



Gimme shelter

By JENNIFER GOULD KEIL

Heard any great gossip? E-mail: jkeil@nypost.com

Apthorp re-Bourne?

We hear that **Matt Damon** is the latest celebrity to check out the Apthorp — that embattled, century-old classic on the Upper West Side that is being so intensely watched by the real estate world these days.

Damon, star of the Jason Bourne thrillers, is apparently considering several combinations that involve buying and putting together two or three apartments into one large 5,000- to 7,000-square-foot unit in the \$8 million to \$15 million range. Damon's broker, **Raphael De Niro** of Prudential Douglas Elliman, could not be reached for comment. In the real estate equivalent of a soap opera drama, observers are counting the days until Sept. 15, when the Apthorp must have 25 units sold. If it doesn't happen, the building, which takes up a full city block on Broadway, will lose its chance to convert from rentals to condos because of strict regulations from the state Attorney General's Office.

As of yesterday, 22 contracts have been signed, with checks in and deposits cleared, says **Dolly Lenz**,



vice chairman of Prudential Douglas Elliman, who has been overseeing all sales and marketing for the building for about the past six weeks — when 20 of the 22 deals were signed.

Lenz says at least six more contracts are out for signature and are expected to be signed within the next 10 days. The clock continues to tick.