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Artist sparks terror suspicion

Authorities called to the home of a Brooklyn artist injured in a backyard explosion Saturday discovered a cache of weapons and ammunition along with material related to the World Trade Center and other sensitive locations, police said.

The recovery of the weapons and the other mate-

rials, including folders with information about the Brooklyn Bridge and the Croton Reservoir, brought members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force to investigate Christopher Hackett's home in Boerem Hill, authorities said.

Police said they weren't sure of the significance of the material related to city locations, which included photos

of the World Trade Center.

Hackett, 31, said he was working with a propane tank and a homemade device designed to shoot confetti out of a pipe when the explosion occurred, Fire Department spokesman Sean Johnson said.

He suffered serious burns and head injuries and was in stable condition at Lutheran Hospital as of yesterday afternoon. (AP)

MUSH! MUSH!



The team called "Black Label" mashes across the Manhattan Bridge Saturday in the "Iditarod." Teams of five competed for a cash prize by towing each other in shopping carts from DUMBO, Brooklyn to Union Square. The race is based on the "Iditarod," in which dog-pulled sleds race across Alaska.

Body finally found in icy B'klyn lake

A week after witnesses saw a man plunge through the ice on Prospect Park Lake in Brooklyn, a police diver found a body believed to be that of the man who fell.

The body was discovered 10 feet below the lake surface at about 10:30 a.m. yesterday. The diver who found the body described it as that of a Hispanic man in his mid-20s, but said no positive identification had yet been made.

Witnesses saw a man walk onto the partially frozen lake the morning of Jan. 18. He fell through the ice, pulled himself out and then slipped below again, witnesses said.

Divers had been searching for his body ever since the accident. (AP)

THE AMNY MINUTE: JEN CHUNG

Jen Chung is co-founder of Gothamist, the New York-centric blog that covers everything from our shiny legal system to gritty crevices of the Big Apple. Chung, a self-described news junkie, started Gothamist with Jake Dobkin, twin brother to her freshman roommate. Jen and Jake, though close, are not romantically involved — they just "put it up" for all of us to see.

For all of us non-techies, what exactly is a blog?

I suppose my definition of "blog" would be a site made of updated posts; the posts themselves are text, usually with links to other sites and perhaps photographs or other media.

Why did you start Gothamist?

Jake and I would have different IM [Instant Messaging] conversations and post links to articles for our friends. And the links began to relate to links from yesterday and a year ago. We sort of just worked on it for a few months. The short story is that we're just curious people who wanted to share with others.

Were you familiar with blogging before "Gothamist"?

Not at all. I was not familiar

with the blog cult and the "blogosphere."

What's your day job?

I'm a strategic planner in advertising.



What do you think makes a good blog?

We've refined our approach by seeing what posts interest people. A lot of people want us to add their blog to our site. And it's not necessarily must-read. [The ones we add] give you a lot of new information and synthesize that information. There are no hard-and-fast rules, the writing styles just have to be interesting.

What do you think was the "tipping point" for blogging?

I think what brought blogging

into the mainstream consciousness was Howard Dean's "Blog For America," about the world of the campaign. Even then, people not interested in technology and my parents' friends could see what blogs were about.

What's your favorite New York restaurant?

Café Luxembourg on the Upper West Side. The food is really great and reliable. Plus, it's good people-watching.

Favorite club?

For old time's sake, that Bulgarian social club on Broadway and Canal.

How has blogging changed your life?

It has changed my life not just in how I structure my free time but it's encouraged me to have no inhibitions. It's taught me about how the city works, how to be a more conscious New Yorker.

What's the life of a blogger?

We have about seven-plus posts daily. I write a lot at night and a little in the morning. It's the first thing I do in the morning, the last thing I do at night. (Angela Bronner)