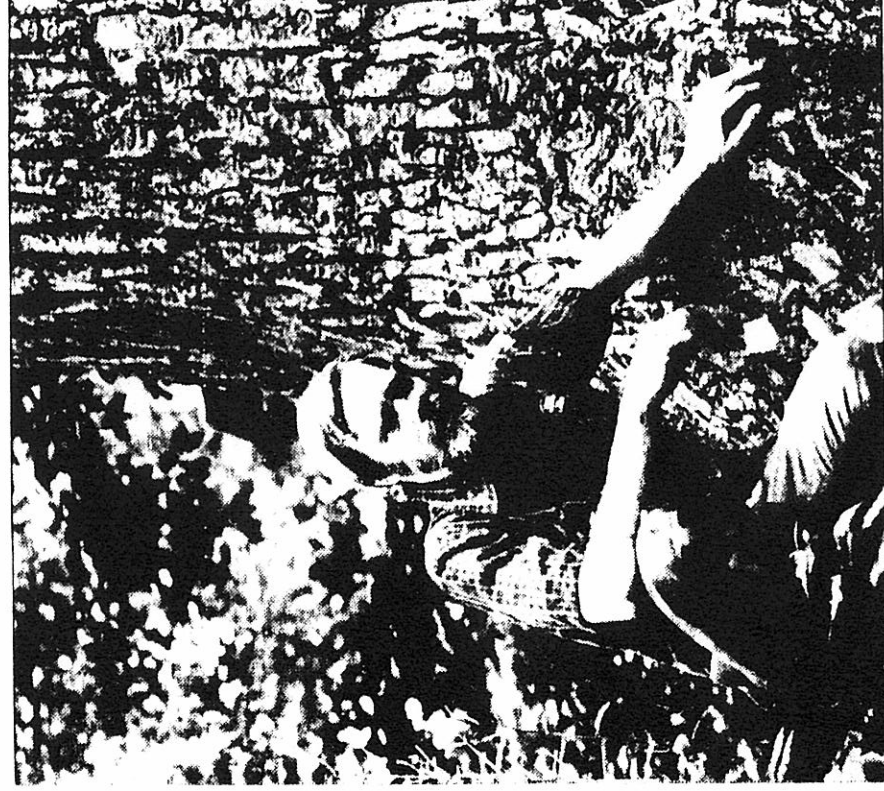


BRONX PROFILE / Thomas Bird

Newsday / Jim Cummings

JOB

Land use consultant and environmentalist; member of the board of directors and Land Use Committee chairman for the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality since 1981; founding member of the Riverdale Nature Preservancy.

BIOGRAPHY

48, born and reared in Spuyten Duyvil, graduate of Hobart College, served in the Peace Corps in Panama, lived in Mexico where he directed youth service programs, moved back to the Bronx in 1980.

RESIDENCE

Home in Spuyten Duyvil.

IMPACT

'The creation of Wallenberg Park from previously private property. This five acre park links Riverdale and Seton Park as a strategic land bridge and thereby unifies the park system within the Bronx Greenbelt district. I also helped get the Riverdale Nature Preservancy going, which is now a very functioning and strong organization. Having been helpful at the outset, and having an institution continue, broadens one's impact as an individual.'

FOCUS

'The resolution of public access and the development of a trail network along and parallel to the Hudson River. I've been active with the efforts sponsored by the Hudson River Valley Greenway Council and the Bronx borough president and his Bronx Green Ways Committee.'

BEST THING ABOUT THE BRONX

'The people. I've found that there have been certain opportunities for me here that have enabled me to bring Bronxites together with ideas and resources, and then it was just a matter of letting the dynamic take hold. I've found a level of responsiveness worthy of collaboration.'