

Cynic Central

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- How do New Yorkers like it when a taste of New York City arrogance is shoved right in their face? How do they react when the person big-timing someone is doing it to them instead of them riding their high horse on account of living in the world's greatest city? The answer to those questions can be found on a large, luxurious baseball field near 65th St. on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The field has been fenced off for months now, which hasn't been a major issue of late because obviously, no one is looking to get extra batting practice in outdoors during the winter, but as the weather begins to warm up, the question of why the field is off limits to the public is bound to become more pressing. But the answer is relatively simple and ironically enough, the person keeping the gates to the field padlocked is one of the men that many New Yorkers will be cheering on all summer long as he tries to help their beloved Yankees win a record 28th World Series title: Alex Rodriguez. The field was originally supposed to be part of Riverside Park South, a public facility built by Extell Development Co., but instead it is reserved for Rodriguez and the other residents of a nearby, posh condo. The plan was for the field to be open to the general public in exchange for Extell being able to construct its high-priced high rises, but that plan went out the window when Rodriguez took a liking to the condo and decided to move in. "Rodriguez loved the building, the park and the water views, but we think that the clincher was the baseball field outside the front door," explained developer Gary Barnett said. What may chafe locals even more is that while Rodriguez has signed a deal to buy a four-bedroom condo on the 35th floor of the plush Extell high-rise called the Rushmore, he has not yet moved in and still, the field remains locked up. Community Board 7 Chair Mel Wymore tried to appeal to Rodriguez's (probably) non-existent sense of neighborliness, saying, "A-Rod help us out. Make this ball field really accessible to the entire West Side. We want to play ball with you." Residents who have spoken out about the unfairness of the situation may be reassured by promises from the city's parks and recreation department that Extell will eventually turn over the field to the city, but no deadline has been set and the power of the rich to maintain their grasp on what they want is a fact of life not only in Manhattan, but the whole wide world.....