

Al's gift for Bill's coffers



DAN JANISON

Former U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, a Republican, bundled \$47,550 in contributions to New York City Democratic mayoral candidate Bill Thompson, the latest disclosure filings show. He tapped donors ranging from Long Island developer Jan Burman, and members of the Mack real estate family, to former Nassau Interim Finance Authority member Robert Wild.

"Bill Thompson can bring people together," said D'Amato, who's listed as intermediary on the donations. He declared support for Thompson months ago.



Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato

D'Amato said that although he considers billionaire GOP candidate John Catsimatidis a friend, and likes Republican contender Joseph Lhota, "I think the Democrat will be the overwhelming favorite and I want it to be the best person

possible. Bill has an excellent record as comptroller and knows the fiscal problems the city is going into."

In addition to the checks he bundled, Katuria D'Amato, the ex-senator's wife, donated the maximum \$4,950 to Thompson.



Bill Thompson, mayoral candidate

His son Christopher and brother, Armand D'Amato, contributed smaller amounts, under limits that apply to lobbyists. Both work for D'Amato's Park Strategies firm.

The firm, by the way, also employs David Catalfa-

mo, the media spokesman for both GOP mayoral candidate George McDonald, founder of the Doe Fund, and former Gov. George Pataki, who endorsed Catsimatidis.

Thompson's biggest bundler was Randy Mastro, a Democratic former deputy mayor in Rudy Giuliani's administration, who collected \$58,600, mostly from members of his law firm, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

Lhota — another ex-Giuliani deputy — has since entered the race with the ex-mayor's backing. Last month Mastro sent Lhota \$1,000; in January Mastro donated \$1,000 to Democratic Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, also a mayoral candidate, records show.

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Pope Francis

Pope's 1st Sun. Mass

Pope Francis, speaking to an overflow crowd of more than 150,000 in St Peter's Square, urged the world yesterday to be more forgiving and merciful and not so quick to condemn other people's failures.

"A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just," he told the cheering crowd from the window of the papal apartments overlooking the square.

Four days after his election, the former Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina spoke both as pope and as parish priest — earlier he said Mass for a few hundred Vatican workers in a tiny church just inside the city-state's walls. Chants of the pope's name in Italian, "Francesco," reverberated through the square.

Since his election on Wednesday as the first non-European pope in nearly 1,300 years, Francis has signalled a sharp change of style from his more aloof predecessor, Benedict, and laid out a clear moral path for the 1.2-billion-member Church, which is beset by strife. (REUTERS)

Francis tweets



**Pope Francis
@Pontifex**

Dear friends, I thank you from my heart and I ask you to continue to pray for me. Pope Francis.

NYers not going wild during spring break

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
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For New York City college students, the boozy debauchery depicted in the new movie "Spring Breakers" appears to reflect a world of the past and not a reality.

Experts say the wild antics of spring break are increasingly giving way to staid studying, internships, and anything else to give future grads an edge in a volatile economy.

"It's a very competitive job market and people are really strapped with debt right now," with college kids worried about diminishing job prospects, said Stephanie Sarkis, PhD, an adjunct assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

The pressures are higher for New York City students, says Adeyinka M. Akinsulure-Smith, an assistant psychology professor at CUNY.

"Students here don't have that many resources to go [on a beach vacation with friends], and the money they have they prefer to spend in other ways," she said.

Jose Martinez, 20, a junior at NYU, was considering visiting his family in San Antonio, where spring break, he said, is still "a big deal."

Sivan Bruce, 19, a Columbia economics and sociology major, will be



Their spring breaks will be much different than new movie "Spring Breakers."

spending part of her vacation following a CUNY sociology professor in an internship.

"You have to do as much as you can to make yourself marketable: 'Good luck on that midterm with the information you'll probably never use for that job you'll never have!' Students here make a lot of jokes like that," she said. As for the days she's not shadowing the professor, "I really just want to get some sleep, honestly," she said.

"In high school, I did things like that. I went to Panama City once," recalled Derek Kim, 18.

Not now, though. This year, the Columbia freshman will be doing a Hallmark television internship with a Columbia alumnus to beef up his marketing skills. "I have a tendency to stress about things like careers," he explained.

Students are conscious as never before that "building your brand starts early," said Kerry Hannon, author of "Follow Your Passion and Find Your Dream Job." That means not only amassing and logging accomplishments, but knowing which ones are better left undocumented.

(WITH ANNA SANDERS)

5 members of NYPD cuffed

Five police department members were arrested in separate incidents over the last three days, the NYPD said.

The first arrest was in the Bronx on Friday when officers arrested Officer Miguel Gomez, 41, for allegedly unlawfully conducting surveillance.

Later Friday night, the NYPD said traffic agent Denise Johnson, 37, was picked up in the Bronx and charged with criminal possession of a weapon, obstruction of a government operation and criminal possession of stolen property.

The next night cops charged Curline Brown, 55, with criminal possession of a controlled substance. She worked as an administrative aide for the NYPD, according to the police.

Early yesterday, two off-duty officers were arrested in Queens in separate DWI incidents, police said.

One of the officers allegedly left the scene of an accident. (IVAN PEREIRA)