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Fresh Paint, Stale Gossip and Skateboarding

By J. DAVID GOODMAN



via [NYC the Blog](#)

Working through the heat: a two-man team painting traffic signals in Soho.

Ok, so it's been the hottest summer ever. Big deal. The most recent Tuesday scorcher, as [depicted on Pardon Me For Asking](#) and elsewhere, looked pretty much like any summer in the city: sprinklers, stoop-sitting, skateboarding. And work.

Or, more precisely, infrastructure maintenance.

As [NYC the Blog observed](#), even the sticker- and poster-covered light poles in downtown Manhattan have been getting a fresh coat of paint in this sweltering heat. By October, every post from Canal Street to Houston Street will be repainted by a two-member crew from the [Hellman Electric Corporation](#).

While scraping posters and tape from the lower part of a post can be difficult — the two workers told NYC the Blog that the poles in SoHo are the hardest to clean — a company representative said the most time-consuming section of the city to rehab is along West Street, with its heavy traffic and greater number of signals. (The easiest is likely Dumbo, where a [“first traffic light”](#) was installed this week.)

In other news related to repainting in the heat, [Bowery Boogie](#) calls out the irony of [an effort to rein in some errant graffiti](#) that appeared above a [commissioned graffiti mural](#) that went up Tuesday night on the Deitch wall/art space on Houston Street: “Guess the owners of 294 Bowery weren’t too happy with his coloring outside the lines, as it were.”

Elsewhere downtown, a guerrilla marketing effort aimed at skateboarders plays off the subway’s See Something/Say Something campaign, imploring skater boys and girls to “See Something, Skate Something,” ostensibly for the purpose of developing an online database of gnarly but under-the-radar skate spots.

So far, as [DNA Info](#) and [NY Skateboarding](#) report, the site [skatesomething.com](#) is merely a place to buy T-shirts and posters based on the slogan and a fake hot-line number (area code: 666).

And over at [The Village Voice](#), two of the alt weekly’s bloggers share the gossip on the [declining prominence of New York’s gossip industry](#). What they hear is this: Our local secret-spilling glory is fading in a flood of online chatter about the famous and the infamous.

“Page Six, The Daily News, and even Gawker, The Observer, and New York, have all experienced tidal shifts, leaving in their wakes a host of departed veteran reporters and their talent for great stories, yielding gaping holes in the spirit of this city’s once-renowned gossip industry,” the authors write.

Nevertheless, it is still better to be in the business of airing dirty laundry than it is to be in state government. As the [Daily Politics reports](#), the New York Legislature is about as appealing to New Yorkers as “wet socks, really big cockroaches and liver.” That is to say, [a poll](#) found only a 15 percent approval rating for the job state lawmakers were doing.

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Maybe those numbers would improve a bit if state lawmakers spent some time painting lampposts and traffic signals. And it would show they were committed to ending the gridlock. At least, metaphorically speaking.

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