3, New York, New York during its regular hours on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on March 24, 1993 before the Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs at City Hall, Public Hearing Chamber at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed acquisition of the Properties To Be Acquired pursuant to Section 506 of the GML and Section 1804 of the Charter.

FELICE L. MICHETTI
COMMISSIONER

By Marjorie Cramer, M.D.

The eyes and nose are the first things people notice when we meet them. This focal point either enhances or detracts from other facial qualities. These two facial features can add years to our appearance.

Tired, baggy, drooping eyes can make even the highest of cheekbones fade from the vision of others. A nose that is too big, too crooked, too thick or too pointed can likewise overshadow other pleasing facial features, minimizing their beauty. There are times when people mistake their perception of our focal point for our ability and vigor.

Our eyes and nose are what people notice first when we meet them.

Two of the most common cosmetic surgery procedures, rhinoplasty and eyelid surgery, can result in a pleasing, more youthful look to the area of the face people notice first. In some cases, surgery is required only on the nose or the eyelids to achieve the desired results. In others, some patients choose to undergo surgery on both the nose and the eyes.

ABOUT RHINOPLASTY (NASAL SURGERY)

The tip of the nose changes as we age because its underlying supportive tissue weakens, allowing it to droop and sag. Some people have a bulbous shape or pointy tip. The tip itself is composed of fatty tissue, skin and cartilage and its appearance is easily altered.

When people are displeased with the bridge of their nose, it usually is because of a bony hump or extra width. These problems can be corrected by reducing the amount of bone and cartilage along the bridge. The area between the tip and the bridge is mainly composed of cartilage, which can be the cause of a so-called hook nose. The reduction of this cartilage can result in a more pleasing profile. This operation is performed from inside the nose, leaving no external scars except in special circumstances.

REFRAMING THE EYES

Downward shifting of the brow and fullness of the upper and lower eyelid skin are often the earliest signs of the normal aging process to become evident. Frequently, swelling of the eyelids, at first present only in the morning, seems to hang on longer each day. Progressive upper lid fullness over a long period of

The tip of the nose changes as we age because its underlying supportive tissue weakens, allowing it to droop and sag.

time may produce overhanging skin folds that result in partial vision obstruction. Some conditions leading to rather early aging changes are repeated swelling due to allergic or related systematic problems, and a variety of anatomical characteristics that are genetic in origin.

In addition to the wrinkling and sagging of the eyelid skin, so-called "bagginess" may become evident under the lower eyelids and at the inner corners of the upper lids. This is the result of protrusion or out-pouching of the fatty tissues under the lid. Occasionally, this tendency is strongly hereditary in origin, becoming noticeable at a relatively early age, sometimes in the mid-twenties. More often, however, the fullness develops and appears more at thirty-five or forty, becoming even more marked in the forties and fifties.

The surgery to correct these conditions is usually performed in the office with very rewarding results in almost all cases.

On the average, such surgery takes about an hour and leaves barely visible scars. Recovery is relatively quick. In both rhinoplasty and eyelid surgery, patients are able to return to normal activities within a day or two after surgery, if they are comfortable doing so.

Any temporary bruises can be covered with a dash of talcum powder or makeup.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cosmetic surgery is not as expensive as you might think, even when it's elective. Most health insurance carriers cover procedures for breast reduction, gynecomastia, torn earlobes, cysts, moles or similar growths, and in some cases, where medical necessity indicates, noses and upper eyelids.

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Patients having torn earlobes (from earrings) or needing removal of cysts, moles, or similar growths, may have these corrected in the office. Most health insurance carriers cover these procedures.



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ADL: NEW POST EDITOR IS A FORCE FOR EVIL

ANTI-SEMITE from Page 8

stated that the Rev. Herbert Daughtry, a Brooklyn minister and activist, "was convinced that the attack on the professor is really directed at the curriculum on inclusion. I challenge our Jewish friends to have a scholarly debate on the questions Dr. Jeffries is raising," he added."

The article reported that faculty members of the Black Studies Department at City College wrote to Dr. W. Ann Reynolds, chancellor of the City University, on Aug. 10 expressing regret at "the response of some representatives of the Jewish community who threatened Dr. Leonard Jeffries with physical harm because of his leadership role in the educational process."

(Needless to say, no responsible "representatives of the Jewish community" have threatened Dr. Jeffries.)

The account also said that Am-

sterdam News editors had viewed the videotape of Dr. Jeffries' remarks "and have concluded that there is nothing anti-Semitic, racist or chauvinistic in its content."

The final article on the paper's Aug. 17 Page One was a story about a "Russian Jewish scholar," Dr. William Loren Katz, who defended Jeffries. Among the sources cited by Dr. Katz in support of Jeffries' contentions was the movie, "The Godfather."

Katz, who the article states had taught at New York University, said the attacks on Jeffries were "not related to anti-Semitism; it's related to the curriculum of inclusion. It's really about the anguish the white scholastic community feels about the curriculum of inclusion, which is a long time overdue. They are scapegoating Professor Jeffries to alibi their own failure to develop a fair curriculum over the decades."

(Soon after this article appeared, a spokesperson for New York University said the school had no record of Katz ever having taught there.)

The same Aug. 17 issue included two full editorial pages in support of Jeffries.

INCENDIARY HEADLINE

During the Crown Heights riots, the Aug. 24, 1991, issue of the Amsterdam News featured a front-

page article with the incendiary headline, "Many Blacks, No Jews Arrested in Crown Heights." The article began with the following slant:

"Black residents of Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood are steaming mad that a car full of Jews was escorted to an ambulance and whisked away after the car crushed the life out of a 7-year-old and pinned a second child underneath, resulting in critical injuries.

"If we don't get justice, we will call for black power, then revolution," Eric Phillip, a resident of Crown Heights, said angrily.

This article is representative of an increasing tone of hostility the newspaper has been taking toward the Jewish community. The article stated that Rev. Al Sharpton, Rev. Herbert Daughtry, attorney Alton Maddox, Sonny Carson, attorney Colin Moore, Lenora Fulani (head of the radical New Alliance Party) and others leading a peaceful march "faced a barrage of rocks" from the Hasidic community.

The article stated that the alleged rock-throwing Hasidim were not arrested while 30 blacks were arrested. (There is no indication in the article as to why the blacks faced arrest.)

While in recent years the Amsterdam News has allied itself with the viewpoints of black extremists, as late as 1985 Tatum was identified in a news story from the Jew-

ish Telegraphic Agency as co-founder of the "Black-Jewish Coalition."

He was quoted as saying "the need for coalition between blacks and Jews in America is so evident that it is hard to understand why we are walking further and further away from it."

When David Dinkins condemned the anti-Semitism of Louis Farrakhan in October 1985, Tatum offered these views of Farrakhan in The New York Times of Oct. 4, 1985:

"On the one hand he preaches love of blacks for themselves, self-help, economic independence and the survival of our communities. Interspersed with this message of survival there is also a message of hatred toward Jews."

The Times report continued: Tatum "said black leaders were finding it difficult to articulate their abhorrence of Farrakhan's hate while supporting his message of hope."

By 1991 Tatum was willing to appear at a dinner in honor of Farrakhan at the Schomburg Center.

The newspaper's shift away from the mainstream is illustrated by its coverage of a variety of issues, ranging from the Central Park jogger gang-rape case (it claimed the rape never occurred, and published the name of the jogging victim) to featuring various anti-white conspiracy theories in the controver-

sies surrounding Tawana Brawley and Leonard Jeffries.

The Washington Post reported (Aug. 21, 1990) that Tatum's assertions "have left many readers, black and white, stunned and angry." The Post stated that while the Amsterdam News carried weight "as one of the city's most prominent black-run enterprises," some of its former supporters said "the paper has drifted from its stated goal of informing blacks and promoting their achievements."

The Amsterdam News' continuing negative preoccupation with Jews was reflected in an article entitled "the 'little secret' Jews don't want exposed to the public," in its Oct. 12, 1991 issue.

The article was an account of the comments of Fred Newman, leader of the Marxist therapy cult, the New Alliance Party. The article stated that "Tensions between blacks and Jews will continue to escalate as long as Jews have a privileged position in the American society and blacks are exploited, Dr. Fred Newman . . . told an audience in Harlem recently."

The article quotes Newman as stating: "Jews don't want this little secret to be exposed, because to do so would mean losing that privilege . . . and they have sufficient control of the media and other institutions to make sure that never happens."

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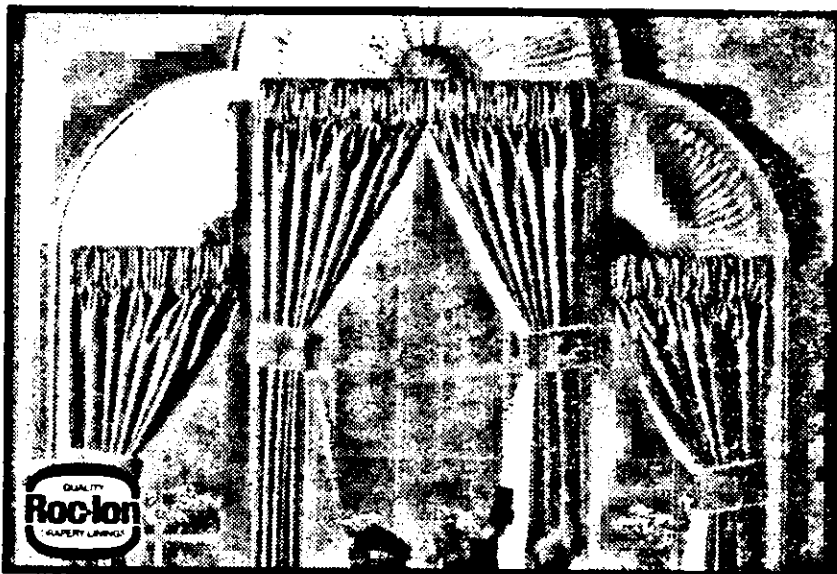
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4-LETTER WORD FOR ABE, FIT TO PRINT: LIAR

By CHARLES CARILLO

Abe Hirschfeld and Bill Tatum sit side by side, grinning like Ray Liotta and Robert De Niro after the Lufthansa heist in "GoodFellas." Their ears are still ringing with shouts of "Liar!" but they seem unaffected.

No, the main thing is that they're both wearing striped shirts and crossword-puzzle ties. It's a sign, you see. Abe Hirschfeld believes in signs.

"God," he says, gesturing at Tatum, "sent him to me."

This was Sunday night at The Post in a sixth-floor executive office overlooking the East River just hours before an edition that never quite made it.

A few blocks downtown, in the Trinity Church cemetery, Post founder Alexander Hamilton is on a rotisserie in his grave. Compared to this pair of sociopaths, Aaron Burr was a social worker.

Hirschfeld does most of the talking. He wants to put out a paper that will appeal to all ethnic groups. That is why he approached Tatum, the man best known for publishing the name of the Central Park jogger.

Hirschfeld keeps referring to the

Amsterdam News as the "New Amsterdam." It is tempting to correct this man and to explain that he's talking about a beer, not a publication.

But nobody does. Everyone lets him ramble on, the way you don't bother correcting your spacey old uncle.

Not earlier that day, though. That's when Hirschfeld denied having called for nearly 300 heads, and denied having fired editor-in-chief Pete Hamill. This triggered what one reporter now suggests to Hirschfeld was "a revolution."

And Hirschfeld's eyes get this look I have not seen since I nearly stepped on a rattlesnake in the California desert.

"It was a revolution," he hisses. "I create revolutions."

He rambles on about his "revolutions," blabbering about the Vertical Club and exercise bikes. Earlier, he claimed to have invented open-air garages to prevent people from putting bombs in skyscrapers.

Which apparently means that he would have built an open-air World Trade Center. Would have made for exciting dining at Windows on the World on gusty nights.

You can only listen to so much of this. A reporter has the gall to try to steer Hirschfeld toward the issue of the New York Post.

"Will you let me finish?" Hirschfeld snaps. "Then maybe you'll have money like me."

Another reporter persists, trying to get within miles of the situation.

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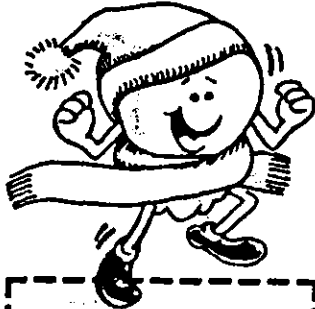
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Another reporter persists, trying to get within miles of the situation.

"You," Hirschfeld sneers, "talk very hostile."

It becomes clear that you must approach this man with soft words, and hide the butterfly net behind your back.

"Mr. Hirschfeld," I all but whisper.

"Call me Abe!"

Gently, gently, I tell him that I've spoken with Pete Hamill and, according to him, he has been most definitely fired.

Hirschfeld stares. I see his jaws moving and brace myself for his reaction. If this man's history means anything, I should be wearing a raincoat. Or maybe he'll just say "Rosebud" and keel over.

"I don't want to discuss this anymore," Hirschfeld replies. My question goes unanswered, but at least I am dry.

And then he goes on with vague plans for this publication that will involve The Post, the "New Amsterdam" and some Hispanic publication.

"Will it be El Diario?" a reporter asks.

Hirschfeld gets that snake look again.

"Do me a favor," he says. "Don't push."

Doesn't last, though. He slides right back into jolly-old-uncle mode.

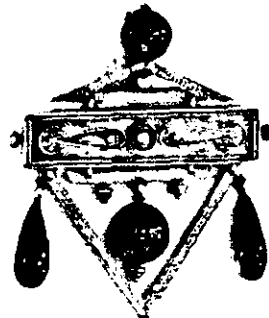
"Can you write a newspaper with my broken English?" he asks Tatum.

"I think your broken English got you where you are now," Tatum giggles.

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SLIME TIME FOR HATE-'EM TATUM

TATUM from Page 5

papers did not — and to keep publishing it day after day.

A Tatum editorial accused the prosecution of a "legal lynching," laying much of the blame on the so-called "white press."

As the ADL report noted, Tatum's newspaper also put forward anti-white conspiracy theories in the controversies surrounding Leonard Jeffries, the City College professor who teaches black superiority, and Tawana Brawley, who claimed she was raped by a gang of white men.

Tatum was born in Durham, N.C., in 1933, the 10th of 13 children of Eugene and Mittle Tatum.

The family lived in a three-

The Anti-Defamation League ripped Tatum's paper as "incendiary."

room shack. Eugene Tatum worked as a farmer and a barber. He even tried to start a chain of newspapers. And he also resorted to welfare. Mittle Tatum worked as a domestic.

Young Tatum went to segregated schools and spent his summer vacations working in the tobacco fields.

At 17 he was editor of his high-

school newspaper and winner of an award for editorial writing.

He then made his first trip to New York, thanks to a collection taken up by the community. They gave him and two other students \$20 each for a round-trip bus ticket and \$10 each for a week's living expenses. Luckily for them, the good-hearted manager of Harlem's Hotel Theresa gave the young out-of-towners free lodging.

"Then the word spread through Harlem that there were three farmers staying at the Theresa," he later recalled.

"All the hookers and pimps and people who hung around the hotel took us under their wing. That's when I discovered that New York was my home."

Tatum won scholarships allowing him to study sociology at Pennsylvania's Lincoln University. He also spent three years in the Marines.

He finally moved to New York in the late 1950s "to write the Great American Novel," he once said.

He drifted to the Bowery, "where I lived pretty much as a bum, working when I could, living on the street at times." His "pretty awful" writing efforts were rejected during those "bleak years," he recalled.

"Most of the time I spent following Dylan Thomas and Charlie Parker around," he added.

By the mid-1960s Tatum had taken an interest in real estate. He joined Mayor John Lindsay's

administration as an assistant to the buildings commissioner.

In 1966 he married clothes designer, Susan Kohn, a Jewish native of Czechoslovakia.

In 1970 Tatum was selected as a Ford Foundation Urban Fellow in a program designed to prepare minority youths as

urban administrators. A year later he had enough money to join a group of investors who bought the Amsterdam News.

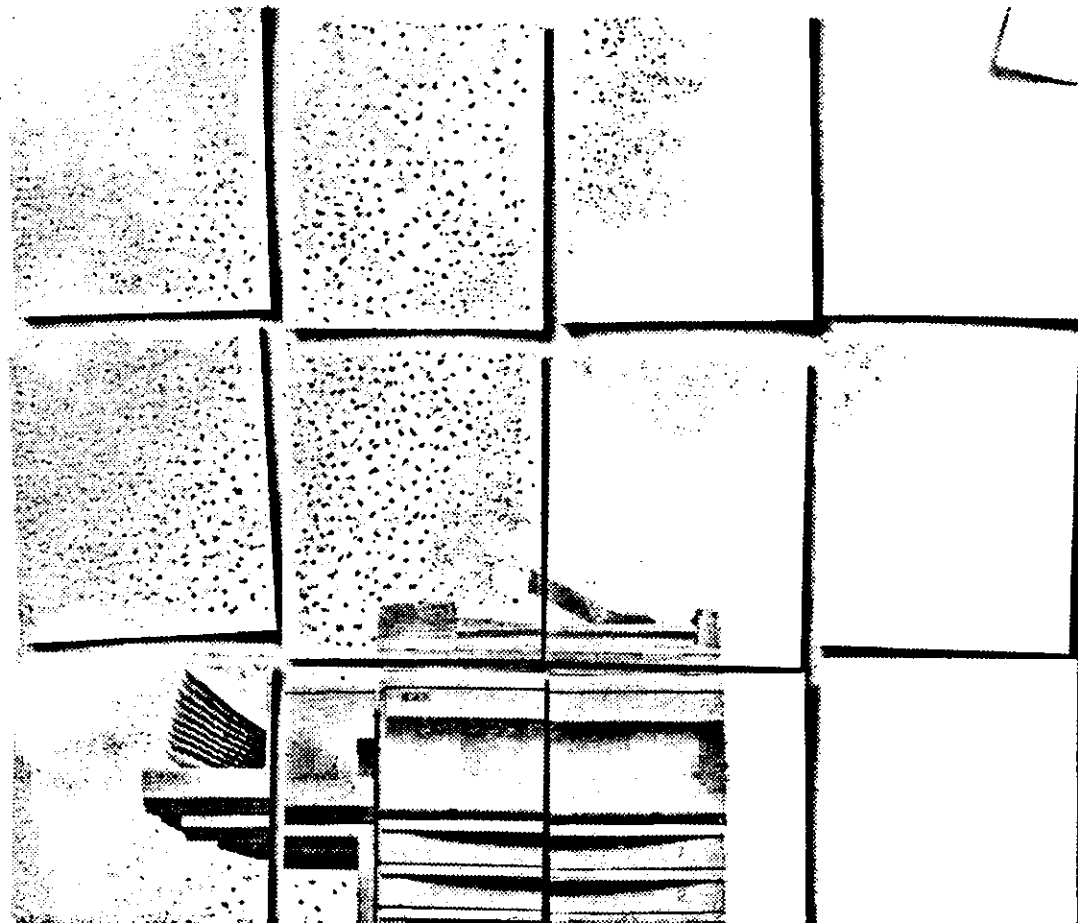
Tatum then studied at Yale and California's Occidental College before becoming executive assistant to Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, one of

Mayor Dinkins' oldest friends.

In 1983 Tatum left city politics for the editorship of the city's leading black newspaper. Under his stewardship the Amsterdam News seemed for a while to be a bridge between the city's black and white communities — before its tone turned hostile and strident.

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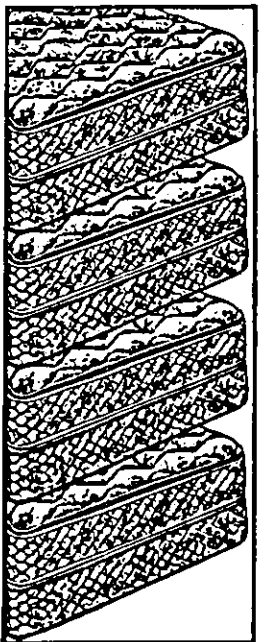
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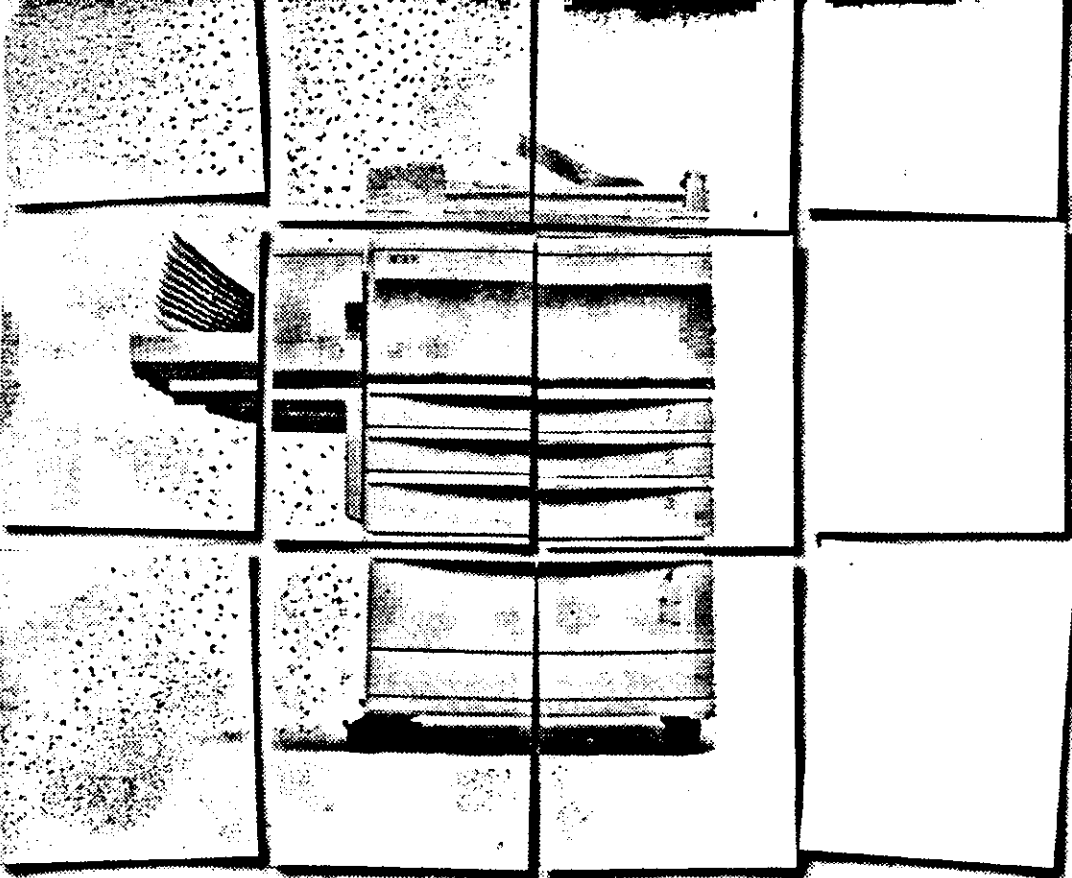
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Who is this nut who's taken The Post hostage?

NUT from Page 3

involved with him in both business and politics.

When then-Assemblyman Jerrold Nadler opposed Hirschfeld's massive Lincoln West development, Hirschfeld retaliated by supporting Nadler's opponents in the 1985 contest for Manhattan borough president.

Hirschfeld now has cool relations with Mayor Dinkins, the man who defeated Nadler in 1985 for Manhattan borough president.

Hirschfeld is currently supporting Roy Innis, who is challenging Dinkins in the Democratic mayoral primary.

Hirschfeld also has a reputation of being litigious. He is currently

suing Knight-Ridder, owner of the Miami Herald, for \$120 million.

One of Hirschfeld's more unusual legal situations arose in 1977 when he was forced to pay damages to Arthur and William Brown, who owned a vacant lot behind the proposed site of Hirschfeld's Vertical Club.

Hirschfeld had wanted to dig on their land and they refused. Hirschfeld had bulldozers proceed anyway. The Browns successfully took Hirschfeld to court.

Hirschfeld is also involved in a legal wrangle with Stanley Stahl, a former friend and fellow developer, whom Hirschfeld has accused of deliberately mismanaging three apartment houses they own together.

Even former presidents are not immune from Hirschfeld's antics.

In 1979, he tried to sell his plush Fifth Avenue co-op to Richard Nixon. Even though the co-op board would not allow Nixon in, Hirschfeld kept the former president's \$92,500 deposit.

Although Nixon expressed his displeasure with Hirschfeld, he opted to keep the matter out of the courts and public eye.

Hirschfeld first became involved in politics in the late 1960s when his role as fund-raiser for Bobby Kennedy's senatorial and presidential campaigns led to his being named treasurer of the state Democratic party.

In addition to supporting and op-

posing candidates, Hirschfeld has thrown his hat into the ring several times.

In 1974 he ran for U.S. Senate. When Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut refused to support his candidacy, Hirschfeld spit at him.

Two years later, he tried again for the Senate, and lost again.

In 1977, he was trounced in a primary race for City Council president, losing to incumbent Paul O'Dwyer.

In 1986 he ran a disastrous campaign for lieutenant governor, and didn't even make it onto the ballot.

In 1989 he then went into self-imposed exile in Miami Beach, where he finally ran a successful campaign — winning a two-year term as a city commissioner.

In his two years as a commissioner, Hirschfeld continued to be a lightning rod, getting into feuds with developers, other elected officials and reporters.

Hirschfeld's ownership of the Miami Beach Clarion Castle Hotel was marked by three years of ar-

guments over building- and fire-code violations. On one occasion, the hotel's theater and ballroom were closed because of violations.

It was because of the violations and the Miami Herald's coverage of the hotel's problems that Hirschfeld spit on a Herald reporter.

While a city commissioner, Hirschfeld frequently got into public disputes with his fellow commissioners, who censured him on two occasions and frequently criticized his behavior at meetings.

In 1992 he abandoned Florida and returned to New York, where he soon found new controversy, running as an independent candidate and in the Democratic primary for Congressman Bill Green's seat.

On at least three occasions in the campaign race, Hirschfeld made racist and sexist comments he later apologized for.

In one remark he suggested that candidate Carolyn Maloney "should drop out of the race and return to the kitchen."

In the end he received less than 1 percent of the vote.

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