

DA victory a nod to Morgy

BY JASON FINK
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By choosing Cy Vance as their candidate for Manhattan district attorney in the primaries, Democratic voters have sent a clear signal of support for the towering legacy of the man stepping down from the post after 34 years.

With no Republican opposition in November, Vance, 55, is poised to become just the third person since 1941 elected to lead one of the most high-profile and influential prosecutor's offices in the nation.

As the handpicked successor to the iconic Robert Morgenthau, 90, Vance positioned himself as the establishment candidate, racking up newspaper endorsements and the backing of the powerful teachers union.

"I am so proud to have won this primary, and I am looking forward to serving you," Vance told supporters at a victory party Tuesday night, Morgenthau smiling at his side.

Though former judge Leslie Crocker Snyder seemed to be an early favorite in the three-way race,

Vance, the son of a former secretary of state, overtook the field, fending off attacks that his years spent in private practice in Seattle made him out of touch with the city.

"The weight of the Morgenthau endorsement, with his reputation, was substantial," Joe Mercurio, a political consultant not involved in the race, said yesterday. "He was a good, credible candidate, he raised a lot of money, and he had a lot going for him."

A former prosecutor under Mor-

genthau and most recently a partner at a civil litigation firm in Manhattan, Vance will run an office with some 500 lawyers and a \$75 million budget. The basis for the show "Law & Order," the Manhattan DA's office serves as a model for many others around the country.

"The office has the ability not only to impact the everyday lives of the average New Yorker, but that of people and corporations well beyond the limits of our city," said Jeremy Saland, a former assistant DA who served under Morgenthau.

The AP contributed to this story.



Vance



Flushing's finest The New York State Pavilion, a relic of the 1964-65 World's Fair in Queens, will be added to the state Register of Historic Places and the state will be able to seek restoration grants for the famed structures. (AP)

Bill blasts Mike in mayoral battle

Wasting no time kicking off the general election race for mayor, Democrat Bill Thompson yesterday lit into Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who campaigned with the city's last three-term chief executive: Ed Koch.

"Voters are still angry about the mayor's leadership on changing terms limits, they're angry about him breaking his word," Thompson said.

The Bloomberg campaign, which has been sending out near-daily e-mails blasting Thompson's record, yesterday pointed out that more people voted for other citywide races than mayor in the Tuesday primaries.

Other races

Meanwhile, four Democratic candidates vying for comptroller and public advocate seats spent yesterday gearing up for a runoff election on Sept. 29.

In the public advocate race, front-runner Mark Green finished second in the primaries behind Councilman Bill de Blasio, who outperformed many pre-election polls. "Mark Green did not reap the benefit everyone expected he would from his name recognition," said Michael Krasner, a professor at Queens College.

Councilman John Liu, as many predicted, came out on top in the comptroller race. He fell short of the 40 percent needed to avoid a runoff with Councilman David Yassky, who surprised many by coming in second. Liu is a favorite with labor and much of the party's left wing, while Yassky's strength is primarily in Manhattan and brownstone Brooklyn.

(JASON FINK)



After winning the Democratic primary, Comptroller Bill Thompson now faces Mayor Michael Bloomberg. (GETTY)

Briefs

Closing argument paints Astor son as lowlife

Socialite Brooke Astor's son, Anthony Marshall, plundered his mother's estate because he was greedy and couldn't wait for her to die, a prosecutor charged yesterday during closing arguments. Prosecutor Joel Seidemann promised to show how "an only son would stoop so low as to steal from his own mother in the sunset years of her life."

NTSB: Hudson crash pilot gave tower wrong info

The pilot of a plane involved in a midair collision over the Hudson River read back the wrong radio frequency to an air traffic controller who was handing him off to another airport but wasn't corrected by the controller, an NTSB official said yesterday. Less than a minute after the incorrect readback, the plane collided with an air tour helicopter, killing nine people.

Burt Reynolds off to rehab for painkillers

Actor Burt Reynolds has checked himself into a rehab facility in West Palm Beach, Fla., to be treated for an addiction to painkillers, his manager said yesterday. The 73-year-old "Smokey and the Bandit" star was struggling after a recent back surgery and "realized that he was in the prison of prescription pain pills," manager Erik Kritzer said. Reynolds hopes his story will help others in similar situations.

'Da Vinci' follow-up sells million copies after 1 day

Doubleday announced yesterday that "The Lost Symbol," Dan Brown's first novel since "The Da Vinci Code," has sold more than 1 million copies after being on sale for one day in the United States, Canada and Britain. That total includes preorders for the book, which has been at or near the top of Amazon.com for months.

Ex-Lehman broker sentenced for scheme

A former Lehman Brothers broker has been ordered to serve 2,000 hours of community service for his role in an insider trading scheme. Frederick Bowers was sentenced yesterday by federal judge George Daniels after he pleaded guilty to securities fraud charges. Daniels also ordered Bowers to pay a \$15,000 fine and \$12,000 in forfeiture. (AP)

CONTEST BOX



SEPTEMBER Webpoll Contest

VOTE DAILY

Your vote enters you to
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See today's front page for the question of the day and using your AT&T phone, text your vote (A or B) to amNY (2669) or log on to www.amny.com* to enter.



*No purchase necessary. Contest open to residents of NY, NJ & CT. Must be at least 18 years of age. Winners may not have won a prize from amNewYork in the last 30 days. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. One entry per day per person. For complete rules, go to www.amny.com.

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