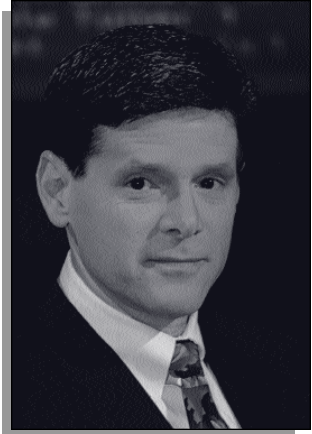


On AIR



THE BRONX TALKS

ON Bronx Talk AM

Host: GARY AXELBANK

BronxTalk featured discussion about education reform, Yankee Stadium, water filtration, budget cuts, health care, guns on Bronx streets, and much more. Here are excerpts:

Assemblyman Peter Rivera:

We're pretty close to some kind of an agreement on education reform. The deal is going to give the mayor control of the schools and control of the selection of the chancellor. A new board will be established. The board will consist of 12 members. The chancellor will be the chairperson of the board. Five will be selected by the borough presidents and seven will be selected by the mayor, including the chancellor. There are a couple of reasons why we don't have a deal. We're still looking at community school boards. Do we eliminate them? The Justice Department will have to have a role in that. School governance should include the parents, the planning board, the borough president, and should include the city council. We're still deciding how do we do all this?

Michael Benjamin, community activist:

Instead of the YES/Cablevision dispute, we should focus on the stadiums--building a new ones, where we're going to put them both Yankee and Shea Stadium. For the Yankees, we should do what the Mets proposed to do, which is build the stadium in the parking lot. Instead of McCombs Dam Park, they can take another section where there is a parking lot and build it there. If you build over there, you can deconstruct the old stadium and that will give you enough room for both a new one and for the old one. That's where the borough president and the Bronx delegation need to really put their muscle together to force something to be done. The lease agreement expires next year, and we've got to start talking about it.

John Robert, CB 2, on the Sheridan Expressway:

The way I understand it, there would be a link to from the existing Sheridan Expressway to Edgewater Road. It would go along where the park is planned, almost parallel to it. The advantage to that is that you would have an expressway into Hunts Point. The way it is now, trucks have to enter Hunts Point through local streets. There's pollution of residential areas. They have to stop at stop lights. They have to stop when there's a traffic jam or an accident. They just run, they idle for a long time. This link would have a direct one-shot from the Sheridan into the market with no lights, no hassle.

Wallace Hasan, Patterson Volunteer Committee, Inc.:

There doesn't seem to be enough attention being paid to illegal guns. It doesn't seem to be a priority like it should be. The statistics prove it out. From what I understand shootings are up 37 percent in my area alone from last year. Our representatives of government care. But the plan that they have of doing it individually just won't work. They have an idea from this person, an idea from that person, instead of coming to the table together to resolve this problem. From what I understand from my conversation with a few of the higher-ups in the police department, the guns seem to be coming from the South. The parents are not serious enough about this. It's just amazing to me. I still don't understand why I don't have 50 of myself standing out there and complaining without me asking them to come.

Karen Argenti, Friends of Jerome Park Reservoir:

Apparently, the DEP has decided that as part of the drought emergency, they need to put eight 5ft-by-11ft pumps with engines to pump the water from the Croton Aqueduct system into the Catskill-Delaware on park land adjacent to the reservoir. The community needs to know when they're going to do things like this, and nobody knew. The problem with this facility may be that these pumps make a lot of noise. We're concerned with what that means--a lot of noise-- especially since it's right across the street from a high school. What are the children going to do? How will they learn? How will they hear what's going on? Is this going to be underground? This is going to be something that we're going to look at.

Donna Tiburzi, Citizens Committee for Children:

The Citizens Committee for Children is concerned that children and youth are being hardest-hit in the mayor's proposed budget. They're bearing the brunt of the budget cuts because they tend to use services more in larger proportion than adults throughout the city. In the mayor's preliminary and executive budgets that he's released, things like child care and education, youth services, libraries and parks, housing subsidies are being drastically reduced because of the fiscal crisis. We understand that cuts have to be made. But to cut all of these services is going to make it difficult for families to live, work, and raise their children here. We want to make sure that the basic services for children and families remain intact.



FILE

Nikki Henkin, Partners in Health:

Because we've had so little rain, and because the Bronx is filled with parks and trees and lots of pollen and lots of things blooming, the people who live in the Bronx could have a much more difficult time with allergies and asthma this spring. People need to be aware of what early warningsigns of an asthma attack or an allergy attack can be. If people have been diagnosed or are not aware as to whether they have or their children have asthma, what you should look out for is changes in breathing patterns such as itchy skin or a scratchy throat, dryness in the mouth, tightness in the chest, breathing through the mouth, fatigue, complaints of not feeling well, nervousness, increased sweating. Sometimes children even become overactive or unusually quiet. You really have to pay attention to what's going on.

Ruth Smith, VIP Community Services, on Darryl Strawberry:

What is sounds like to me is that now Mr. Strawberry is assuming some of the responsibilities for his actions. Part of it is if you do things with drugs and you break the law, part of that cycle means that you will have to spend some time in jail. He's not looking for any more free rides. He's assuming some responsibility. It sounds like he just put his hands in the air and said, "You know what? That's it." In order to have any movement forward in regards to being successful for your substance abuse treatment, you have to assume the responsibilities for your actions. A lot of times, people would

like to blame it on their childhood or a bad relationship. They didn't like their boss. The bottom line is that people are purchasing the drugs, people are using the drugs. It's their responsibility. That's the part that was missing for Darryl. It never seemed that he had any control in him making any of the decisions. Now, he's making some decisions.

Donald Simms, Managed Work Services of New York:

One of the things that I found in working with substance abusers is that usually clients have multiple barriers such as limited employment and some criminal justice history. When they would get into a work setting, they would relapse or they would quit or they would get fired because they really hadn't learned to transfer those skills they learned in treatment into the work setting. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved from the client's perspective as well as the employer's.

Mary Sprague, Managed Work Services of New York:

What this does from the business side is the employer winds up with a fabulous employee, with an employee who's gotten the support of the coach at the work site. The employer does not pay for the coach. The employer only pays for the hours that the employees work. Plus, these employees come with wonderful tax benefits for the employer. If he or she hires them permanently, they are eligible for them.