

WEATHER

Clear, cool weather continuing throughout day, with highs in the lower 50s. Night will bring a cold front from the north, dropping temps into the low 30s.

The Gotham Times

"Bringing you
Tomorrow's News"

Volume 2

www.thegothamtimes.com

Printed in Gotham

A1

HARVEY DENT JOINS RACE FOR GOTHAM DA

Assistant District Attorney Harvey Dent, taking advantage of political momentum after his initial prosecutions of corrupt GPD officers, announced his candidacy for Gotham DA at the infamous Krol Projects in crime-ridden East End.

"I say to Gotham today, we can make our city safe for families once again," Dent proclaimed on a cold, crisp day outside the most dangerous public housing project in the city. "With your help, I will fight with every available means against the alliance of corrupt cops and organized crime that has brought this great city to its knees," he continued. Dent named reported mob leader Sal Maroni as one of his chief targets if he is elected.

Dent's entry into the race has been called "the worst kept secret in Gotham" and was widely expected.

The Assistant DA's call for a show of support from Gotham citizens before he declared his candidacy succeeded in recent weeks, with signs, posters, and spontaneous events revealing strength for Dent in almost every neighborhood of the city.

The race for District Attorney now is set up as perhaps the most emotional campaign in recent Gotham history, observers said. Relations between Dent and the sitting District Attorney, Roger Garcetti, have been fraying almost since the moment Dent joined the District Attorney's office.

"Garcetti and Dent have been at each other's throats since day one," said one high-level official in City Hall. "Garcetti looks at Dent as a media-mad upstart, and Dent sees Garcetti as part of the old guard which has led Gotham into a tailspin of crime and corruption."

In the stark surroundings of the grim, concrete projects, Dent gave a classic stemwinder in the best Go-



Polls show Harvey Dent in a tight race for DA. (Stephen Vaughan)

tham tradition. He spoke without notes for over an hour, detailing his love of Gotham, describing the city's perilous situation today, and boasting of his ability to put an end to the city's "unholy alliance" of mob bosses and political officials. He returned, again and again, to the "network of crime, corruption, incompetence, and cowardice" which he claimed was devas-

tating the city.

"The same people who are supposed to protect us are instead betraying us. Every cop that turns the other way for a little extra cash is betraying us. Every official more concerned with his own political future than the public safety is betraying us. And every district attorney too weak or too scared to really take on organized crime is

betraying us," Dent said in a heated speech which was interrupted by applause 19 times.

District Attorney Roger Garcetti's election team was quick to fight back against Dent's portrait of their candidate as "too weak or too scared." Garcetti's campaign manager Jamison Starns called Dent's attack "an admission that Dent has no positive plan for Gotham. Dent is an angry man on a witch hunt to take down good cops to feed his lust for power," said Starns.

In his short time as Assistant District Attorney in Gotham, Dent has made a name for himself by investigating and charging Gotham police officials for corruption. Dent has won guilty verdicts for eleven Gotham police officers working in conjunction with GPD's Internal Affairs department.

But his latest investigation of corrupt cops went awry when a shootout during an attempted arrest left one cop dead, GPD officer Karl Breitup. Two citizens were also injured in the melee at Betty's House of Pies. Dent was promptly attacked by his political opponents after the "Pie-Die Incident" as it became known. "Dent was responsible for that man's death the first moment he decided to put lives at risk for a good video clip on the evening news," District Attorney Garcetti said at the time.

According to the polls, Dent is a controversial figure who gets strong marks for the ability to "get things done" even as equal numbers of Gotham voters wonder if Dent may be "dishonest or has something to hide."

Those negative feelings may ironically be the result of his past successes, which created enormous amounts of ill-will within the Gotham establishment.

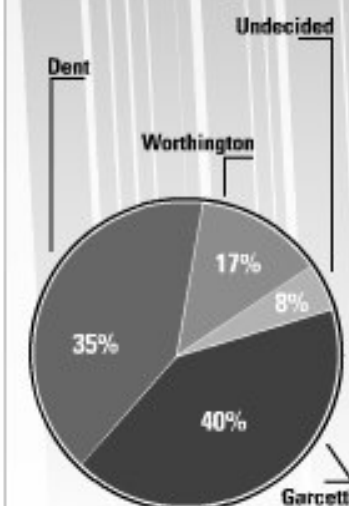
Even at the peak of his success,

Dent was often the target of backstage criticism by fellow prosecutors. Their most common criticism was that Dent was an overly zealous Torquemada who hungered for newspaper headlines. Dent can expect much more criticism as the campaign goes on, observers told *The Times*.

"Dent is going to take some serious dents before this one is over," said Gotham political consultant Walt DeFulrizio. "A lot of people are gunning for him."

Dent's announcement turns the campaign for DA into an official three-way race. District Attorney Roger Garcetti announced his candidacy two weeks ago. Victim Advocate Foundation President Dana Worthington is also running for the spot.

Poll Shows Tight Race



Source: Gotham Times/Rasmussen Poll, March 21-23

**Garcetti Vows
"Cleanest Campaign"**

BATMAN STOPS MOB MELEE

**TV-Starved City Lines
Up for Resumption**



Tuesday, July 12, 2012

WWW.GothamCityTimes.com

\$2.50

Batman Savior or Menace?

On the day of Harvey Dent's landslide victory, Batman upstaged the new district attorney with a dramatic election day intervention and the narrow defeat of the "Save Batman" Proposition D on the ballot.

Amid widespread reports of voter intimidation at Gotham polling sites, Batman saved a Dent supporter at East City Park from three club-wielding men. The incident helped dramatize the Gotham proposition that voters mixed, which would have required GPD to make arresting vigilantes its "lowest priority"

The "Save Batman" proposition was widely debated in the city, and led to a vigorous campaign by supporters and opponents. The proposition battle crystallized the main question facing Gotham - whether Batman is helping curb crime in Gotham or leading to an "every man to himself" anarchy.

Indeed, the voting numbers reflect the closely divided sentiments of the city - Proposition D was voted down carrying 49% of the vote.

Citizens for Batman founder Brian Douglass was a major proponent of the proposition but had little to celebrate at the Yes on D party in Gotham Square. "Criminals are running rampant, so Batman has to pick up the slack and protect our citizens," said

CFB members were a crucial element of the Yes on D campaign, as members passed out flyers, went door-to-door, and held rallies chanting "Save Batman, Save Gotham!"

But in a sign of the passions Batman inspired, many rallies were marred by physical fights between pro-Batman and anti-Batman proponents.

**"Batman is not fighting criminals
he is a criminal"**

"Every civilized nation treats vigilantism as a serious crime, and the day Gotham City does otherwise is a day we will be destined to mourn," said Stone Sargey, spokesman for No on D.

cont. F5

Man tries armed robbery with knife in gun store

A man who tries to rob a Gotham gun shop at knifepoint Monday afternoon was shot in the chest by the shop owner, police said.

The victim, identified only as a 57-year-old Greenfield man, was taken to Gotham General Hospital according to police. Police have yet to interview the victim because the shooting left him unconscious, Detective Sgt. Paul Schlecht said.

Schlecht said later Monday that the man's wounds were not life-threatening. The man's condition was not available Monday evening from Gotham General. Schlecht said the shooting took place around 3p.m. inside Buckhorn Guns, one of the four businesses located in a plaza.

The parking lot of the plaza was surrounded by yellow police tape Monday afternoon as police investigated the shooting. Schlecht said he did not know what the suspect demanded but said there is nothing to indicate...

cont. F6

Dent's tip line targets city's dirty cops

Crusading Assistant District Attorney Harvey Dent today announced the opening of a public tip line to report on police corruption. At a press conference at the epicenter of the Narrow Attack Dent asked citizens to participate in "Taking Back Gotham" from what Dent said was "a police department where the honest cops are hamstrung by official corruption."



Assistant District Attorney Harvey Dent

The public tip line will initially open with a web site - www.weartheanswer.org where citizens suspicious of police behavior can report possible malfeasance. A special task force on Dent's staff will then probe the matter, bypassing the police department, which Dent claims is incapable of investigating their own.

"Far too Long," *cont. F7*

DO YOU KNOW A CORRUPT COP?

SIGNS OF POLICE CORRUPTION

- POLICE OFFICERS FRATERNIZING WITH KNOWN CRIMINALS
- POLICE OFFICERS LIVING BEYOND THEIR MEANS
- DRUG USE, GAMBLING, DEBT, FREQUENT DRUNKENNESS
- POLICE OFFICERS LEAVING THE SCENE SHORTLY BEFORE CRIME IS COMMITTED



PLEASE CALL
TOLL FREE
1-800-CORRUPT



LATEST NEWS

OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT

Harvey Dent announces run for Gotham District Attorney

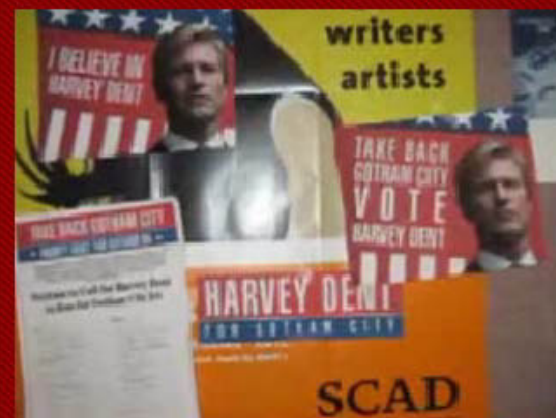
The only man who can save Gotham jumps in! An amazing moment in Gotham history as Harvey Dent offers himself to the people. Harvey gave an amazing speech where he vowed to take Gotham back from the crime bosses, the corrupt cops, and the insider politicians. Harvey fired up the crowd with lines like, "With your help, I will fight with every available means against the alliance of corrupt cops and organized crime that has brought this great city to its knees."

Unprecedented grassroots campaign reveals wave of support for Harvey Dent

In the last weeks, Gotham City has seen an incredible array of public shows of support. From every neighborhood in the city, people have joined together to demand change – and to convince Harvey Dent to run for District Attorney. Check out some of the best examples [here](#).

Harvey Dent headquarters open for business!

Hundreds of Dent supporters are filling Dent for DA headquarters, working to take Gotham back. If you want to volunteer, just head on over to HQ at 54 1st Street in Granton! You'll be glad you came. There's free donuts and coffee, and you can meet other Gothamites who want to change the future of this city!



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PUBLIC SUPPORT](#)

DOWNLOADS

Let everyone know you support Harvey Dent! Click [here](#) to download yard signs, flyers, web banners and more!



POLL

What should the next District Attorney focus on?

- ☐ 1) Arresting mob kingpins
- ☐ 2) Attacking street crime
- ☐ 3) Fighting police corruption
- ☐ 4) Taking down the drug trade

Harvey Dent Mania is Sweeping Gotham!

Endorsements roll in for Harvey Dent!

Harvey Dent has been endorsed by philanthropist James Wilecotten III, Reverend Marvin Wintermyre of Gotham's Baptist Union, and Cesar de la Salazar Gallo, head of the Gotham chapter of Latinos United Against Crime and Corruption.

3rd Grader offers entire piggy bank to Harvey Dent campaign!

Jason Lee Pincus, a third grader at Gotham's Ravinia School in Grainley, contributed his entire fortune of eighteen dollars and fifty one cents to the Dent campaign. He had saved that money over three years, mostly by helping out with tough chores like shoveling snow and raking leaves. But he gave all the dough to Harvey Dent – because, as he said, "Harvey can protect my Mom and Dad and me from the bad guys." Jason Lee Pincus, you are an inspiration!

EDITORIALS

HARVEY DENT: A NEW DAY FOR GOTHAM?

Despite Roger Garretti's lifelong commitment to Gotham, newcomer Harvey Dent won a sizable victory in yesterday's election. Clearly, Gotham City demanded change and *The Times* hopes that Mr. Dent's actions in the weeks, months, and years ahead live up to his fiery rhetoric.

Mr. Dent has truly run a remarkable campaign. That's why *The Gotham Times* was happy to endorse this man, who has



The Gotham Times congratulates Mr. Dent. (Stephen Vaughan)

bores within him the makings of a historic district attorney. These are difficult times, and Mr. Dent has shown that he has the courage, the legal firepower, and the determination to bring down the network of crime and corruption that is threatening this city.

We believe that Mr. Dent will not disappoint the throngs of Gotham citizens that swelled around his movement to "take back Gotham." We are confident that he will continue his crusade to root out corruption in the GPD and take on the larger organized crime gangs.

This is a lot to ask of any politician, but Harvey Dent is an ordinary pol. He has shown remarkable bravery both in his previous prosecutions of corrupt cops and his noted participation in the hostage crisis that marked the turnaround of his campaign. Harvey Dent has earned the trust of this newspaper and the citizens of Gotham.

No man can do this alone, but Mr. Dent has shown that he has what it takes. He is known to surround himself with dedicated men and women who are unafraid, uncompromising and unwavering in their resolve to see our city return from the stark and dangerous place that it has become.

Have no doubt, there is much work to be done, and none of it will be easy. We urge everyone to continue their support for Mr. Dent as he takes office and begins the difficult, and possibly dangerous, road ahead. We believe he is the man who can, indeed, take back Gotham.



The Gotham Times urges Mayor Garcia not to cut city services. (Stephen Vaughan)

TAXES MUST BE RAISED

The anti-tax lobby in Gotham City has become so successful that it now poses a threat to our economic well-being. Nobody likes to be taxed. The best tax, some say, is the one that the other guy pays.

But in the long run, we in Gotham will be better off if all of our social, health, and economic needs are properly funded by the city. For this reason, we urge Mayor Garcia to consider raising taxes on the wealthiest sector of Gotham City rather than reduce funding for programs that the more vulnerable depend upon.

There are some who will never agree to raising taxes. But *The Gotham Times* believes that most citizens would welcome a fair, equitable tax increase that focuses on the wealthiest 10% of Gotham.

Some economists say that a simple 1% payroll tax increase on those making more than \$150,000 a year would completely eliminate the current budget deficit and even allow for a modest increase in crucial police, hospital, and education services.

The alternative is simply too diffi-

cult to bear. Gotham City, without a tax increase, is facing brutal cuts in almost every area. Police won't get the funding they need for new officers, major investigations, and a fair increase in pension compensation. Firefighters would not be able to replace aging equipment. Schoolteachers would continue to face overwhelming class size and puny education budgets. Emergency rooms would continue to close.

Gotham City is facing unprecedented challenges. It has already been weakened by a mob war which wreaked havoc on public safety, an economic slowdown that has fueled middle-class flight, and underfunded schools that are jeopardizing the competitiveness of our next generation. A moderate, properly targeted tax increase might give the city the boost it needs to remain a true world-class city.

Everyone in Gotham depends on a dynamic and just society. And the best society is one that doesn't fear to share wealth with the less fortunate. *The Gotham Times* urges Mayor Garcia to stand firm against short-sighted opponents of tax increases.

GPD MUST NOT RELAX AFTER MOB WAR

With a mysterious and marked drop-off in murders in the last month and rumors that the mob war has been somehow halted, it may seem like GPD can reduce its focus on fighting violent crime. But this would be a mistake – the mob war may have ended, but violent crime still takes a terrible physical and psychological toll on Gotham citizens.

Despite being the primary focus of the media's attention when reporting on crime, mob violence accounts for only a small percentage of criminal activity in Gotham. A cursory look at raw police statistics reveals that the majority of reported crime is not mob connected: purse snatching, home burglary, liquor store holdups, pickpocketing, and their like dominate police blotters.

Anecdotal evidence points to the same conclusion for non-reported crime. Crimes like those cost the people of Gotham millions of dollars every year. Worse, they cost the people

their sense of safety and trust in their government.

Living in perpetual fear is no way to be. We are no longer brute animals roving across the wilderness with clubs. We live in cities to enjoy the riches of our culture, to raise our children in an enlightened environment. Constant fear makes all that impossible.

This is why it is imperative that the police not let up their fight against crime.

Even today, we are seeing an increase in so-called "motiveless" crimes – crimes that do not accord with any known pattern of criminal enterprise. So there is much that is left to be tackled.

Now that the mob war has slowed, police must turn their attention to day-to-day crime. We should see an increase of officers on the street with an even larger presence after dark. Police must be everywhere and in plain sight.

Exhibit on 1936 World's Fair to Open

The Gotham Historical Society is presenting its first major retrospective of the 1936 Gotham World's Fair. Officially called "A World of Progress," the fair was quickly dubbed "A World of Chaos" by its many detractors. It's the perfect time for a reevaluation of this monumental exhibit constructed during a period of great transition for Gotham City, a time of great hope and great worry much like our own time," said GHS' museum director Jacqueline Ellis Everett. The exhibit, which opens in July, features a recreation of the fair's Honor Court along with original films, interactive exhibits designed for children, and over 1000 artifacts chosen "to restore a proper perspective to an unfairly criticized part of our city's past."

Man, 94, Completes Gotham Marathon

This year's Gotham City Marathon featured one type of athlete rarely seen at marathons – a 94-year-old man. Samuel Jacob Snodensky took up jogging ten years ago, when the swimming pool near his house closed for repairs. "I can't go without daily exercise, so I started running a little – and now I'm doing marathons!" said Snodensky. A spokesperson for the Marathon said they attempted to recruit Snodensky from running for fear of his health, but that Snodensky threatened a lawsuit and they relented. Snodensky's five children, 12 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren cheered him on throughout the race. "I couldn't do it without them," Snodensky said. "They're what keeps me young!"

Pothole Crisis Worsens

A new study reveals that Gotham has many potholes than any American city of comparable size. The Center for Road Science, which conducted the study, used satellite technology to image potholes in the country's ten largest cities. A spokesperson for a citizen activist group told *The Gotham Times*, "We've been trying to get the mayor's attention on this for years. We're facing a pothole crisis and this study proves it." Lead researcher Dennis Larrington was also not surprised. "With its congested roadways, harsh climate, and general bad luck, we all figured that Gotham City would bottom our list."

Emergency Rooms Close As Fear Toxin Cases Rise

Two more emergency rooms will close at the end of the summer, according to Department of Health spokesperson Lorraine Brandels-Piegl. These closings – St. Bartholomew and Brocton General – bring the total number of closed emergency rooms to six in the past two years. The cuts in service come at a time when Fear Toxin cases are rising again, said Brandels-Piegl. Fear Toxin cases have particularly increased in the drug-addict population, and researchers are looking for the cause.

"Leaving Gotham"

Today's Gotham citizens have become so cynical and used to the status quo that they have forgotten what a wonderful city this once was. I grew up in the 1950s in Haysville, just a few blocks from Roosevelt Park. While the city wasn't perfect (we certainly couldn't sleep in the park on summer nights like my parents used to do), it was a lovely place to grow up. When I married and had kids, I decided to stay in Gotham even though things were changing for the worse. You could say I had an up close view of this change in my role as a legal secretary for a prestigious firm.

Now I have five grandsons and I'm sad to say that I encouraged my own boys to raise them in the suburbs. Living in the burbs, they're going to miss out on all the cultural and social advantages that being in the heart of a city brings, and I feel sorry for all they will miss.

Diana Atenavazano
Granston

"The Noisy Skies"

Gotham International Airport has been good to me and my family. I worked there for several years before I got married, and my daughter manages the Duty Free store in the International Terminal. We've lived near the airport for years. Though it gets noisy, you eventually tune it out and find that the benefits far outweigh the bad. Real estate prices are lower and so is the general cost of living. Plus, we love our neighbors and never once thought about moving.

Until the new expansion that is. I know that many in this city think that transportation chief Dwayne Washington can walk on water, but no matter what he says, the deal he put together to push through the expansion is bad

for those of us who live in the area.

We went along with the airport and the FAA's plans to route more flights through Gotham International. We were told it would be good for us and we believed it.

But now that they are actually adding runway capacity and expanding several terminals, the noise and pollution problem is going to be out of control and our voices, apparently, do not count. Despite what Washington tells the press, we were never consulted about this project and are finding ourselves with decreasing property values that makes moving to a new neighborhood practically impossible. Basically, the new airport will make us prisoners in our own homes.

Rhonda Rudnick-Wilson
Pettisbury

"The Truth About Arkham"

I commend *The Gotham Times* for having the courage to print the truth about Arkham Asylum ("Problems Mar Arkham Asylum," 5/30).

I was a security guard there for almost a decade until things got so bad for me I decided to take a lower-paying job as a private security guard at a suburban shopping mall.

I can tell you from first-hand experience that the people who run Arkham are both clueless and corrupt, and I cannot think of a deadlier combination, especially when dealing with some of the state's worst criminal element. Arkham employees who aren't "on the take" or who refuse to look the other way live in a climate of total fear. Management goes out of their way to make their work life miserable.

I even know of several cases where certain managers give some of the inmates special benefits just to turn away select guards. I was one who suffered

such abuse.

Any institution which would allow the monster Jonathan Crane to test, produce, and distribute Fear Toxin using its own facilities as a headquarters must not be trusted.

While I'd love to come forward with my name and location, I'm afraid of reprisals from my old bosses, even though I haven't worked there in several months.

What Gotham City needs is to just start over. We need to close up Arkham, fumigate the place, and then demolish it and bury the remains. All the senior management needs to be fired, or better, prosecuted and jailed. We cannot begin to solve our crime problem without moving past Arkham.

Anonymous

"No More Unwanted Pets"

When I walk down the streets of Gotham, I see hunger, despair and loneliness in the eyes of the frightened creatures lining our gutters. Kittens with no homes, puppies crying for affection and hamsters just yearning to be loved by a caring pet owner.

Gotham citizens, why have you ignored your civic duty to get your furry friends spayed and/or neutered? The number of unwanted litters that scamper through our streets has exploded in the past few months and I, for one, am heartbroken. The procedure is simple, relatively painless and it can be performed by any legitimate veterinarian. Also, your pet will most likely be better behaved after the operation. The only reason why I can conceive that this problem persists is just out-and-out laziness on the part of humans. It's time to put the "friend" back in "man's best friend."

Joannette Daley Karpowski
West Harlow

"Give Them Shelter"

Due to the recent housing crisis, more and more homeless, hardworking citizens have been driven out of their homes and forced to survive on the mean streets of Gotham. You may not recognize them as "homeless" at first – quiet old women who clamor in the warmth of a bus depot or the scruffy teens who hang out at the skate park all day and all night. But even though they aren't asking for your help, they definitely need it.

The time is now for an aggressive solution to the transient situation we are facing. If the local government would construct a series of shelters throughout the city, then these poor, unfortunate souls will have a place to call "home." Also, with less people living on the street, our crime rate will surely plummet and we'll all feel a little safer at night.

Roderick Vornam
East Hayzeille

"Wax Whine"

Scratch Madame Soleil's Wax Museum off the list of places I can take my grandchildren. With the prices at Gotham Stadium at an all-time level of outrage, museum admission fees on the rise, and the zoo apparently no longer a safe place to visit, the wax museum was about the last affordable place I could spend an afternoon with the boys.

No longer. With the addition of the Batman figure, I can no longer patronize a place that holds fond memories for me and my family. How Madame Soleil's could erect a statue to this violent vigilante who skirts the law is beyond me. I encourage others to boycott this museum as well until they toss this "batman" into the melting pot where he belongs.

Irving Gershon Avram
Stevensburgh

SAVIOR OR MENACE

CONT. from A1

under a minute, Batman swooped in, carried off all three men, and tied them to a nearby tree.

"Before I knew it, Batman was off again," said Elmira Cleansworthy III, who was a volunteer at the precinct. "I wanted to thank him, but he just disappeared!"

The three men appeared at the polling station at just after five p.m., witnesses said. Wielding baseball bats, the men intimidated voters and warned them not to vote for Harvey Dent.

One eyewitness told *The Gotham Times* that the men threatened voters with "a broken leg for every Dent vote." The men placed themselves in front of the polling station and waved their baseball bats in a threatening manner, eyewitnesses said.

"It was horrible," said Cleansworthy. "Those men were intimidating every single voter, and physically manhandled the Dent supporters who argued with them."

Gotham Police Department sources say one of the men in custody is Albert Rossi, a Maroni mob associate who also owns Rossi's Deli where Dent defused a hostage situation on April 13. GPD did not release the names of the other men being held.

One witness reported that Batman

used "a line" to scale a building when making his escape.

GPD officer Jessica Victor-Stearns told *The Times* that the three men were found bound, gagged, and tied with a series of complicated knots that tighten if struggled against. "They were gift wrapped, ready for looking," Victor-Stearns said. "I don't agree with this kind of vigilantism, but I have to admit it made it a lot safer about coming out to vote."

"I assure the citizens of Gotham that the GPD is working closely with the election commission to investigate every single one of these allegations," said Police Commissioner Loeb. "Mark my words, we will not tolerate any kind of intimidation tactics at polling stations."

But Police Commissioner Loeb rejected Batman's intervention. "The people of Gotham will not stand for vigilante justice," Loeb said. "This kind of irresponsible behavior is dangerous to everyone involved."

The voters seemed to agree with Loeb, refusing to send a message to City Hall to ease up on their anti-Batman policy. But the larger question of whether Batman is Gotham's savior or Gotham's menace is one that will continue to be debated, said DeFabrizio.

"As long as Batman is around, he will inspire both admiration and fear," said DeFabrizio. "This time around, the fear won't out. But in the future, it could be different."

Take action.
Fight back.
Eat pizza.

GOTHAM CITY PIZZERIA

Adoption Agency Pleads For Future of Breitup Orphans

Gotham Adoption Agency put out a "desperate call for help" for the children of Mary and Karl Breitup, both killed in separate mob-related incidents. Since Mary died in the Rossi's Deli hostage incident, her children Joseph, 8, and Andrew, 5, have been placed with Child Protection Services. "These children are living a nightmare," said GAA head Melinda Graten-Rutherford. "First they lose their Dad, then their Mom, and now they are living in a troubled institution known for abuse." Graten-Rutherford begged "loving Gotham families" to save the Breitup children from a "terrible life where they have no loved ones to care for them."

Teen's "Brush" with Destiny

When he was six years old, Benjamin Vincent Hatten baked cookies with his mom. When he was nine, he grilled with his dad. At ten, he took over all culinary duties for the household, and at age 14, he has just won the top prize in the annual Gotham BBQ Cookoff. "I'm proud to have won, but mostly I'm proud of the sauce," Hatten said at a press conference. When asked what his secret was, he replied, "It's two things. One, use a good brush. Two, use good sauce, but don't ask what's in it, 'cause I'm not telling!"

Airport Expansion Ahead of Schedule

Gotham Transportation Chief Dwayne Jeffries Washington announced that construction of the new terminal and runway expansion at Gotham International Airport is ahead of schedule and may be ready for the busy holiday season this December. "I'm thrilled with the progress we're making. I couldn't ask for a better or harder-working group of guys and gals," said Washington. The new terminal features a spacious food court, free wireless Internet access, and expanded waiting rooms. Long in the planning phase, the project had been stalled for years until Washington assembled a coalition of local businessmen, citizens, and city leaders willing to compromise on a series of difficult issues that had stymied previous attempts to refurbish the aging airport.

Hot Dog Vendors Strike

The hot dog vendors strike enters its third week on Monday with negotiations continuing to go poorly. Prompted by an unprecedented 5% increase in the street vendor tax, labor leaders and city officials have been unable to compromise on the issue. The city insists it needs the additional funds to pay for sidewalk and road damage caused by the carts while vendors insist they can't afford to pay this additional tax. Hot dog vendors say they will strike for as long as it takes to eliminate the tax. Meanwhile, hot dog customers say they are being forced to eat the food of other street vendors, such as churros, tacos, and salted pretzels.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES INVESTS IN CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Furthering its inroads into civilian and military uses for wireless technology, Wayne Enterprises announced an \$80 million investment deal with cellphone giant Nokia today. Sources inside Wayne Enterprises report that CEO Lucius Fox is taking direct control of the company's mounting wireless research and development activity.

"This is a fantastic deal for both Wayne Enterprises and Nokia," said wireless tech expert Jay Capon-Mulvey. "For Wayne Enterprises, it provides access to Nokia's wealth of bleeding-edge research into multiple uses of high-frequency cell-phone signals. And Nokia wins by deepening its relationship with Wayne Enterprises which has extensive global reach on every continent."

For years, Nokia has been cultivating technology partners to increase its lead in GPS, laser, and optical location technologies.

asked to remain anonymous to retain his relationship with Lucius Fox. "And Nokia wouldn't be sharing its technology with a future rival. Instead, what we're looking at is probably classic Lucius Fox. My bet is that the old master has spotted a market opportunity in cutting-edge wireless technology and is getting ready to exploit Wayne's advantages of reach and scope."

Another analyst agreed that Wayne Enterprises does not intend to enter the cell phone market. Harold Little-Darling, an analyst at Gotham Business Daily, said that he believes Lucius Fox is attempting to develop wireless mobile technology which will be licensed to cell phone makers.

"Lucius Fox wants Wayne Enterprises to be inside other companies' cell phones. With technology with a clear market advantage, Wayne Enterprises could rack up record profits simply



Wayne CEO Lucius Fox makes his cellular play. (Courtesy of Wayne Enterprises)

Industry experts aren't clear where Wayne Enterprises ultimately intends to take its wireless-technology division. Several longtime Gotham business watchers told *The Gotham Times* that they cannot envision Wayne Enterprises getting into the cell-phone business either as a cell network or a handset manufacturer.

"This deal is not about Wayne Enterprises attempting to create, market, and distribute cell phones to consumers," said one industry analyst, who

with license and patent fees," said Little-Darling.

Lucius Fox's direct involvement in steering Wayne's wireless technology pursuits is raising eyebrows among many analysts. "For Fox to take such a position may mean that Wayne Enterprises is betting big on the wireless and mobile market," said Thom Acorn, economic strategist at the Bank of Gotham. "Fox chooses his battles carefully. He must see something in wireless R&D that the rest of us are missing."

POISONED CAKES, CRIME LINKS LEAD TO BAKERY CLOSURES

Marcus Friarling has closed up his Gotham Heights bakery Sugar & Honey for the last time. Alone among the left-over rolls, croissants, and cupcakes, Marcus doesn't know exactly who to blame for the abrupt loss of business which forced him to shutter the shop he opened five years ago.

"First came the reports of people dying from poisoned cakes, and then the police reports about possible criminal involvement in the bakery business," Marcus said. "We just couldn't recover after that one-two punch."

Police have still not solved the mystery of a rash of poisoned cakes bought at bakeries throughout Gotham. The cakes caused a variety of symptoms if consumed, including spasms, loss of bowel control, delirium and failure of most critical facilities. The Health Department has yet to determine what was in the mystery compound that caused widespread sickness among cake eaters.

"This is terrible, not only for me, but for the whole baking business," Friarling said. "Someone has to eat for us and the police aren't doing a thing about it. My friend who runs the Sweet Shoppe in Barlow is also suffering. It's time for bakers to take a stand and put a stop to this insanity."

Police spokesman Travis McFlanagan said the GPD continued to investigate the poisoned cakes. "Rest assured,

the Gotham police department is doing everything in its power to discover and arrest the criminals behind the poisonings," said McFlanagan.

Speculation that the poisoned cake incidents were somehow connected to the mob war that gripped the city earlier in the year is not shared by the GPD. "Historically, the bakery business has never been under mob influence," said McFlanagan. "We are investigating all leads, but no sign as yet points to mob involvement."

GPD insiders suggest that a new group of criminals planted the poisoned cakes, but the lack of motivation has left "the police totally stymied," according to one anonymous source. "It all seems so random, like there's no plan behind it."

Even though the rash of poisoned cakes seems to have stopped, the scare and the Health Department's continued warning about cake eating have frightened off customers. Estimates from the Gotham Chamber of Commerce predict that over 65% of Gotham bakeries will be out of business before the all-important holiday season comes around.

"Our business is in a total shambles over this," said Tregan Schleif, head of the local Baker's Union chapter. "I really hope the police get to the bottom of this soon so we can let Gotham eat cake."



Gotham police bust up a CFB rally that turned violent. (Stephen Vaughn)

POLICE SUSPECT CITIZENS FOR BATMAN "HIDING VIGILANTES"

Despite protests from Citizens for Batman that the group has completely purged itself of vigilantes, the GPD believes that the organization is not free from these outlaw elements.

"Citizens for Batman are playing a double game," said GPD spokeswoman Felicia Maria De La Inez. "They pretend to have completely divorced itself from radical members, but we believe that they have merely gone underground."

The group's leadership strongly denies these charges. Brian Douglass, one of the group's founders, said that Citizens for Batman has returned to its initial mission of supporting Batman and teaching residents how to protect themselves.

"We never intended to get into the violent business," said Douglass. "Obviously we cannot control all our members, but we have a no-tolerance policy regarding any activities that could be considered illegal or dangerous."

The group, which meets twice a week and has a vocal online presence, has been the target of Batman's loudest supporters. Citizens for Batman has mounted rallies to protest City Hall's policy of arresting Batman on sight, and run self-defense workshops.

Involvement of group members in

several high-profile vigilante incidents, however, turned the Gotham Police Department against the organization. Acting District Attorney Roger Garett labeled the group a "breeding ground for vigilantes" and called for its disbanding.

However, Citizens for Batman refused to disband. Membership has actually grown in recent weeks, according to Douglass.

"Gotham belongs to the law-abiding people who live there and it's up to every citizen to make sure it stays that way," said Douglass. "That's why we support Batman. But we have no involvement in any vigilante activities."

But sources inside GPD told *The Times* that the group is still under intense police surveillance. "We don't trust them, to tell you the truth," a top GPD official said. "We believe they serve as a front group for a dangerous group of vigilantes that are making our streets more dangerous."

But Douglass dismissed the police suspicions. "Any vigilante on the street who isn't Batman is not connected with our little group," Douglass said. "But if City Hall really wants this kind of activity to stop, then they should start doing their jobs and keep our streets safe."

SUMMER HEATS UP WITH CITYWIDE FESTIVALS

Gotham City is gearing up for a slate of summer festivals that promises to provide entertainment to residents looking for good food, loud music, local art, and fun in the sun.

"We've really worked hard to create a wide array of free offerings that every Gotham citizen can enjoy," said parks planner Rebecca Wondermin.

The Gotham Department of Parks and Recreation has been working with law enforcement to ensure that the festivals are not ruined by the kind of violence which shattered the Djupelgish Festival earlier in the year.

"Public safety is our first priority, and we believe that these festivals will be a secure, fun place for our families to enjoy the summer," said Wondermin.

The annual Gotham Jazz Festival kicks off the busy schedule of arts and music fairs with a performance by legendary trumpeter Horace "Steamboat" Higgins at Yevelly Park Bandshell on July 2. The two-week long free festival continues with over 100 acts from the world of jazz covering all flavors of the music, from traditional Dixieland to bebop.

Speculation that the longstanding festival would be cancelled due to disension among the Park's Department jazz fest committee has proven untrue. Elements of the committee objected to "watering down" the festival with the inclusion of easy-listening acts. The Mayor was forced to step in, and a compromise was reached to allow one smooth-jazz group to perform every day of the festival.

Local neighborhoods throughout Gotham will also have their share of the limelight. The first neighborhood festival to get underway is the Palisades Flower and Garden Walk on July 15. The upscale neighborhood's longstanding tradition of opening its homes and gardens for viewing by every citizen is expected to draw thousands of curious residents.

Many of Gotham's finest homes will swing open their front and backyards to showcase lush landscaping and colorful flowerbeds.

"We love sharing our beautiful gardens with the average Joe who normally would never have the chance to experience such beauty," said Walk commissioner Edna Mapleton. The walk covers nearly 10 blocks and also features local flavors and musical en-

tertainment from the area's many restaurants and performers.

The next local festival to get underway is the popular Bridge Avenue Art Arts and Crafts Fair in the bohemian enclave south of the Gotham River between 30th and 39th Streets. Neighborhood artists have been showing their work every year on this weekend since 1968. The color-cultural cast of performance artists, counter-cultural radicals, soap-box philosophers and paint salesmen draws many families from across the greater Gotham metro area.


Book lovers have their own festival to look forward to. For over 70 years in the third weekend of August, Gotham's literati have congregated in Jerald for the Antiquarian Book Fair. Collectors, sellers, educators and browsers gather to buy, sell, and share books, as well as participate in group discussions led by famous authors.

Those not feeling bookish can take the Gotham City Rail to South Hinkley, where the first annual South Side Carnival is taking place over the same weekend. Described by carnival planner Duke Cowden "as a taste of country life in the city," the carnival is a "microcosm of a County Fair planted right in the heart of the urban experience," said Cowden. Visitors can expect rides from Gotham's legendary Hyams Amusement, the first week of September featuring Gotham's dogs and cats.

The summer traditionally concludes with the Gotham Food Fair in South City Park, and this year is no exception. Venerable rock band The Wifling Flowers opens the festival with a free concert, the first weekend of September. For nine days, festivalgoers can sample food from over 300 Gotham restaurants and soak in music from internationally known bands and local favorites.


The nine-day event ends with the Gotham Pops Symphony accompanying "the biggest fireworks show we've ever put on," according to longtime Food Fair planner Augusta Lorapforn. "After all the city's been through, we really wanted to do up a big event this year for everyone to enjoy."

Gotham has always sponsored many summer activities, but this season promises to be one of the busiest. For more information, pick up a free copy of *The Times' Guide to Summer Festivals* located in supermarkets around the city.




Get Moving
with Gotham
City Rail

www.gothamcityrail.com



A comcast NETWORK



GOTHAM
TONIGHT
with MIKE ENGEL

New episode weekly
www.gothamcablenews.com

Gotham Zoo Head Arrested For "Poaching Own Elephants"

In a stunning turn of events, longtime Gotham Zoo head Margo Learner was handcuffed and arrested at the primate habitat of the popular city attraction in connection with a string of suspicious elephant deaths. Police sources say that Learner, facing gambling debts reaching over \$200,000, offered her mob creditors ivory tusks to pay off portions of the debt. "This is a crime against all pachyderms," said Elephants Defense League founder Gilda Braverman. "The EDL will push to ensure that this horrible monster of a human being dies in jail." Learner's scheme began to unravel when she targeted the beloved elephant Vishnu for death after killing Smokey and Sam.

Gotham a No-Goat Zone

Gotham City said goodbye to goats this past Friday, when the city council overturned a one-hundred year old law allowing residents to raise goats in their back yards. As recently as the 1940s, goats and chickens were common in Gotham neighborhoods, particularly those settled by immigrants who arrived during the great wave of the late 19th century. In modern times, only one family still kept a goat within city limits. "It was a Beakington family tradition," patriarch Tilda Beakington told *The Times*. "Our family was the first fabrics importer/exporter in Gotham. Plus, we like the cheese." In recent years, neighbors have started complaining about the constant bleating from the goat kept in the Beakingtons' uptown mansion. District Councilman Daniel Rutherford-Tyler responded to citizen complaints by sponsoring the new ordinance. "It's about time, don't you think?" he told *The Times* over the phone.

The Wegstaff Room Reborn

An anonymous businessman has acquired the space once home to legendary Gotham eatery The Wegstaff Room. Closed and unoccupied since 1996, it was a sumptuous dining room frequented by city power brokers. A spokesperson for the new venture says that "while we will have a new name, the level of style and class will not only meet, but exceed its famed predecessor." Under master Chef Ruskert Ogulvie, the menu will be both modern and traditional, and unlike the previous tenant, within reach of most Gotham citizens' budgets. The secrecy around the project has created a stir among gourmands, and the wait-list for a table is now up to three months.

Gotham Ballet Twinkles

The Gotham Ballet announced its fall/winter season yesterday. Highlights include a production of Bragdon's modern classic, "The Steel Dungeon" and a re-envisioning of Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" set in an inner-city high school. In recent seasons, the ballet has welcomed a diverse array of talent to its stage to attract younger fans to an art form whose audience is rapidly aging. This season will feature the Moscow Ballet and the much-anticipated North American debut of prima ballerina Natuscha Patrenko. Patrenko is highly regarded around the world as one of the most gifted practitioners of the art work today, and is equally talented in both classical and popular dance.

GOTHAM GIRL GUIDES BEAT COOKIE RECORDS

It's been a tough year for the Gotham Girl Guides, but not even cookie thieves can keep these young women down. Eleven-year-old Vanessa DePalma made history by selling over \$200,000 dollars worth of cookies last year – and the money all goes to charity. Girl Guide Leader Sarah Alexis Schwimmer made the announcement yesterday at a special high tea hosted by the Gotham Victorian Hotel. "I always tell the girls that great things can come from adversity, and Vanessa proved how right that is," Sarah said in her introduction. The impressive achievement came after a traumatic year for the guides. Many of the girls still harbor traumatic memories of being accosted and robbed by thieves in clown masks while they were selling cookies at a convention. But at yesterday's ceremony, those memories seem to have been replaced by immense pride in Vanessa's sales figures. Vanessa, a boisterous and confident tween chick dressed in a grown-up business suit, got up from her table to jubilant applause. Her friends clapped and cheered as she bounced up to the podium and took the microphone away from Sarah.

"Hi everyone! Want to know what my secret is?" She paused for dramatic effect and then said, "Volume." Vanessa proceeded to show a series of infomercial-style videos she created and posted on the Internet. In pitch-perfect recreation of late-night TV filler, she and her friends presented the cookies to a mock audience of enthusiastic adults. In the infomercials, Vanessa plays a lively host who claims that for only \$5.95, people can, "feed a child, plant 10 seeds, teach an adult to read, cure a sick person, and lots, lots more!" "Vanessa is really something else," proud mom Victoria said. "Her grandfather was a traveling salesman his whole life. She must get it from him." At the beginning of this year's sale, Vanessa told Sarah that she intended to beat the standing 1983 record of \$2,450 raised by Girl Guide Francis Alexander-Higgs. Francis, who declined an invitation to attend the event, went on to a career in pharmaceutical sales before



being jailed on charges of passing fake checks. Vanessa completed her speech at the Victorian Hotel with a special "thank you" to Alexander-Higgs "for paving the way and showing the great things that Girl Guides can make possible. I'd like to promise now that next year I will sell \$5 million, but you'll have to wait till then to find out how."

GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN REVOLUTIONIZES GOTHAM POLITICS

The grassroots campaign that energized Gotham politics and swept Dent into the DA's office was the result of a carefully thought-out and executed strategy. *The Gotham Times* has figured it out.

Media Manager for the Dent campaign Allan Cypes said that the grassroots campaign had two basic goals. "The first goal was to create excitement among the electorate for Dent's message of change," Cypes said. "The second was to actually make sure that our voters got to the polls. Looking at the margin of victory, I'd say we succeeded on both counts."

Working below the radar of any news media, Cypes began meeting with ordinary Gotham citizens whose lives had been touched by the issues Harvey Dent was running on – crime and corruption. Cypes met with a mother who lost a son to gang warfare, a stevedore whose father was murdered, the wife of a cop whose mysterious death was never explained, and other Gotham citizens.

These and other residents, from all corners of the city, formed the nucleus of Dent's earliest grassroots efforts. The campaign began with a successful "Dentmobile" were dispatched to over 30 cities. Campaign workers traveled with the vans to hand out campaign materials and discuss their candidate in the hopes that not only would they vote by mail or online, they might also influence friends and relatives still living in Gotham to vote for Harvey Dent.

Cypes explained, "Getting eligible Gotham citizens to mail in an absentee ballot was only a small part of this strategy. The larger picture was simply bringing nationwide attention to the plight of Gotham... and to the one man who could fix it." In most cities visited by the Dentmo-



Citizen Boob at a downtown rally in support of Harvey Dent. (Gergorio Rosaque)

"The Back Page" by George Mazzala

LAMB CHOPS WITH COMMISSIONER LOEB

If Commissioner Loeb is feeling any pressure in his high-profile job as head of the Gotham Police Department, he doesn't show it. At a lunch over freshly grilled New Zealand lamb, Loeb spoke with force about his plans for the department, the recent drop-off in the crime rate, and City Hall's controversial decision to arrest Batman on sight. "Things have really changed since the last time we spoke," Loeb said as he sipped his iced tea. Indeed, they have. Just like the lamb chop he devoured with unusual aplomb, Loeb really sank his teeth into his job. When he inherited the department, no other city in America faced the startling rise in crime that Gotham did. By all measures, it was a thankless role to step into, "but I was never looking for thanks," Loeb said, stabbing into his baked potato. "All I was looking for was to drop the crime rate and make the city a safer place. Case closed."

I had the commissioner meet me at Zolan's Cafe, a restaurant that recently opened in the inner crime-rum West Side. New places to dine and drink have opened all over the area, a sure sign that the commissioner's plan to lower crime in Gotham is working. "Places like these are the true success stories of my plan," Loeb told me. "People were too afraid to go out in areas like this before my tactics went into effect. Now, these neighborhoods are thriving. You should take a walk around after lunch and see for yourself. It's really a tremendous thing."

Loeb leaned back to talk about the future of the police department. "We're still in the beginning of our new policing tactics. Right now, we've started training our officers on how to work directly with citizens. You know, good police work is a rolled-up sleeve of business. You have to really get into the neighborhoods, walk the streets, get to know the people who live there, develop a bond." Was Loeb feeling the pressure after the failures of the department during the Narrows Attack? "Nobody likes to feel the heat. But I understand that people were upset, scared. Do I think we did a perfect job? No. That's why I opened the Major Crimes Unit, and put Jim Gordon in charge of it."

That's the same Jim Gordon who had a big hero of that terrible day. Smart PC? Maybe. But definitely smart policing. Commissioner Loeb comes across as a warm and personable human being. Sure, he's Gotham's police commissioner, and that means he's plenty tough, but he has the kind of bearing that invites trust. I was wondering how citizens would relate to the more rough-and-tumble members of the force, so I ordered a hazelnut gelato and asked the commissioner to explain this new training program. "Sure," he said with a hearty chuckle, "we have plenty of cops on the force who are 'rough-and-tumble' as you say, and God bless them. What we did is bring in a number of experts on social life, people like psychologists and sociologists, to teach them how to talk to people. It's really that simple, but the proof is in the pudding."

I was wishing I had ordered pudding, but the waiter had already vanished to the kitchen to place my order, and I hate to be that guy who changes their order after it's already been sent back. I made a mental note to come back and try the lemon pudding, then turned to my lunch companion and uttered a single word, "Batman."

Smiling, he said, "I knew that was coming." There was a man who had a solid, well-thought answer to everything, and his response to this latest controversy proved no exception. "The simple answer is Batman is a criminal, and as a criminal he should be arrested. Anyone with any training at all in law enforcement – from a judge to a file clerk to a beat cop – can tell you that Batman's actions are against the law. Batman himself would tell you

this. But that's not the real reason for the arrest on sight" policy. "The Commissioner took a sip of the coffee our waiter just refilled. He set it back on the saucer and fidgeted it into the concave circle that kept it cradled. "Batman is an unknown quantity going out there with sophisticated technology and a complete lack of restraint. Has he helped arrest a few 'bad guys'? Yes. But what happens to a citizen caught in the crossfire? It hasn't happened yet, but it will, and it's going to be a lot worse than what happened to Mary Bretup."

Loeb shifted and leaned forward. It was clear to me he really wanted to get this next point across. "Or what happens when Batman gets it wrong and he hurts or kills an innocent person? That's why we have laws. Why we have society. Why we have a police department and a judicial system. You see, if I let Batman run free, that means I've broken the public's trust and that is something I will never do."

GOTHAM FERRIES

DON'T MISS THE BOAT!

www.gcferries.com

MAKING DENT

CONT. from A1

anti-corruption crusader when he initiated the creation of the "We Are the Answer" citizen tip line, which allowed Gotham residents to phone in suspicions of corrupt police officers. The public aspect of the GED corruption investigation earned Dent considerable media attention, both positive and negative. Dent's public image took a beating when police officer Karl Bretup was shot and killed during an arrest attempt at the House of Pies. The incident, along with Dent's targeting of the GED, earned Dent the enmity of many rank and file officers. This antagonism may have contributed to the attacks of Concerned Citizens for a Better Gotham, which used Gotham police officers to fishily accuse Dent of bogus prosecutions. The attacks almost derailed Dent's campaign. But Dent beat back the charges, and his courageous behavior defusing a hostage situation at Rossi's Deli earned him a new sobriquet – "The White Knight of Gotham." The wave of publicity surrounding the incident put him in a commanding position in the last part

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

OPEN A HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT TODAY.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

OPEN A HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT TODAY.

WEATHER
Unseasonably warm and humid today. High in the 90s.

The Gotham Times

"Bringing you Tomorrow's News"

Volume 3

www.thegothamtimes.com

Printed in Gotham

A1

BATMAN SAVIOR OR MENACE?

On the day of Harvey Dent's landslide victory, Batman updated the new district attorney with a dramatic election day intervention and the narrow defeat of the "Save Batman" Proposition D on the ballot.

Airid widespread reports of voter intimidation at Gotham polling sites, Batman saved a Dent supporter at East City Park from three club-wielding men. The incident helped dramatize the Gotham proposition that voters nixed, which would have required (GPD) to make arresting vigilantes its "lowest priority."

The "Save Batman" proposition was widely debated in the city, and led to a vigorous campaign by supporters and opponents. The proposition battle crystallized the main question facing Gotham — whether Batman is helping curb crime in Gotham or lending to an "every man for himself" anarchy.

"Gotham itself seems torn," said longtime political watcher Walt DeFabrizio. "People cheer Batman for striking back at criminals, but they fear him as a sign of an unpredictable future."

Indeed, the voting numbers reflect the closely-divided sentiments of the city — Proposition D was voted down, carrying 49% of the vote.

Citizens for Batman founder Brian Douglass was a major proponent of the proposition but had little to celebrate at the Yes on D party in Gotham Square. "Criminals are running rampant, so Batman has to pick up the



A rare shot of Batman in action on top a Gotham tenement.

slack and protect our citizens," said Douglass.

CFB members were a crucial element of the Yes on D campaign, as

members passed out flyers, went door-to-door, and held rallies chanting "Save Batman, Save Gotham!"

But in a sign of the passions Batman

inspired, many rallies were marred by physical fights between pro-Batman and anti-Batman proponents.

"Batman is not fighting criminals,

he is a criminal," said Stone Sargey, spokesman for No on D. "Every civilized nation treats vigilantism as a serious crime, and the day Gotham City does otherwise is a day we will be destined to mourn."

Ever since the emergence of Batman in the Gotham skies and streets, City Hall has maintained a policy that Batman would be arrested and charged for breaking the law. This policy enraged pro-Batman citizens and led to Proposition D. Its defeat today means that Batman will still be a target of the GPD in keeping with current policy.

"It's not clear whether this proposition would have done anything at all to the question of arresting Batman even if it passed," said Gotham lawyer John DeFaviliani. "The wording is vague and open to interpretation, and nothing stands in the way of any cop arresting Batman even after its passage."

Still, the proposition spawned a loud and passionate anti-Batman movement, made up of a collection of police officers, business interests, and citizens more scared of runaway vigilantism than Gotham's crime rate, said DeFabrizio.

Batman's intervention outside of a polling station came as the polls were about to close. Batman stopped three men as they were about to club a Dent supporter on the ground screaming for help. Witnesses report that in just

CONT. on A2

THE MAKING OF HARVEY DENT

Two years ago, few beyond the cloistered world of City Hall knew the name "Harvey Dent." Today Dent stands at the forefront of Gotham politics, with an enormous electoral victory and a golden image as the city's "White Knight."

Harvey Dent was born to a middle-class family in Granton during an era where Gotham City was racked by urban riots and civil unrest. His mother, a schoolteacher for the local grammar school, raised him by herself after Dent's father died in a work accident at the Gotham World Chemical Company.

The young Harvey Dent impressed teachers with his diligence and coaches with his athletic abilities. But some who knew him as a child report that Dent carried within him a unique determination.

"You couldn't tell him that he wasn't old enough to do something," said his third-grade teacher Sally Rowe Bowling. "Harvey refused to give up. That's why I volunteered for his campaign the moment I heard he was running."

Other teachers remember a boy who seemed somehow different from others. "He was a serious-minded boy," said Gabriella Cola-Solomon, his fifth-grade teacher. "There was something sad about him. Like he was already grown up."

After graduating from one of Gotham's first magnet high schools, Harvey Dent decided to stay in the city for college. "He could have gone anywhere," said his high school guidance counselor Jeremy Benhume. "But Harvey said Gotham City was his family, and that he could never leave it."

Dent attended the University of Gotham, where he played soccer for the varsity team and majored in Political Science. After graduating with honors, he returned to the school for a law degree.

Dent began his professional career as a litigator with the prestigious downtown firm of Carlson and Piquies. "He always wanted a career in government, but he felt he needed some real-world seasoning before becoming a civil servant," according to partner Lars Bensuhn.

Dent did well at Carlson and Piquies, earning a promotion and the respect of the partners. "When Harvey told me he was accepting a job at the District Attorney's office, I did everything I could to keep him," Bensuhn said. "But Harvey felt he could make a difference for the people of Gotham, and he politely refused my offers."

Dent quickly took action as Assistant District Attorney. Working with GPD's Internal Affairs Division, Dent began an investigation into police corruption that netted eleven guilty verdicts. He built on his reputation as an

CONT. on A4

LANDSLIDE WIN FOR HARVEY DENT



Harvey Dent campaigned up till the minute the polls closed yesterday. (Stephen Vaughan)

The bitter struggle in the Gotham City District Attorney race ended yesterday with a landslide win for Harvey Dent. With 97% of precincts reporting, Dent won the election with just over 70% of the vote, followed by Roger Garretti at 18% and Dana Worthington at 14%. Exit polls showed fear of violent crime and desire for change fueled Dent's decisive victory.

"It's one of those only in Gotham" stories," said longtime political observer Walt DeFabrizio. "Our city has a way of finding the leaders it needs at every critical moment. And obviously, the voters felt we needed a hard-charging, unbending prosecutor like Harvey Dent."

Dent vowed to take quick action

against the crime bosses and corrupt officials he claims are destroying the city. "Gotham is sick and tired of rising crime rates and endemic corruption, and I will target our city's enemies in my first day in office," Dent said.

Opponents close to the Dent campaign say that the new District Attorney plans to immediately seek out and prosecute senior city officials for malfeasance. Defeated opponent Roger Garretti is believed to have already been indicted by Dent, sources say. From her election night party held at the Gotham Victims Advocate Foundation headquarters, Dana Worthington addressed dozens of tearful supporters.

"This experience has been quite a

ride, hasn't it?" Worthington said to the small group of hardcore supporters that showed up.

"We've all been on this journey together and I wouldn't trade a moment of it. I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. As you move on to all the great things I know you're going to do, I hope you will join me in showing Mr. Dent your support," Worthington said, adding with a smile, "God knows, he's gonna need it."

Viewed as a long shot when he entered the race, Harvey Dent's campaign began with a grassroots effort that earned him a small but passion are following that used the Internet to spread his anti-crime message.

His campaign was rocked and almost derailed by a massive anti-Dent effort launched largely by Gotham police officers taking part in a group called Concerned Citizens For a Better Gotham.

The group brutally attacked Dent in the press and on television commercials with accusations that Dent was fabricating evidence against innocent police officers in order to raise his own reputation. With many pundits calling for Dent to resign from the race, his poll numbers tanking, and his fundraising collapsing, Dent looked finished.

But fate intervened with the incident at Rossi's Deli. One of Dent's primary accusers, GPD officer Frank Notaro, took a hostage when he feared that his life was at risk from mob associates. Dent traded himself for the hostage and then convinced Notaro

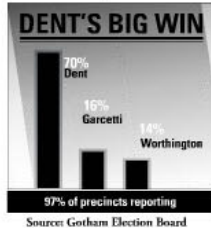
to turn himself in. The incident resulted in Dent's hopes and created a wave of support that continued through the campaign until the landslide victory of yesterday.

Some, however, remain skeptical of the incident and of the District Attorney-elect himself.

"It was all rather convenient, don't you think?" said one Garretti advisor. "I'm not saying that it was all a set-up, but there are no accidents in politics. Now Dent will have to live up to his rhetoric, and I fear that we are all about to see how useful he is for office."

Such words of caution were in the minority as Harvey Dent supporters savored the massive victory.

"It doesn't matter what the naysayers think," said Dent strategist Allan Cypes. "This is a landslide win not only for Harvey Dent, but for the people of Gotham City."



LARGEST VOTE IN CITY HISTORY

Harvey Dent's massive victory in yesterday's election for District Attorney was aided by an unprecedented absentee vote, the largest in city history.

Even before final absentee numbers were completely counted, the Harvey Dent campaign was confident that it would benefit the most from the larges-than-expected turnout.

"Our nationwide, grassroots outreach campaign to every Gotham citizen was part of our strategy to increase the voter pool and solidify support for Dent," said media manager Allan Cypes.

Dent campaign staffers worked long hours to ensure that voter registration cards were mailed to every unregistered Gotham citizen eligible to vote. "If we left it up to the city to reach these people, there's no telling how long we'd be waiting," said Cypes. "The fact is, City Hall has a miserable track record in conducting voter outreach, but then again, why

recruit new voters when you're trying to maintain the status quo?"

Electronic security firm Gotham Digital Rock Systems built the system "from the ground up with security our number-one priority," said company founder Quinn Rheingarden. Gotham

was accessible from anywhere in the world.

Local digital security firm Gotham Digital Rock Systems built the system "from the ground up with security our number-one priority," said company founder Quinn Rheingarden. Gotham

was accessible from anywhere in the world.

Local digital security firm Gotham Digital Rock Systems built the system "from the ground up with security our number-one priority," said company founder Quinn Rheingarden. Gotham

was accessible from anywhere in the world.

Local digital security firm Gotham Digital Rock Systems built the system "from the ground up with security our number-one priority," said company founder Quinn Rheingarden. Gotham

Election Board officials were pleased with the experiment in online voting.

"When you look at these kind of numbers and all the positive response we're hearing, it's this new electronic system that's the real winner in this election," Daniels-Hooverby said.



Gotham voters line up at an East Haysville polling station. (Ace DeBella)

WEATHER

Gloomy and overcast, in early morning with low in the 40s. Chance of rain in mid afternoon with thunderstorms expected by late evening.

The Gotham Times

"Bringing you Tomorrow's News"

Volume 1

www.thegothamtimes.com

Printed in Gotham

A1

CITY AT WAR

BATMAN SAVES ENTIRE FAMILY

MOBSTERS FIGHT FOR DOMINANCE

Gotham streets turned into vicious scenes of urban carnage yesterday as rival gangs fought for dominance in the post-Carmine Falcone era. A cascade of open assassinations, revenge killings, and drive-by shootings left over thirty mobsters dead.

Six citizens were killed in the violence, and dozens of others were wounded and are currently recovering in hospitals around the city.

After weeks of spectacular interventions in criminal activities, Batman appeared out of the evening sky to save a Gotham family caught in the middle of crossfire. An unconfirmed report also placed him in the dockyards after midnight, attempting to quell open gang warfare there.

The Gotham Police Department was largely ineffective in stopping the bloodshed, and officials were struggling to restore order as *The Times* went to press in early morning.

Police officials said that the warring factions include the ruthless organization headed by 'The Chechen', the Falcone faction now headed by Sal Maroni, and the street toughs headed by Gambol. Each of the gangs were bloodied in yesterday's fighting and it is not yet clear who has the upper hand, police sources told *The Times*.

The violence was expected to continue into today, and authorities advised citizens to stay at home if possible. Gotham business-owners feared a drastic drop of sales in what is normally the biggest shopping day of the year.

Late last night, police officials rounded up dozens of suspected mobsters in street sweeps in a last-ditch attempt to curb the mounting violence. However, the arrests did not stanch the bloodshed, which spilled over into the early morning hours in several districts in the city.



Beneath the impressive skyline of Gotham last night, gang warfare took dozens of lives.

In an evening press conference carried live on the city's major television networks, Police Commissioner G. Loeb blamed the explosion of mob violence on 'murderers and thugs who believe they are immune to prosecution.'

'The Gotham Police Department will continue to take every legal action to fight this wave of mob violence swamping the city,' said Loeb.

While Commissioner Loeb attempted to portray the police department as working vigilantly against the crime gangs, others criticized the official response as woefully inadequate.

A coalition of citizen activist groups issued a statement blasting the city for allowing 'mayhem' to take over the streets. 'Whether through staggering incompetence or all-out corruption, the Gotham Police Department has ceded the streets to the worst kind

of monsters,' spokesperson Dana Worthington said.

'We demand an official, non-partisan investigation into how the police have allowed Gotham to fall to such violence and despair,' Worthington continued.

Many observers noted the sad irony of such bloodshed occurring on Thanksgiving.

Responding to a barrage of reporters' questions on the steps of city hall, prosecutor Harvey Dent said that it was the criminals who were offering thanks during the national holiday, 'thanks to the corrupt cops and politicians that have handed over the city to murderers and monsters.'

Mob watchers said the trigger for the unprecedented outbreak of open hostilities was the breakdown of negotiations between crime families after the still-unexplained disappearance

of former mob boss Carmine Falcone in the chaos during the Narrows Attack.

'The loss of Falcone left the criminal gangs without a clear boss,' said longtime Mafia watcher Anthony Corretti. 'Each family thinks they have the upper hand now and are refusing to back down.'

Corretti expects the violence to continue sporadically until a new power alignment is settled. 'Nobody's going to cut a deal after all this bloodshed. The situation will get worse before it gets better,' Corretti said.

The urban warfare started early and stretched through almost every part of the city, from Chinatown restaurants to the alleys of East End to the Gotham Docks.

The butcher's bill started at 7:38 AM, when Maroni lieutenant Johnny 'Tidface' Linato was killed by a

CONT. on A4

Dent tip line targets city's dirty cops

Crossing Assistant District Attorney Harvey Dent today announced the opening of a public tip line to report on police corruption. At a press conference at the epicenter of the Narrows Attack, Dent asked citizens to participate in 'taking back Gotham' from what Dent said was a police department where the honest cops are hamstringed by official corruption.

The public tip line will initially open with a web site - www.reveal-the-answer.org - where citizens suspicious of police behavior can report possible malfeasance. A special task force on Dent's staff will then probe the matter, bypassing the police department, which Dent claims is incapable of investigating their own.

'For too long, the good families of Gotham have lived in fear of murder, robbery, and bedlam, while corrupt police have done nothing but line their pockets with our citizens' misery,' Dent said.

'There is a cancer in the Police Department,' continued Dent. 'I ask all public-minded citizens to report any cops suspected of working with the criminals that feed on Gotham's blood.'

Dent claims that other cities have



Assistant District Attorney Harvey Dent (File photo)

benefited from public tip lines. But critics say that public tip lines have often smothered the name of good officials without being effective in catching corrupt officers.

In a sign of the growing split within the city's legal apparatus, Acting District Attorney Roger Garretti joined Dent's detractors with a withering attack on the tip line.

Garretti said Dent's public tip line was a 'symbol of political opportunism which will not protect a single citizen from the real dangers facing them.'

'At a time when Gotham must come

DO YOU KNOW A CORRUPT COP?

SIGNS OF POLICE CORRUPTION

- POLICE OFFICERS FRATERNIZING WITH KNOWN CRIMINALS
- POLICE OFFICERS LIVING BEYOND THEIR MEANS
- DRUG USE, GAMBLING, DEBT, OR FREQUENT DRUNKENNESS
- POLICE OFFICERS LEAVING THE SCENE SHORTLY BEFORE CRIME IS COMMITTED

together to fight for our city, Harvey Dent is dividing the city in a senseless witch hunt against our boys in blue,' Garretti said.

Police officers seemed vehemently opposed to the public tip line. CPD officer Jim Forsythe said that he considered the public tip line a personal insult against him and other officers.

'We are risking our lives every day out there,' Forsythe said. 'And then some politician thinks he can climb a little higher by trashing us. It's pathetic.'

Dent acknowledged the concerns of the CPD, saying that he believes most

CONT. on A3

CONT. on A3

Probe: Mental hospitals overcrowded

Gotham's mental hospitals are packed due to the Narrows Attack and subsequent Fear Toxin outbreaks, a *Gotham Times* investigation has learned. Some mental hospitals in the city are reaching double the recommended capacity. And the patients - due to the fear psychosis that the toxin creates - are more difficult to treat than previous patients. 'This is modern medicine, this is something out of Edgar Allan Poe,' said psychologist Betsy Newell, author of 'Please Help Me: The Mentally Ill Finally Talk.' The Health Commission declared a medical emergency and waived patient limits at mental hospitals in Gotham shortly after the Narrows Attack. Shortly thereafter, a patient riot at Beth Israel Mental Hospital left two nurses dead.

Housing prices plummet as families flee city

For the twenty-third month in a row, more Gothamites left the city than newcomers moved in. The October numbers were released yesterday by City Hall, and they show a housing market in free fall, with home sales at their lowest in 19 years. 'The market now is unstable, and investors hate instability,' said market watcher and real estate analyst Milas Miller. 'It's not just the housing market that is suffering from a population decline. A shrinking tax base is damaging the city's economic health. City Hall predicts the highest deficit budget short fall ever this year, and observers are already muttering about the city's bond rating being reduced to junk level. The only solution seems to be to bring families back into the city. But with crime at an all-time high, population growth isn't likely,' said Miller.

FAMILY TORN APART BY FEAR

Lucy Brand sits in an empty home, surrounded by boxes and packing tape. The bookshelves are bare, and family photos are stacked away, and the pictures of happier times have been removed from the wall.

Lucy's leaving Gotham, but she can't leave behind the terrible memories. Images of horrific violence crash into her brain over and over again.

'I can't forget the day when my husband turned into a monster,' Lucy said, wiping away the tears that frequently erupt from her pale blue eyes. 'I guess I am condemned to remember, always, the day my life was taken away from me.'

Lucy is alone now. Her husband is locked up at the Gotham Health Department at Arkham Asylum. Her daughters are back recovering from their wounds at Gotham General Hospital.

Lucy says she doesn't know what to do, or where to go. She only knows she can't stay in the city that brought her so much terror and sadness.

'I want to stay and help my husband recover, but the doctors say that he's not ever gonna get better,' said Lucy. 'And I don't know if it's good for my daughters to see him again after all that happened - at least not now.'

Lucy's story is a tragedy, but it is not a unique one. With health officials finally admitting that even twice expo-

sure to the toxin can cause psychosis, Gotham is expected to see even more families devastated by the induced syndrome in the coming weeks.

MOVING TO GOTHAM

When Frank asked Lucy to move to Gotham so he could join the fire department here, Lucy had no complaints.

'I would have followed Frank into Hell. And in a way, I did,' Lucy said.

It was Lucy's mother who warned her against the move.

'My Mom said Gotham was dangerous. But all I saw was the excitement of the city and a good job for my husband,' said the former 9th Grade schoolteacher.

'I loved Gotham. All that stuff I read about in the papers and see on TV. I never thought it could happen to me. And then it did,' Brand said.

Now, with her life crumbling around her she wishes she had listened to her mother's pleas to stay out of Gotham.

BEFORE THE ATTACK

Before the Narrows Attack, Lucy and Frank's fairy-tale marriage was the envy of their friends. Days were full of family dinners, help with their daughters' homework, and occasional barbecues bringing family and friends

together.

Frank loved his job as a city firefighter, and Lucy did what she called 'silly go-go-go love things', like putting a little poem in his sack lunch every day. 'To remind him of how much we all loved him,' Lucy said.

They raised their two daughters, sent them to public schools, and started a young parents group at the local church. Frank got into gardening. The small yard behind their simple A-frame home turned into a little farm, with homegrown tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, and strawberries pecking out of the urban surroundings. And then the Narrows Attack came.

SAFETY WAS AN ILLUSION

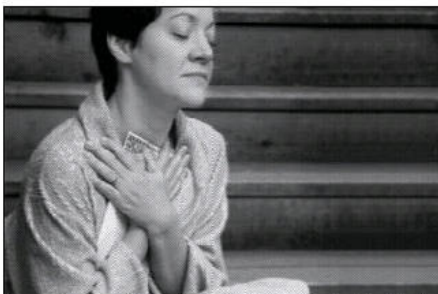
When word came of the Narrows Attack, Lucy Brand was at school, teaching students who signed up for additional help.

'An announcement over the PA system by the principal asked us all to file quietly into the auditorium,' Lucy recalled. 'We stayed there and watched the TV coverage. Everyone was crying, and I remember I felt I had to stay strong for the kids, but I started crying too.'

Lucy was scared for her husband, as reports streamed in of all the city's firemen converging on the destruction of the Narrows Attack. 10 firemen lost their lives that night, and 43 others fell victim to the Fear Toxin. Like many other citizens who converged on the Narrows as the disaster unfolded, the 43 firemen are still detained at temporary structures at Arkham Asylum. But Frank emerged unscathed that night, both physically and psychologically.

'I remember when he came home that night, I never fell asleep,' Lucy said. 'I just stayed up the whole night, staring at the ceiling, thinking about how grateful I was to get him back safe.'

After the Narrows Attack, Lucy's mother again begged her to leave the city. But Lucy thought everything would soon return to normal. After all, the Health Department declared the city water and air supply safe. But it wasn't.



Gotham teacher Lucy Brand clutches a picture of her husband to her chest.

CONT. on A3