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NEW YORK POST, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2001

MAYOR RACE GETS

Green lands in 'ethnic' memo mess

By MAGGIE HABERMAN
and ROBERT HARDT Jr.

Mark Green was on the defensive yesterday after an apparently racially tinged internal memo from his office surfaced — while the Democrat's supporters revealed that fliers linking him to ex-Mayor David Dinkins were handed out from Michael Bloomberg's Staten Island headquarters.

The 3-year-old memo from Green's chief of staff in the public advocate office argued against giving a Hispanic employee a $5,000 pay raise.

Chief of Staff David Eichenthal wrote to Green that "it's not clear that ... the Latino community is where we need to make our greatest investment."

Bloomberg wouldn't comment specifically on the memo, saying only that race should play "no part" in hiring or paying workers.

But Bloomberg campaign aide Bill Cunningham seized on the memo — calling it "disgraceful" and trying to link it to the racially charged runoff between Green and Fernando Ferrer.

Green — who was presented with the December 1998 memo during an interview yesterday with WABC radio's Steve Malzburg — said he didn't recall it.

Later, Green said he'd "overruled" Eichenthal and "gave [the employee] a large raise because of her excellent work. I think this is a non-issue because they weren't my words, but I gave the raise."

Green aides said the employee, Elisa Velazquez, left her job as deputy counsel last January with a salary well over $60,000.

Meanwhile, on 107.5 FM radio last night, Bloomberg said he was "outraged" by the appearance of fliers about Dinkins, a top Green supporter. The fliers ask, "What did Staten Island get from David Dinkins?" and answers "riots," and "more murders," among other things.

Bloomberg last night disavowed county GOP boss Leticia Remauro, who acknowledged putting out the fliers — insisting there was "nothing racial" about them.

Larry Hanley, a Green supporter and president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 726, said he sent an undercover operative to Bloomberg's Staten Island campaign headquarters. He said the operative was handed roughly 300 of the fliers.

Remauro denied it, saying she handed out the fliers herself, and that her committee paid for them.

Green spokesman Joe DePlasco said the "level of hypocrisy in the Bloomberg campaign is extraordinary."

Mike's immune to his own gaffes



THE race for City Hall, which once seemed like a sure thing for Democrat Mark Green, has suddenly turned into a wild, neck-and-neck brawl in the final days.

Despite repeatedly tripping himself up on the campaign trail, Republican Michael Bloomberg is within easy striking distance of Green.

In the last two weeks, the billionaire businessman has had a string of press conferences ranging from goofy to disastrous — from screaming at a reporter that the other candidates "don't make anything" to calling himself a "liberal" while a steel-jawed Gov. Pataki looked on.

In any other campaign seasons, those kinds of mistakes could be nearly fatal.

But since Sept. 11, everything has changed.

And with voters distracted by a war, an anthrax crisis and a World Series, the most they may be absorbing of the race is Bloomberg's multimillion-dollar TV ad buy and his assortment of targeted mailings.

Yesterday, on a day that's traditionally spent shoring up votes from base supporters, the two men were instead having a paper war over a Bloomberg deposition in a sex-harassment case and a Green staffer's internal memo suggesting a Hispanic staffer possibly be denied a raise over what appeared to be larger political concerns.

The best news for Green may come in the form of pinstripes.

The World Series fallout will dominate today's headlines and possibly stall some of Bloomberg's momentum.

But while voters were tuned in to the Fall Classic, they've been catching far more of Bloomberg's ads than Green's.

While he's handled himself poorly at press conferences, Bloomberg's ads have been smart — a two-pronged assault featuring spots that praise Bloomberg, and several attack ads ripping Green.

One spot that's been on 'round the clock has clearly taken hold — Mayor Giuliani lauding Bloomberg as his best potential successor.

For Bloomberg, the endorsement of Giuliani — who's traditionally had the opposite of the Midas touch when he backs a candidate — has clearly been a net positive.

But it's possible that by wrapping himself around Giuliani, Bloomberg may turn off some black voters who are unhappy with most of his time in office.



KID STUFF: Mark Green (center) greets voters and their kids yesterday with former Mayor David Dinkins outside St. Paul's Community Church in Brooklyn. N.Y. Post: Bolivar Arellano

Hopefuls ask voters to go fourth

By MAGGIE HABERMAN

Will they do it a fourth time?

That's the question for Mike Bloomberg and Mark Green, as the mayoral hopefuls try to convince vorers to turn out for the record fourth Election Day in the contest.

The original Democratic and Republican primaries were started Sept. 11, but then canceled because of the terror attacks. Voters then went to cast their ballots two weeks later on Sept. 25 and a Democratic runoff took place Oct. 11.

While Democrat Green has almost every major union behind him, the one with the best get-out-the-vote operation, hospital workers' local 1199, won't be running at the same level it did for Fernando Ferrer during the mayoral runoff.

Jennifer Cunningham, an aide to 1199 leader Dennis Rivera, insisted the union will be pulling its members to the polls, and will have roughly 3,000 volunteers tomorrow knocking on doors to get people to the voting booths.

But that's about 7,000 fewer volunteers than the union, which was shaken by the anthrax death of one its members last week, had during the runoff.

Marist Institute pollster Lee Miringoff said their latest survey forecasts a turnout "slightly higher" than in 1997, when 748,277 New Yorkers cast ballots.

Miringoff also suggested a lower turnout would benefit Bloomberg, because the likelier voters are the white outer-borough Democrats who are supporting the Republican.

But other political insiders think a small showing could actually help Green — because die-hard Democrats will almost always come out to vote, and they will probably do it along party lines.

Meanwhile, Local 32B-J, the doormen's union, has been conducting get-out-the-vote mailings for Green.

Green spokesman Joseph DePlasco insisted the campaign will have all sorts of volunteers and phone banks in effect.

Of course, Bloomberg, the Republican with an unlimited bank account to spend on TV and radio ads and phone banks, will also have his share of volunteers.

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DOWN AND DIRTY

Mark hits Mike on 'sex' lie test

By ROBERT HARDT Jr., WILLIAM J. GORTA and MAGGIE HABERMAN

The mayoral race exploded yesterday, with Mark Green and Michael Bloomberg trading furious charges — and Green demanding his rival release the results of a lie-detector test Bloomberg took in connection with a sexual-harassment lawsuit.

At a press conference, Green waved around a copy of a now-settled harassment suit against Bloomberg and pressed the issue most of the day.

With the race in a virtual dead heat, Green called on Bloomberg to release the questions and answers from a polygraph he took earlier this year about whether he was telling the truth in the case.

He also accused Bloomberg of "silencing" the former employee who filed the suit, Sekiko Garrison.

Bloomberg accused Green of a "smear."

"Based on her words under oath, he said things in the workplace that are nearly disqualifying for someone to run for any office — certainly mayor," Green said.

Garrison — who settled her case for an undisclosed amount of money under confidential terms before the race began — claimed Bloomberg suggested she "kill it!" when she told him she was pregnant.

Bloomberg yesterday again denied saying it, adding, "Who would make a comment like that?"

Asked about the lie-detector results as he toured Brooklyn's Borough Park with former Mayor Ed Koch, Bloomberg said, "Oh, we did all that. He's just making up something."

At the beginning of the year, Bloomberg released a sworn letter from the man who gave the lie-detector test, saying Bloomberg answered all questions truthfully. But Bloomberg didn't provide the raw data.

Green also accused Bloomberg of "disrespecting" women, "schoolchildren and communities of color."

Green's attack took place as a group of women, some who admitted they were Green campaign volunteers, swarmed a Bloomberg press conference and passed out copies of Garrison's lawsuit.

As the group of women chanted, "Let Sekiko Speak!" and "Sexist!" outside Katz's deli in lower Manhattan, where Bloomberg was endorsed by some Democratic City Council members, Koch yelled at them to go away.

Asked about the protest, Bloomberg said, "I don't think anybody that knows me thinks that I am sexist at all."

He called the accusations the "kind of politics that [Green] seems to engage in at the end" of a campaign.

Meanwhile:

■ Sen. Charles Schumer, a Green backer, called on Bloomberg to stop airing an anti-Green commercial that uses footage of Schumer.

■ Campaigning with ex-Mayor David Dinkins, Green unleashed furious attacks against Bloomberg from pulpits at four Brooklyn church stops.

■ Gov. Pataki joined Koch in introducing Bloomberg at a rally in Queens.

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■ *Candidates' daughters / P. 43*

Political climate to be sunny, cool

■ The skies over New York for tomorrow's election will be mostly sunny and breezy, with high temps in the mid-50s — so the weather won't be an excuse not to vote.

■ Polls across the city are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

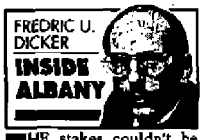
■ Call the Board of Elections at (866) VOTE-NYC if you have any questions.

■ The Campaign Finance Board Web site is www.cfb.nyc.ny.us.



FRANKLY SPEAKING: Michael Bloomberg and backer Ed Koch munch on hot dogs at Katz's Deli yesterday, as the GOP candidate sought to downplay the appearance of nasty fliers slamming Mark Green. Steven Hirsch

Parties put a lot on the line



THE stakes couldn't be higher for top state Republicans and Democrats in tomorrow's mayoral election, party insiders agree.

Gov. Pataki, for instance, is hoping a victory by Republican Michael Bloomberg will set the stage for his own successful re-election race next year and reverse what has become an embarrassing string of Democratic victories dating back to 1996.

"A Bloomberg victory will be a huge victory for Pataki, no doubt about it," one of the state's best-known Democrats conceded.

Top Democrats, including state Comptroller Carl McCall and former federal Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who are both seeking their party's nomination for governor, need Democrat Mark Green at City Hall to provide them with a powerful ally in any battle against the governor.

"Clearly, it's been rough going for Republicans in this state in recent years," noted Dr. Lee Miringoff, Marist College's polling director.

"If you're Gov. Pataki preparing to run statewide next year, what you definitely want to do now is to begin to reverse that trend, and the biggest prize towards that end is the New York City mayoralty."

The New York GOP has suffered a stunning series of losses since Mayor Giuliani and Pataki were first elected, in 1993 and 1994, respectively.

Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and former Attorney General Dennis Vacco both went down to defeat in 1998 at the hands of Democratic candidates.

And in 2000, both the New York GOP and candidate Rick Lazio were widely seen as having suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Meanwhile, both parties are closely watching the Nassau County executive's race, where Glen Cove Mayor Thomas Suozzi — running against GOP businessman Bruce Blakeman — appears almost certain to become the first Democrat in decades to hold that office.

■

Top-secret negotiations have tentatively targeted for elimination the mid-Hudson congressional seat of Republican U.S. Rep. Benjamin Gilman.

Senior negotiators for the GOP-led Senate and the Democratic-controlled Assembly have also tentatively agreed to merge two upstate Democratic Congressional districts — in Buffalo and Syracuse — thus assuring no New York City congressman's seat will be lost, sources said.

Two of New York's 31 Congressional seats must be eliminated before next November's elections because of the latest U.S. Census figures.

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