



NYC A HUB OF GRUB

Survey: City has most top eateries in U.S.

Page 2



(BARBARA ALPER)

HOT GLOBAL LOOKS

Rock worldly fashions without leaving the city

Page 14-15

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NO LOVE FOR MTA

Metro

31% of riders give cold shoulder to agency in poll

Page 3

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Photo by: Jaime Truman

Not so sweet on the MTA

31% of riders in poll say they have no love for agency

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
sheila.feeneey@am-ny.com

Where is the love?

About 38% of respondents in an Internet poll by the Straphangers Campaign asking riders to choose what they loved most about subways and buses picked “convenience” — but another 31% said “I don’t use the word ‘love’ in the same sentence with ‘MTA.’”

Surprisingly, only 5% of the 249 respondents selected “fare discounts.”

This was disheartening to Gene Russianoff, spokesman for the Straphangers Campaign, a riders’ advocacy group. The discounts “certainly head my list,” Russianoff said.

And what does the

Straphangers’ spokesman make of this blow to one of his group’s top causes. “I’m still hurting,” he said.

Russianoff insisted the poll was intended with love (“we were in a Valentine’s Day mood”) and that the MTA actually fared well.

“When you add up ‘convenience,’ (38%), ‘my boss can’t reach me’ (4%) and ‘my fellow riders’ (5%), people loved them more than they hated them,” Russianoff said.

But rider Kevin Walden, 52, of Kips Bay, complained that offering the option NOT to use the word ‘love’ in conjunction with the MTA was loading the question. He praised subways and buses as “convenient.”

In response to the poll, the MTA said it “aim(s) to give our customers reasons to love us — and even if they don’t, we’ll keep trying.”

(WITH ANNA SANDERS)



The Straphangers Campaign, a riders’ advocacy group, conducted a poll asking riders to say what they loved most about the subways and buses. “I don’t use the word ‘love’ in the same sentence with ‘MTA’ ” earned nearly one-third of the vote. (GETTY)

... but here’s some of what the riders like



One respondent loves the No. 7’s above-ground run. (GETTY)

16% of respondents picked “other” when asked what they loved most about the MTA. Here’s what they said they liked about their rides:

- 24/7 service
- Countdown clocks
- Free transfers
- Freedom
- No cellphones underground
- How quickly things were up and running after Sandy!

- I can do my crossword puzzle in peace.
- I don’t pollute as much as individual drivers pollute.
- It’s the BEST system in the world!
- It’s the most eco-friendly way to travel.
- Just riding the subways and buses is awesome.
- Reading undisturbed
- Speed when street traffic is

- at a standstill
- The entertainment
- Bus rapid transit, known here as Select Bus Service
- The fact that the No. 7 is mostly above ground
- The fun/challenge of arranging and timing connections that work.
- The history and greatness of the best subway system on Earth.

(AMNY)

City sets sights on \$70B in tourism by '15

BY IVAN PEREIRA
ivan.pereira@am-ny.com

More than 50 million people traveled for a taste of the Big Apple in 2012.

This year, the city wants to spread the tourist love to all five boroughs.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg and NYC & Company, the city’s tourism wing, laid out plans to attract 55 million visitors and bring in \$70 billion by 2015 yesterday, during the company’s annual meeting with tourism and leisure companies.

The mayor, who had a special introduction from one of



A rendering of the Ferris wheel slated for Staten Island that officials hope will draw tourists to the borough. (MAYOR’S OFFICE)

the city’s celebrity tourism promoters, Miss Piggy, said the best way to meet the target would be to think outside the box, or more specifically, outside Manhattan.

Bloomberg touted his plan

to legalize and create for-profit hostels to attract younger international visitors who are on a budget, and to promote some of the outer borough’s museums, parks and attractions.

Charged anchor quits WCBS/2

WCBS/2 news anchor Rob Morrison, facing charges in Connecticut for allegedly choking his wife, yesterday resigned from the station while continuing to assert his innocence.

“To those who prefer to believe the outright lies printed in the tabloids, I ain’t mad at ya. Good luck,” Morrison, 44, tweeted early yesterday morning before news of his resignation became public.

He confirmed his departure hours later in a statement released by WCBS. “My family is my first and only priority right now and I have informed CBS/2 management that I need to put all of my time and energy

into making sure that I do what’s best for my wife and my son,” the morning and noon news anchor said.

A spokeswoman said WCBS had no comment on his possible replacements.

Morrison faces charges of second-degree strangulation and second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct after he was arrested Sunday on suspicion of trying to choke his wife, Ashley, an anchor for “CBS MoneyWatch.”

(NEWSDAY)



Ashley and Rob Morrison (GETTY)