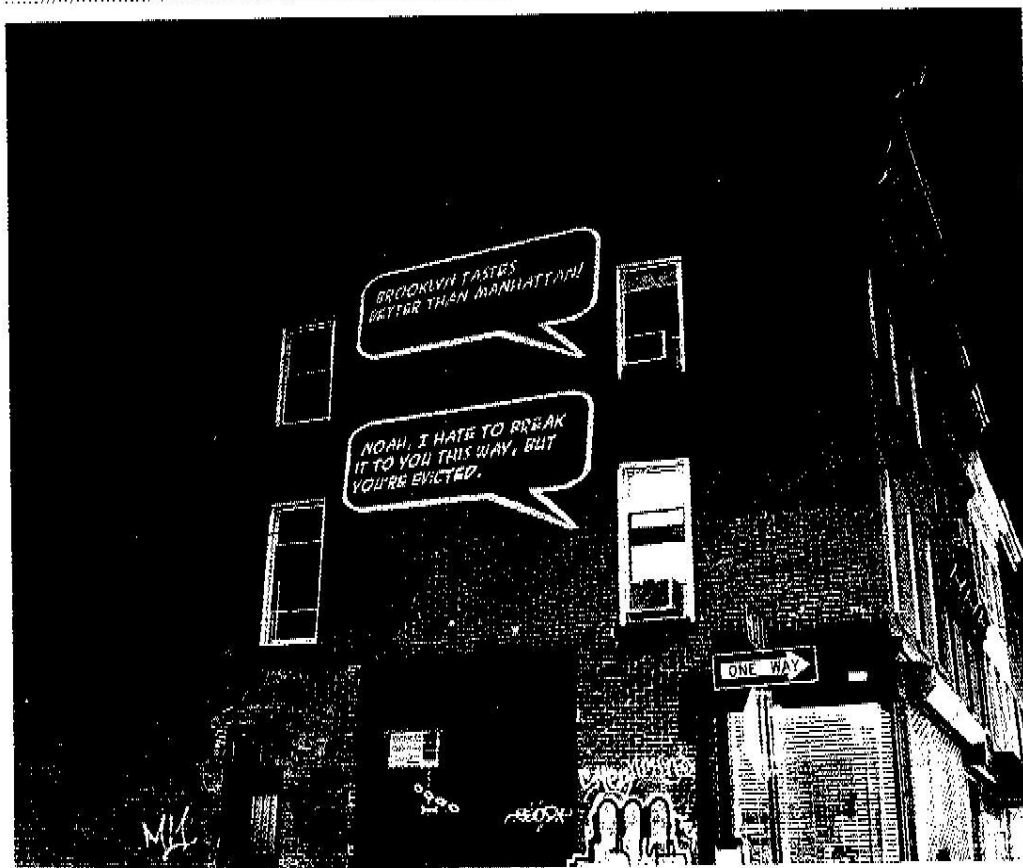


Boy with the bubble

The (speech) balloon goes up in Brooklyn.



Most people looking at your typical walk-up on Court Street would probably see bricks and mortar, but street artist Paul Notzold sees canvas of a sort. Since April, the 32-year-old Parsons grad has been projecting the images of speech bubbles onto the sides of buildings around Carroll Gardens (and Williamsburg, too). He describes this activity, which he usually announces with flyers, as "an interactive text-messaging enabled public performance," and while that may sound like a mouthful, *TXtual Healing* is actually a kind of public forum made possible by an ingenious

high-tech setup. "The projector is run by my laptop that's connected to my cell phone," Notzold explains. "People can text me at my number, and their message goes straight into a speech-bubble graphic that gets thrown up on a wall."

Notzold prefers residential buildings because they most directly communicate the idea of personal space. "It's sort of like in comic-books, where the speech bubble pictured on the outside of a building is actually denoting a conversation that is happening inside."

The conversation has taken Notzold beyond Brooklyn; he's also

done pieces in Europe and China, and has noticed some regional differences in the way people text. "In China, it was always about giving some friend a shout-out," he says.

Wherever he goes, Notzold says he doesn't censor the messages that people send him. "Hate speech would really bother me, but I still probably wouldn't change it." It's all in keeping with his view of *TXtual Healing* as a kind of public blog. "It's an act of empowerment for people," he says, "but in a very small way."

—Howard Halle

For more info, visit txtualhealing.com

TONY poll: Coffee clutch

Starbucks recently opened a temporary "salon" featuring performances and spoken-word events. With the java giant on practically every corner, does this idea seem redundant to you?

a. No. Now shut up and get me another cup of coffee.

b. Yes. And I'm tired of corporations using artists to sell product.

To vote, go to timeoutnewyork.com/poll. Replies must be received by 10am on Tuesday, Sept 19. Results will be published in *TONY* 574.

81%

That's how many of you said that dogs should have some time to run wild in city parks (*TONY* 570), though one reader sees it more like this:



"No smoking, then no dogs, what's next? No drinking or sex?"

Doug, Williamsburg

New York over there



When the creators of *Red Garden*, a new Japanese anime series, needed a setting for their tale (five 17-year-olds attend a mysterious high school and learn they're actually dead) they settled on an island in a river with a history of hosting mental asylums. Sound familiar? It should. Director Ko Matsuo decided on Roosevelt Island because "its dark past matched the story's tone." New Yorkers will have to wait a year to see their favorite tramway destination get the anime treatment, though. That's when Japanese-language DVDs will be available here. —Atsuhiko Saisho