

# The New York Times

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2003

Section 14, The City, PAGE 2

## Municipal Retro TV

**Q.** *Every Friday night on Channel 74, old documentaries and public information films about New York City are broadcast. Who's doing this?*

**A.** Channel 74 is Crosswalks Television, operated by the city's Department of Information Technology, which often broadcasts the riveting spectacle that is New York City Council meetings.

The program you tuned into is called "City Classics," which shows film provided by the New York City Municipal Archives. The archives, charged with maintaining the administrative remnants of city history, has 15,000 hours of film and tape about New York, include documentary and public relations films, news conferences, special events, television shows, commercials and other nostalgic items dating back to the 1950's.

Rather than let it simply gather dust, the archives offered it to its fellow city agency for broadcast. Some of the pieces shown on "City Classics" have included a documentary from the 1950's on New York called "City of Light," and a news conference in which Mayor John V. Lindsay and Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller unveiled plans for a project called Battery Park City. *ED BOLAND Jr.*