

# Chelsea **now**



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## Drunk driver on Hudson path mows down cyclist

BY LINCOLN ANDERSON

In a city where speeding cars and trucks rule the road and bicyclists ride at their own risk, the Hudson River Park bike path would seem to offer one of the safest places to cycle.

Yet the death of bicyclist Eric Ng, a 22-year-old New York University graduate, on Friday night at Clarkson St., a block north of Houston St., after being struck head on by a drunk driver speeding down the Hudson River Park bike path, is the second fatality of a cyclist on the path in the last five months. According to reports, Ng (pronounced "Ing"), had left a concert at the Knitting Factory on Leonard St. and was biking north,

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## Governor's 'gift' has tenants up in arms

BY ROSLYN KRAMER

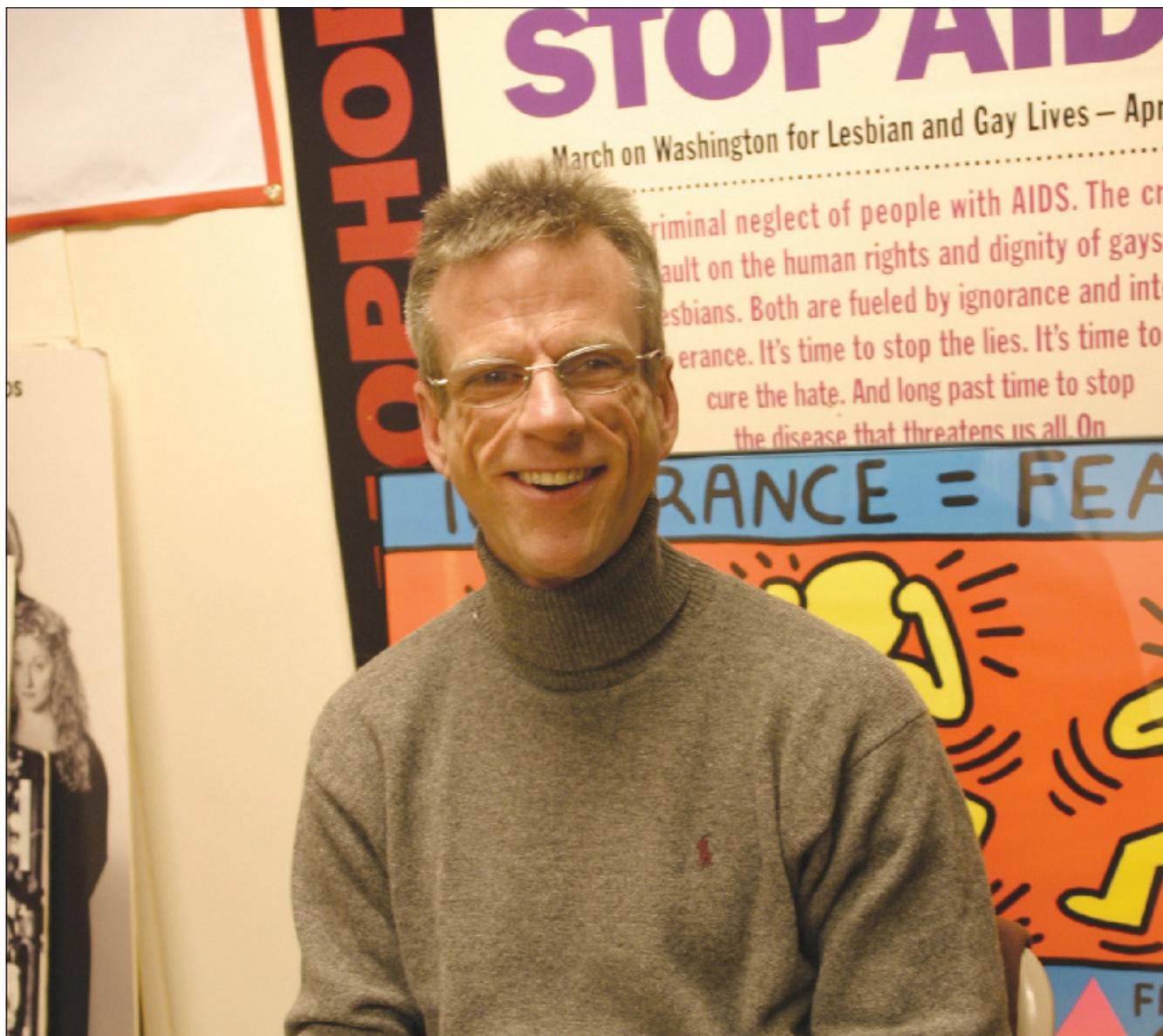
The New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal is proposing rule changes that would hit rental tenants hard while easing rules that apply to landlords. At a hearing on the proposed changes on Monday, opponents of the proposed regulations — noting the rules were publicly announced just three weeks before the end of Governor George Pataki's final term in office — condemned them as giveaways to the real estate industry.

"They're making the city

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Chelsea Now photo by Lawrence Lerner

Kevin Beauchamp at the Gay Men's Health Crisis center on W. 24th St., where he volunteers.

## Staying positive while living with H.I.V./AIDS for 15 years

BY LAWRENCE LERNER

Chelsea resident Kevin Beauchamp is a glass-half-full kind of guy, the kind of person who can say, "Good things come out of every situation," matter of factly, with conviction. It doesn't seem to matter that, for 15 years, Beauchamp has also been living with H.I.V./AIDS.

"I generally look at the positive. That's just my nature. I'm one of those people who is solution-oriented and not into drama," he said. "So, when my H.I.V. test came back positive in 1991, I didn't look at it fatalistically. At that point, it was just like, deal with it. Let's see how my doctor and I can work with it and see what happens."

Beauchamp's outlook serves as an inspiring reminder during the time of year when giving thanks is in order. His resilience, which mirrors that of countless people living with H.I.V./AIDS, also sends a clear message of hope in the wake of last Friday's World AIDS Day commemorations and activities, which drew thousands of people at sites throughout the city.

That's not to say Beauchamp's journey has been easy. The 44-year-old retired flight attendant and education trainer for Continental Airlines has been to places no one should have to go, battling deteriorating health, debilitating side effects from medication and eventual vision loss during the 1990s, only to bounce back with the

help of antiretroviral drugs, a healthy diet, regular exercise and a support network provided by friends, loved ones and a host of programs at the Gay Men's Health Crisis center, on W. 24th St. between Sixth and Seventh Aves.

Beauchamp, a native of Houston who moved to New York in 1987, is one of an estimated 96,829 city residents who are living with H.I.V./AIDS.

His diagnosis hardly took him by surprise.

"I knew so many people who had tested positive, so many people who'd

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