

» INCREASING CLOUDS
50° | 42°



LOCAL 4 **STOP THE HIKE!**
» TELL THE MTA TO QUIT PICKING YOUR POCKET



LOCAL 3 **GUY VELELLA**
» STILL NO JAIL TIME FOR BRIBE-TAKING POL



NAOMI
» FLIPS OVER BIG BILL
Tiff over tab
THE BUZZ
10



BABY NAMES
» CELEBS GET WACKY
with offspring
THE BUZZ
10



HIP-HOP
» DOUG E. FRESH AT THE APOLLO
Tonight
PMNEWYORK
13




cingular
raising the bar.
WEB POLL

Should photography be banned on the subways?

A YES B NO
Using your Cingular phone, text your vote, A or B to amNY (2669) or log onto www.am-ny.com

ANIMALREPORT

Dog saves owner

A blaze broke out in a mobile home in Tampa, Fla. while a man was sleeping inside, but the man's dog saved his life. "He jumped on my face," Joseph Favre said of Gizmo. "I threw him off, went back to sleep. He jumped back, and that's when I got a good whiff of the smoke, and my kitchen was in flames."

CAMERA SHY

MTA secretly brings back photo ban on subways

BY ADAM HUTTON
amNewYork Staff Writer

Trying to pull a fast one on the busiest travel day of the year — the day before Thanksgiving — the MTA published an announcement in the New York Register, a little-known weekly list of legal notices, that a proposed ban on photography on subways is back on track.

The ban was condemned as irrational by everyone from civil libertarians to straphangers to Mayor Bloomberg.

The public outcry and Mayor

Bloomberg's "C'mon get real!" reaction when he heard about it had seemingly derailed the ban.

The Straphanger's Campaign was "shocked" to learn yesterday that the MTA was moving forward. "We're really surprised," said Straphanger's Campaign coordinator Neysa Pranger. "We thought there would be some revision."

The critics said an outright prohibition of cameras would be impossible to enforce. And even if it could be enforced, the MTA would be persecuting more tourists than terrorists — who are

supposedly the target of the ban. "The police department asked us to insert this into the rules for safety reasons," MTA spokesman Tom Kelly told amNewYork yesterday. "This is not meant to stop the average person from taking photos."

But the proposed rule affects the average person. "No photograph, film or video recording shall be made or taken on or in any (bus, train or subway) by any person," according to the proposal, which makes an exception for members of the media.

The clock started ticking when the MTA published the notice. That triggered the beginning of a 45-day public comment period, which ends on Jan. 10, 2005, in which straphangers can show their support for or opposition to the rule. Kelly said the MTA board will vote on a series of proposed rule changes at its January meeting.

To speak out about the proposed camera ban, you can visit the MTA's Web site at www.mtahq.org, send a letter to 347 Madison Ave., New York, NY, 10017, or call its offices at (212) 878-7000.

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