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STREET LEVEL

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Living in Disharmony

By STEVEN KURUTZ

students, and those who work from home, say their routines have been disrupted.

"You have to leave your apartment by 8 o'clock every morning," said Jeremiah Palmeri, a pre-law student at St. John's University in Queens, who was smoking a cigarette outside the building last week.

Far above his head, work crews were being hoisted up and down the building's facade like Spider-Man by a series of ropes and pulleys. The low-frequency moan of a drill bit could be heard.

"Dude, everyone is complaining," Mr. Palmeri said.

Maybe not everyone. Construction is confined to the lower part of the building so that tenants who live on, say, the 30th floor have so far been spared the experience of having a dust-covered apartment and the feeling of "living next to a jackhammer," as Dr. Peter Lowitt, who lives on the fifth floor, put it.

The ill will stems from both the co-op board's approval of the early construction time and the fact that a few years ago the board approved a similar repair of the facade, which is now being fixed up. Tenants say those earlier repairs were improperly done.

The result has led to a possible coup at the once tranquil building. This Wednesday, shareholders will hold their annual meeting to elect a new board. A team of tenants, led by the board's president, Pritpal Kochhar,



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known as Pepi, are trying to oust several current members.

"I've been here 10 years and I've never seen this kind of fighting and anger," said Ms. Shapiro, who is not seeking a seat on the board but has suggested that other candidates run on a "No construction until 9 a.m." platform.

Georgetown Plaza is home to a number of bankers and lawyers who have already left for the office by the time the drilling begins. But the tenants who are retirees and college

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