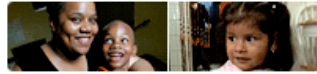




The Neediest Cases Fund



Bring hope to those who need it most. Donate today.

The New York Times Neediest Cases nytimes.com/neediest

THE CITY

More Articles in Opinion »

Watching Those Who Watch Your Kids; Access to Hart Island for the Bereaved (3 Letters)

Published: November 26, 2006

To the Editor:

“[Spying on Nanny](#),” by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus (Op-Ed, Nov. 19), was certainly accurate about the need for professional resources and guidance for this expanding group of employees. It, however, did not recognize the needs of parents whose primary concern is the welfare of their children.

E-MAIL
PRINT
SAVE

ARTICLE TOOLS
SPONSORED BY
DENCH BLANCHETT
NOTES OF SCANDAL

Like the popular nanny cams, the [HowsMyNanny.com](#) license plate offers a sense of security to working parents whose need to be aware of negligence and abuse is essential. As the mother of two and a prosecutor of sex crimes and child abuse, I am all too familiar with what happens when a nanny has her head in a book instead of watching the children in her care.

Supervision is the first step in standardizing practices in all professions. It defines expectations and opens the lines of communication between the employer and employee. [HowsMyNanny.com](#) enables parents to obtain positive and negative feedback regarding their nanny, ultimately monitoring the profession and keeping our children safer.

Jill Starishevsky
Murray Hill The writer is the founder of the Web site [HowsMyNanny.com](#).

To the Editor:

Domestic work has historically been kept behind closed doors and not treated as real work. To this day, caregivers and housecleaners are not even covered under the same labor laws as other employees.

It is no surprise that the nature of the work relationship between parents and nannies has remained invisible and unexplored. The result is an atmosphere of mistrust and vulnerability as described in “[Spying on Nanny](#).”

Most parents and nannies I meet with want the skills to work well with each other. Nannies and employers need to communicate about what is needed to ensure an effective professional relationship and quality care for children. Only in an atmosphere of mutual respect, clear expectations and fair treatment can trust and security develop.

Pamela Potischman
Boerum Hill, Brooklyn
The writer is director of The Nanny Bridge.

Access to Hart Island for the Bereaved

To the Editor:

While I applaud your article about Hart Island (“[A Chance to Be Mourned](#),” Nov. 12), I’d like to clarify my opinion regarding the Department of Correction’s management of Potter’s Field. I am in favor of the department handling the burial process. Inmates I interviewed over the years for my book about Hart Island consistently view their work as positive rehabilitation.





My issue is with New York City requiring friends and families of the deceased to navigate a series of agencies and end up having to prove a legal relation to the deceased in order to visit. This places an unnecessary burden on the public. In addition, having to contact the prison system stigmatizes those who happen to be poor or out of contact with friends and family. In a city full of immigrants this matter pertains to quite a large number of people.

Current policy, last revised in 1953, perpetuates a stereotype about Potter’s Field that city leadership should work to resolve. New York City could provide access to Hart Island during times when the Department of Correction is not performing the burials and disinterments. As it stands, the department is administering to the bereaved from around the globe. How quaint.

Melinda Hunt
East Village

[More Articles in Opinion »](#)

Related Articles

-  [Working Mothers Find Some Peace on the Road](#) (November 1, 2006)
-  [European Union's Plunging Birthrates Spread Eastward](#) (September 4, 2006)
-  [With Parents Absent, Trying to Keep Child Care in the Family](#) (July 23, 2006)
-  [Father 'Hood](#) (June 18, 2006)

Related Searches

- [Child Care](#)
- [Children and Youth](#)
- [New York City](#)

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



WEEK IN REVIEW »



[In Search of the Fixers](#)

TimesSelect

Mission in Afghanistan

There was little to be thankful for on Thanksgiving, writes Jeremie Lucia.

MEDIA & ADVERTISING »



[Ralphie, the BB Gun and the Flagpole](#)

DANCE »

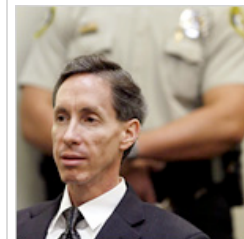


[It's Late November? Cue the Snowflakes](#)

N.Y. / REGION »

100 Years of Flowers, but Probably Not 100 More

TimesSelect



[Fish: Free Exercise of Religion?](#)