

Weather watching

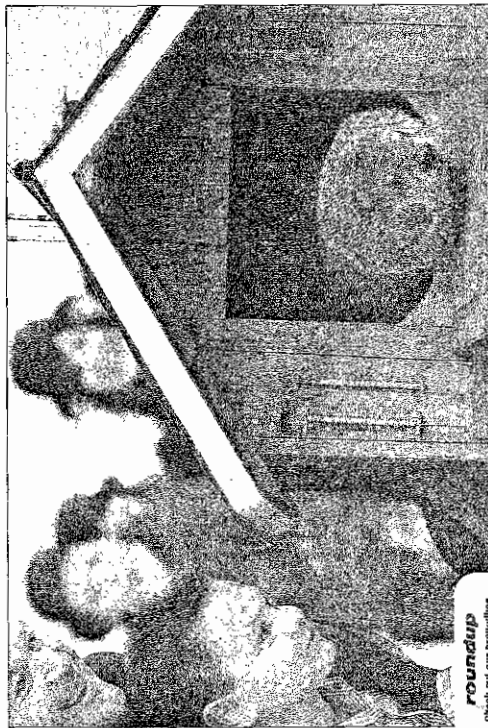
Groundhog Day - seasons



Groundhog Day or Groundhog's Day is a holiday celebrated in United States and Canada on February 2. In weather lore, if a groundhog, also known as a woodchuck, marmot, or ground squirrel, emerges from its burrow on this day and falls to see its shadow because the weather is cloudy, winter will soon end. If the groundhog sees its shadow, it will return into its burrow, and the winter will continue for 6 more weeks.

name _____
class _____ team _____ seat _____
date _____

S.I. Chuck scoffs at Punxsuphony Phil



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BY JENNIFER HARRIS

Matthew Cilento, 26, gets an upclose look at Staten Island Chuck as he makes his weather forecast yesterday at Staten Island Zoo. Photo by Debbie Egan-Cohen/Daily News

IS WINTER HISTORY?

Well, it depends on which groundhog you ask.

Spring is in the air, according to New York's own forecasting rodents — Staten Island's Chuck and his Long Island counterpart, Malverne Mel.

Neither of the woodchucks saw their shadows when they emerged from hibernation early yesterday morning.

But Pennsylvania's famed warm-weather spoiler, Punxsutawney Phil, spotted his when he was pulled out of his tree stump.

"As I look around me, a bright sky I see, and a shadow beside me. Six more weeks of winter it will be," translated the world's alleged expert in "groundhog-ese," William Cooper, president of Punxsutawney's Inner Circle.

Tradition says that if a groundhog

sees its shadow on Feb. 2, it means six more weeks of winter chills are in the forecast.

But the National Weather Service doesn't think Phil, Chuck or Mel should quit their day jobs.

"We don't put any stock in it. We're the scientists. Weather predictions — that's what we do," meteorologist Pat Maloit said. "But I would like to point out that the meteorological beginning of spring is in the middle of March, which amazingly enough is about six weeks from now."

But City Council Speaker Christine Quinn is putting her bets on Staten Island Chuck.

"Staten Island beats Pennsylvania every day and twice on Sunday, and we're going to beat the Patriots tomorrow," she said, referring to the Super Bowl.

Veronika Belenkaya

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DAILY NEWS

Investigation 3

Explain Groundhog day

What do meteorologists have to say about this concept?

When does "spring" begin?