

GIFFORD MILLER
Wants to copy Boston.

Dem Giff prescribes Rx remedy

By MARK BULLIET and HASANI GITTENS

New York City should emulate a Boston program and buy lower-cost Canadian drugs for its employees and retired citizens, Democratic mayoral candidate Gifford Miller said yesterday.

The City Council speaker also said Mayor Bloomberg considered implementing such a plan, but decided against it when President Bush spoke against Canadian drugs.

"This mayor originally indicated he was for it until the moment President Bush said it's not a good idea. He's backed off and hasn't done a thing since," Miller said.

"The bottom line is, there are lifesaving drugs seniors can afford that are available, and we have to go out and get them for them," said Miller as stood at the Penn South co-ops in Chelsea, home to a large elderly population.

In Boston's year-old program, the city contracts with a Canadian pharmacy for civil servants and retired city workers, providing prescription drugs by mail at low north-of-the-border prices.

Miller also criticized the mayor for attempting to cut funding to the Meals on Wheels program that feeds shut-in seniors.

He also wants to create a "homebound registry," which would be available to firefighters and other emergency workers.

"In a Miller administration, our senior citizens will know they can grow old with dignity and a decent quality of life in the city they built," he said.

At a groundbreaking yesterday for a \$1.5 million cricket field in St. Albans, Queens, Bloomberg refused to comment on Miller's plans.

MIKE TO 1,000s:

Let's party!

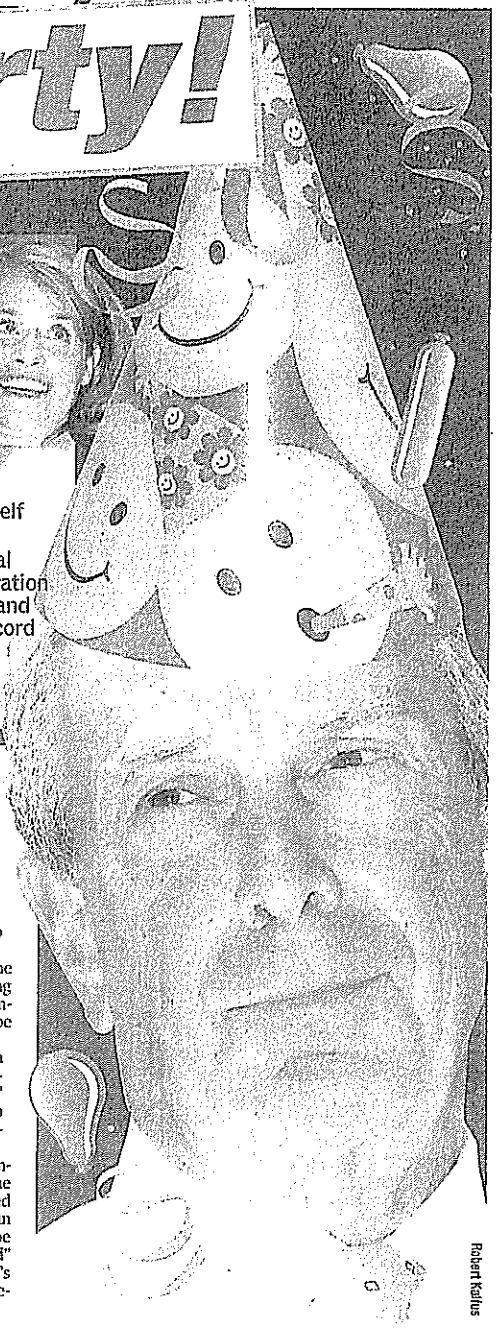
Mayor bash-ing

- **Party place:** 1,000 houses across the five boroughs
- **Guest list:** An army of stalwart political party animals
- **VIPs on call:** "Sopranos" star Lorraine Bracco (right), comic actress Whoopi Goldberg (below).

A possible party hosted by Mayor Mike himself

■ **Party favors:** Buttons, stickers and other political tchotchkes; voter registration cards; "talking points"; and tapes touting Mike's record

■ **Entertainment:** Mike talks to guests via conference call



Robert Keates

Biggest \$hindig ever

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID SEIFMAN
City Hall Bureau Chief

The party's on, and Mike is going to help pick up the tab.

Mayor Bloomberg is tossing the biggest one-day party in municipal-campaign history on Sept. 20, inviting supporters to stage 1,000 house parties across the five boroughs "to show their commitment to reelecting Mike," as his reelection Web site declares.

Although not a new tactic — Democrat presidential hopefuls John Kerry, Howard Dean and Wesley Clark staged numerous house parties last year to rev up supporters and raise funds — Bloomberg, who's running a self-financed campaign, has come up with an expensive twist.

Instead of asking hosts to round up donations from their friends, the mayor's campaign is doing the contributing by offering free "party kits" to any supporter who requests one.

The kits include buttons, stickers, balloons, confetti, absentee-ballot applications, voter-registration cards, "talking points" and a DVD or VHS tape touting the mayor's accomplishments.

Similar party kits with 35 buttons, stickers and balloons offered by Dean's campaign sold for \$25.50, plus tax and shipping. It's unclear how much Bloomberg's campaign will spend on the party kits or other aspects of organizing and carrying out the project.

"They're not fund-raisers," explained Bloomberg campaign strategist Bill Cunningham. "They're more like friend-raisers. It's a motivational thing as much as anything else."

Analysts agree the parties make sense, even for a candidate who has already spent \$1 million a week on TV ads and millions more on direct mail.

"What he's trying to do is to create 'Neighborhood Mike,'" said Doug Muzzio, a political scientist at Baruch College. "I think it's good politics and good policy. How they're doing it makes you chuckle."

The parties also serve to

generate interest in a race that, polls show, most voters haven't been following closely.

On party night, municipal candidates typically rush from one home to another to offer words of thanks and to pump up supporters.

Campaign aides said the event is still in the planning stages, so they had no information yet on who'll be hosting parties.

But Bloomberg has a number of celebrity supporters, from "Sopranos" star Lorraine Bracco to comedian Whoopi Goldberg.

To comply with campaign-finance laws, the hosts have been cautioned not to spend more than \$500, a sum that would be considered an "in-kind" contribution to the mayor's campaign and would require reporting.

Bloc-builder Bloomy blows through boroughs

By STACEY SZEWCZYK

A busy Mayor Bloomberg went out looking for votes yesterday, as he crossed boroughs and cultures for a full day of campaigning.

Hizzoner started the morning among the Caribbean community, which in the past has tended to be politically friendly to him.

Facing an election, Bloomberg bowled up to a ribbon-cutting service for a cricket field in St. Albans, Queens.

By lunchtime, the relaxed-looking mayor — dressed in khakis and a beige shirt — was joined by girlfriend Diana Taylor for a long stroll in Harlem.

Enjoying Harlem Week

festivities, the two picked at fare from soul-food vendors and the happy mayor couldn't resist a high-five with a baby.

And while he refused to answer journalists' questions, Bloomberg was more than obliging with a smiling youngster.

"Oh, you're a Cub Scout," the gushing Bloomberg told the boy proudly displaying his

uniform. "I was once a Scout, too."

The mayor then joined Harlem Assemblyman Keith Wright on stage with a girls dance troupe in their sequined body suits.

Bloomberg, not usually known for his religious observance, also attended Sabbath services at the Beth Gavriel Bukharian Congregation in Queens,

donning a prayer shawl and yarmulke.

Having hit the politically important Caribbean, African-American and Jewish communities by day, it was on to schmooze the Pakistani vote by night.

The busy mayor ended his day with Pakistani Independence Day celebrations in Queens.