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Green no-show irks Qns. Dems



Running for City Hall

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Mark Green. He has pulled in almost every major union; the exception is of the correction-officers union, which went for Michael Bloomberg. The writing is on the wall for the city's labor leaders — many of whom are hardly big fans of Green.

BLOOPER OF THE WEEK: Mike Bloomberg. His strategist Bill Cunningham made his boss look laughable when he claimed that Green once defended Joseph Stalin. Memo to Cunningham: Red-baiting went out with the Berlin Wall.

WINNER: Green. His poll numbers are high and so is his confidence. After his near-death experience with Fernando Ferrer, Green is back to being boring and acting like the front-runner.

LOSER: Bloomberg. From refusing to renounce the Amsterdam News' anti-Semitic endorsement to leaving Gov. Pataki in the dust at their joint press conference, Bloomberg did not look ready for prime time.

ODDS:

Green 1 to 1 (Last week, 3-2): Barring a major blunder — or maybe it would take three — practice saying the words, "Mayor Green."

Bloomberg 20 to 1 (Last week, 10-1): He was channeling the spirit of hapless 1990 GOP gubernatorial candidate Pierre Rinfret. It's Adm. Stockdale time.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We don't talk about Joseph Stalin in our ads. We'll leave that to him."

— Cunningham lashing out at Green.

— Robert Hardt Jr.

ALTHOUGH his mayoral campaign is churning along, Mark Green ticked off some Democratic bigwigs in Queens last week when he skipped the county party's annual dinner at Antun's restaurant.

"Everybody was covered in Green stickers, and the place felt like a Green rally — except the guy was nowhere to be seen," said one political insider.

While comptroller candidate Bill Thompson and public-advocate hopeful Betsy Gotbaum made the trip out to Antun's, Green sent campaign manager Rich Schrader to the Thursday night dinner in his stead.

"There was not a very enthusiastic response to Schrader. People were talking when he was talking," said one insider.

Green — who was attending some private fund-raisers — "very much wanted to be there," according to spokesman Joe DePlasco.

"He had already committed to the other

events, and because of the abbreviated election period, his schedule was swamped," DePlasco said.

"Mark is committed to the borough of Queens, and the Democratic organization there is one of the most important political organizations in the city," he added.

While Michael Bloomberg said earlier this month that people who work in the suburbs are "not the best and the brightest" — that apparently doesn't apply to his own campaign staff.

"People that want to go there aren't the people

you want to have in your company," Bloomberg said at a Crain's breakfast earlier this month.

But according to a recent Bloomberg campaign filing, 12 of the 46 "Mike for Mayor" employees live outside the five boroughs.

"They're hedging their bets in case Mark Green gets elected," joked Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler.

After seeing his hopes for Alan Hevesi winning City Hall go down the tubes, political guru Hank Morris had something good happen to him earlier this month: He

quietly got married to lawyer Leslie Wells.

Morris' Oct. 7 nuptials were held at his home in the Hamptons and were attended by some political bigwigs — including Hevesi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, two Morris clients.

Morris — who met his bride during Karen Burstein's failed run for attorney general in 1994 — couldn't be reached for comment last week.

But the funniest remark may have come from a bemused wedding guest who looked at Morris' Long Island home and joked: "Now I see what our money paid for."

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