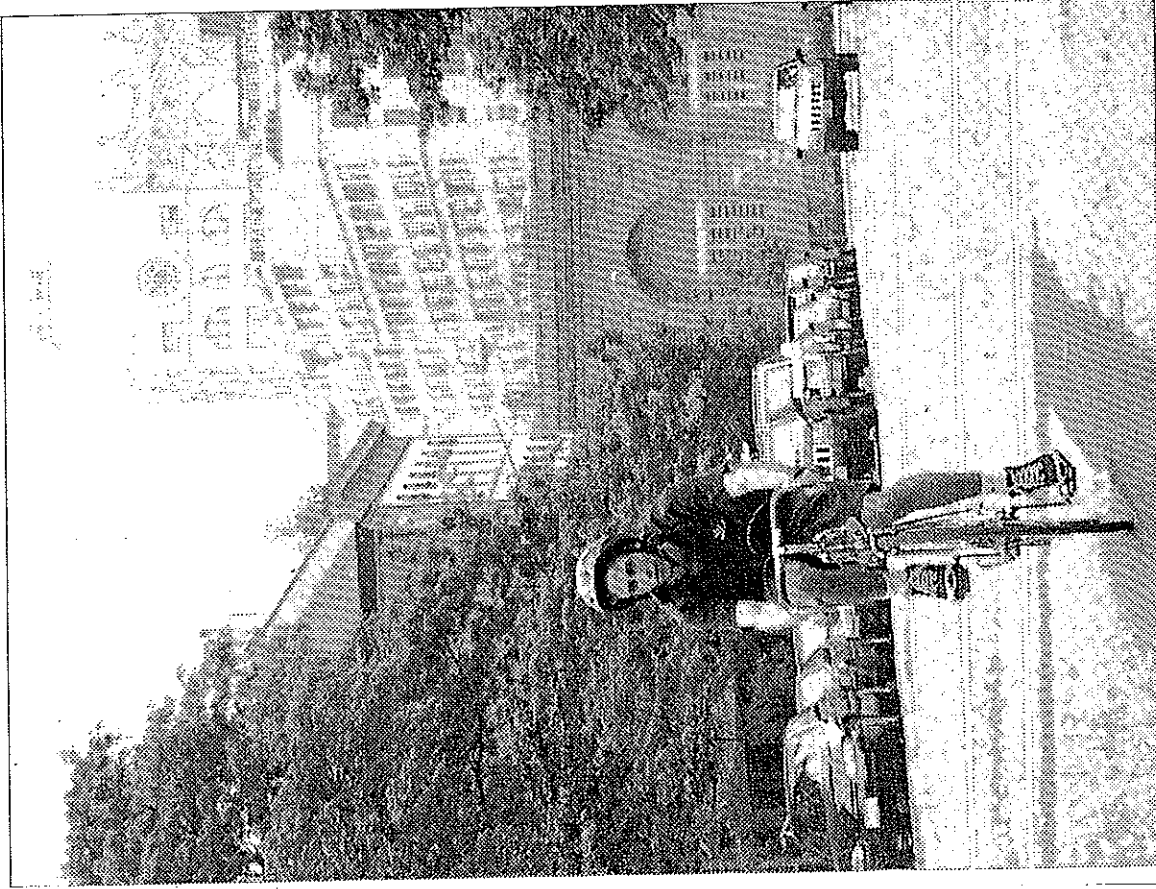


Bicycle-Riding Through Brooklyn



Josh Simons, intern at Brooklyn Eagle Publication and a soon-to-be sophomore at Packer Collegiate Institute, rides his Fuji bicycle.

Photo by Artur Ramus.

By Josh Simons
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BROOKLYN — Some people say the most charming part about Brooklyn is the old-fashioned flavor that Brooklyn Heights offers. Maybe it's the suburban style houses of Mill Basin and Bay Ridge. Or maybe the wide variety of museums, and other sites that grab your eye. All of these areas, different as they may seem, can be seen through the eyes of a biker.

Pedaling down the scenic paths of Prospect Park on Saturday, I discovered another wonderful aspect that Brooklyn has to offer. Bicycle-riding seems to be one of the most popular and enjoyable experiences that Brooklynites and other New Yorkers can experience.

Brooklyn Heights offers riders the chance to bike down quiet one-way streets without a large concern for traffic. Without loud traffic, Brooklyn Heights natives can use their bikes to travel around. Whether to the Promenade, or over the Brooklyn Bridge, bikers can enjoy a peaceful ride through Brooklyn Heights.

Traveling down Union Street and Cobble Hill, you begin to approach Park Slope. The streets are busier with more traffic, so bikers escape to the paths of Prospect Park.

More so now than ever, Prospect Park's smooth paths allow bikers to escape for a quiet bike ride worry — free of cars. Traveling around the sometimes hilly areas, bikers are presented with many number of possibilities. Whether choosing to exercise, spend time with family, or just get

away from the noisy city, Prospect Park allows bikers to experience the outdoors in a forest-like atmosphere.

For the benefit of bikers, Prospect Park expanded its no-vehicle hours in early April, adding an additional 3 hours a day and 15 hours a week. The park is closed to traffic from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7 p.m.-10 p.m. during the week. The park closes for the weekend at 7 p.m. Friday, opening to traffic again at 6 a.m. Monday. To the joy of many bikers, these changes have allowed a safer and more comfortable ride through park.

In Bay Ridge, you too can find a peaceful bike path to unwind in. Riding along the New York Bay, bikers can feel the fresh sea air blowing against them as. From Bensonhurst to Bay Ridge, the path stretches beneath the Verrazano, allowing bikers the scenic view of the bustling lower New York Bay.

Other bike paths, not as scenic but also enjoyable for their level grade, are on Ocean Parkway and Eastern Parkway. The Ocean Parkway bike path ends at Coney Island — although you're only allowed to ride on the Boardwalk in the early morning. You can, however, ride along lower Flatbush Avenue into the Gateway National Park.

Wherever you like to ride, Brooklyn probably has the path that you're looking for. In the streets, in the park, or along the water, Brooklyn continues to be a wonderful place for bikers.

(See additional article later this week for more information about bicycle riding in Brooklyn.)