

## Predicting the Big Stories in 2006

by Gotham Gazette Staff

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“Expect the unexpected,” Assemblymember and Brooklyn political boss Clarence Norman said last year when we asked him to be one of the New Yorkers predicting for us [what would happen in New York City in 2005](#)

. Norman certainly was right. In the 12 months since he made that prediction, the man who once controlled Brooklyn politics was stripped of his positions, convicted of various felonies and faces 15 years in prison.

Norman was not the only person who proved prescient. Brian Lehrer accurately predicted that Fernando Ferrer would win the Democratic primary only to lose to Bloomberg in the general election. The New Yorker’s Elizabeth Kolbert demonstrated dead-on accuracy when she told us, “With Jon Corzine running for governor in New Jersey and Michael Bloomberg winning re-electing in the city, it promises to be a very good year for political ad buyers.”

But not everyone fared so well. Many respondents thought the West Side Stadium would move forward – or, as writer Kevin Baker put it, “the smug little mayor will get his stadium, wasting billions in needed tax dollars and continuing to wreck the West Side skyline.” And, unfortunately for the mayor, Eric Adams of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement who Care, missed the mark when he forecast, “Jennifer Lopez will marry her fourth husband, Mayor Bloomberg.” (Indeed, has anybody heard any talk at all anymore emanating from City Hall about J-lo?)

This year, our leading New Yorkers seem preoccupied by the statewide elections and the spreading of luxury condos and posh shops into the outer boroughs. But they touched on other topics as well. When you finish finding out what they think, react to their forecasts or make your own on [our 2006 Predictions message board](#) .



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