



Wednesday, December 30, 2009



## Soup Kitchen Gets a \$1,100 Caviar Donation

NEW YORK — Last week, Michael Ennes got a call to his soup kitchen on Broadway that delivered the most unusual bit of news. “Chef, we have some caviar for you,” the caller said. Ennes replied, “Yeah, right.” But it was true. City Harvest, the group that distributes food unused by New York restaurants, had received a 550-gram tin of Petrossian Paris malossol caviar, worth about \$1,100, from an anonymous donor. Unsure of what to do, they called Ennes, who has a reputation for serving high-end seven-course

meals to down-on-their-luck New Yorkers at his soup kitchen, Broadway Community. When the delivery truck arrived, Ennes put the can in a locked refrigerator. It remained there until Tuesday, when his staff began preparing the next day’s meal. The first course of Wednesday’s lunch menu at Broadway Community will be an amuse bouche of cornmeal blinis, topped with a small spoonful of those precious dark eggs. Visibly giddy, Ennes showed the can off in his “four star soup kitchen,” cradling it in his arm like a football. Serving the caviar, he said, fit his ethos of providing quality, nutritious meals to people who typically don’t eat very well. Chef Michael Ennes in his soup kitchen at Broadway Community Inc. Morningside Heights, Dec. 29, 2009. (Jon Schuppe/DNAinfo) “This is a time of year that is very hard for people, especially people with low incomes, who are estranged from their families,” Ennes said.

## Dissertations on His Dudeness

Joel and Ethan Coen’s 1998 movie, “The Big Lebowski,” which stars Jeff Bridges as a beatific, pot-smoking, bowling-obsessed slacker known as the Dude, snuck up on the English-speaking world during the ’00s: it became, stealthily, the decade’s most venerated cult film. It’s got that elusive and addictive quality that a great midnight movie has to have: it blissfully widens and expands in your mind upon repeat viewings. “The Big Lebowski” has spawned its own shaggy, fervid world: drinking games, Halloween costumes, bumper stickers (“This aggression will not stand, man”) and a drunken annual festival that took root in Louisville, Ky., and has spread to other cities. The movie is also the subject of an



expanding shelf of books, including "The Dude Abides: The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers" and the forthcoming "The Tao of the Dude." Where cult films go, academics will follow. New in bookstores, and already in its second printing, is "The Year's Work in Lebowsky Studies," an essay collection edited by Edward P. Comentale and Aaron Jaffe (Indiana University Press, \$24.95). The book is, like the Dude himself, a little rough around the edges. But it's worth an end-of-the-year holiday pop-in. Ideally you'd read it with a White Russian — the Dude's cocktail of choice — in hand. More than a few of this book's essay titles will make you groan and laugh out loud at the same time (" 'The Big Lebowski' and Paul de Man: Historicizing Irony and Ironizing Historicism"). But just as often, the writing here is a bit like the film: amiable, laid-back and possessed of a wobbly Zen-acuity. ([Full Story](#))

### **"Best Job in the World" is No Picnic**

Remember how envious you were of the lucky person who got the best job in the world? Ben Southall, who beat 35,000 job applicants to live in a luxury island home in Australia and blog about the Great Barrier Reef was stung this week by an Irukandji jellyfish. Australia is well-known for its myriad deadly creatures, but the peanut-sized Irukandji remains rather mysterious. It is virtually impossible to see and is tiny enough to pass through nets meant to keep jellyfish away from popular swimming spots. Its sting can lead to symptoms including shooting pains in the muscles and chest, vomiting, restlessness and anxiety. Some symptoms can last for more than a week, and the syndrome can occasionally lead to a rapid rise in blood pressure and heart failure. In 2002, two tourists were killed in separate incidents after being stung by the tiny creatures off northeast Australia — the first recorded Irukandji fatalities. Southall was taken to a hospital where he spent the night, but has recovered enough to enjoy the final week of his six month assignment. ([Link](#))



### **Youngest woman to run across America**

San Diego - She's the youngest woman to run across America and her journey ended Tuesday in San Diego. 24-year-old Katie Visco ran for a simple reason: to inspire others to follow their passion, just as she did. "This is about all people to go for the things in life that you believe in," Visco said. "Whatever it is, your dreams, your goals, go for them." Visco ended her 9-month run with a dip in the Pacific Ocean; emotional that she finally accomplished the goal she's had for years. "It just goes to show, you can do anything you want to do. I got into that ocean and I said, 'you did it.' I did it. I did it. I did it." Along the way Visco raised \$11,000 for the non-profit organization "Girls on the Run". She ran a combined 300,132 miles -- wearing out nine pairs of running shoes on her coast-to-coast trek. See her webpage [HERE](#)



## For New Years Eve, the Other Shoe Drops...

HELLAM, PA - It's not the other shoe, there's just one. And it took 20 pounds of flour, a lot of paint and paper mache to make Hellam's New Year's Eve shoe that it will drop at midnight on New Year's Eve. Volunteers have been working on this labor of love for over two and a half weeks. Organizers say they wanted to drop something that represents what Hellam is known for. They modeled the shoe after Hellam's famous Shoe House that sits just off of Route 30. The shoe is 8 feet long, 9 1/2 feet high and is about 4 feet wide. Steve Dellinger came up with the idea when he and his wife wanted to stay local for New Years and realized Hellam didn't have anything to drop. "It's a good feeling to know that we can hopefully start what I hope will be a tradition that will carry on for many years," says Dellinger. The shoe will drop at midnight at Trinity United Church of Christ on East Market Street in Hellam. [Watch video HERE](#) Other things that are dropped on New Year's Eve...



**Fruit:** Fruit seems to be just as popular as the ball, with the orange making several Florida appearances (Miami and Orlando.) Near Terre Haute they drop watermelons, Fredrickson has a jeweled pear, and Orange County also drops an orange. But the winning fruit goes to Atlanta, who has made a tradition out of dropping an 800-pound peach. It's apparently the largest ceremony of its kind.

**Fish:** If you've ever wanted to see a mossbunker fish drop as a New Year signal, head to Point Pleasant, New Jersey. Port Clinton, Ohio drops a walleye fish, while a spot in Wisconsin drops a carp.

## PHOTO CATCHES N.Y. PRISON GUARD SLEEPING ON JOB IN FRONT OF INMATE



NEW YORK — A city correction officer took a cell phone photo of his co-worker sleeping on duty, leading to disciplinary action against both of them. The photo shows guard Nadja Green, in uniform, leaning back in a chair with her arms folded on her chest, eyes closed and mouth open. An inmate is standing next to her, making a "peace" sign. The photo, published in the New York Post on Tuesday, came to the attention of Department of Correction officials last week, said Deputy Commissioner Stephen Morello. Once it was authenticated, Green was transferred from her post at the Rikers Island

infirmary and removed from supervising inmates. The department also did the same to Claudel Barrau, the officer who took the photo. Phone numbers for Green and Barrau could not be found. Green has been in the department for 4 1/2 years; Barrau for 18 years. Morello said both officers had violated rules: Green for sleeping, Barrau for having a cell phone at work and for taking a photo. He said the department would be filing charges against both officers with the city's Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings. Mike Skelly, spokesman for the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association, said the union wouldn't rush to condemn Green, because it was unclear what the situation was when the photo was taken. "We don't know what her circumstances may have been. She may have been sick," he said. He said "it was totally inappropriate" for Barrau to

take Green's photo. The inmate wasn't identified.

## Central Talent Booking