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Double recall

**'Bonus gift' toys for recall also turn up lead**

**LOS ANGELES.** The first recall was bad enough: A million-plus Thomas & Friends toys pulled because of lead paint. The second was surreal: The maker of the smiley-faced trains sent customers "bonus gifts" so they'd stay loyal — and now some of those toys have been recalled, too.

The year of the recall rolled on last week when the maker of popular Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway toys issued its second lead paint warning since June. Among the 200,000 or so items on the new list were about 2,000 tainted train cars that RC2 Corp. sent to customers who turned in recalled items over the summer.

The double recall shows how a company that says it's doing everything it can to ensure quality cannot guarantee that its products are lead-free. **AP**

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# SLAM DUNK



Isiah Thomas guilty of sexual harassment; MSG to pay \$11.6M

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**LOWER MANHATTAN.** Knicks coach Isiah Thomas was found guilty yesterday of sexually harassing former team executive Anucha Browne Sanders, and team owners have been ordered to pay \$11.6 million in damages.

Madison Square Garden must cough up \$8.6 million and Chairman James Dolan is responsible for \$3 million. Thomas does not have to pay punitive damages, the jury of four women and three men ruled.

"I'm innocent, I'm very innocent, and I did not do the thing she has accused me in this courtroom of doing," Thomas said. "I'm extremely disappointed that the jury did not see the facts in this case. I will appeal this and I remain confident in the man that I am and what I stand for and the family that I have."

Following the verdict, Browne Sanders, 44, a former Knicks senior vice president of marketing and business operations, hugged relatives and supporters in the rear of the courtroom.

"What I did here, I did for every working woman in America," she told reporters outside the courtroom. "And that includes everyone who gets up and goes to work in the morning. It's also for the women who don't have the means and couldn't possibly have done what I was able to do."

Earlier yesterday, Anne Vladeck, Browne Sanders' attorney, urged the jury to "avoid this happening to somebody else" by setting significant punitive damages. She claimed Dolan, Thomas and MSG officials ruined her client's career, forcing her family to relocate to Buffalo and enduring a year-long job hunt that ended with a position paying less than half of the \$260,000 salary she made at the Garden.

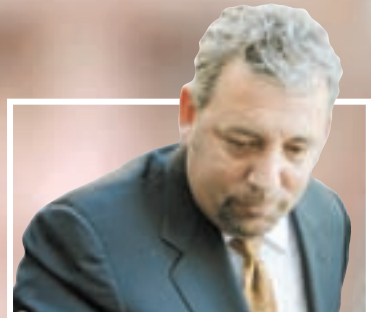
"[Dolan] lied to you and he asked his employees to lie," Vladeck told the jury. "You have to send a message."

Ronald Green, Thomas' attorney, asked jurors for leniency.

"Punishment for the sake of punishment is not what this is all about," he told jurors during the penalty phase, adding they had already sent a "very clear, very strong and very forceful message."



Anucha Browne Sanders: "What I did here, I did for every working woman in America."



MSG Chairman James Dolan owes \$3M for firing Browne Sanders



MSG owes \$8.6M for condoning hostility and retaliation

"I am extremely disappointed that the jury failed to see the truth in this case — that I never sexually harassed Anucha Browne Sanders and had nothing to do with her being fired. I didn't do what she said I did. I am innocent," Thomas said.

**What do you think?**  
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# Open spaces for art



Korean architect Minsuk Cho's "Ring Dome Pavilion" in Petrosino Square, was erected last month to celebrate the Storefront for Art and Architecture's 25th Anniversary. The piece — which is being used as a stage for the organization's public events — is also part of the Parks Dept.'s "Art in the Parks: Celebrating 40 Years." Visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) for more info. Brooklyn-based artist Melora Kuhn has a sculpture at Fort Tryon Park, right. She had only been there a few times before installing her work, and was happy to spend more time there. "It's one of my favorite places in the city," she said. "You feel like you're somewhere else."

## 40th Art in Parks celebration starts today

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**MANHATTAN.** Artist Osman Akan will be installing fiber optic "glowing grass fields" next week to surround the pathways of Brooklyn Bridge Park for the next few months.

Since the fibers are like "fishing lines," he has to attach them to clear acrylic rods to make them stand upright — that's roughly 9,000 fibers to 3,000 rods — to create what Akan calls "a meditative quality, sort of like when watching a campfire."

The piece is among 40 temporary works on display, or soon to be, in parks, playgrounds and traffic triangles. They're part of "Art in

the Parks," a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Parks Department's public arts program.

Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe was expected to join artists and members from organizations that sponsored many of the works to kick off the commemoration today in Union Square in front of a sculpture by George Rickey, one of the artists featured in the 1967 "Sculpture in the Environment" exhibition. There's also a show on the program's history in the Central Park Arsenal.

"The last precedent on this scale was back in the 1980s when there was an outdoor exhibition of 25 Henry Moore sculptures," Benepe said. "But those pieces were

all by one artist and it was almost exclusively in Manhattan, in corporate plazas and parks. This is really spread out across the city."

Benepe hopes the art will draw people to spaces like the Bronx's new Barretto Point Park, where a smaller-than-life rusted steel lighthouse will sit on its banks — and to other parks in the quieter season. He believes there's "greater public acceptance" for works now than in 1967 when putting up the artworks was considered avant-garde.

The geographical dispersion of the works, Benepe believes, "reflects the changing demographics of where artists now live."

Arthur Simms, who will



install his 30-foot-tall "Real Estate for Birds?" sculpture in Prospect Park on Friday, said his piece speaks to problems artists and other New Yorkers have finding affordable places to live.

"The title is a play on words, but it will also have a

place for birds to come and make a nest," said Simms, who moved to Windsor Terrace after his Long Island City apartment building was sold. "Who knows? Maybe it will appeal to the parakeets who live in Greenwood Cemetery."

## Kelly details city's 'Ring of Steel'

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**CITY HALL.** Calling the city's Financial District "the most sensitive location in the world," NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly detailed the specifics yesterday of the planned \$90 million Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, the 1.7-square-mile web of cameras and roadblocks below Canal Street meant to detect and deter terrorists.

"It will consist of 1,000 cameras linked to about 2,000 private sector cameras," Kelly said. "We'll have 115 license-plate readers in place in that area. We'll have actual physical barriers that in extreme situations will enable us to wall off the area. And we'll have a coordination center where we'll have both public and private stakeholders working. We hope it will be operational at the latter stages of this year, in December. But it won't be fully operational until 2009."

According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, there are already 4,200 public and private surveillance cameras below 14th Street. The NYPD has placed nearly 300 cameras citywide, but their images are later downloaded. The LMSI will deliver live video.

Kelly made his remarks as Mayor Michael Bloomberg lauded London's similar "Ring of Steel." The mayor implied that security system was installed as a reaction to the 2005 subway attacks, but it was actually instituted in the 1990s as a safeguard against IRA bombings. While the Ring of Steel did not prevent the subway attacks, it captured images that identified perpetrators.

Kelly said the LMSI will operate with the federal government's Securing the Cities program, which "will bring in state-of-the-art radiation detection equipment" to the city and surrounding communities, "starting 50 miles outside of New York."

## Corporate lunchroom workers set to strike

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**FLATIRON DISTRICT.** The cafeteria usually empties at 10 a.m. in New York Life's headquarters here, as lunchroom workers take a half-hour break before the noon rush. Yesterday's break, however, was dedicated to work.

More than 50 cafeteria

employees headed outside for a half-hour rally. Two weeks ago they voted to authorize a strike if their union can't reach a new contract with their employer, Aramark, the largest provider of food services for businesses, stadiums and schools.

The workers were joining a strike threat by other Aramark employees who run cafeterias and executive dining rooms at 55 Water Street

and in Citigroup's Wall Street tower. They kept a close eye on the clock as a procession of speakers warned of a growing problem for Aramark, its workers and its corporate clients in New York City.

**LAST SUMMER** the contract ran out for Aramark employees at the Fashion Institute of Technology, and over the next two months collective-

bargaining agreements will expire at Aramark lunchrooms in the Bank of New York and CBS. In February, cafeteria workers will see their contracts expire at four Goldman Sachs locations, six JPMorgan Chase offices, Citigroup's building in Long Island City and the United Nations.

Union negotiators say Aramark has not agreed to continue funding health insur-

ance and pension plans. The average worker in New York Life's lunchroom makes about \$14 an hour, compared to \$8.50 in a non-union shop. Unite HERE Local 100 represents 800 workers in Manhattan corporate dining facilities and another 2,000 food service workers at the Meadowlands and Shea Stadium.

Florida Mayen has worked in New York Life's lunchroom for 18 years. The job has allowed her to raise two daughters and

one grandchild in Bay Ridge. Now she's angry.

"It's only a good job when we have a good contract," she said. "We've been fighting for a 90-cent-an-hour raise, but they want to give us just a quarter. That's disrespectful."

Aramark spokesperson Kristine Grow said contract talks were ongoing. "I can't comment on specific negotiations," she said. "But I can tell you that Aramark's wages and benefits are very competitive for this industry."