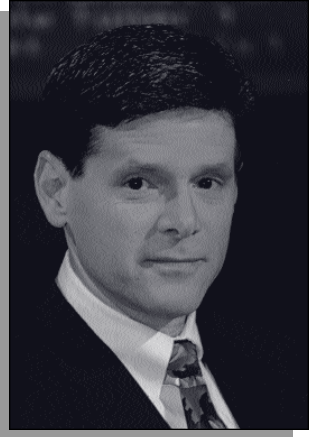


On AIR



THE BRONX TALKS

ON BronxTalk AM

Host: GARY AXELBANK

Bronx Week, a new Home Depot, sexual assault, and energy deregulation took centerstage on BronxTalk this week. But there was talk of much more, too. Here are excerpts:

JOE ITHIER, BOEDC, ON BRONX WEEK:

We want to really show off and celebrate the Bronx. We've got to promote all the good stuff that we do in the Bronx, and all of the people who enjoy being a part of it, from our senior population to our youth, everyone who takes pride in celebrating the Bronx. We've had a slogan around for a long time, which is, "Yes, the Bronx." I want to do business in the Bronx. I want to live in the Bronx. "Yes, the Bronx" is our slogan and our theme this year.

MICHAEL X. HINTON, SCHOOL BOARD 11, ON A TEACHER ACCUSED OF SEXUALLY ASSAULT AT P.S. 78:

There is a high level of outrage. No one's saying that people should not be outraged. We don't want to blame the parents themselves. But parents have to be ever vigilant. You have the most to lose. These are your children.

If there is a problem in the system, you have to be that energizer that gets to the root of (the problem). I'm not saying that education officials shouldn't have the morals and proactiveness to get to the root. But you are the parent of your child. You have the most to lose. There were a number of parents who were quoted last week as saying, "I always knew something was strange with that teacher." That speaks to parents knowing or feeling deep down inside that there's a problem, and not making enough noise about it.

ASSEMBLYMAN CARL E. HEASTIE:

It was incumbent upon me to see legislatively what I can do to make sure that this type of thing does not happen again. I reached out to the speaker of the Assembly and I told him of my concern. There is legislation that's going to start July 1 that says that any incident that happens on school grounds has to be reported to the police department. The problem with that legislation is it only occurs in cities under the population of one million. That has to be amended.

BRYN JONES, ENERGY CONSULTANT:

Deregulation is breaking up the supply, the gas or electricity that comes through the wires or through the pipes into your home. The part that remains regulated is the hardware, the transmission, the distribution, and the emergency services. But, the original generation is now out of the hands of the

utilities. Con Edison goes out into the marketplace every day and buys energy the way that all other energy providers do. Being a non-producer of its own energy, Con Ed is a delivery and transmission source. It's even encouraging customers to go out and secure an energy supplier who can offer a better price, and yet not disrupt any of the normal things that the consumer is used to emergency services, 911 calls, maintenance repair. All those still remain and are paid for by the consumer as part of their regulated utility services.

BOB BIEDER, WESTCHESTER SQUARE PLUMBING SUPPLY:

Since the opening of the Gun Hill store, we've seen several mom-and-pop operations go out of business, which is typical when Home Depot comes in. They talk about education and other things. But I frequently see people being misinformed. I see products in the store that are outlawed in New York City. Home Depot is creating a monopoly. They've got New Rochelle. They've got a Gun Hill Rd. site. Now they're talking about Castle Hill. They've got Yonkers. All these stores are within five or six miles of each other.

GERALD GARFIN, PRINCIPAL, COLUMBUS H.S.:

There is an alternative method of measuring the success of kids and what they can do. But the state has said Regents exams are the way to go and are requiring them. Over the next couple of years, it will get more difficult for the students because the passing score of 55 is going to be phased out. They'll need a 65. I don't have a specific point of view whether I favor one type of evaluation or the other. Both work, both have their merits, and both have their drawbacks. Some kids do well on exams. Some kids don't do well on exams but can perform in other areas. You have to look at the individual student. But, in many cases, you do have to give the kids options.

CHARLES KEARSE, CROTONA PARK NORTH VOLUNTEERS, ON "NOT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD, YOU DON'T":

You see the hurt and sadness in kids' eyes. We're here to help guide them back into positive thinking and to become role models. The concept's become much bigger and the people are much more informed. The whole community, the children and the senior citizens are becoming more aware of what's really going around. It's not just dealing with drugs. There's a whole lot of negativity that's going on within it. Drugs are the part that you can see because it's up front. What about the abuse a child in the

home, and the other things behind closed doors that you don't see?

PHYLLIS REED, NATIONAL FORUM FOR THE APPLIED MEDIA ARTS & SCIENCES, ON THE

REMODELED OLYMPIC THEATER CONCERT HALL:

What we're doing now is embarking on a project to bring in a full four-camera operation in the theater. We are developing that campaign to make it possible for us to record the performances and the activities in the theater.

There are many types of events, entertainment events, community service events. We've had a blood donor campaign in the theater. What we want to do is bring workshops for the residents of the community to learn the crafts that are involved in media development. We're talking about young people as well as adults.

CHRIS CAHILL, LEHMAN COLLEGE INSTITUTE FOR IRISH-AMERICAN STUDIES:

One of the CUNY trustees felt that there was a need for an Irish-American institute. A number of colleges have Irish Studies programs. But there's no other college or university anywhere in America or in the world that has an institute devoted to the Irish in America. A lot of it is concentrated on the study of Irish history. Here in this new institute, we're going to really look very seriously and deeply at the history and the culture of the Irish in America. There's not an existing field called Irish-American Studies. But there are people teaching Irish-American history and Irish-American literature. One of the missions of the institute is to bind some of these academic pursuits together.



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FILE

MICHAEL SPIERMAN, BRONX OPERA COMPANY:

The borough has been re-energized in the past decade or two with artistic endeavors, the museum, and arts council. All of the ideas of the Bronx Opera are part of that. A community is really measured in its vitality and its energy by what goes on here and what we can take pride in. In the Bronx, we have a huge bouquet of things we can take pride in.

DR. DAVID ROSENSTREICH, ALLERGIST:

This appears to be the worst spring I've ever experienced in my 20 years of practice in the Bronx. I don't really know what's made the pollen counts high. They seemed to shoot up all at once. Instead of having high pollen counts for a good part of the season, they were relatively low and people were doing okay. All of a sudden last week, the pollen counts just went through the roof. It probably had something to do with the weather. The pollen counts went from being 50 to being 6,000 overnight. The phones were ringing off the hook. People were coming in with the worst allergy symptoms I've ever seen.