

# The Ticker

The Students' Voice Since 1932

Baruch College • The City University of New York

Vol. 70, Number 12

Information Now

March 26, 1997

## Students with Disabilities Lobby Albany

By Dusan Stojkovic

On Tuesday, March 11, students with disabilities from the CUNY system visited state legislators in Albany to inform them of the uncertainties the students were facing due to the cuts in the state budget for higher education proposed by Governor George E. Pataki.

Of major concern to the students was the accelerated rate of progress they would have to maintain in order to go on receiving financial aid.

"For many disabled students like me, it simply takes longer to complete the work in an individual course, and it wouldn't be fair to set the same progress standards for us as for non-disabled students," said Pamela Ash, an upper sophomore at Baruch who is blind. "I have a number of incomplete courses from last semester because of my disability," she points out, adding, "Having chosen CIS—one of the most visually oriented fields of study—as my major won't make it any easier, but it will enable me to find a good job after I graduate and give money back to the state through taxes."

The students and disability services coordinators who went to Albany on March 11 were, at times, confused regarding to whom they should address their

*continued on page 3*



## Ilan Peress Vs. Pearl Chen Candidates for DSSG Elections Announced

By Ming Wong

This year's Day Session Student Government (DSSG) elections will feature two candidates for President, Pearl Chen and Ilan Peress. The elections, to be held the week of May 5, historically have had low voter turnout, despite the fact that DSSG controls over \$228,000 in student activity fees.

Chen, a sophomore, is currently the Executive Secretary and

previously served on the lower council for DSSG. She will be running for a new party, Students Toward Educational Progress (STEP).

Peress, a sophomore, is presently the Chair of Student Academic Affairs and is representing the Students for Political Involvement

*continued on page 5*

## Reactions to Legislature Lobbying

### Mixed Opinions

By Orlando Green

On Wednesday, March 5th, 29 Baruch students traveled by bus to Albany to lobby against Governor George E. Pataki's proposed cuts to the City University of New York (CUNY) budget. Baruch students were joined by hundreds of CUNY and SUNY students from all regions of New York State—Long Island, Westchester, New York City, Albany, Buffalo, Oswego, Cortland, Binghamton, New Paltz and other upstate regions. They were welcomed by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPiRG) with a lobbying training workshop and an address by the chair of the Assembly of the Higher Education Committee, Ed Sullivan.

The battle plan to save public education was to gain meaningful support from lawmakers in restoring the state's higher education budget. In essence, the students were asking for the restoration of TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) and the operational budget of SUNY and CUNY, as well as the roll back of a proposed tuition hike. These tactics originated with NYPiRG and USS (University Student Senate). One of the reasons lobbying was deemed important was because the state legislature

*continued on page 5*

## Career Services Revamped: More Students To Be Served

By Genna Kim

Staff members at the Career Development Center are optimistic about the results of their restructuring efforts from the last semester, citing how the newly developed center now offers more comprehensive services than before. The Career Development Center (CDC), formerly the Career Planning and Placement Office, is geared toward preparing students to build their careers, more than just helping them to get jobs after they graduate.

The CDC officially moved to 820 East 25th Street last September 27, after a month of restructuring in August. Unlike the services offered at the Career Planning and Placement Office, which was geared toward helping students to find jobs, the CDC does much more to assist students in becoming true career professionals.

According to Ellen Adelman, a career counselor and advisor at the

CDC, "We're now providing more and different services for everyone involved, from freshmen to graduating seniors to graduate students and even alumni." Before, at the Career Planning and Placement Office, counselors were limited to the kinds of services that they could provide. Conceptually, that Office was "more interested in getting students placed, without really examining the students' long-term career interests." For example, freshmen and sophomores received advice on getting part-time jobs or internships, and juniors and seniors received job search training, tips on résumé writing, networking and interviewing.

Adelman, however, criticizes the approach taken by the Career Planning and Placement Office as myopic. It emphasized the choice of major and job skills over personal preferences and temperaments that

are as equally as important in determining one's career. Referring to the approach taken by CDC as holistic, Adelman says that the goal of CDC will be to help the whole person from the beginning the formation of career ideas in every phase of one's vocational development, from basically choosing a major to building a career.

And Patricia Imbimbo, Director of the Career Development Center, heartily agrees. "We're trying to provide services from a more holistic view, as aspired by the Vice President of Student Development Samuel Johnson and his vision and desire to make this a more comprehensive service."

The strategic vision of the Career Development Center, as outlined in their handout, *Career Diamond*,

*continued on page 2*

## Contents

News.....2

Editorial.....6

Letters/Op-Eds.....7

Business.....11

Features.....15

Arts.....23

Sports.....36

Special April Fool's Issue:

April 1

Ad Deadline: March 31

Next Issue: April 9

Ad Deadline: April 2

BARUCH PERIODICALS DESK  
3rd Floor  
(NON-CIRCULATING)



## Baruch's State of the Art Technology Informs Student Body

By Tarik Cherooui

Hanging monitors with their deep blue backgrounds and flashy colors have popped up all over the 26th Street building. The Office of Student Life is using state of the art technology to make sure information about ongoing activities at Baruch College is passed on to students.

The monitors display a variety of information. "This Week" includes information about events that are taking place on campus. It includes student organized events, such as lectures, receptions and performances, as well as events organized by the college administration and faculty. "Calendar" is a collection of slides which reminds students of important dates, such as the deadline for dropping a course without a W. "Special Announcements" is a miscellaneous category which includes messages relevant to students' lives, such as information about the budget cuts. Anyone can request relevant information to be displayed on the monitors. A written request to Student Life is all that is required.

Carl Aylman, Director of Student Life, says that part of the attraction of the monitors is due to their television-like look in a society where that medium plays a strong role. The television set has the strong power of making our heads turn in its direction. Most of us have been brought up with television news reports and documen-

taries and we do associate television with, among other things, information. The monitors also have the advantage of being more flashy than bulletin boards and harder to staple over. Although bulletin boards contain as much information as monitors, they tend to be quite boring and require a certain amount of time and effort. Monitors require time too, however, this problem is partially solved through placement. Monitors in places where students spend time: near elevator lines, in the 5th Floor cafeteria, and in the 14th, 15th and 17th Floor lobbies.

All the monitors are connected to a Power Macintosh running Power Point software and located in the student center. A video converter modifies computer graphics information to make it understandable to video monitors. Then five cables fly through the building to reach every monitor. The system is usually updated on Fridays; however it can be accessed remotely, that is from another computer. Aylman related a story about how perplexed security guards went on inspecting floors after seeing pages being worked on a Saturday night — a time when the college is officially closed. In fact, Aylman was modifying information from his home.

One of the problems with monitors, and it is rather obvious, is that they are all restricted to one

building. It would be hard indeed to reach, for example, the 18th Street building with cables. On of the ways this problem can be solved is through remote control. Student Life would dial in a computer in each building and paste information to be displayed.

The first monitor appeared on campus last April. In an interview, Carl Aylman related that he proposed the idea back in 1979 after being inspired by a similar system in the Boston Museum. At the time, monitors were simply connected to a camera pointing to a wheel of rotating index cards. Through it, the museum advertised its special exhibits, receptions and other events. Advance in computer technology has made it easier and cheaper to digitally manipulate images. Thanks to a grants from the Baruch College Fund and Student Activity Fees, equipment amounting to about \$12,000 was purchased and installed.

The monitor system is part of a broader program of using technology to improve communication channels with students. They are only one out of many means. For example, Student Life also maintains a website.

The plans for the Site B building



Student information monitors located at 26th St.

(the construction site on Lexington, between 24th and 25th) will include built-in monitors. But will they be in the same format, or will the administration vote for more interactive touch screens, such as the ones which were previously installed in the 25th Street Building? Technology is leaning more and more towards interactivity. The 25th Street monitors were based on CD ROM's and promptly became outdated (telephone numbers change every day). To make a choice, administrators will have to imagine, among other things, what students will be more attracted to in the near future television or the internet.

## Career Services Office Changes Focus

continued from the front page

recommends the following strategies for freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors:

• Freshmen: "It's time to expand your world! Open yourself up to all the new people, ideas, experiences you will encounter! Get a good academic start, work hard, learn, get tutoring and make new friends."

• Sophomores: "Attend workshops sponsored by the Career Exploration Resource Center, Placement for Arts and Sciences Office (PASS), & Career Services. Take vocational interest test. Discuss your career interests and ideas with a professional counselor from The Counseling Center. Use the computerized career guidance program DISCOVER. Research careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook and choose a major at the end of the sophomore year."

• Juniors: "By the junior year, students should be taking upper level courses in their major and narrowing their career choices. If you're not satisfied with your major, consider changing it! Talk with a counselor in The Counseling Center and a Curricular Guidance advisor. Attend the Career Fairs sponsored by Baruch and CUNY and seek part-time work, internship and field work placements that relate to your career interests."

• Seniors: "Take many important steps to start a job search that will increase the likelihood of choosing a job in the chosen career field. Attend the Office of Career Services workshops, which include information on résumé writing, interviewing and conducting the job search. Discuss your job search with a Career Services Office counselor and mail résumés and cover letters to prospective employees and set up interviews on your own."

In addition to the array of counseling services offered at the Career Development Center, some of the other resources currently available at the Center are:

• DISCOVER, a computerized guidance program that provides information on questions about majors, graduate schools, financial aid and occupations. "It contains questionnaires that match you up with certain occupations," says Adelman.

• The Career Resource Library, which, according to Adelman, "contains everything about your major, job outlook, and company information and placement records."

• Online resources including links to Web sites that offer career assessment tools. (Baruch's career Web site is: <http://www.scsu.edu>).

[www.scsu.edu/scsu/careers/carsvcshome.html](http://www.scsu.edu/scsu/careers/carsvcshome.html))

• The Peers for Careers Program, part of TEAM Baruch, offers walk-in résumé reviews four days a week, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. It also provides mock interviews and helps students to navigate through the career Web, especially through Baruch's career Web site.

With more resources made readily available to Baruch students, both Adelman and Imbimbo are optimistic about the future of the Career Development Center, and the future success of the students involved. When asked how Baruch students fare in the real world, Imbimbo responds, "Employers really like our students; they say that our students are hard-working and street-savvy. Our students always make a good impression on recruiters."

And the newly improved facilities of the CDC have also scored big points with recruiters from over 150 companies that come to Baruch every semester. A representative from Martin Gueller CPA had this to say about the CDC: "Facilities rank among the best: the efficiency of your staff and the beautiful facilities are conducive to lure companies to come here and recruit your students."

Indeed, as Imbimbo points out,

positive responses like these are very important because "Good impressions influence how recruiters think of Baruch College and, in extension, of our students."



Patricia Imbimbo, Career Services Director

## ONLINE@BARUCH

### E-Mail Addresses

#### Student Leaders

Joanne Guo, Editor-in-chief, The Ticker: [ticker\\_EIC@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:ticker_EIC@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Ira M. Hersch, Managing Editor, The Ticker: [ticker\\_managing\\_editor@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:ticker_managing_editor@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
David Kinzelberg, Day Session Student Government President: [dssg\\_president@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:dssg_president@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
James Yen, Day Session Student Government Vice President: [dssg\\_vice\\_president@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:dssg_vice_president@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Day Session Student Government Bursar: [dssg\\_bursar@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:dssg_bursar@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Day Session Student Government Council: [dssg\\_council@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:dssg_council@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Section Editors/Staff Writers at The Ticker: [The\\_Ticker@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:The_Ticker@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)

#### College personnel

Dr. Ronald Aaron, Associate Dean of Students: [ron\\_aaron@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:ron_aaron@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Dr. Carl Aylman, Director of Student Life: [carl\\_aylman@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:carl_aylman@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Debbie Bick, Associate Director of Student Life: [debbie\\_bick@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:debbie_bick@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Lisa Goldstein, Director of Freshman Orientation: [lisa\\_goldstein@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:lisa_goldstein@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Dr. Samuel Johnson, Vice President for Student Development/Dean of Students: [sam\\_johnson@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:sam_johnson@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Dr. Carl Kirschner, Assistant Dean of Students: [carl\\_kirschner@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:carl_kirschner@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Yvette Laureano, Administrative Assistant of Student Life: [yvette\\_laureano@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:yvette_laureano@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Sharon Lai, Assistant Director, Office of Student Life: [sharon\\_lai@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:sharon_lai@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Dr. Mark Spergel, Director of Evening and Graduate Student Services: [mark\\_spergel@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:mark_spergel@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)

#### Departments/Organizations

Evening Session Student Association: [essa@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:essa@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Graduate Student Assembly: [gsa@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:gsa@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Hillel Foundation of New York: [hillel\\_foundation@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:hillel_foundation@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Newman Catholic Center: [newman\\_center@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:newman_center@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Student Computer Services Unit: [scsu@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:scsu@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
Counseling Center: [counseling\\_center@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:counseling_center@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)

#### Student Newspapers

The Graduate Voice: [the\\_graduate\\_voice@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:the_graduate_voice@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
The Reporter: [the\\_reporter@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:the_reporter@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)  
The Ticker: [the\\_ticker@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:the_ticker@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)

#### Listserver

Day Session Student Government: [dssg@listserver.scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:dssg@listserver.scsu.baruch.cuny.edu)

Note: To subscribe to a listserver, send an e-mail message to the listserver address shown above with SUBSCRIBE as the subject.

### Other internet services

#### Web Sites

Baruch College: <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/>  
Baruch College School of Business: <http://bus.baruch.cuny.edu>  
City University of New York: <http://www.cuny.edu/>  
Student Development and Counseling: <http://www.scsu.baruch.cuny.edu>  
The Ticker: <http://www.scsu.baruch.cuny.edu/scsu/media/tickerhome.html>

#### About This Directory

This directory is maintained by the Student Computer Services Unit (SCSU), and published by *The Ticker* as a public service. The SCSU was created by the Bernard M. Baruch College Association, Inc. to provide organizations funded by the College Association with computer-related services. To submit Baruch College related e-mail information, questions, or to report difficulties, errors, or omissions in this directory, please send e-mail to [scsu@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:scsu@scsu.baruch.cuny.edu). Please note that due to the limited nature of the SCSU's mandate and resources, the SCSU does not provide services (such as e-mail accounts, and dial-up connections, and Internet access) to the general College community. Also, please note that due to the space limitations of this page, the featured department section will be published on a rotating basis, and at the discretion of the SCSU and *The Ticker*.

## Students with Disabilities Worried About Financial Aid

continued from front page

worries about continuing monetary assistance. In New York State, financial aid services for post-secondary students are administered by the Corporation for Higher Education, but the policies governing these services are set forth by the state legislature, in particular by the Education Committees' two chambers. "I'm really not sure who is responsible for this," said a legislative assistant for Senator Machia of Staten Island.

In any case, the current policy allows for a student only one semester in which he or she can be waived from the academic progress requirement, regardless of extenuating circumstances. This puts many disabled students at a direct disadvantage. "I have a chronic lung deficiency and am in constant danger of catching pneumonia," said I. Michele

Gross, an upper freshman majoring in journalism/creative writing. "For me, a single-shot waiver might not be sufficient. There really ought to be a mechanism whereby waivers could be granted on a case-by-case basis."

As to Governor Pataki's proposals for additional budget cuts and tuition hikes for CUNY and SUNY, there was a consensus, at least among the Democrats in the state legislature and those Republicans representing New York City districts, that much, if not most, of these budgets would be restored. "Our voting record in the Assembly clearly shows our commitment to public higher education," said Janice Manette, an assistant to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and a higher education specialist, adding, "We have consistently stood behind all CUNY and SUNY students, and

students with disabilities in particular."

But, in the end, the fate of the two systems' budgets may well depend upon how vehemently Republicans from Upstate districts will rally behind Pataki's proposals. As a rule, their constituents have had an uneasy relationship with SUNY students, their attitudes toward the students ranging in intensity from simmering hostility to undisguised bigotry.

Still, the contingency representing disabled students' interests returned to New York City with confidence. "I believe we succeeded in getting our point across, even though we had to talk with legislative assistants in corridors," said Barbara Sirois, Disabled Student Services Coordinator at Baruch, remembering the day's first appointment, which was conducted in the hallway

outside State Senator Roy Goodson's office. "We've made them aware of the fact that they can't afford to fold their ears when disabled students voice their concerns."

In the early afternoon, while the students scuttled from one appointment to another, the Legislative Office Building had to be evacuated because of a bomb threat. Traffic around the area was suspended for the remainder of the day, which made it difficult for many of the students to locate the buses back to New York.

The day-long trip to Albany was sponsored by the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities, the Student Organization for the Disabled, and the Homebound Student Organization.



# TickerTakes

The Black and Hispanic Studies Dept. is sponsoring a lecture "Empowering Youth: Social Justice Issues in the Latino Community" on Thurs. April 10 from 12:30-2:30pm. in room 1557 at the 18th St. Bldg. Guest speaker will be Richie Perez.

**FREE Legal Services** sponsored by Evening Session Students Assembly. Appointments a Must on alternative Wed & Thurs. from 5:30-8pm. Call the ESSA office at 802-6794 or stop by in room 1537, 360 PAS.

**Fashion Show and Afterparty** by the United Nigerian Student Assoc. & African Student Assoc. on April 4, 7pm-1am at NAC Ballroom \$5 with Cuny ID/\$6 without

**Hop Over to the Easter Egg Hunt** on Thurs., March 27th, at 12:45, 15th fl., 360 PAS lobby. Win Prizes. Sponsored by Office of Student Life & Helpline.

**1492 - 500years and We Are Still Here** sponsored by the Black and Hispanic Studies will be held on May 8, 12:30-2:30pm, room 1557, 18th St. Bldg.

**Discount Movie Tickets** can be purchased at the Student Center 360 PAS, rm 1512. Tickets are \$5 and valid for one year. 802-6770

**Comic Strip Live:** tickets are \$7.00 and admits two people. Purchase tickets at the Student Center 360 PAS, rm 1512 Monday-Friday from 9am-9pm Cash Only

**The Annual International Bake Sale** will be held on Thursday, Mar. 27, 360 PAS, 14th fl. Proceeds will go to Hale House Center. If donating baked goods, please contact Ivette Davila before Wed., March 26 at 802-6820.

**Santeria and Candomble African Religions in the Latino Community** Panel Discussion and Musical Presentation on May 1, 12:30-2:30pm, room 1557 at the 18th St. Bldg.

Need tutoring in Accounting, Math, Economics, English, Finance, Law, OPR, or Statistics? **FREE TUTORING** offered at no charge Monday thru Thursday, 5-9pm, room, 360 PAS. Must have an appointment! Call Yvette 802-6770 or go to 1521, 360 PAS bet. 3-8:30pm.

**If you would like to announce an event - at no charge - please type and leave in the Ticker mailbox in room 1512, 360PAS.**

**FREE Tax Help: VITA** will prepare Federal and State basic personal tax returns for moderate-low income taxpayers. Please bring all necessary papers. From March 1 to April 15 in rm1710, Tues-Thurs, 10am-8pm

**Baruch College**  
360 Park Avenue South  
Room 1710 New York, NY 10010  
Tues Wed Thur 10AM - 8PM

**Polish Site**  
Pilsudski Institute  
180 2nd Ave. Btwn 11th and 12th St.  
(L Train to 1st Ave) Sat. 10AM-4PM

**Brighton Beach Site**  
Shore Front YM/YWHA  
of Brighton/Manhattan Beach  
3300 Coney Island Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
(Train G, D, B or Bus Q68, Q1)  
Sundays 10AM-6PM

**Brownsville, Brooklyn Site**  
Temple Beth Abschalom  
1015 Winthrop Street  
Btwn 91st. and 92nd St.  
(Train #3 to Sutter Ave, Rutland Rd.  
Walk Down) Rutland Rd to 92nd St.  
and make left to Winthrop)  
Sundays 11AM-5PM  
**Saint Matthews & Saint Timothys Church**  
26 W 84th Street, NY 10024  
(Train C, B to 86th St. Walk 2 blocks down;  
Train #1 and #9, walk a few blocks)  
Mon, Wed Fri 6-8PM

**Flushing Site**  
First Baptist Church of Flushing  
142-10 Sanford Avenue  
Flushing, NY 11355  
(Train #7 to Main St. last stop)  
Friday 9AM-5PM  
Saturday 9AM-5PM

**Chinatown Site-CCC**  
The Chinese Community Center  
60-62 Mott Street, NY 10013  
2nd Floor Conference  
Btwn Canal St. & Bayard St.  
(Train #6, N, R to Canal St.;  
B,D, Q to Grand St.)  
Sundays 10AM-5PM

**Chinatown Site-CPC**  
Chinese-American Planning Council  
480 Broadway, 2nd Floor  
Btwn Broome St. and Grand St.,  
Closer to Broome St. Fridays 11AM-5PM

**Lower East Side Site**  
Hamilton Fish Park Branch Library  
415 East Houston Street  
Corner of E. Houston and Columbia St.  
(Train #6 to 51st St. transfer for F  
to Delancy St.) Saturdays 1PM-5PM

## March 5 Lobby Day

*continued from the front page*

has gained some flexibility about budget cuts following the Governor's announcement that the state will obtain millions of hundreds of dollars in tax revenue previously unaccounted for.

"CUNY and SUNY students are very important to the business development of New York," said Melissa Brown, a student at Binghamton University. She feels lobbying state officials is the most important thing students can do right now to preserve their education "You can find Baruch and CUNY students in the top financial centers of New York City."

NYPIRG representative, Blair Horner, felt that voter registration, community mobilization and an understanding of social issues is important in the effort to save CUNY and SUNY.

Monyne Bowman, a Baruch student who went to Albany, felt that it was good to attend the trip because it demonstrated to the legislators that the student care about their lives and communities. Monyne expressed her concerns by saying that "it comes down to the legislator's votes when you lobby them. Hopefully, we got our point across."

Attending with the Baruch contingent were David Kinzelberg, president of Baruch's Day Session Student Government (DSSG), Yojna Verma, treasurer, and Students Toward Educational Progress (STEP) presidential candidate and current DSSG secretary, Pearl Chen. The re-

mainder included VP James Yen and other Baruch students who shared a concern for their education.

Many students felt dismay about lobbying efforts. Shiji Chacko, sophomore, has been to lobbying sessions before and feels that New York's youth should take different tactics to preserve their right to a quality education. "Going to Albany is disempowering -- in essence, we are 'begging' these people to save us."

"Although this was my first appearance at a lobbying event, it was not effective in my view, because a number of students met with representatives instead of senators," said Samora Sibide, who is worried about the devastating set backs Black and Latino students will face

"We must be honest about the ability of rallies, lobbying and other methods of mobilization to really effect real change," said Rory Dunn. "The truth is budget cuts and tuition hikes are inseparable parts of the larger struggle. Note how in times of educational crises, there is concurrent assaults on employment, welfare, health care, police brutality and other areas concerning the basic survival of people.... All doubts about this point need to be removed."

Further mobilization around these educational issues will include a Student Liberation Action Movement (SLAM) led demonstration at City Hall at 3:00 pm on Thursday March 27, 1997.

## DSSG Candidates Unveiled

*continued from the front page*

Revitalization for Innovative Thinkers (SPIRIT) Party, another new student party.

Last year, only 1009 ballots were cast by a day session student body of over 8000. Only 912 voted for DSSG President and the race for Vice President was not contested, as well as the races for half the council positions.

The STEP Party will be focusing on the preservation of student rights and improving the quality of education in the college, Party leaders maintained.

"This is our school. Students know what is right. We're here for students, not childish political games. We're students, not politicians," said Chen.

Running with Chen under the STEP Party will be Megan Lewis, for the position of Vice President, Tam (Tommy) Huynh, for Treasurer, and Birgitta Perezic, for Executive Secretary.

STEP's platform will be dedicated to stopping the tuition increases and cutbacks on CUNY, lowering the prices of textbooks in the college bookstore, improving the quality of student services and bringing in more companies to Baruch for recruitment.

Chen feels that her two years of experience in DSSG have prepared her well for the presidential position. "In the time I've been here, I've learned what's right and I've learned what's wrong."

"This is our school. We pay tuition here. We want what's best for us," said Chen.

The SPIRIT Party, led by Peress, will go in a different direction.

Their goals will concentrate more on student life in the College.

According to David Huang, SPIRIT candidate for Vice President, SPIRIT's primary objective will be to promote school spirit by raising the awareness of social events. "We want to build back the idea of school spirit," said Huang.

Peress and Huang will be joined by Reanna Ramsingh, running for Treasurer, and Marlene Fuentes for Executive Secretary, for the SPIRIT Party.

Some of the other issues that SPIRIT will be committed to include changing the credit evaluation process for transfer students, continuing Asian Studies developments and obtaining student discounts for businesses in the community.

"Students don't care unless the issues concern them," said Chen.

The low voter turnout might be a result of students not being aware of the elections and the inaccessibility of voting booths. For last year's election, there were only two booths located in the 17 Lexington Avenue building.

"I was going to vote, but the line took too long and I had to rush up to class," said one student.

DSSG says it is working on improving the low turnout. There are plans for more voting booths to be made available in buildings other than 17 Lexington Avenue. Student Life will be promoting the election.

"We want to show the students that we care by being there for them," said Chen.

## BARUCH COLLEGE /Career Development Center

*Sponsors its Spring 1997 Workshop Series*

### MANDATORY On Campus Recruitment Workshops:

**\*\*You must attend one entire workshop to be eligible for Fall 1997 On-Campus Recruitment.**

Thurs.	Feb. 27	6:00-8:00PM
Thurs.	Mar. 20	6:00-8:00PM
Tues.	Apr. 15	1:00-3:00PM
Mon.	May 05	1:00-3:00PM
Mon.	May 12	3:00-5:00PM

Workshops are held in Administrative Lounge, 3rd Fl., 22nd St. Bldg.

### Career Development Workshop Tuesday Series: 1:00-3:00PM

Feb. 18	Learning about the Job Market
Feb. 25	Writing Resumes
Mar. 04	The First Interview
Mar. 11	The Second Interview
Mar. 18	Interpersonal Communication

### Career Development Workshop Wednesday Evening Series: 6:00-8:00PM

Mar. 26	Choosing Your Major
Apr. 02	Learning about the Job Market
Apr. 09	Writing Resumes
Apr. 16	The First Interview
Apr. 30	The Second Interview
May 07	Interpersonal Communication

Workshops are held in Rm. 251 of 151 East 25th St. (2nd Fl. of Library)

### Issues in the Workplace: 1:00-3:00PM

Wed.	Feb. 26	Diversity: Changing the Face of Leadership
Wed.	Mar. 25	Women: Challenges & Opportunities for Advancement
Thurs.	Apr. 03	Alumni and Peers in Conversation
Tues.	Apr. 08	New Employee Challenges: Building a Professional Identity

Workshops are held in Rm. 415 of 151 East 25th St. (4th Fl. of Library)

\*Students arriving over 30 minutes late to any workshop will not be admitted.

151 E. 25th St. Rm. 820

(212) 802-6710



## STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER

WITH THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND/CUNY

**GREECE**  
Philosophy  
Ecology

**ENGLAND**  
Psychology  
Women's Studies

**DENMARK**  
Education (Graduate Level)

**ECUADOR**  
Spanish Language  
Latin American Studies

**ITALY**  
Italian Language  
Art  
Art History



The College of Staten Island  
City University of New York

- 4 week summer sessions
- Earn 6 credits
- Financial aid applies

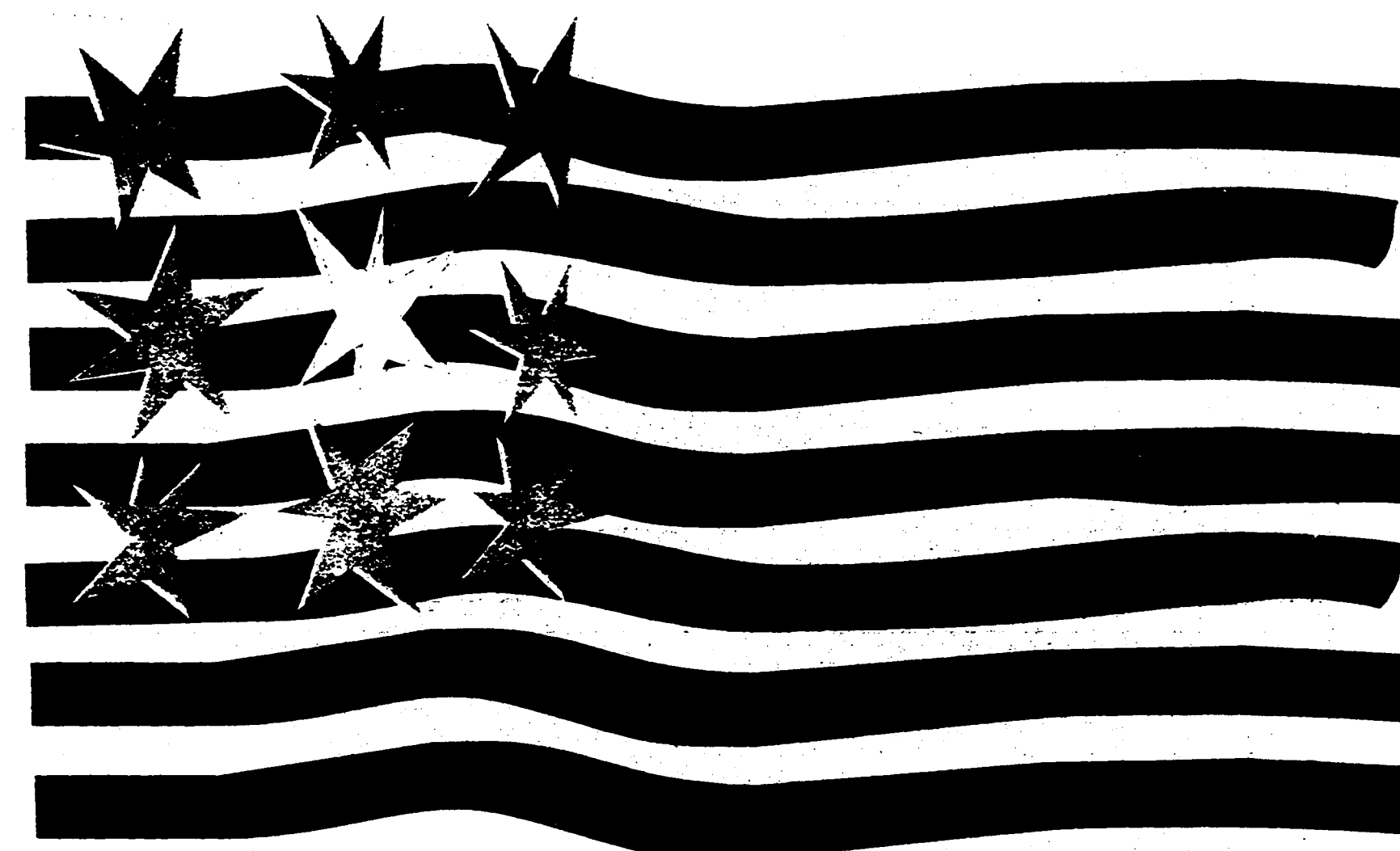
### For more information, please contact:

The College of Staten Island  
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SERVICE  
North Administration 2A, Rm 206  
2800 Victory Blvd.  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
Telephone: (718) 982-2100  
Fax: (718) 982-2108

The College of Staten Island/CUNY sponsoring overseas programs for over 10 years

Explore the world with the College of Staten Island/CUNY

## Something's Missing!



You may pick up your forms in advance at the following places:

International Student Services Center-151 E. 25th Street, Room 730  
Dean of Students Office -360 Park Avenue South, Room 1702  
Continuing Education-17 Lexington Avenue, Room 920

PHOTO AND FINGERPRINTING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR FREE

Date: April 2, 1997 Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Place: 7th Fl. Conference Center

**CUNY Citizenship and Naturalization Project**

## We Can Help You Become a U.S. Citizen If:

- You have resided in the U.S. as a permanent resident for 5 years. Or 3 years of permanent residence, if married to and living with a U.S. citizen.
- You have been physically present in the U.S. for half of the 5- or 3-year period.
- You are at least 18 years old.

### You will need:

- Your Residency Card (Green Card)
- All passports
- Information about where you have lived and worked for 5 (or 3) years
- Children's addresses, dates of birth and Green Card numbers
- Spouse's address, social security number, date and place of birth, residency number. If previously married, dates of marriage and divorce.
- If a male and you registered for the draft, selective service registration number.
- Information about any arrests, such as nature of the crime and disposition of the case.

**You.**



# EDITORIALS

The apathy of Baruch students is never made more apparent than during student government elections. Baruch students don't care about their rights.

Disabled students lobby Albany with concerns about their academic progress. Their concern is that their financial aid is based on a standard that is clearly biased against their needs. How can we measure their progress and not take into consideration their disabilities?

While the disabled students visited state legislatures, a handful of Baruch students went up there as well to lobby against tuition hikes and budget cuts.

If we were to take a count of the number of students that did make it to Albany for one reason or another the number would not even make a plop in the river of Baruch students that flow through our halls everyday. So what do we do to correct this? We invest in our students government. This year the two candidates running for student government president Ilan Peress and Pearl Chen should not just be viewed as the potential heads of another ineffective regime, but rather the starting point for what could become the difference between paying an extra five dollars for tuition or having that financial aid check in your hand.

Last year one out of every eight students cast a vote for the government presently in power. A government that subsequently came under heavy fire for its political impotence. Who do you really point the finger at in such a situation? Both parties have excellent platforms that should interest every student at Baruch College. But this is only the start of the process for the candidates. We the students must now mold them into representatives of our rights. If we don't do this then our apathy will just entice another sub par administration.

## Quote of the Fortnight

**"For me, a single-shot waiver might not be sufficient. There really ought to be a mechanism whereby waivers could be granted on a case-by-case basis."**

**—I. Michele Gross, an upper freshman speaking on the subject of students with disabilities and their financial aid situation.**

**The Ticker**

Established in 1932

**Joanne Guo**  
Editor-in-chief

**Ira Michael Hersch**  
Managing editor

**Deirdre Hussey**  
**Dusan Stojkovic**  
News editors

**Coby L. Herd**  
Exhale editor

**Victoria Exposito Harris**  
**Hung Tran**  
Business editors

**Brennon Marciano**  
Features Editor

**Edward Rodriguez**  
**Manny Rodriguez**  
Arts editors

**Joseph M. Maldarelli**  
**Ming Wong**  
Sports editors

**Paola Marocchi**  
Photo editor

**Marlon Layton**  
Copy editor

**Yim Wong**  
Advertising manager

**Ikenna Okoye**  
Human Resources Manager

**Madelyn Tavera**  
Office manager

**Sergy Tabuteau**  
Editorial Assistant

**Roslyn Bernstein**  
**Alisa Solomon**  
Consultants

### Staff Writers

Syed A. Bokhari  
Michele Gross  
Ivanna Gabribaldi  
Genna Kim  
Frank Luo  
David S. Ortiz  
Juan Raposo  
Andrew Scott

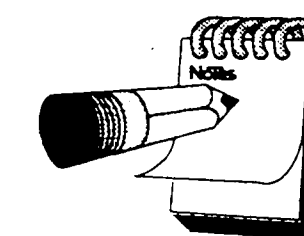
**Photographer**  
Rory Dunn

The Ticker is published bi-weekly, eight times a semester, by The Ticker editorial staff at 360 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010, Room 1522 (Internet E-Mail: the\_ticker@scsu.sites.baruch.cuny.edu). All work except printing is done by Baruch undergraduate and graduate students. All typed and signed contributions and letters are welcome, and should be mailed to the above address (or E-mail address).

Our office is open during regular school hours. Any display or advertising questions should be directed to the advertising Manager or Managing Editor at the above address.



**Exhale**



## Cutting Arts Funding, Immigration For The Rich and the New Slavery

By Coby L. Herd

It's a tough world out there boys and girls and if you're not careful, sometimes a ten thousand pound gorilla, called life, just rolls over you no matter what you've done to offset bad luck. In America, the crap flows downhill and everybody gets hit right on the head with some of it, some of the time. A good education gives you an umbrella so when the sh\*t hits the fan, if you're lucky, you only get it on your shoes. The unprepared and/or the unlucky get hit right on the head with the crap of life most of the time. No reason to ask why or complain that the world's not fair. IT JUST HAPPENS!

Witness the front page of the Sunday NY Times 3/16re: the article headlined IMMIGRANT STUDY FINDS MANY BELOW NEW INCOME LIMIT-A BAR TO UNITING FAMILIES-Poor Mexicans and Others Face Difficulty Meeting Rule for Bringing In Relatives.

The study cites, "an immigration law adopted last fall that will make it much more difficult for poor and working class immigrants to bring family members to the United States legally, especially Mexicans and Salvadorans, whose incomes are generally lower than those of other immigrant groups." The law will require those seeking to bring relatives here to meet income requirements and to make legally enforceable promises to support newcomers.

Congressional supporters of the legislation say their intent was not to impose unfair burdens on immigrant families, but I say BULLSH\*T! Every time one of our esteemed politicians goes up for reelection, the standard in their industry is to pick on some poor shmuck with no clout, concerning issues that seem to scare white middle-class America half to death. Does anybody really think that the grandparents and cousins, nieces and nephews of legal immigrants are a threat to America? Hey dummies, these people are an asset. Where else can you get a group of workers that will put in 16 hour days for minimum wage, always show up for work and rarely ever complain? From Mexico and Central America, that's where.

These people don't take jobs away from Americans, they take the jobs that Americans don't want, and they do the jobs without complaining and they do them well. That seems

like an asset to me. Politicians, and especially middle America, always seem to feel threatened when their wallets come into the picture. They never see the asset value of people, just an initial, what's in it for me, monetary value. Well, that's the way America has always been, more concerned about our wallets than about being fair to fellow human beings. Enough already. This country was built on the sweat of immigrants and now is not the time to put the kibosh on the dreams of everybody unlucky enough not to

### "9 out of 10 Adults on Welfare are Women..."

already live here. I liken it to Gingrich-Gimme Politics. We will let people into our country but what's in it for us? Well I'll tell you what's in it for us. Upstanding citizens who work rather than scam. And that's what America needs more of. Americans love to complain that these immigrants will drain their wallets. They then turn around and yell about the lack of gardeners in their little slices of suburbia. Hypocrisy abounds still, and it resides here!

ITEM #2-Taken from the same front page of the Sunday Times, an article about welfare mothers and their concerns towards the new welfare law. If any group is more discriminated against in America today than single mothers raising their kids and trying to get an education, I have yet to find one. In every instance of trying to get ahead, this segment of our population runs into more brick walls than Doctor Kervorkian.

The average national monetary stipend for single mothers on Welfare is \$375.00 per month, about what a good meal for four costs at Angelo's and Maxies down the street. So the next time you're walking to class at 18th street, look in the window and remember that what the party of four on table #32 is consuming in about two hours, a single mother on Welfare has to stretch out for a month - 720 hours. Hey, no big deal there, single mothers know how to cook for themselves, right? Plus, people who can't afford it shouldn't be drinking wine anyway!

According to journalist Dirk Johnson, the reporter of the Times

piece, "about 12 million people live on the main Government Welfare program, Aid to Families With Dependent Children, two-thirds of them children, almost as many whites as blacks. About 9 of 10 adults on Welfare are women. They are all being affected by the new Welfare law, which eliminates AFDC and instead gives states lump sums for a new program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families."

The law also imposes new rules on those receiving aid under two other programs for the poor, Food Stamps and Supplemental Social Security Income, which serves legal immigrants and disabled children. Some 500,000 legal immigrants who are not citizens are expected to lose disability benefits starting in August. One million non-citizens will lose Food Stamps starting in April. Food Stamps will be limited to three months in any 36 month period for healthy, childless adults between the ages of 18 and 50. The cuts could ultimately affect one million people. Hey, that's a great idea, we'll just starve 'em out!

Six women profiled in Mr. Johnson's article run the gamut of a large section of female society, circa America at the second beginning of the second millennium. I ask you to keep in mind that these girls

inherited their problem, they didn't make it.

Mary Miller, now 38 and a white mother of five, was coerced into having sex at the age of 14 by a 30 year-old neighbor who had a wife and two kids of his own. After having four more children by the same man, she now finds herself alone, unemployed and in charge of raising five of this pedophile's children. She receives \$414 a month.

The second of the welfare clan, Christine Nelson, finally got her ex-boyfriend to make a \$200 child support payment, which only means an extra \$50 for the family because it counts against her welfare check. Who makes up these laws anyway?

The third, a product of Chicago's gang turf, has to raise her three kids by herself because the children's father is in jail on a murder charge. She keeps a pair of cats in the house to limit the rodents that otherwise might gnaw at her kids.

The fourth, Andrea Long, was herself abandoned in a Chicago phone booth when she was three to five days old. Adopted and raised middle class, her boyfriend turned her on to crack and it was downhill from there. During one particularly good run, he repeatedly stabbed her with a butcher knife. Ms. Long suffered

continued on page 8



The opinions expressed on the Exhale pages are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Ticker editorial staff. The Ticker accepts only typewritten and signed opinion pieces of no more than 750 words from Baruch College students. Publication of Exhale articles is contingent upon an editorial board vote. Letters must be no more than 350 words, typewritten and signed. Unsigned letters will not be published. However, when appropriate, names will be withheld upon request. Writers should provide day and evening telephone numbers. All submissions are subject to editing for space and clarity. Address all opinion pieces and letters to the Exhale editor.



## Washington Wastes Three More Great Resources Women, Our Kids, and Incoming Immigrants

continued from page 7

a ruptured liver, a punctured lung, a severed diaphragm and lost a kidney. The boyfriend was later convicted of attempted murder. Last year Andrea was named the Student Laureate at DePaul University and is scheduled to graduate next January. She receives \$377 a month in welfare payments and one of her three children, a son with developmental problems collects another \$470 from Supplemental Social Security. And we dare to call a woman like this the weaker sex?

Number five, Teresa Ralowska.

**"...living with her son-in-law, the bum charges her \$200 a month for rent..."**

was on her way from Poland to the U.S. to join her daughter, Bozena, and her two grandsons when she got the news that Bozena had committed suicide. She made it to America and has been living with her son-in-law and the kids. The bum charges her \$200 a month for rent even though she looks after the kids. "With a heart condition and diabetes, she has been receiving \$484 a month and also qualifies for \$30 a month in food stamps but she never got around to getting her citizenship. Any day now, some 500,000 legal immigrants will be getting a letter announcing the governmental welfare cuts.

The final drain on our economy, Jennifer Landwehr, was nearly finished with community college when her caseworker told her she had to go to work to keep receiving her benefits. Social Services said, "it was not the responsibility of the taxpayers to support an able bodied young woman." If she wanted to finish school, she could do it after work, part-time even though she had three kids at home to raise. Well she got

a secretarial job and has not been able to attend college since. She's now back on full benefits.

Reading this kind of stuff is enough to make me sick. In a society that says it reveres its mothers, we continue to treat them like sh\*t. I don't know what it is about the middle-aged men who make the laws in our country, but it seems to me that they're all still pissed off at being rebuked years ago in their first attempt for a sexual conquest, ergo, all women are lying whores and these laws need to be passed to protect society. The real draw of politics is power boys and girls, not the "I can make a difference" posturing that TV and the government nuts that run this asylum would have us believe. The knowledge of submission, and the thrill of knowing that another one has been broken, that's the real attraction for these men. **Let me tell guys and girls, shame on us for letting the gentlest creatures; the mothers of our children suffer so. Shame on us!**

Well all is not bad news on the battlefield these days. The next time you find yourself bitching about the sorry state of America's youth as they stand on the street corners and join the gangs, do what I do. Go to the symphony.

Last Sunday's performance of the Julliard Pre-College Symphony was a study in wonder. Think about it. One hundred kids, all under the age of 18, playing Mozart's Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra in C major, K. 314 and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite (1919), and not one of them knows how to use a razor. Oh by the way, these concerts are all FREE!

It was strange. My date (who obviously knew more about classical music than myself and had to explain some rudiments to me such as "No, they don't turn up the volume here.") and I had great seats about half way up in the balcony and from that vantage point you would swear that you were at Carnegie Hall listening to the symphony.

continued on page 9



## The 1st Amendment Smut In Every Household

By Ira M. Hersch

I was taking the L.I.R.R. home the other night, listening to WCBS 880 AM, when I heard the tail end of a discussion about the Communications Decency Act. I've heard of this bill before but never really got all that deep into it. So, I spent some time researching it and will now present both sides of the issue as I see them. You can decide which is the correct side to take.

What is the Communications Decency Act? It is our government's attempt to ban the transmission of obscene or indecent material on the Internet. President Clinton signed the bill into law in February of 1996 but a week later a U.S. District Judge issued a restraining order blocking the indecency amendment on the basis that it was too broad. Today the bill remains in limbo and both the people in favor and against the law are battling it out in court.

It's time for me to define two terms. Indecent will be defined as not proper and fitting; morally offensive. Obscene will be defined as something being judged by a contemporary community's standards, appealing to a prurient interest in sex, and has no serious artistic, scientific, or social value.

### The Case For The Communications Decency Act

Let's face it folks. There are a lot of nasty things on the net. I know this because I surf the net frequently and am employed as a webmaster for a Fortune 1000 company. Sometimes I come across pages that are just so disgusting and repulsive, I feel ashamed to be classified as a webmaster. The Internet was never created for the purposes of transmitting sexual filth across nations into our homes...into our secure clean homes. The Internet of today has become the domain of the most vile and perverse people in the world; transmitting the most repulsive pornography, which features torture, child abuse and bestiality. And all of this a few clicks away from our children. Now you may say, what does a child know about the Internet? Probably a lot more than most of us. Children today are growing up as "net-babies," surfing as young as two and three years old. The older kids challenge each other to hack into new sites, sexually explicit locations that depict scenes that shouldn't be

continued on page 9

## The Internet Should Not Be Used for the Transmission of Porn Hey! Knock It Off You Perverts

continued from page 8

viewed, even by adults.

The Internet turns out to be a nice little porn shop that you have in your house, open 24 hours a day, to all members of the family including the children. We must as a nation protect ourselves from this smut. The logical solution is to empower the government to put an end to it's access. We're not doing anything differently here that we haven't done in other forms of media. Federal law restricts indecent speech on radio and television to protect our children. The Internet shouldn't be any different. The CDA to bar the distribution to minors of indecent or "patently offensive" materials on the Internet. The punishment for breaking this law would be a fine and up to two years in jail. Anybody who can explain to me why we need pornography on our computers, please drop me a line at the office. Is there anybody who can justify to me the excitement of seeing two people engaged in a sexual activity on the computer? We must bring back a moral standard to America. The government has a moral responsibility to protect this country from all injustice. Pornography is an injustice. Having pictures depicting graphic sexual violence on women is not art, nor a form of free speech. Actually it is more than nothing but the words I would like to choose I will not print. The Internet was originally developed as a forum for distributing information around the world. It was deployed so that in the event of anything disabling our communications network, we would still be able to correspond with one another through the Internet. Let's work towards that goal once again. Let us stand up for a better Internet. We should support the Communications Decency Act.

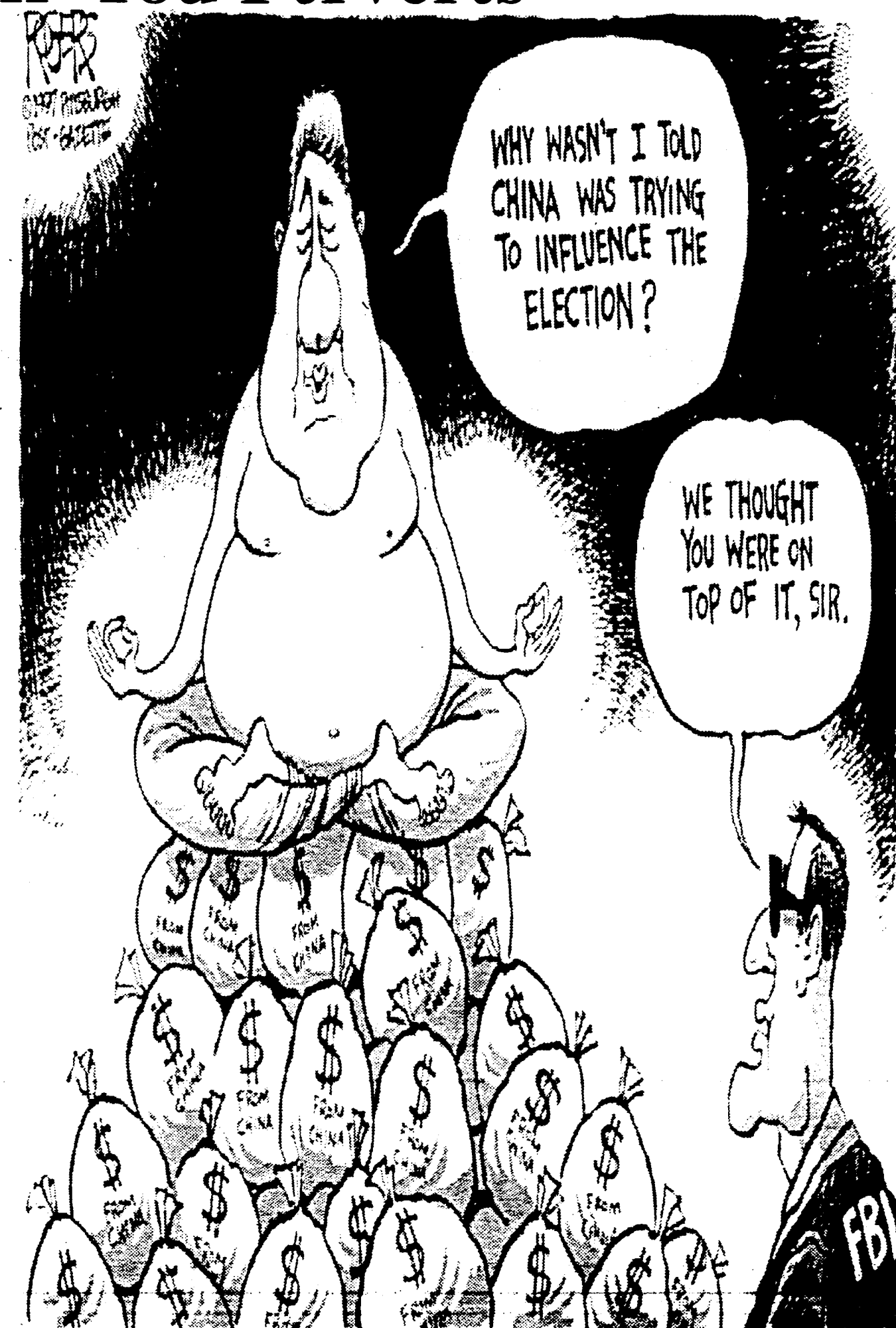
### The Case Against The Communications Decency Act.

We live in the United States of America. We have a Constitution. In that Constitution we have something called the First Amendment. That amendment gives us, as Americans, the right to free speech. Censorship infringes on our right of free speech and that's exactly what this law attempts to do. It's trying to censor what we see and what we can access on our computers. We don't need a law to protect children on the Internet. Why? Because we already have laws that protect children on the Internet. Laws that ban obscenity, harassment, child pornography, and enticing minors into sexual activity. The CDA presents an "indecency standard" clause. Well, what is indecent? What's indecent to one person may be perfectly fine to another. What will stop the government from abusing this censorship power to other areas beyond pornography on the net? What will stop them from not allowing us access to certain information they don't want known? Absolutely nothing. As a webmaster, I'm continually amazed at the WWW. The

Internet is a living thing. It was born, it grows, it gets smarter, it even gets a virus once and a while. It has offspring, and it eventually dies. The Internet protects itself against unpopular programming. If immoral people stopped looking at pornography on the net, it would die out. If our government tries to enact an unpopular decency act, the web will just kill that also, like a virus. There are many fine programs on the market parents could buy for the computer to protect their children from accessing obscene sites on the web. Unlike TV, where you can only channel surf, on the Internet you actually seek out information actively. A five year old is unlikely to get into a sexually explicit site because he or she has ask for it. If a teenager accesses these sites, it is because they are immature and their parents failed in providing them guidance about this material. Remember, you must actively seek information on the web. Naked shots of women or men don't just pop up on the screen as soon as you go on the net. There is also an inherent flaw with the law. The CDA is too broad. What if anti-American websites were up (and indeed there are). Does this mean that the government could censor this information also? And how about chat rooms? Companies would now have to start monitoring these rooms for explicit material and anything else they may feel goes beyond their definition of indecent. In the end, the Communications Decency Act steps on the rights on all Americans and we should be worried about how free we are as a people.

### In Conclusion

I believe we need a law like the CDA to clean up the Internet in America. I don't believe the CDA will work nor is the present wording of the CDA appropriate for America. It won't work because the Internet is international. Having a law that prevents Americans from placing pornography online will not stop citizens from other countries from sending it to us. Those who argue free speech should shut up. When the constitution was developed there was no such thing as mass media. At most, maybe you could yell or get in a paper that only a small percentage of the people could afford. Certainly there was no pornography two hundred years ago in any print medium. Today with TV, newspapers, and the Internet, you can get your voice heard almost instantly anywhere. Pornography is by no means a harmless act. It does have repercussions in society. I believe parents need to learn to be the great line of defense against indecency on the Internet. I also feel it would be nice to know that parents alone are not fighting the fight but society as a whole. Usually I end with "this is my final word". This time you have the final say.



## Politics Hates My Mom

continued from page 8

tening to the guys that command about \$50 a performance.

After the intermission, we were allowed to change our seats and travelled down to the first row, where we got a closer look at classical music being played very well by little people whose biggest problem of the night was nervousness, the conductor and their pimples.

These are the kids who, if they are lucky, will be admitted to the Julliard Conservatory to study for a college degree. They will spend the next four years playing music in symphonies, chamber orchestras and in the summer attending symposiums on conducting and structure at Tanglewood and Aspen. Nice job if you can get it. And not all of them do get it. I don't know what the stats are, but there just aren't enough jobs to go around. So what else do they do? They become the Captains of Industry. They become so well rounded studying music, that they know they can accomplish anything they set their little minds to.


Now we all know that funding for the Arts has been cut to the bone but in my view all politicians should have to go and attend a few of these concerts and maybe it will sink in. Music and/or the Arts helps kids

develop self-esteem. They do better in ALL of their other classes if they take music courses.

I had to laugh as I imagined myself being accosted by a group of rowdies from Julliard who demanded my money and menacingly waves around their flutes, oboes and violin bows to scare me into acquiescence.

C'mon guys, restore funding for the arts in the primary schools!

That's all I know.....



**GOT A PROBLEM  
WITH THAT?  
EXPRESS YOUR  
OPINION IN THE  
TICKER. CALL  
EXT. 6800**



# THE ARROGANCE OF PATAKI AND THE MAYOR MINORITIES DON'T DESERVE AN EDUCATION

## THE ESSA IS THE STUDENT'S VOICE

The cover of The New York Times Magazine of March 16, 1997 shows the Governor, George Pataki leaning comfortably against a black leather chair. The title reads, "BLAND AMBITION: George Pataki, smarter and more calculating than people think, wants you to underestimate him. And why not? It's working." The Governor's master plan has indeed been working.

Since being elected, George Pataki, has reduced the maximum award for public university students to 90% of tuition - for the past 20 years The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) has paid the tuition for those students who qualified. This year in his proposed budget, Pataki calls for a \$ 400 a year increase in tuition at the State and City University systems, to make up for a \$ 175 million drop in direct state aid to these universities. Pataki's proposal would cut financial aid for poor students by 16 percent - that would dramatically affect around 33,000 CUNY students and close to 95,000 students overall. This occurs because aid will be reduced to those who also receive Federal Assistance, tying aid to academic performance and recalculating eligibility to leave some students out.

With these cuts to TAP and a possible increase in tuition, higher education would be out of the reach of the poorest students, predominantly minorities who populate two thirds of CUNY. As a result, 20% of CUNY, that is 41,000 students will have to discontinue their dream of receiving a Bachelor's Degree. This proposed budget also poses sharp cuts in student services, the size and quality of the faculty and administration, the number of sections offered, which would lead to an increase in the size of classes, longer waits for the elevators, and dampen the attempts to improve library and technology

**"With these cuts,...higher education would be out of the reach of the poorest students, predominantly minorities who populate two thirds of CUNY."**

support services.

Pataki has been described as "a little pit bull," "rarely emotive," "he knows what he wants to do," "self assured, ambitious, determined, self-disciplined, dogmatic, pragmatic, calculating, ruthless." "He has repeatedly displayed what many social service advocates describe as a callousness toward constituencies not his own - the poor." Students, this is whom we are pitted against, how are we going to convince this imposing and stubborn 6 feet 5 inches stature that he is doing wrong? How can we

change his view of CUNY from one of negative to positive? How are we going to effectively impose upon him the importance of this vital institution of higher education?

One option could be to approach the Mayor, Rudolph Guiliani, and persuade him to support us by influencing his colleague. But, how can we sensibly approach a Mayor, who states, "when you have a graduation rate of 5%, you have a disaster going on that is being covered over by political correctness and ideology and fear of really facing it." Mayor Guiliani does not support CUNY, he doesn't believe that the city's higher educational system can educate us.

At a recent trip to Capitol Hill, the Mayor was asked by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, if students in the City University could not be allowed to perform their workfare service on campus, close to their studies, instead of working for the city sweeping streets and doing clerical work. The Mayor replied, "If I turn over the workfare

**"Pataki's proposal would,... dramatically affect around 33,000 CUNY students and close to 95,000 students overall."**

program to the community colleges, we will have the same lack of accountability and standards in the workfare program as they are presently demonstrating in their inability to educate young people," citing that only 5% of the students in the community colleges graduate after two years.

Education is the last on his and Pataki's lists of issues to support. The Mayor is more concerned about decreasing crime while using college students to pay for his Police Department. "The single most important thing to move someone out of dependency and welfare is not education; it's work, then education." Pataki is more concerned about cutting taxes than he is about improving the higher educational system in his state. One option down the drain, what else can we do?

I got an idea, how about asking W. Ann Reynolds, Chancellor of CUNY to fight with us against these cuts. Is she with us? No, why you ask. The Chancellor sits on the New York City Investment Fund, a joint fund of investors including the President of Merrill Lynch and other CEO's, which seeks to privatize and gain from CUNY (remember the CUNYCARD). How can she be on our side and is a member of such an organization which number one priority is to make profits, not uplift the educational system. Chancellor Reynolds who is appointed by the Governor and the Mayor could not possibly support us because this is a conflict of interest. She cannot fully support us fighting against the people who pays her.

"What else can we but fight for ourselves?" the Evening Session Student Assembly (ESSA) asked it-

self earlier this semester. In what ways can we effectively fight these proposed budget cuts. Firstly, we decided to emphasize the importance of writing letters to legislatures in Albany, who will actually vote on this budget. The ESSA, Day Session Student Government, Graduate Student Government, and the Office of Student Life have distributed thousands of letters to students and have so far sent out 6300 letters to legislatures such as Joseph Bruno, NYS Senate Majority Leader, Sheldon Silver, NYS Assembly Speaker, and Kenneth P. LaValle, Chair, NYS Senate, Higher Education Ctt. On Monday and Wednesday alone, the ESSA traveled to classes in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street building and received over 3500 additional signatures.

Also, the ESSA has seen the importance and impact of lobbying. In tandem with other student governments, the University Student Senate (USS), SUNY, NYPIRG, KLACK, AND SLAM, the ESSA assembled over 1000 students on March 5 to successfully lobby against these cuts. Like an impetus, this united mass of students made these legislatures, Republicans and Democrats, aware that we are a driving force not to hargained with. Vick Ramdeen, the Vice President of Financial Affairs who lead the ESSA's contingent, reaffirmed to the senators that we, the students, are the ones who allow them to represent us. Mr. Ramdeen stated that Democrats are against the budget cuts, and support us, because they remembered when CUNY was a free institution.

Baruch College had the most students of any non-NYPIRG school, with the ESSA being represented in the same magnitude as the USS. The ESSA will also be in full support of the March 27 rally at City Hall.

As you read this article, the ESSA is working on a letter to Priscilla Wooten, the Chairwoman of the City Council Education Committee of CUNY. The President, Craig Jeffrey, represented Baruch College at this once a year meeting at which the Preliminary Executive Budget presented by the Mayor is discussed. Student leaders from

**"As a result 41,000 students will have to discontinue their dream of receiving a Bachelor's Degree."**

community colleges such as the Borough of Manhattan, Queensborough, Kingsborough, and the Bronx testified emphatically against these proposed cuts in vital services offered to community colleges.

Mr. Jeffrey spoke with Mrs. Wooten about some of our concerns, primarily the proposed cuts and its effect on the senior colleges of CUNY and specifically, its possible damaging effect on the Baruch

Community. He lobbied for the committee's support against the cuts, and stressed the importance of communicating with legislatures as a united front.

Additionally, several letters written by the ESSA was sent to the Governor reaffirming our slogan of "\$ 400 HIKE, NO WAY." has also contacted PS Cuny.

Now, the question that is often poised to the ESSA is, "will letter

**"Mayor Guiliani does not support CUNY, he doesn't believe that the city's higher educational system can educate us."**

campaigning and lobbying be enough to stop these proposed cuts?" The ESSA responds with a resounding "Yes." Letter campaigning, lobbying and rallying have proven to be effective in the past. Last year, hundreds of thousands of letters were sent, lobbying outings were organized, massive rallies were carried out, and this prevented an increase in tuition.

Also, we have to take into consideration that the state expects between 1 and 2 billion dollars in extra cash this year, plus a \$ 1.3 billion surplus accumulated last April. This new money arose because of the increase in personal income taxes and higher revenues and lower expenses than had been expected. With this increased revenue, the debate has changed from one of what to cut, but rather to one of where to spend. This is a positive for CUNY.

Hence, we need to intensify our letter campaigning, lobbying and rallying so that the administration, the city and the state know that we are 100% against these budget cuts, and will not allow them to pass this proposed budget.

Even though, we are at the bottom of the rung of issues that the Governor will possibly provide with increased money, we must continue to fight by letter campaigning, lobbying, rallying, and speaking with legislatures, so that our plight is understood and known to all. Governor Pataki is concerned about what his constituencies say, "what you have to worry about, is what the public interest is, trying to find the common ground," says Pataki.

Students it our obligation to present this united voice, to be the public interest that the Governor speaks of. This possible future Presidential Candidate knows that one day he will need our votes and influence, because one day, we will be the leaders, Presidents and CEO's of New York and the nation's corporations and institutions. The Governor will need us in the future, and he is aware of this, let's present ourselves in that way, because we do have the power to change his life, like he is attempting to change ours now. The ESSA believes this and will continue to represent your voice, a strong, united, and powerful voice.

# Business And The Economy

## In Brief...

We've heard it time again—it's not what you know, but who you know. Abigail Johnson was recently promoted from manager of the Fidelity Trend fund to manager of Specialized Growth Group where she will supervise seven other fund managers. In addition, Ms. Johnson will also take charge of Fidelity's equity investment technology systems. This promotion is certainly a giant step up in responsibility. However, it was not given based on a stellar performance at her previous job. During her seven month tenure at Fidelity Trend, a mid cap fund, she returned 5.26 percent, underperforming the S&P mid cap index by 4 points. In this case, the old saw is not who you know, but who you are. Ms. Johnson is the daughter of Fidelity chairman Ned Johnson.

Stock market pundit Elaine Gazarelli has recently fallen from the glory granted to her when she predicted the 1987 stock market crash. Her last two predictions have not been as accurate. In July 1996, Gazarelli went bearish a little too soon. Just when she decided it was time to rejoin the bulls in January 1997, the market plunged 95 points. Well, at least the market didn't stay down long—four days later it hit 7000. When Gazarelli appears on CNBC, the station is flooded with calls criticizing her. However, as CNBC's Ron Isana points out "Even the best strategists aren't right on every call." At least Gazarelli's predictions are right some of the time, unlike those of another market pundit, Michael Metz, who has been predicting market doom since the Dow hit 5000.

Staples will acquire Office Depot in a deal worth \$4 billion dollars. Initially, the Federal Trade Commission opposed the deal based on studies that revealed office supplies were cheaper in areas where the two companies compete. Thus, although the companies would not have a large percentage of market share in the office supply industry, their pricing power in local markets was very strong. In order to close the deal and win over the FTC, Staples and Office Depot agreed to sell 63 stores to competitor Office Max for 108.75 million.

In an attempt to get back on course after recent losses, Apple Computer is cutting its workforce by 30%, cancelling projects and cutting back on research

The Open Market Committee meeting of the Federal Reserve is set for March 25, just as The Ticker goes to print. Many market watchers expect that the meeting will result in a short-term rate hike of a quarter percent. In testimony before the Senate Banking Committee on February 26, Greenspan stated that "a preemptive policy tightening may become appropriate before any sign of actual higher inflation becomes evident". He also indicated that "caution seems especially warranted with regard to the sharp increase in equity prices over the last two years." Greenspan's remarks sent the Dow downward, but it quickly recovered in the following days. Our economy is growing at a rate which Mr. Greenspan does not think is sustainable. Will he raise rates this time?

Banc One has failed in several attempts to launch 401(k) credit cards that would allow users to borrow against their retirement accounts. Fortunately, our Congressman, Charles E. Shumer (D-NY), is supporting a bill to ban such a plan (HR 83). Having a line of credit on a retirement account could be dangerous, particularly for middle and lower income people, as they are more likely to need to "borrow" that money for perceived emergencies. How many times have you said to yourself—I'll just take \$50 from my savings now and replace it next week when I get paid—and never do. That is why we put our money into 401(k) plans and IRAs—so we can't get our hands on it. Allowing people to turn retirement savings into debt with 19 percent interest would be a crime. A better idea would be to set guidelines to allow withdrawal of 401(k) funds in the case where true extreme hardship exists.

MORE ON PAGE 12

Write an In Brief for the next issue -- April 9, 1997.

Submit articles to Room 1522, 360 Park Avenue South

## Sports Business

We Got Next!

By Hung Tran

The Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) is kicking off its inaugural season in grand fashion. The league's marketing partnerships with Sears, Roebuck and Co., Lee Jeans, Anheuser Busch, Spalding and Champion will give it a good promotional boost in all of its eight markets around the US. In addition, the league has also entered into long-term contracts with NBC, ESPN and Lifetime network. NBA Properties develops and oversees corporate sponsorship programs for the WNBA, NBA and USA Basketball. "We are very proud of the association this league will have with the NBA. It's vital to us on many, many fronts. And we think the experience and expertise that not only the league will bring, but the teams — people like Jerry Colangelo and Dave Checketts — will bring to the WNBA will be a vital part of our success," said Val Ackerman, WNBA President. "At the same time, for all of the obvious reasons, we know that it's going to be very, very important for the WNBA to have its own identity. We know that eventually for the league to succeed, it will have to stand on its own two feet," Ackerman added.

Sears announced its partnership with the WNBA beginning with the league's inaugural season starting June 21, 1997. "Sear's strong support of USA Basketball and

women's basketball has significantly contributed to raising the profile of women's sport's, and we anticipate that they will bring a similar passion and commitment to the WNBA," said WNBA President Val Ackerman. The Sears-WNBA partnership includes:

- ◆ advertising during every regular season and playoff game on NBC, ESPN, and Lifetime;
- ◆ national and local rights to WNBA logo team names;
- ◆ courtside signage during every game in all eight markets;
- ◆ player appearances and in-arena and in-store promotions;

Sears will sell WNBA licensed apparel and non-apparel products and conduct in-store promotions in nearly 150 Sears department stores in all eight markets. The WNBA's eight teams are in Charlotte, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Sacramento and Salt Lake City. Sears, Roebuck and Co. is a leading US retailer of apparel, home and automotive products.

Lee Jeans, Bud Light, Champion and Spalding Sports announced their marketing partnership with the WNBA on December 19, 1996. "The promotional support these partners bring to the WNBA both nationally and in all eight team markets is enormous," said Gary Stevenson, President, NBA Properties marketing and Media Group.

The WNBA's partnership with

continued on page 12

## Derivatives Use Continues to Grow While FASB Pushes Back Deadline for Compliance with its Long-Awaited Accounting Standard

By Victoria Esposito Harris

Remember Orange County, Barings Bank and Procter & Gamble? All of these organizations experienced devastating financial losses as a result of using derivatives. Derivatives are financial instruments whose returns are linked to, or derived from, the value of underlying securities (equities, bonds, commodities), interest rates, currency rates or reference rates such as the S&P 500. Derivative instruments are often referred to as "derivative securities" or "derivative products". Although these terms imply tangible items, derivatives are primarily contracts that are settled in cash at fixed intervals.

We have not heard much in the news about derivatives lately, but their use and complexity continues to grow. According to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, in 1996 U.S. banks reported approximately \$7.5 billion in revenue from derivatives trading, up from \$6.14

billion in 1995. Further, the International Swaps and Derivatives Association said that the use of interest rate and currency swaps grew approximately 37 percent in 1996. Should we assume that companies have learned their lesson about speculating with derivatives and are now using them properly as tools for risk management? Well, the magnitude of the disasters mentioned above has certainly raised the derivatives IQ of managers, regulators and investors. That is the first step in controlling and monitoring derivatives and preventing similar financial fallouts.

There can be no question that derivatives, when used properly, are excellent tools for managing risk in today's global business environment. Many companies depend on derivatives to hedge against changes in commodity prices, inventories and equipment, as well as to protect against interest rate and exchange rates fluctuations.

continued on page 12



## MORE IN BRIEF...

**International deregulation of telecommunications continues** to be a platform for European mergers. France Telecom was reportedly talking to Cable & Wireless about becoming a part of Global One, the French company's joint venture with Deutsche Telekom and America's Sprint. Meanwhile, Britain's British Telecom is merging with America's MCI.

**Pearson, a British media and entertainment group** plans to enhance the American edition of the Financial Times by spending an additional \$160 million on the paper.

**First Bank System is buying U.S. Bancorp** in a \$9 billion stock deal. The merger would create America's 15th largest bank.

**The balanced budget amendment was defeated in the Senate, and many economists are smiling.** The main reason for its failure was that balancing the budget in five years would intensify any recession by restricting government from increasing federal spending. Senate Democratic Leader, Tom Daschle, stated that "We stopped one of the most ill-founded, poorly worded amendments to the Constitution..." Since the economy has been going strong and the stock market has skyrocketed, many people fear that a recession could be lurking around the next corner—and when it finally jumps out at us, we will be grateful for an infusion of federal spending.

**International Telecom and Japan Telecom**, two of Japan's biggest companies, said that they would merge to become Japan's third biggest telephone group.

**A pair of Levi's jeans, dating from the late 19th century** that were found in an old Colorado mine shaft recently turned up in a vintage clothing store in New York. Reportedly, Levi Strauss purchased them for \$25,000.

HEY BUSINESS STUDENTS

WRITE FOR BUSINESS

CONTACT THE TICKER AT 802-6800 OR STOP BY ROOM 1522 AT 360 PAS.

## WOMEN'S NBA...

*continued from page 11*

Budweiser), plans a massive advertising campaign with the league to begin in the summer of 1997. "The Olympic Games in Atlanta proved that women's basketball is more than just a women's sport. It's an exciting game with mass-market appeal and extensive commercial opportunities," said August Busch, IV, Anheuser-Busch Vice President of Marketing.

Champion, a division of Sara Lee, will be the league's official on-court apparel outfitter and licensee. "Champion, and our parent company Sara Lee, are proud to continue our support of women in sports and pleased to be able to create a retail opportunity for a major WNBA apparel program," said Joseph Fortino, President and CEO of Champion.

Spalding, the leading manufacturer of basketballs in the US and the world, will be the exclusive basketball supplier to the league. In addition, it will also produce and market a new line of official WNBA basketballs. The official WNBA ball will be 28.5 inches in circumference, the same size currently used at the women's NCAA and girls' high school basketball games. "This agreement further demonstrates our unwavering commitment to the female athlete of today and tomorrow."

Each of the WNBA marketing partners will receive:

- ◆ Advertising in every WNBA

national telecast

- ◆ Advertising in WNBA print media

- ◆ On-court signage in each of the league's eight arenas

- ◆ Player appearances in every WNBA team market.

The National Basketball Association and NBC Sports announced that they will broadcast weekly coverage of WNBA. This will mark the first time that a women's professional athletic league has secured a major network affiliation. "This is a landmark agreement for women's basketball," said Ackerman, "because it affirms the rapidly growing appeal of the sport." In addition, the league is projecting two prime-time games per week on national cable television.

The Eastern Conference will be made up of Charlotte, Cleveland, Houston and New York. The Western Conference will consist of Los Angeles, Phoenix, Sacramento and Utah. "The eight charter WNBA teams collectively bring to women's basketball state-of-the-art buildings, proven management in professional basketball and some major media markets, which we believe will provide for an excellent foundation for the launch and long-term growth of the WNBA," said Val Ackerman, WNBA President. The WNBA schedule includes the following:

- ◆ The WNBA team name and logo

will be announced in mid-February

- ◆ The Pre-Draft camp will be held in mid-April

- ◆ The WNBA draft will be held on April 28, 1997

- ◆ Team tryouts will be in mid-May

- ◆ Training camps will begin May 28

- ◆ The regular season begins June 21, 1997

- ◆ The playoff semifinals will be on August 28

- ◆ The WNBA championship game to be held on August 30

In addition, the following WNBA rules include:

- ◆ a 28.5" ball size

- ◆ a 19.9" 3-point line

- ◆ a two 20-minute half

- ◆ a thirty second shot clock

The WNBA theme: "We Got Next" will begin to air on March 9 on NBC between the 3rd and 4th quarter of Chicago Bulls-New York Knicks game. Television, print, and radio campaign will feature players from every WNBA team. Ads will appear on NBC, ESPN and Lifetime. The theme will appear in every NBA on NBC broadcast and will be included in on-court signage during every nationally televised NBA game from March 9 through the 1997 NBA finals. Print ads will be featured in Sports Illustrated, Glamour, Self, NBA Inside Stuff and Hoop.

## FASB STILL WORKING ON DERIVATIVE ACCOUNTING RULES

*continued from page 11*

They make financial planning easier and reduce the odds of potential cash short flows. Furthermore, derivatives are typically components of a larger portfolio and not stand alone instruments. Anyone familiar with portfolio strategy knows that while overall strategies can be risky, it is not sensible to label individual investments as such. For example, motorcycles can either be safe or risky, depending on who and where they are being driven. The majority of accidents are caused by drivers, not the motorcycles themselves. The potential for harm is probably greater for a Harley driver without a helmet in Manhattan, than it is for a Honda driver with a helmet on an empty country road. However, motorcycles in a parking lot are not dangerous. The same can be argued for derivatives—that they are neither safe nor risky, but dependent upon the overall strategy that uses them which is either safe or risky.

Consider the following example of a derivative that is used to hedge a foreign currency risk. Today, Company M decides to build a manufacturing plant in France. To finance construction, the company will need to purchase 20 million French francs 6 months from today. This project means that the company will be exposed to the fluctuations of the franc from today until the time it needs to actually purchase the currency, 6 months from today. To minimize this risk, the company enters into a forward con-

tract which fixes the price of the franc as of today. The transaction will close when the franc is actually delivered, 6 months from today. If during this time the franc rises in value, the company wins; if it declines, the company loses. However, the objective of the company in this transaction was to reduce risk, not to make a profit.

The advent of derivatives, for their many benefits in risk management, has led to many questions in how to account for and regulate these complex transactions. As the Barings Bank and Orange County disasters demonstrate, when derivatives are used to make speculative bets, they can be fatal to an organization's capital structure. Why did the responsible individuals at these organizations take such chances? Because if their bets were correct, the potential profit was huge on a relatively small investment. This is because derivatives provide substantial leverage. For example, anyone who has a mortgage is leveraged in the property market.

A person buys a house for \$100,000. The downpayment is \$10,000 and \$90,000 is borrowed. Six months later, the house is sold for \$150,000. The \$90,000 is returned to the lender (ignoring interest payments) and the person keeps \$60,000. The principal is exactly the same with derivatives—a big bang for a little buck.

The \$1.4 billion Barings loss was caused by large, incorrect bets on the direction of the Japanese stock

market. The Orange County collapse was attributed to a bad bet on the direction of U.S. interest rates. In both cases, the bets were made by one person in the organization and somehow managed to escape detection until it was too late. Also, in both cases, derivatives were used for pure speculation, not to hedge a risk. This practice is no different than betting on a horse race at a local OTB parlor.

In order to ensure that financial statement users get a clear picture of a company's use of derivatives, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) has been working on developing its new derivatives accounting standard since 1994. The primary goal of the FASB in developing the standard has been to produce relevant information that is reliable, neutral and comparable among different entities. Timothy Lucas, research director at the FASB, said the proposal aims to fill "large gaps" in current accounting guidance over derivatives. He also stated that inconsistent accounting practices, particularly regarding hedging, are confusing and misleading to financial statement users.

The development of a comprehensive standard has been difficult and time-consuming for many reasons. First, there are many types of derivatives, including options, swaps, forwards and futures, all of which have different cash flow patterns. Options are clearly assets or liabilities, as they require payment of cash up front from the buyer to the

*continued on page 3*

## FASB CONTINUES TO WORK ON COMPREHENSIVE DERIVATIVE ACCOUNTING STANDARD....

*continued from page 12*

seller. However, forwards, futures and swaps start out as zero value transactions. As prices change, they gain or lose value and become assets or liabilities. Second, there has been considerable debate between the FASB, SEC and the business community over the content of the standard.

On June 30, 1996, the FASB finally released its exposure draft on the standard, with compliance set for December 1997. The core idea of the proposal is to bring all of a company's derivatives onto the balance sheet. Under current rules, the majority of derivative transactions are disclosed only in the footnotes, making it extremely difficult for even the most sophisticated user to determine the impact derivatives are having on a company's financial position. Examples of off-balance sheet items include futures, swap contracts, interest rate caps and floors, repurchase obligations, loan commitments, letters of credit, financial guarantees and obligations to repurchase receivables.

The FASB proposal would require all derivatives to be shown on the balance sheet as assets or liabilities at fair market value. Accounting for the gain or loss on a derivative would depend on what it is being used for. The gain or loss on a derivative that hedges a forecasted transaction would be deferred and recognized in "other comprehensive income" which is outside of earnings, but they will be included in earnings when the transaction is projected to occur. "Other comprehensive income" is a new account developed by the FASB where companies will report marked to market gains and losses from foreign exchange and other derivative securities, including options and futures. The gain or loss

on a derivative that hedges an asset, liability or a firm commitment would be recognized in the income statement, but it would be offset by recording the corresponding loss or gain on the actual hedged item. For a derivative that hedges foreign currency exposure of a company's net investment in a foreign operation, the foreign currency transaction gain or loss would be reported in other comprehensive income, with the remainder of the interest reported in earnings. Gains and losses assigned to other comprehensive income would be closed out when the cash transaction is finalized. Finally, gains and losses from those derivatives not designated as hedges would be reported directly in earnings.

Hedging has been one of the most hotly debated areas of the derivatives project. The business community has been strong-arming the FASB to allow lenient hedging categorizations. Basically, hedge accounting involves the practice of attaching the gains and losses on a hedge transaction to the instrument being hedged. In order for a transaction to qualify for hedge accounting, the risk must expose the entire firm and must not be offset by some other risk within the firm. Further, the hedging instrument and hedged item must be highly correlated and the hedge must be effective in reducing the risk. The following types of transactions would qualify for hedge accounting: (1) a hedge of the exposure to changes in fair value of a recognized asset, liability or firm commitment, (2) a hedge of the exposure to variable cash flows of a forecasted transaction or (3) hedge of the foreign currency exposure of a net investment in a foreign operation.

One of the major disputes con-

cerns the fact that anticipatory foreign currency hedge accounting will not be permitted. An anticipatory hedge is one where a firm plans to undertake a transaction in the future, such as the example of Company M above and its proposed plant construction in France. Fearing currency fluctuations will make the transaction more expensive, the company undertakes a hedge by purchasing a forward contract. When the transaction is undertaken, i.e., the currency is delivered to the company, the forward position is closed and the profit or loss is added to or subtracted from the price of the asset. Having to report unrealized gains or losses on such a contract can send misleading signals to investors and creditors, especially when offsetting transactions are not reported until they are completed. Consider this example. A company needs to purchase 100 barrels of oil sometime early next year. For the current year, its accounting statements will not reflect this anticipated transaction and, as such they do not reflect the expected price or the implications of price increases or decreases. However, if the company buys an oil forward contract that subsequently falls in value due to a decrease in the price of oil, it will have to show this as a change on its equity account. What will not show is that the oil the company expects to purchase will be cheaper.

In addition to complaints about the hedging requirements, banks have voiced strong opposition to the FASB proposal's mark to market requirement. The American Bankers Association stated that the FASB proposal is "flawed because it misrepresents sound risk management practices." Although mark to market is the standard followed by broker dealers, swap deal-

ers, investment companies and hedge funds, banks and savings and loan institutions do not follow this practice. Instead, they report securities on their balance sheet at historical cost. This practice allowed many savings and loans to falsely report a positive net worth of approximately \$36.2 billion in 1980, a time in which Congress was considering deregulating the industry. However, as we have become aware, the assets of these S&Ls consisted primarily of bad loans and devalued securities, making the true net worth something like negative \$118 billion.

In response to the banking industry's concerns, on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, the FASB announced that it will push back the deadline for compliance with its new derivatives accounting to July 1, 1998 from December 15, 1997. The FASB will also modify the proposal. Under the original, derivative contracts were reported as equal to the value of the assets they hedge. The board has conceded to the banks and will no longer require the entire change in fair value of a hedged item to be recognized in earnings. Further, it will continue to allow some of the hedge accounting currently permitted for foreign exchange transactions.

The FASB expects the new rule to be finalized by June 1997, and believes that the requirement that all derivative instruments be reflected at fair value on the balance sheet will improve financial reporting to more accurately reflect an organization's risk exposure as a result of its derivatives positions. However, in addition to regulatory guidance, companies must also implement strong internal controls to ensure the proper use of derivative instruments.

## THE TICKER Your Student Voice WILL BE SPONSERING THE 1997 DAY SESSION STUDENT GOVERNMENT POLITICAL DEBATE BETWEEN

THE S.T.E.P. PARTY  
LED BY PEARL CHEN

AND THE S.P.I.R.I.T. PARTY  
LED BY ILAN PERESS

APRIL 17, 1997 (THURSDAY) AT 12:30pm - 2:00pm at

The Skylight Lounge, 17 Lex bldg. Rm 311  
*Be there and ask questions to both candidates.*



# REAL WORLD 2000

**Baruch College's own  
STUDENT LEADERSHIP MINI-CONFERENCE!!**  
**10 am - 3 pm**  
**Saturday, April 12, 1997**

**If you are:**

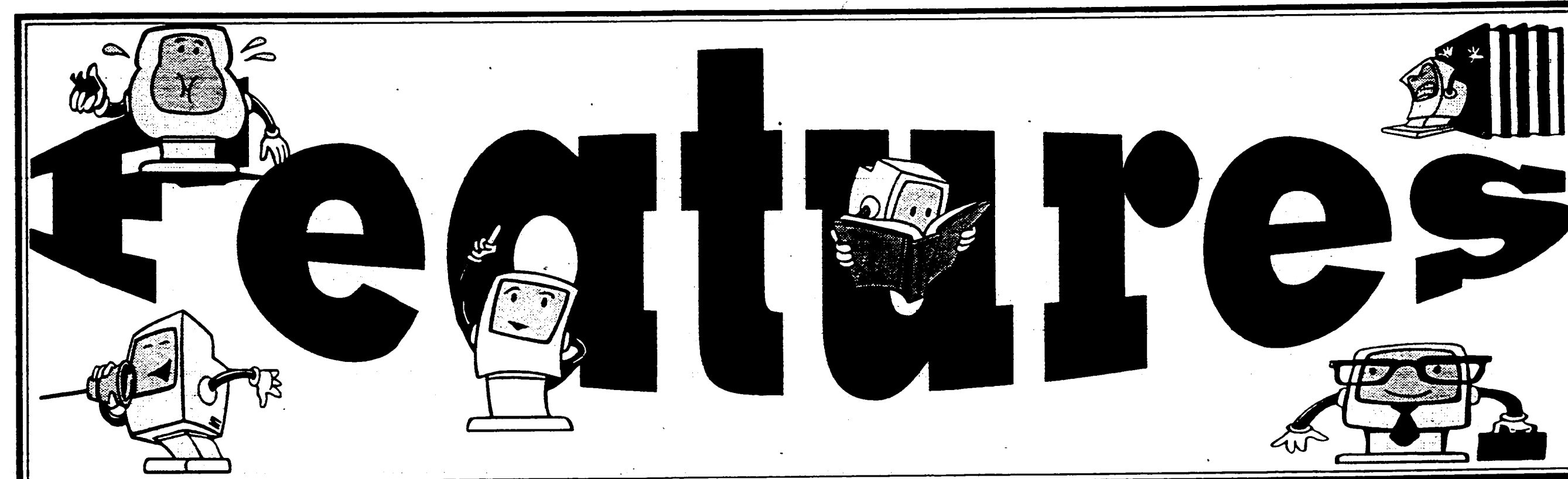
- a member of a student club --
- a college student leader or club officer --
- an experienced leader looking forward to graduation --
- interested in perfecting your presentation skills --

**Space is  
LIMITED!**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**Reserve your space by  
Friday, April 4, 1997  
in the Office of Student Life  
Room 1512, 360 PAS**

**Only \$3  
to register --  
Lunch included!**



## BRIGHT, BLACK AND BLASTING BACK ALL YOUNG BLACK MEN ARE....

By Nandel Palmer

Raheem Spivey studies most evenings at the library until midnight. Donald Brown voluntarily crosses senior citizens at a busy intersection daily. Darrell Antoine opens doors for ladies, does not call them *hoes*, and still says thank you. What all of these men have in common? They're all black, all pursuing college degrees, between the ages of 18 to 25. And, no, they're not from Tumbleweed, Mississippi. All were born and raised in New York City.

The American society is inundated with statistics after statistics showing how one out of four black males is either in prison, on parole or is murdered. And prime-time news leaves no stones unturned in driving home this point. Thus, with the chilling murders of rappers Tupac Shakur, followed by Biggie Smalls, in recent times, many black parents, sociologists, lawmakers, and social activists wonder out loud what can be done to save young black men from the throes of despair.

But despite the numerous murders, car-jackings, rapes and other crimes that are allegedly committed by some young black males in New York annually, it must be noted that criminal elements are not endemic to black men. On the contrary, hundreds of thousands of regular black men the media seem so conveniently to ignore, are law-abiding citizens. These men seek some of the same things their white counterparts desire: namely, a college education, good jobs, decent families, and the "pursuit of happiness."

However, many constantly find themselves having to make disclaimers so as to distinguish themselves from the stereotyped. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they implore society not to judge them

based upon the color of their skin but the content of their character.

"Even though a crime is a crime, whenever I watch the news and hear about some felonies committed, I can't help but silently pray 'Lord, don't let it be a black man,'" said Dwight Myrie, a graduate of Rutgers University in New Jersey. "I know I may sound stupid saying this, but for every wrong a



lowlife commits, I, along with millions of other decent black men, have to prove to corporate America ten-folds that I am not like that jerk." The 24-year-old entrepreneur of a real estate company said that decent, good-standing black men are in the majority, but like

anything else, the negative news is shown on page one while the positive is shown on page 101. When asked what's the catalyst for their being go-getters, ambitious, and law-abiding, while some of their peers go in and out of jail, all respondents credited their parents for being positive role models in their lives, while others stressed good friends with strong moral backing. Some admitted to yielding to peer pressures when they were younger, but decided that there's more to life than skipping class, partying all the time, and "hanging with the brothers."

Raheem Spivey, born and raised in Bedford-Stuyvesant, said that it's extremely crucial that parents get involved in their children's lives before it's too late. "Everybody has a conscience, and my conscience would definitely get in the way if I were to rob somebody, to dog a female, or to be disrespectful to my elders," said the 19-year-old Baruch accounting major. "But that does not come about overnight — it has to be in-

stilled."

"You've got to set goals for yourself," said Phi Beta Sigma treasurer, Alec Turner, "because without direction, whom ever you come in contact with will direct you." Turner said that it behooves young black men to start getting more serious in what they do, which will bring respect by the larger society over time.

Mothers, too, espoused some of the sentiments their sons credit them with. Mrs. Madeleine Winston, mother of Reginald Winston, who recently graduated law school, said: "Children are really gifts from God, and if a mother doesn't raise her child properly, I don't think anything else she does matters."

Some mothers would definitely take umbrage to Mother Winston's comment, though, as they have tried everything to steer their unheeding boys in the right direction, to no avail. In the end, boys of that ilk invariably grow up and continue to perpetuate the stereotype.

Crown Heights native, Kenny Lewis, who lists his hero as Notorious B.I.G., said that when he was a little boy he was

treated quite well by his parents — especially by his mom, but after his parents were divorced, his mother started shrieking her duties as a mother. Today, at 17, Lewis has chalked up criminal records, ranging from manslaughter, rape, burglary to misdemeanor. He's currently out on parole.

Lewis said that he

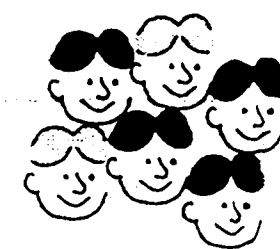
wants to attend college in the near future, but contended that because of his rap sheet, most colleges would not admit him. "Whether I go to college or not, though, I have to be a millionaire — by any means necessary," said Lewis, amid his joint-smoking entourage. "If it means killing a thousand people to get those millions, I will do it."

Sounding more like a revered philosopher than his 25 years existence on earth, Richard Commodore belies his youthfulness in ways that would make Socrates ask for help. With flailing hand and piercing eyes, he waxed heartily about young black men in America. "Whether you want to believe it or not, the people you surround yourself with somewhat shape your personality; they catapult you to the next tax bracket," he said. "Everybody rubs off on you. Just see your family as a hub and your friends as the spokes. It's up to you to choose which spokes you want for your hub."

The marketing senior  
Continued on page 20

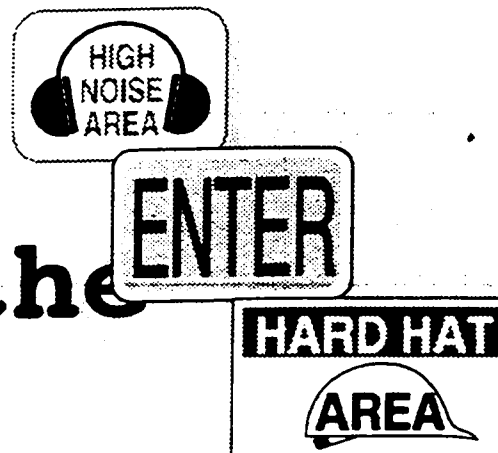






# CLUB CORNER

## A Brief Description of the Day Session Clubs



### ASEDOM

Association of Dominican Students

We at ASEDOM are a culturally based organization. We believe in preserving our heritage while exposing other ethnic groups to the historic background and customs of our Caribbean life. We are interested in meeting new people who are serious and dedicated to changing the Latino image to a more positive one while having tons of fun doing it.

If you would like to find out more, drop by room 1512 of the 360 PAS building and drop a note in the ASEDOM mail box. Leave your name and a telephone number where you can be reached.

### P.R.I.D.E.

We are an ever growing happy family, where you can meet people that are not just Puerto Rican but, of other nationalities. We're a place where you can feel welcome, where everyone looks out for everyone else. We'll help you out with school, friends, and family problems. We are a place to go to on a rainy day to talk, laugh, and relax from school and family stress. We throw parties, watch movies, learn new things about other people's cultures including our own.

We meet in the 26th Street building in Room 1111 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during club hours.

### THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (S.H.R.M.)

The Society for Human Resource Management, which is affiliated with the National Organization, provides Human Resource majors, and other interested students, with the opportunity to interact with faculty and professional practitioners in the Human Resource and other Business Management areas.

Professionals come in and give advice in areas such as resume writing, critiquing, and interviews, and also, giving insight into what prospective employers are looking for in job applications.

An important benefit of SHRM membership is the ability to regularly network with professionals, giving students the much needed contacts for entering the tough job market.

The S.H.R.M. meets on Thursdays during club hour, at 360 PAS, Room 1816.

### BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

The Business to Business Marketing Society (BTB) is a club that enhances academic knowledge and brings the real world of industrial and commercial marketing to its members. Our main goal is to help members to be better prepared for associated career advancement, and to guide them toward the market activity of organizations who engage themselves in marketing to other business. BTB provides an arena where speakers are invited to talk on a variety of subjects, industry-marketing trends in Corporate America as well as counseling on careers in marketing.

BTB is an organization that promotes awareness and understanding about marketing activity with companies that sell goods and services primarily to other businesses and institutions, not the final consumer. If you are a student that would like to gain exposure to the many professionals engaged in industrial marketing, join us during club hours Room 839, 360 PAS. ALL ARE WELCOME.

### INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Purpose of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

1. To lead others to personal faith in Christ as Lord and Savior
2. To help Christians grow toward maturity in their Christian faith by study of the Bible, by prayer, and by Christian fellowship
3. To help students and faculty to discover God's role for them

### THE FINANCE AND ECONOMICS SOCIETY

The Finance & Economics Society is open to all of those interested in the processes of the financial world. It provides students with an informative view of current change and the future trends in the rapidly evolving financial world via various functions such as lectures, symposiums, and field trips.

We meet in Room 640, 26th Street Building

### BETA ALPHA PSI

Membership in Beta Alpha Psi gives you an instant scholarly recognition. Beta Alpha Psi invites guest speakers who are recognized in their fields and who are decision makers in human resources departments at potential employers. The Big Six Accounting firms are focusing less on the campus interview and are putting far greater reliance on pre-identification. These firms have developed a hiring preference for members of Beta Alpha Psi. Therefore, we invite you to become a member of Beta Alpha Psi in order to leverage your participation in our society for your job search. Please look for our flyers posted on college bulletin boards for the meeting dates and room numbers. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

### BARUCH ACHIEVERS

The goal of our organization is to uplift students by providing them with valuable information about current issues that we feel is pertinent to them. The topics of our events range from surfing the Internet, dressing for an interview, to financial planning on an individual basis.

We hope that the activities we promote help to better prepare Baruch students for their future, as well as bring them closer together, in an environment where there is cultural diversity.

Meetings are Thursdays, Room 1862, 360 PAS from 12:35-2:20.

### CHINESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Chinese Christian Fellowship believes that there is only one True God, the God of Israel. We believe in the infinitely perfect, sovereign, eternal Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also believe that Jesus Christ was sent from Heaven to Earth to serve as a sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Believing and living by God's commandments will bring salvation. He will return to earth to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace. We are here to spread the Gospel to the campus of Baruch College with an emphasis on the Chinese(American and overseas-born) students.

We meet every Thursday between 12:25 and 2:30pm

**STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

### HILLEL OF NEW YORK AT BARUCH

Come and be apart of the Jewish Community at Baruch College. Meet new people, improve your networking skills, get religious information, have FUN!!! Please see Ellen Steigman in 360 PAS room 1511 or call at (212)802-6808 for more information

### PHI ETA SIGMA NATIONAL FRESHMAN HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Eta Sigma is a national honor society for undergraduates (freshman and sophomores). Our goal is to encourage and reward academic excellence among Baruch College students. Our activities include: workshops on different topics of interest(internships, management, resume enhancement and scholarships), visits to places of interest (UN, Unicef, etc.), participation in volunteer programs including New York Cares Day, Volunteers of America, and the Salvation Army. We hope to make the transition process into Baruch a pleasant one for freshmen by serving as a link between the activities carried out by the college and the students. JOIN US DURING CLUB HOURS(THURSDAYS IN ROOM 424: 26TH STREET BUILDING).

The officers of the chapter can be contacted through the Dean of Students office at 360 PAS room 1702. (212)802-6820

### THE BARUCH ARCHERY CLUB

What is archery? You've seen it in the movies; the various Robin Hood films being the most memorable. It's been seen in the media types as simple as a comic book, and in events as grand as the Olympic games. And yet, most people only have a vague notion of just what the sport is all about.

So, why not drop by and check it out. We would be glad to teach and train anyone interested. We provide all the equipment and no experience is necessary.

For more information please go to the 6th floor gym at the 23rd street building.

All are welcome.

### THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CLUB

S.A.P. is one of Baruch's newest clubs founded in November of 1995. The goal of the club is to provide a forum for the discussion of Social and Political issues through the use of newsletters, speakers, debates and movies. Last semester the club was involved in numerous activities including a fund raising raffle drawing; support of a sexual Harassment workshop hosted by the Helpline office, participation in the D.S.S.G debate, the publication of two newsletters, and the hosting of a dance competition. This semester, the club will be working closely with the Political Science Department with the aim of building upon the achievements of the previous semester. We hope that you the Baruch Community will provide support as the club could make a useful contribution to the college.

### THE ACCOUNTING SOCIETY

The Accounting Society gives students a chance to learn more about this major they have chosen or will chose to study during their stay at Baruch.

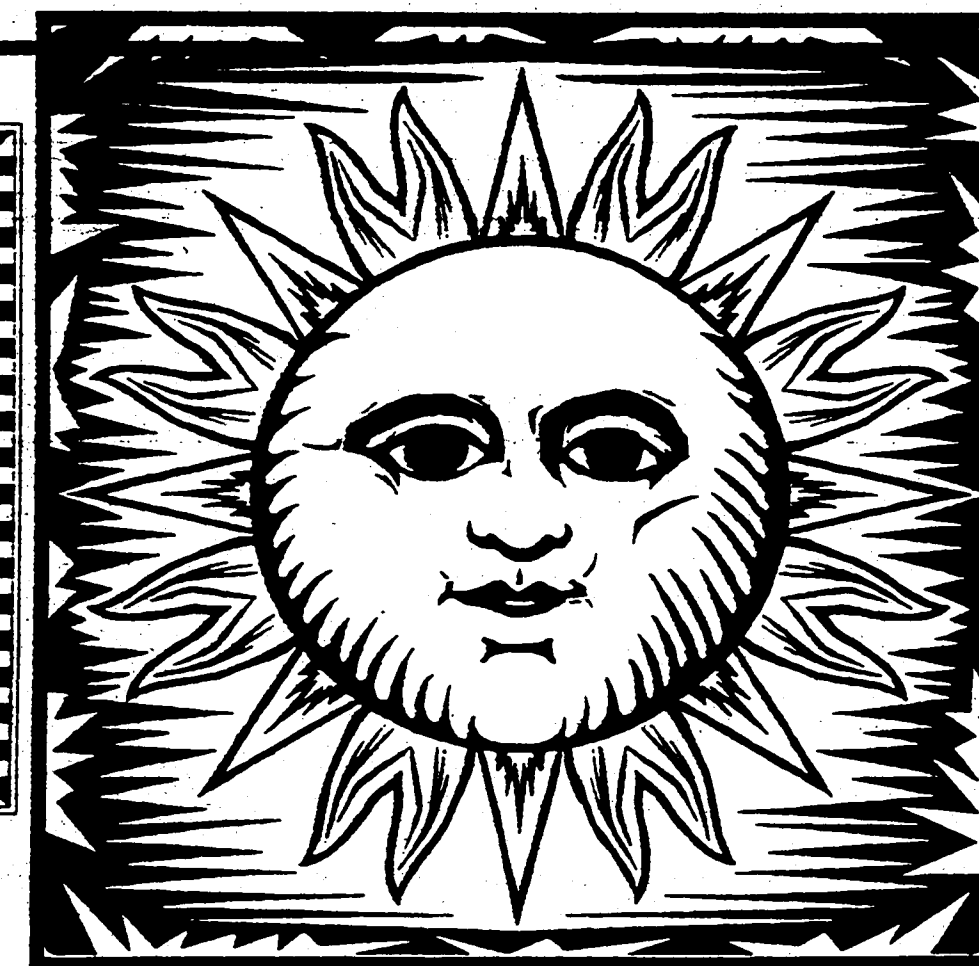
Upcoming events:

- 3/27 Expectations and preparations to enter the accounting profession
- 4/3 Use of new technology by Accountants
- 4/10 International Accounting

## The "Latino Week" 1997 Planning Committee

Latino Week May 12th -16th

If you can Act, Sing, Dance, display any cultural performance, or play an instrument we would Love to see it. The Latino Week committee is looking for raw ....



....natural talent to perform in the 1997 "Latino Week" Calendar. We would like to see the Baruch Community come out and partake of this special week.

If you would like to contribute please contact any Club officer on the planning committee, to schedule a rehearsal: ASEDOM, Hispanic Society, Latin American Student Organization, Latin American Youth, P.R.I.D.E., or drop a note in The La Unidad Latina, Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity. mailbox. rm 1512 360 P.A.S.

Eastern

Standard

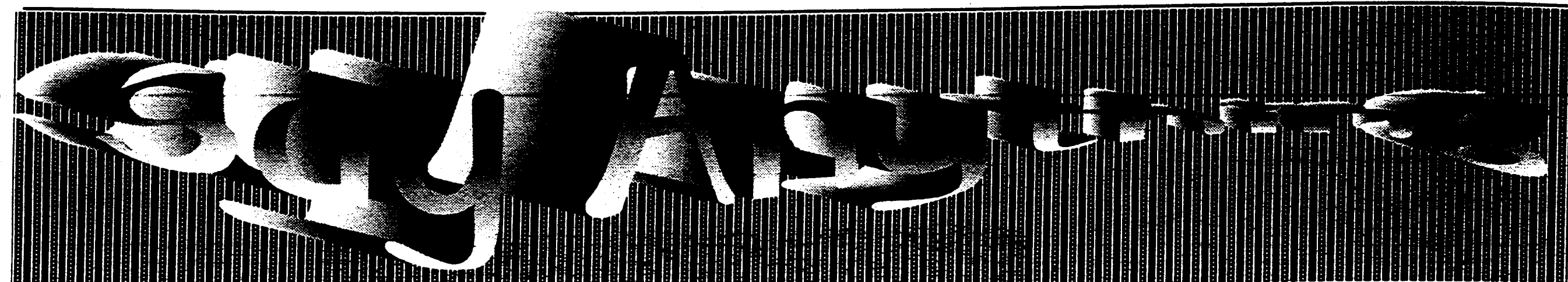
The Baruch College  
Department of Fine and Performing Arts Presents  
A Theatrical Production of a modern comedy by  
Richard Greenberg  
AT THE BERNIE WEST THEATRE, Room 911.17 Lexington  
Tues.-Sat. APRIL 8-12 at 8 PM and Sat. at 2 PM  
Tickets-\$5  
For reservations call 387-1345

When it comes to  
multimedia, you have  
two options.

Plug and Play.  
or  
Plug and Pray.

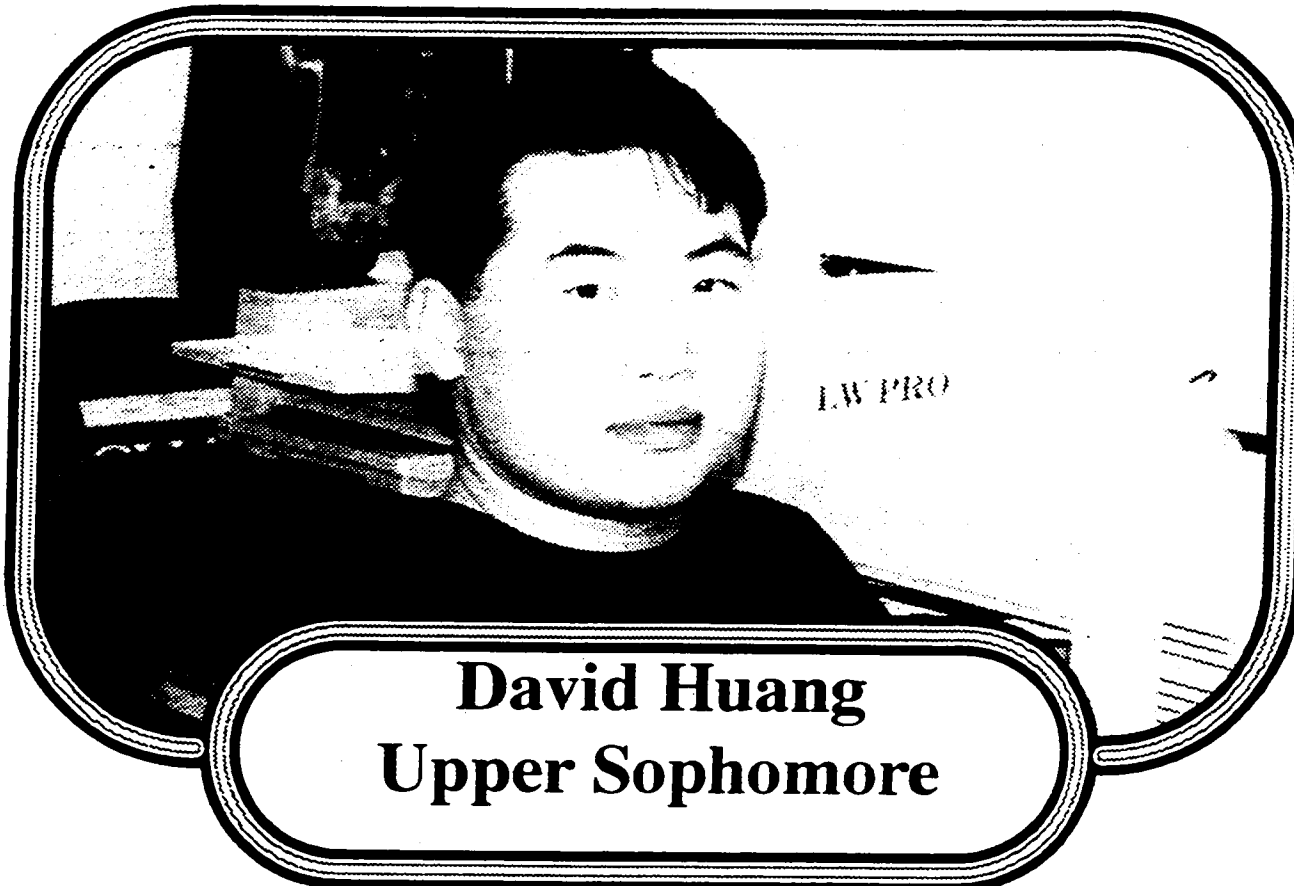






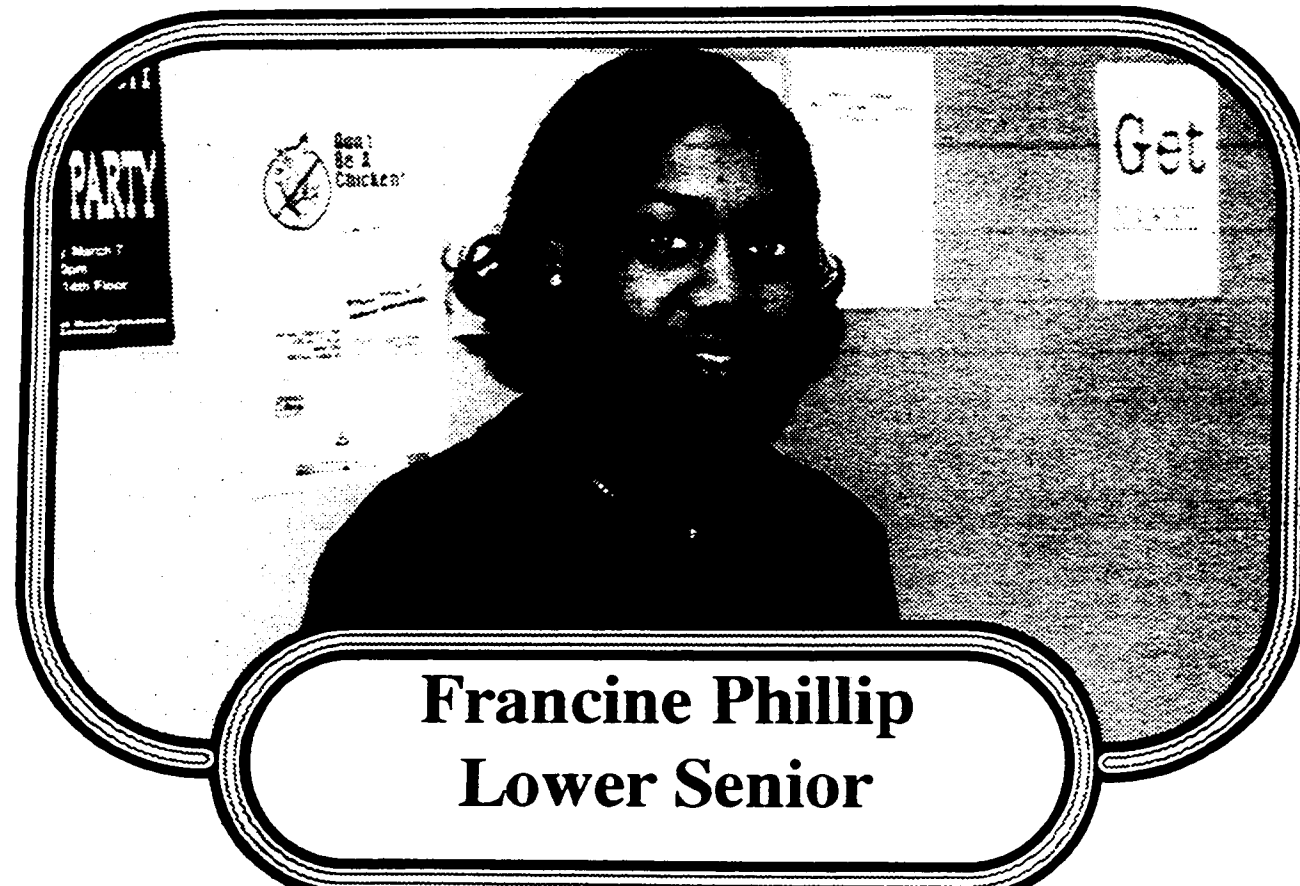
## What do you intend to do about the tuition hike?

Photos by Paola Marocchi



**David Huang**  
Upper Sophomore

"I think we should let the legislatures know that education is important."



**Francine Phillip**  
Lower Senior

"Whatever the student organizations are doing I'm gonna follow along."



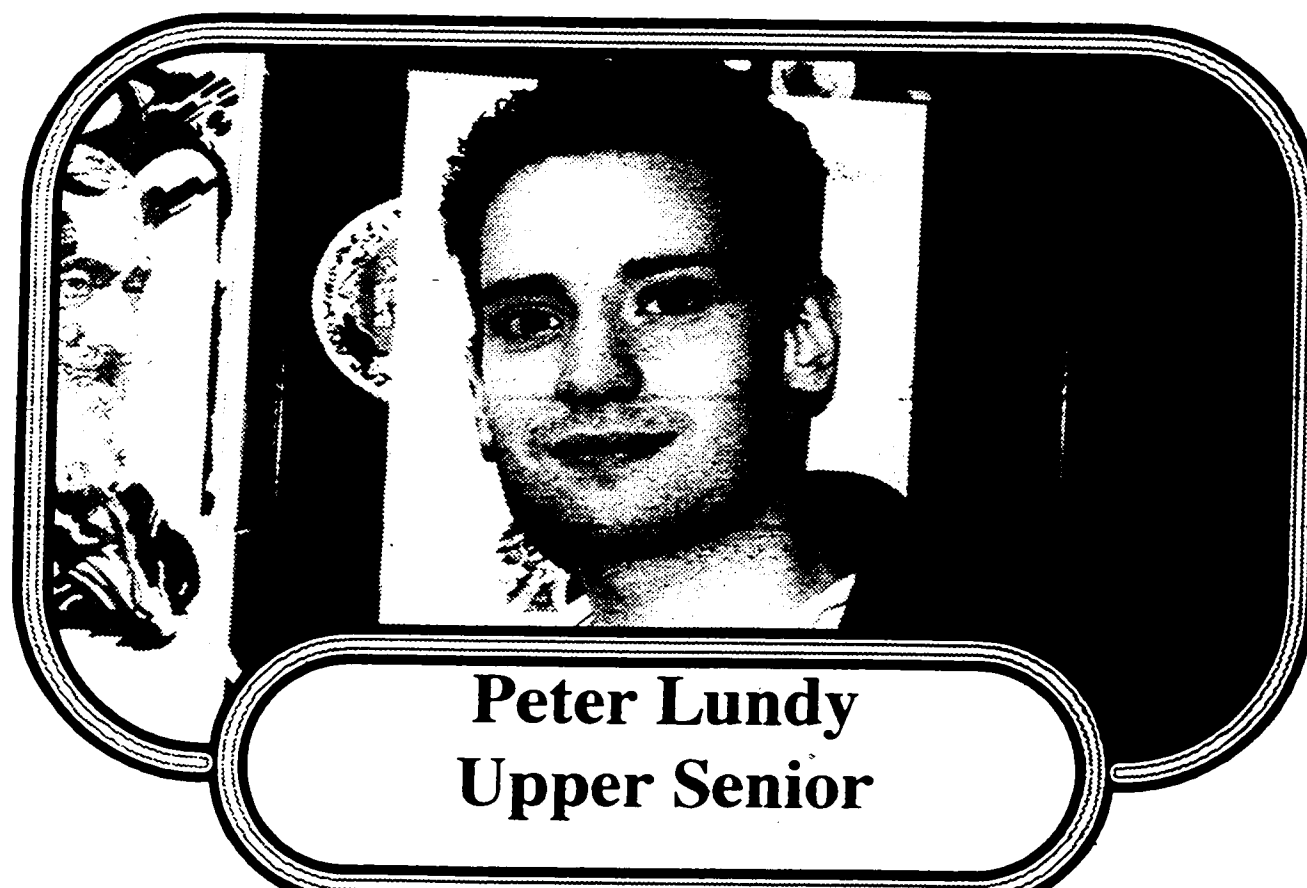
**Delia Tucker**  
Upper Sophomore

"I did a video which will be sent to Albany which personalizes the issue and its negative effect."



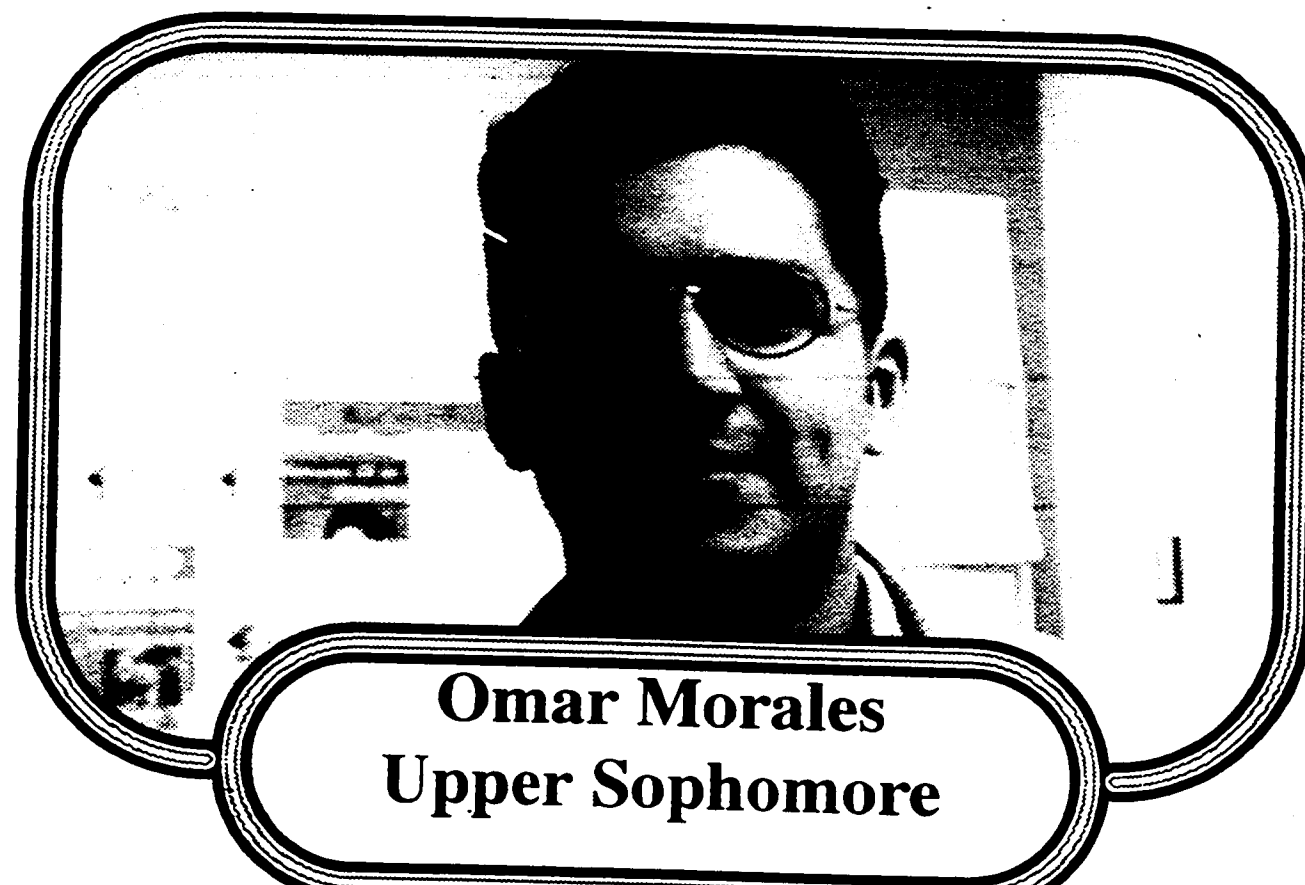
**Linda Rodriguez**  
Upper Senior

"I'm graduating."



**Peter Lundy**  
Upper Senior

"Nothing, I'm gone."



**Omar Morales**  
Upper Sophomore

"I think it's a really bad idea."

**GOT AN UNUSUAL TALENT?**



**COME SHOW US WHAT YOU DO!**

- NOVELTY ACTS! ■ AMAZING FEATS!
- ONE-OF-A-KIND PERFORMERS!

**LOCATION:** *STUDENT CENTER.*  
360 PAS RM. 1422

**DATE:** *WED - APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>*

**TIME:** *11:00 AM - 5:00 PM*

**HOTLINE:** *SHANE - 212-654-6136*

**TUTORING**  
*Back to School*  
**BEGINS FEB. 10TH**

Tutoring will be offered  
Monday through Thursday  
5:00-9:00pm  
Room 1512, 360 P.A.S.

Accounting, All Math  
Economics, English  
Finance, Law, OPR  
Statistics

To Schedule appointments  
call Yvette at 212-802-8770  
between the hours of 3-8:30pm

**All Tutoring is one-on-one and free of charge  
to students of Baruch College**

## Classified

BEST HOTELS & LOWEST PRICES for SPRING-BREAK BEACH destinations. Florida, Cancun, Jamaica, etc. CALL NOW for rooms or SIGN-UP as INTER-CAMPUS REPR. 800-327-6013 <http://www.icpt.com>

Are you interested in earning extra income in your spare time? This is a great network marketing opportunity for everyone! If you are interested, please call Pauline for more details at (718) 437-3907.

**EUROPE \$169**  
**Within USA \$79 - \$129**  
Caribb./Mexico \$189.r/t. Cheap Fares  
Everywhere! [airhitch@netcom.com](mailto:airhitch@netcom.com) [www.isicom.fr/airhitch/212-864-2000](http://www.isicom.fr/airhitch/212-864-2000)

**\* \$200-\$500 WEEKLY \***  
Mailing phone cards. No experience necessary.  
For more information send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:  
Global Communication, P.O. Box 5679, Hollywood, FL 33083

**HELP WANTED**  
Men/Women earn \$480 weekly assembling circuit boards/electronic components at home. Experience unnecessary, will train.  
Immediate openings your local area. Call 1-520-680-7891 EXT C200

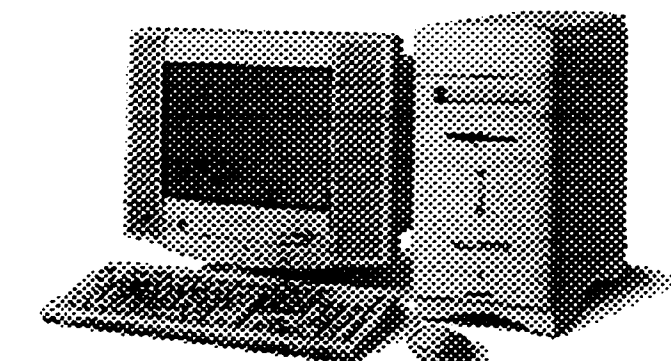
### ALASKA EMPLOYMENT

Fishing Industry. Learn how students can make up to \$2,850/month + benefits (Room & Board/Transportation). For more information, call:  
(800) 207-5365 ext. A51331  
(We are a research & publishing co.)

## The CUNY/Apple Campus Direct Purchasing Program

**Hot CUNY Pricing!**

Power Macintosh 6500/225  
225 MHz PowerPC Processor!  
32MB RAM, 2 gig HD, 12X CD-ROM  
(shown with 17-inch AV display)



Power Mac 6500/225 system: \$1849  
Apple Displays from \$403  
Great pricing on 12 other systems, too!

For pre-purchase advice and a complete price list,  
call (212) 650-8111

To place your order,  
call 1-800-877-4433, extension C-U-N-Y





# LEARNING TO DEAL WITH STRESS

By Jennifer Rappaport

We all know what it is like during test time when we feel like ripping our hair out and throwing our books across the room. Test time is a tough time which can produce a lot of stress. Stress which we can use positively or stress that can tear us apart.

Every student feels some kind of stress and anxiety during test taking time. Some students are affected so intensely by this stress that it effects their performance and their health with serious results.

It can be harmful when there is no outlet to relieve the feelings and energy associated with stress. Often, chronic, unrelieved stress causes symptoms such as headaches, backaches, loss of appetite, constant fatigue, depression and other physical problems. But not to worry, you can learn to manage this stress. By being prepared for exams, using relaxation techniques, and most importantly by being optimistic you can learn to manage the stress related to test taking and other areas of your life.

In being prepared for an exam, you should always ask the professor what material will be cov-

ered on the exam and how the exam will be formatted. This will give you an idea of what to expect. Make sure to review all lecture and reading notes. Also, be sure to keep the rereading of texts to a minimum. To check your recall of facts, you should recite them aloud. In being prepared, it is also a good idea to try and predict and answer questions that may possibly be on the exam.

Once you are prepared for an exam, your stress and anxiety will be reduced a great deal, however, sometimes this is not enough. When the pressures of test taking become too overwhelming, it is very helpful to use relaxation techniques. These techniques are helpful in many stressful situations. First, it is important that you make time for yourself; time to relax. Often, it is helpful to take 10-15 minutes out of your day to sit on a comfortable chair, close your eyes, and think about a favorable place or object. While you are sitting you should try another technique. Tighten and

relax all the muscles in your body one at a time. Begin by clenching your fists and arms, then do the same with your shoulders and your neck, then your chest and all the other parts of your body one by one. This relaxation technique will relieve a lot of tension and will help you manage stress. There are also several other relaxation techniques you can do including breathing techniques.

On the quest toward managing your stress during test taking time or during any stressful time in your life being prepared and relaxing help a great deal. However, when trying to manage stress you should never forget to remain optimistic.

Encourage yourself, think positively ("I can do well on this test!"). A positive attitude is very important and very helpful.

Dealing with the stress related to test taking can be very difficult and overwhelming at times, but always remember that you can manage this stress by being prepared, using relaxation techniques and by being optimis-

tic. Don't panic, take things one at a time. If things feel like they are getting a little too out of hand, or if you'd just like some more information, always remember there are people who are willing to help you.

**"It can be harmful when there is no outlet to relieve the feelings and energy associated with stress."**

Sometimes parents, counselors, professors, and friends are willing to help. Also there are peer counselors that can help you. Helpline is a peer counseling group with peers who are understanding and always willing to help. Helpline provides counseling as well as referrals and information. Helpline has some very useful brochures on test taking, stress and other issues, so feel free to stop by. We are located in room 1548 at 360 PAS. Our hours are from 9 am- 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.



## Bright, Black And Blasting Back

there's still racism in America, young black men should not allow themselves to be crippled by it. Instead, they should find alternative routes to get around it. "There's always a way out, you just have to find it," he said. "If you can't get through the front door, try getting through the back door." Commodore said that he's not considered exceptional by any means as all the black males in his acquaintance are upwardly mobile people, and none has had any run-in with the law.

Some black males would find Commodore's admonition unattainable, in part again, through peer pressures. For many of these men, prodding from their parents and teachers to study harder are often heeded, but for others, the thought of success is tantamount to "selling out."

According to noted Harvard psychiatrist, Dr. Alvin F. Pouissant, occasionally, black teenagers are made to feel guilty by friends because they are "too smart." Blacks in some neighborhoods have an anti-intellectual attitude and persecute and ridicule students who take their studies seriously. They are called "white", "dork", or worse. "Such pressure may cause a black teenager to fear success and try to fit in with his group," he said. This can pose quite a formidable task for these men in adulthood since

gainful employment is determined, most often than not, by a solid education.

**"But despite the numerous murders, car-jackings, rapes and other crimes that are allegedly committed by some young black males in New York annually, it must be noted that criminal elements are not endemic to black men."**

A group of white students were asked whether or not their perception of young black males was shaped by what the media dispense daily, or by the stereotypical figures in the black community, and the comments were voluminous. In referring to lyrics from rap "icons" like Tupac Shakur's, Nell Spekman, an accounting major, said that it's stupid and self-defeating for these black men to constantly use the "N" word in their lyrics. Apart from that, though, she said that "white people are doing the same

things blacks do except the media tend to sensationalize the crime when it's committed by a black person."

"I don't make decisions based on the color of one's skin," said business psychology major, Susan Ericson, "I've made snap judgments about people in the past and those judgments have always been wrong."

Leonara Xhekaj, an accounting major, is a confessed classicist, but does not judge people by skin color or on the basis of what she's heard or read. "All the friends that I keep have to possess the same level of education as I do and some of the values I share — that goes for both blacks and whites."

"Every time I pick up a young black man, he's always surprised and constantly questions me as to why I stopped," said Peter Culkov, a New York City cabdriver, and Finance student at Baruch. The Bulgarian native maintained that he doesn't make prejudgment of his fares because he sees "people as people," but argued that some of these men need to shed the second-class image and start being more assertive. In other word, if they can start accepting themselves for who they are, then people will eventually accept them.

In all of this racial schism that pervades the American landscape, there's no

easy fix or magic elixir to change people's perceptions of each other any time soon. But one student said that there are ways to ameliorate the problem.

Brian Jacobs, an aspiring actor, is hopeful that the gulf of distrust and jumping to judgment between white America and young black males could get narrower over time. He opined that in order to overcome this *good* black vs. *bad* black element in our society, people need to take time out to find out more about each other, whether via school, work, church, synagogue, mosque, etc. He said that Baruch has afforded him the opportunity to secure a trove of good friends from all nationalities. "There need to be more unity," he said, "once that is developed, then everything else will fall into place."



## Young Professionals Career Evening 3

THE STEVEN L. NEWMAN  
REAL ESTATE INSTITUTE

**Wednesday March 26, 1997  
5:45-7:00PM**

Meet (over Cokes and pizza):

**LAIRD D. BANKS**

L.D. BANKS & ASSOC.

Laird D. Banks will introduce you to the world of retail real estate brokerage, career patterns and possibilities, and entry-level opportunities for Baruch College/Newman Institute students

### Newman Institute Young Professionals Career Evenings

A series of seven monthly hour-long presentations and discussions, over pizzas and Coke, with young leaders of the real estate industry in New York. These evenings are especially planned for Baruch/Newman Institute students considering careers in real estate. Each presentation highlights a different component of the metropolitan area's real estate industry.

- Learn about different kinds of real estate jobs
- Ask questions about what you would be doing on the day you start work
- Meet both recent college graduates and the prime young leadership of the real estate industry

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CAREER EVENINGS

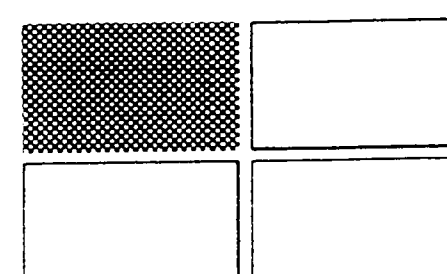
The last week of every month

5:45-7:00 P.M. December 1996-June 1997

at 135 East 22nd Street, room 307, Baruch College

Watch for dates on each month's poster announcement

For more information  
Contact Carla Hoke at 802-5940





62967  
84573  
2910  
1109  
3529  
42579  
1997  
30779  
80051  
1037  
15628  
6138  
8167  
7362

5294  
12345  
98765  
6798  
3341  
5022  
1518  
3119  
33353  
40040  
73512  
64748  
44569  
66702  
80267  
6770  
91659

7	6	4	8	5	3	2	1	0	9	7	5	7	8	3	9	2	6	3	8	1	7	0	3
1	0	8	3	8	1	7	6	7	8	6	8	6	2	1	2	7	3	8	0	7	9	8	2
9	3	1	9	6	4	0	8	3	4	9	0	5	3	7	8	9	6	0	3	9	3	0	7
2	3	5	2	9	1	2	5	2	8	2	1	6	3	5	4	8	2	5	5	9	2	5	4
0	6	5	0	6	0	6	0	6	4	8	0	9	1	2	6	3	1	6	3	8	7	9	3
7	8	8	6	5	0	6	0	6	4	8	0	9	1	2	6	3	1	6	3	8	7	9	3
1	3	0	2	3	9	0	7	3	8	6	0	9	8	7	6	5	8	3	4	7	1	4	8
2	1	9	8	1	5	4	6	2	9	5	7	6	0	2	4	7	1	2	5	3	0	6	9
0	9	1	3	2	5	9	8	0	9	1	0	2	8	7	4	9	0	9	8	6	9	0	9
8	7	8	1	2	7	0	8	7	4	3	1	5	0	6	3	4	2	1	0	4	7	8	5
1	2	7	0	8	4	2	1	9	9	7	9	4	8	7	5	0	4	8	9	6	0	7	4
8	6	5	3	9	3	7	0	9	5	7	2	5	3	0	2	9	7	3	5	1	2	8	1
3	7	0	9	5	3	6	3	8	1	2	4	6	3	8	4	0	6	7	3	6	9	7	6
0	6	1	2	8	1	4	5	6	7	6	5	3	1	6	1	5	0	9	7	5	4	3	2
1	5	2	6	9	3	6	7	8	4	5	2	8	1	6	3	2	8	1	2	8	0	8	9
7	8	1	8	2	5	9	7	6	1	4	5	7	8	4	5	6	3	4	9	2	4	3	1
4	1	4	6	9	4	1	4	8	4	0	7	6	3	9	0	1	0	8	4	8	5	1	8
0	6	5	2	3	5	6	3	5	8	6	5	8	0	5	2	8	3	2	5	2	8	3	6
2	5	8	6	5	8	0	3	1	8	4	4	5	6	9	2	6	7	9	8	1	6	2	5
1	2	3	5	1	5	9	5	9	0	9	0	4	7	3	6	0	2	0	4	5	4	9	4
3	8	4	6	9	4	6	2	4	8	1	0	8	5	6	5	3	1	4	3	9	1	0	6
8	8	1	0	8	9	3	7	2	4	0	9	3	7	1	8	6	8	9	2	5	4	3	8
5	6	4	0	8	2	6	5	0	8	6	9	5	6	4	3	8	1	0	6	7	1	7	0
3	6	3	8	4	7	4	9	3	1	4	3	3	0	7	9	8	3	0	7	2	9	5	0
8	1	9	3	2	1	6	7	0	8	4	7	6	9	1	0	9	8	9	1	6	2	7	9
7	8	6	2	8	0	3	8	2	1	2	3	0	3	6	5	0	5	0	4	5	0	4	2
9	0	5	3	4	2	0	5	4	5	6	9	1	6	5	9	1	3	7	8	1	2	2	5
2	3	0	7	7	9	1	8	6	3	9	0	4	2	9	0								

## Answer to last issue's Crossword



**CORRECTION:** BUY TEE was misspelled. It should have been BUY TEA

# Arts & Entertainment

# The Notorious B.I.G.: A Hip Hop Legacy of Pop

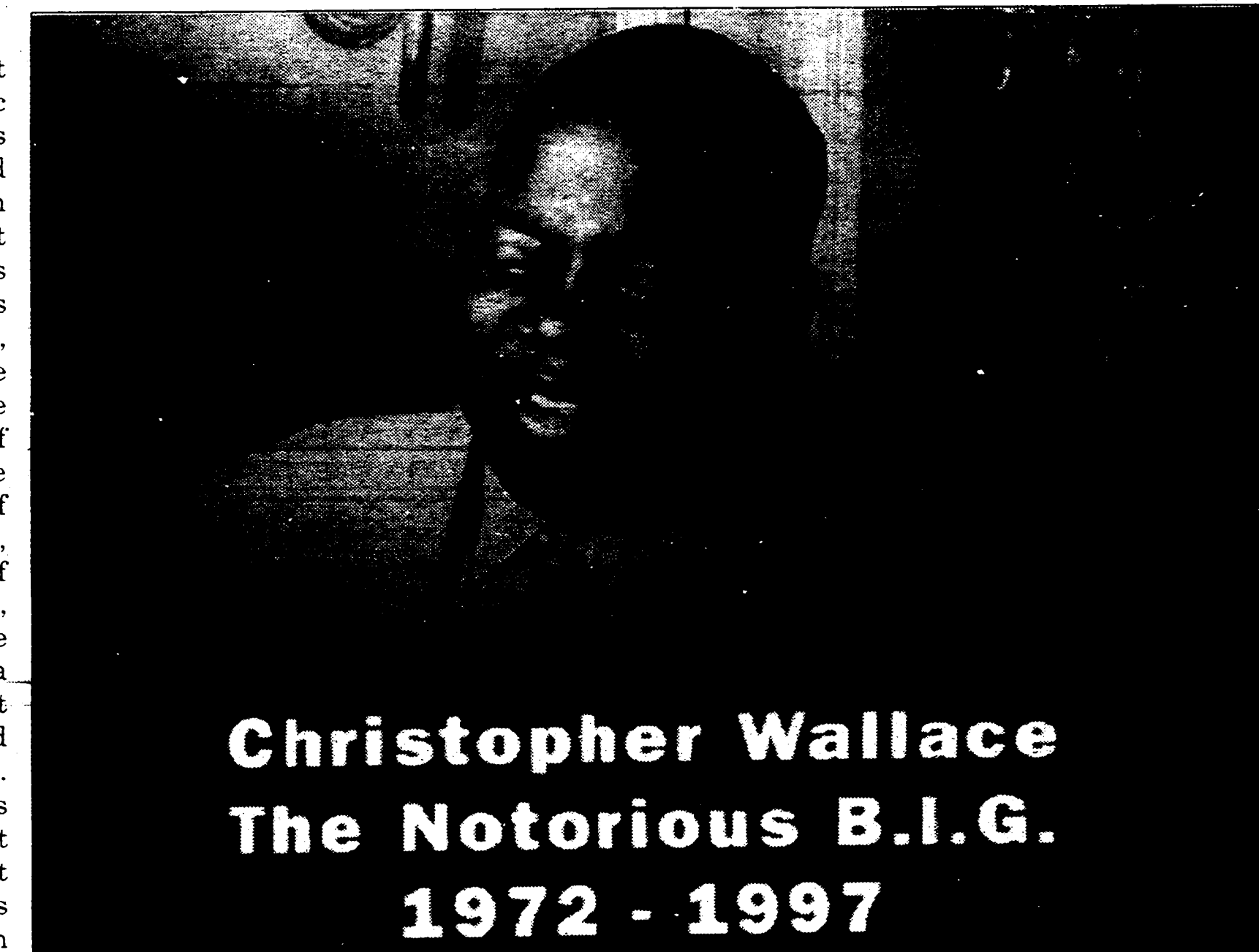
By Edward  
Rodriguez

The greatest phenomena in the music of Blacks and Latinos throughout United States history has been the destruction of it. At the core of these various legendary art forms (Jazz, R&B/Soul, salsa, reggae, etc.), is the expression of the oppressed majority of color. Despite the obvious depiction of experienced racism clear messages of poverty and despair, and loud calls for change there has been a consistent component that has slowly diluted our musical artforms. Eventually it is Capitalist commercialization that has put our various musical genres in an unnatural position to sustain creative integrity.

The selling of our musical genres has many stages, and many nuances within, that enable this continuing cycle to prevail effectively despite the realization of it. Arguably, the

most effective method has been the exploitation of the uniquely talented artist.

This method creates commercial artists that dilute their individual work and the



The late rapper, Biggie Smalls.

hip hop, our current genre of musical expression.

The artist that goes commercial hurts themselves and their genre by conforming to a preset package. The catalyst that often turns the artist commercial is the producer. Regarding Biggie, his packaging was done as soon as he was signed. As with most of our genres, it is the producers that have packaged the talent they sign for the radio and mainstream. Biggie's producers **Easy Mo Bee, Darnell Scott, Carl "Chucky" Thompson, Norman & Digga/Bluez Brothers, Poke of TrakMasterz, DJ Premier, Lord Finesse**, etc., only constructed his beats but the direction of it as a whole was his executive producer,

Sean "Puffy" Combs (Note that Puffy is synonymous with the label and industry because the underlying interests and purposes are

*continued on page 29*

## *Definitely Not A Catastrophe*

By Manny Rodriguez

Sometimes, the best films are the ones that nobody knows about. This year's Oscar nominees are evidence of this fact. Four of the five film nominated for Best Picture were independent films which, altogether, cost less to make than *Twister* made in its first week. Hopefully, in the future, more attention will be placed on lower financed, higher quality films. For example, it's almost unfair to say more people will want to see a big budget film like *Independence Day* rather than a smaller film like *Secret & Lies*. Yet, if all you see around you are advertisements and merchandise for *ID4* and not a word of the other film (see, I won't even mention it twice), you're bound to be

more curious and knowledgeable about the former. Add to this the fact that the big budget film opens on over 2,000 screens across the country and the little picture opens on five screens in one state alone, and it all becomes crystal clear. Crystal.

In the end, it's only fair that I am given the task to inform you on these bright "little" films that give so much. *Love and Other Catastrophes* is a wonderful film about a day in the life of a group of college students and their search for love and survival on your average university campus. The story revolves around

*continued on page 27*



Frances O'Conner (l.) and Alice Garner co-star in the comedy *Love and Other Catastrophes*.

Courtesy: Fox Searchlight Pictures



# Translations

## The "Literary" Section for Baruch's Artists

### Only In My Dreams It Seems So Real

While asleep I see things which appear to be far  
A whisper past my hearing slightly beyond  
I feel something or someone but I do not know why  
As I walk faster to avoid I see it at the corner of my eye  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

I hear a sound and I nosily walk to it  
Seeing colors, black and white I simply can't resist  
The sound becomes clearer and I decide to stand still  
But then I stray unknowingly because it's not my will  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

As I'm tossing and turning a face appears  
It's not someone I recognize I began to feel fear  
I run, try to hide and my hands are sweated and frightened  
The light from afar I take in but I'm also frightened  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

Come to me a deepened voice states  
I squint and squint to try and place his face  
The light is to bright but I dare to go on  
Gleaming eyes, white hair comes into view  
He speaks with softness and with news so true  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

He says "You are my child sorrowful, lonely and scared  
And whatever you decide or maybe do"  
"Remember" he says "You'll remain with me and I'll always love you"  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

I began to awake not wanting to  
I must see the face, his voice is so new  
I try to stay asleep a bit longer and as I do  
He touches me and it gives me such warmth through and through  
(Only in my dreams it seems so real)

Volume I  
Born 12/14/96

-Yvette Laureano

### Untitled

this class is excruciatingly  
boring in spite of  
the instructor making a spectacle  
with his antics also his accentuated manner of speech  
and frequent trips outside to bathroomwaterfountaintelephone  
do not budge the mired minute hand  
from its residence at  
a location which grants no solace  
the restless watcher checked for progress  
only two minutes ago  
instead follow the red hand  
gently crawling along  
in a silent unceasing way  
on the vast plane of the clock face  
multiple pens and pencils scratching  
out some notable utterance  
have reclaimed my attention  
for educatable purposes  
stealing a glance at my classmates  
notebook yields nothing  
her last recorded entry  
today's date on a blank page  
in return for the exchange of  
monotony she slept  
rest easy my sweet  
i am glad this lecture is fading  
by quickly for you

-Anonymous

### Rhapsody

The last scarecrow on this 6 train.  
Not happy, just completley insane.  
Stomp onto twenty-third.  
A thousand birds perched upon D. Sharon,  
The most Ms. Congeniality tree known to me.  
See Priktaki and Rude Dee sipping coffee and  
Tea at Starbucks.  
Oh, what the f—  
Blam! Got the expresso machine.  
The sweet smell of gasoline.  
Click! Click! Went the sound of my Bic.  
Foom! Boom! There goes 2 dics in a room.  
Blinded by a mad gleam.  
It's just a Mean Dean.  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Screamed Melizza C.  
2 pom poms and a box of bon bons between her teeth.  
Screech! Slam! There goes the M23!  
Don't jack with me.  
Show some Id! A straw smile overcomes  
me with great glee.  
Now watch the guard flee.  
Pass by Wingo, the man with a deadly ego.  
A 6 gun lover, your best friend or your worst brother.  
Pick up the Ticker.  
"Rich-man saves NYC with the ultimate plan.  
Edwin breaks a world record in a zepplin.  
Jomo, more popular than Elmo is athlete  
of the year.  
Tessa the next Mother Teresa?!"  
Finally somebody yells "Fee Waivered!"  
And they get a blank joker stuck in their head...

-XERO

### ...in the name of Love

Love drank the poison  
that separated us  
Love gave you  
the power to take away  
Love was great for you  
the power that killed me  
and left its mark...

On you.  
Love is something  
that i never had, i  
never could face the sun...

not even a single cloud  
for i was to young  
to even experience pain  
until now  
dispensed like scar or tissue  
all thanks to you  
and the thing that you call Love.

-Patrick Eves



Paola Marocchi

# Translations

## The "Literary" Section for Baruch's Artists

### All Alone

He hates the world he hates his life. Don't mention people he wants no part in it. He once loved someone yes its his own fault. He's constantly reminded before he throws a fit.

All alone in a world full of people.

He lived his life he just trudges through it. One-fifth of a way done he finished five others. No matter who its fun he found his way. He'll take on any brothers sisters fathers mothers.

All alone.

Noone expected how tragic it could be. Noone thought it could be done in sounds of laughter. Noone thought that it could be them. But it was noone for whom he was after.

All alone.

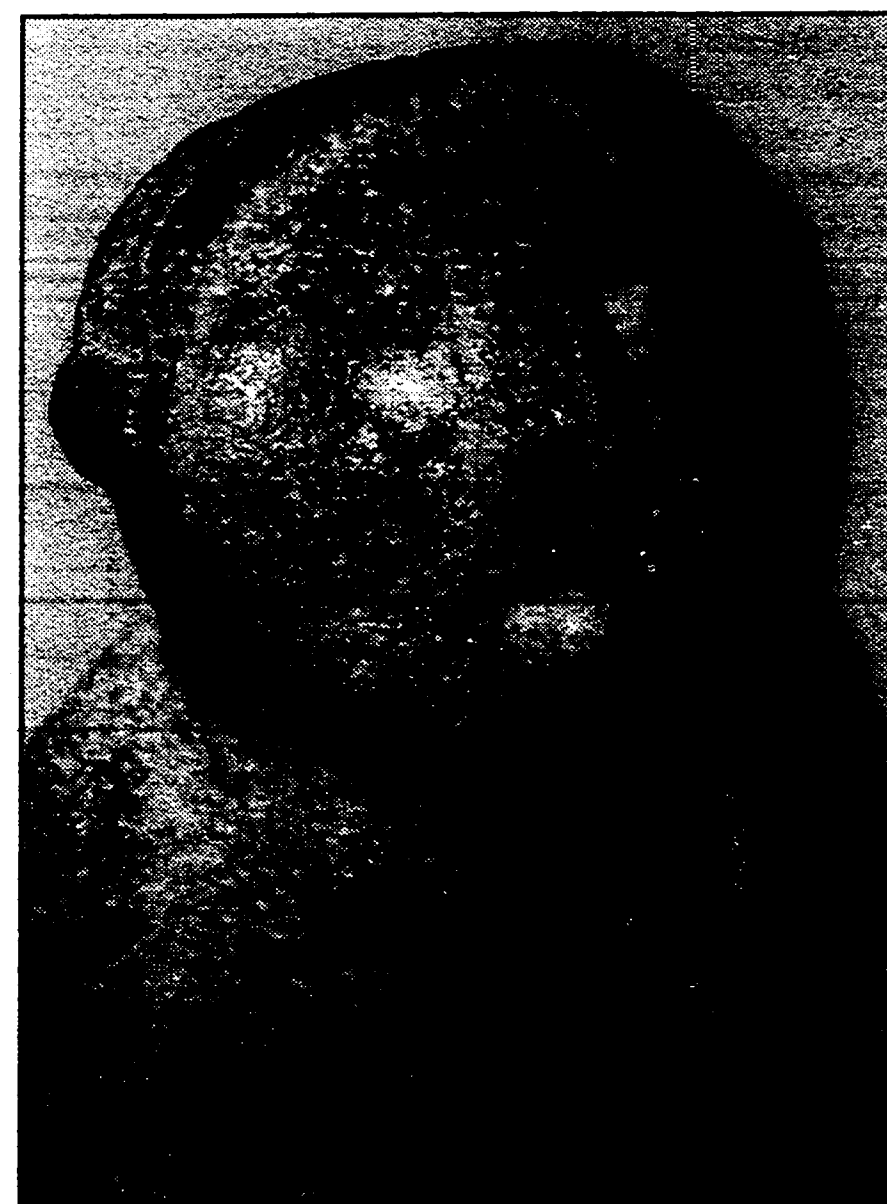
He fucked the world he fucked his life. Mention his victims they're all part of him. Someone once loved him yes its his own fault. He's constantly reminded before he commits his sin.

-Patrick Eves

### An African Never Reaching Brazil

The survival I find, is in death not in life.  
These "good Christian" men killed my children and wife.  
There's no way on earth,  
that I'll work for that man.  
There's no way on earth,  
that his smell I can stand!  
There's no way on earth,  
that I'll worship his god.  
There's no way on earth,  
I'll be beaten with rods.  
There's one way of course,  
to jump off his boat, and not hung from a tree,  
swallow the Atlantic, and forever be free.

Eddie Rivera  
A.K.A.  
Don Morales



Paola Marocchi

### Life's Moments

A moment to last forever.  
Our lives are full of them.

A happy moment  
A blissful moment.  
A tender moment.  
A sad moment  
All sketched in our memories  
For all time.

Moments to last forever,  
A first hug.  
A first friend.  
The best buddy.  
The first confidant.  
The first trust.  
All sketched in our memories  
For all time.

Moments to last forever,  
The first social engagement.  
The first date.  
Your first emotions.  
Your first love.  
Your first heartbreak.  
All sketched in our memories  
For all time.

Moments to last forever,  
Your first group.  
The first journey.  
The first pack of friends.  
Your first time independence.  
The first taste of freedom.  
All sketched in our memories  
For all time.

Moments to last forever,  
Your first funeral,  
Your first tear,  
Your true sadness,  
Your first shock,  
Your first confusion of the world.  
The first tear you see in the eyes of a loved one,  
Whose mother has just left.  
All sketched in our memories  
For all time.

Life is now just memories  
Memories to last  
For all time.

-Ira M. Hersch

### Editors' Note:

We would like to thank Yvette Laureano, Patrick Eves, Don Morales, Ira M. Hersch, XERO, Paola Marocchi and the Anonymous for contributing their excellent work. If you have already contributed work and it hasn't appeared in this section, don't worry. We will definitely use it in upcoming issues. In the meantime, please continue sending your extraordinary art. Thank you. P.S. Please excuse us for repeating the same message from the last issue. We're too tired here. We need writers!



# Critic's corner

Artist: Serge Gainsbourg  
Album: Gainsbourg En Trois Styles  
Label: Mercury  
Rating: 

Why isn't there more French music in the American mainstream? I am left wondering just that after enjoying Gainsbourg En Trois Styles (translated: Gainsbourg in Three Styles). This compilation, spanning ten years of Gainsbourg's career, contains excerpts from three of his previous albums, each one presenting a different musical ambiance. The songs excerpted from Couleur Cafe center around Latin and African percussion and rhythm styles, while the ones from Du Jazz dans le. Ravin are obviously jazz-influenced. However, my favorite tracks on this album are from Comic Strip, especially "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Be T'Aime...Moi Non Plus." These songs are filled with all the pop music fascination of the 1960's, with all the catchy guitar and bass lines in tact. The teaming of male and female vocals is simply great, and "We T'Aime...Moi Non Plus" [roughly translated: "I Love You... (but) Not More than Myself"] struck me, because it was heavily sampled by the group Transvision



Serge Gainsbourg.

Vamp for their 1991 UK hit "Twangy Wig-out." I never realized how wonderful the French language was until I heard this album. Like, two Parisians could be discussing the weather, and it would sound like a hot sex

chat to any foreigner. It makes me regret the fact that I took four years of high school French, and all I learned was "Veuillez-vous coucher avec moi, ce soir?"

-Syed A. Bokhari

Artist: Everything But The Girl  
Album: The Best of Everything But The Girl  
Label: Virgin Records UK  
Rating: 

I was quite baffled to see this new compilation from Everything But The Girl. After all, they'd already released a *Best of*.. compilation in 1993, ironically, just one album away from their biggest international hits "Missing" and "Walking Wounded," as well as their switch from jazzy folk rock poets to dance music technicians. At first, I thought this album would be rather awkward to listen to, considering that it contains newer remixed tracks, as well as early material from the '80's, but I was pleasantly surprised to hear how wonderfully each song flows into the next. The disc starts off with two Todd Terry remixes; one for "Missing," and a new one for EBTG's 1990 UK hit "Driving" (Another remix, by Underdog, appears later in this compilation). It's strange really. Terry's best remixes

continued on page 29

## Zen Bender

By Allan Aquino

First of all, I would like to introduce what I write about. My articles will be about talented performers whom you haven't heard on the radio or seen on MTV (yet!), and believe me there are many! You will be reading about the performers, their influences (which might be the same as yours), their style of music (that you might be into), know a little bit of their personalities, and many more! Then, if you're interested, their upcoming gigs will be included in the article. All the information will be coming from personal interviews of the performers. Then YOU decide if you like them or not! So read on because there are many talents out there waiting to be discovered!

MOST IMPORTANTLY:

If any of you Baruchians are involved in any type of performing arts (Singer, dancer, band, stand-up comedians etc.), I would be honored to give you an interview and help spread the word, via **The Ticker**, to fellow students about what you do! Please e-mail me at [chromatic@hotmail.com](mailto:chromatic@hotmail.com). I also would like to thank **The Ticker** for allowing me to write for them and allowing me to decide what to write about. THANKS!

For this first article, I kept telling myself that the first band that I will interview should be a real good band. A band with style and originality and not just another

Bush or Nirvana "wannabes." Well, fortunately, I found what I was looking for at a small bar in Queens called Castle Heights (at 83rd St. & Northern Blvd.). This is a good start!

The band is called ZEN BENDER. The logo: an eye with the Yin Yang symbol for an eyeball, with a tear drop in its side. Believe me, once you get to meet these guys, you'll find that there's a lot of meaning to this symbol. It's a representation of the members' relationship with each other, and their music also.

One of the key elements that make Zen Bender a good band is diversity. It's hard to tell what this band "sounds like" because each members' influences almost doesn't match the other. Of course they should, at least, have some similar interests for them to get along, but if you go beyond that similarity, their influences go in different directions.

Check this out. Take Chris Wall for example. He's the guitar and vocals of the band. To me, most recently, very standard thing...it's like Tool, and Helmet. I mean as far as where the guitar riffs come from and where the real drive comes from....Pearl Jam, Screaming Trees...things that sound like cliché to us all right now...but the melody comes from all the classic stuff like Zeppelin...

Their bassist is Matt Josephs. This guy's funny! But as for Matt's influences, "I listen to a lot of singer, songwriters. People from like these

days...that is what I'm currently into....John Hyatt, Tori Amos, a lot of females too...I listen to a lot of female artists Fiona Apple...as far as harder stuff goes...I think Ministry, I'm really enjoying Rage Against The Machine, they're great, they rock. And I listen to a lot of classical music—I like Bach.

On guitars is John Wanamaker. This guy rocks! Great leads and rhythms! You have to hear them (I'll tell you how in a second). But John told me, "like he (Matt) said, Rage.. I like John Spencer right now...there's a lot... Dyed Cheerleader...I don't know if you've heard of them...I come from Zeppelin, Hendrix type of stuff, Doors, psychedelic stuff, and all kinds of pop, even."

Then finally there's Alex Hamilton (yep, like the former treasurer of U.S.). You know, every time I hear a good drummer, this song from Public Enemy, where Chuck D keeps saying "Hear the drummer get wicked!" pops into my head while I watch that drummer play. Well, Alex got me singing that phrase through their entire set! This guy has great timing and syncopation!

"I got a lot of different influences..." he says, "I got the Zeppelin, I got the Rage, Chili Peppers. As far as drummers go, I have to say Stewart Copland is on top of the list. But then I like wacky shits too, like the Brand New Heavies, acid jazz...I could be wacky, I could be hip hoppy, you

know!" And I think that's one of the qualities that a good drummer should have—versatility.

Besides being diverse and having good personalities, there are other qualities that make up this band and their music, which they identified as "heavy alterna pop stomping hard groove with melody and dynamics" (whew!). They work hard for their music (I've seen it!) and it really shows their love for music. Having seen so many performers at different clubs who are also trying to make it in the business, I asked them what makes them different from the other bands that are out there. Chris said, "We're called Zen Bender...we're supposed to mean something about balance (thus, the Yin Yang symbol)...two of us are kinda crazy...kind of jokers (that has to be Alex and Matt!) and the other two are kind of serious. There's some balance to the music. There's a party-like nature to the song, but there's seriousness to the lyrics. The songs...they're very uplifting. They make you wanna groove, but the lyrics are very serious so there's a real balance to it and I think that's something that's not very common today. I think nobody knows who the hell we sound like!" I find that to be true because a lot of the bands that I've seen in clubs try to take the form

continued on page 29

# SUNSET STYLE

## Hip Hop Editorial By Edward Rodriguez

"You watch Channel Zero with that b\*tch Barbara Walters..."  
Chubb Rock -

"Crooklyn Dodgers 2"

"Television, tell-a-lie-vision, a schism, negative realism..."  
CL Smooth -

"Anger In The Nation"

We are always told by those in power, financially well off, and our elders who want to falsely perpetuate a legacy they will leave behind, that our situation has become better. We need not suffer anymore because we are so close to equality that you, next generation should be able to taste it. We may not listen to them or believe them, yet our actions seem to resonate agreement.

There must be some kind of outside force that influences us to believe that affirmative action is having a negative effect on white employment. Some power that uncontrollably convinces us our darker brothers won't be harassed if they wear pastel colors. A divine puissance that overpowers us into dreading supposed aliens borne out of an imaginary yet concrete border. I really had no idea where to start looking. And then I turned on the television.

It was that simple. Sitting down in a comfortable electric chair one is able to be mentally transformed and logically transplanted. There is even a small hand device that allows us to switch and receive different angles of genocidal entertainment.

Television is a collection of the views and opinions of realism according to the United States capitalist, cultural structure. It is their perception consequently because it is their goals (of profit, mass viewership and cultural beliefs that secure and solidify the prior, etc.) that unify the survival of every message that we see.

We are shown a reality stressing an

exaggerated, non-existent positivity resulting from the victory over a negativity that is narrowly focused and ignorantly conceived. The primary device is the use of the cliché, the glue that sustains U.S. culture, combined with obvious hypocritical messages of morality.

When I see *Walker, Texas Ranger* (Saturdays at 10 PM on CBS), I see the epitome of this. We are bombarded with the false cliché of the American cowboy (Chuck Norris), who fights "man-to-man" with a missile launcher against the South American drug cartel. These programs have no purpose than to show us the American can kick ass righteously.

We are usually told hypocritically by some whites that "We took the land of the Native Americans, killed the majority of them...but let's just move on." How can anyone just move on unless this solution-less admission is some kind of justifiable apology. Today's television continues to make us comfortable with this reasoning.

I see no change when the commercial for *Stolen Women, Captured Hearts* (another mainstream perception from CBS) appears. The premise is that the Sioux "Indians" have kidnapped the white women of the town and they must be saved. This is shown to us as if the incorrect recollection of the past, in a historical context or fictional, does not have a negative impact on our current perspective of reality.

This doesn't stop with the programs; rather it extends to the commercials. We see images in a U.S. Marines commercial of the All-American hurdling the obstacles and finally slaughtering the mythical enemy knight. All we really saw was the justification of killing for the pride and achievement that apparently should be present when you do it for your country. Product Sold.

Another commercial shows a group of multi-ethnic yet Eurocentric/

Americanized teenagers all going to play a game of basketball together. "We're all on the same team," it says but whose the coach and how many minutes does the short, skinny Puerto Rican get to play? This leads to an even larger false set of myths and perceptions thrust upon Blacks and Latinos in the U.S.

The narrowly focused negativity is easily seen with Blacks and Latinos being the criminal drug czar/petty thief in every cop show. The ignorantly conceived negativity is also widely visible with Latinos half-naked every five minutes on Univision para todo el Telemundo. The stereotypes everyone thought vanished with an Oprah diet and a Maya Angelou stanza are even more prevalent today. The UPN and WB networks are built around dawgs and bitties that swallow a frivolous Brandy and a double dose of assimilated sisters. We are bombarded with hip hop jesters and bikini clad dancers for comic relief. I'm not laughing yet.

Nevertheless it is the exaggerated vision of non-existent positivity that hurts us more. The only positive image that is consistent is the tough city cop. Our positive figures are crime reinforcers who solve problems with guns more often than the wanted criminals. Shows like *New York Undercover* negate the positivity of their ridiculous Black and "Puerto Rican" heroes by having them kill their enemy (or the enemy kills his/herself), who is usually Black or Latino.

The wrong positive image is most dangerous when it perpetuates an equality we haven't achieved yet. I agree with Blanca Vazquez when she says that *The Cosby Show* (and obviously its present recycling—*Cosby*) is evidence that "the existence of families like the Huxtables is 'proof' that anyone who can make it, does." This ultimately "reassures white America" (Centro De Estudios

Puertorriquinos Bulletin, *Puerto Ricans and the Media: A Personal Statement*, VOL III, No. 1, Summer 1990-91).

There is certainly a middle class that is Black, however they are shown among a world of whites that they co-exist with minus the Black poverty that they emerge from. This subtraction is important because without this duality seen we are able to assume that they are the growing norm and not the exception they really are. This separation of the Black middle class from the rest of the Africans-in-America sector that is poverty stricken serve to segregate and assimilate us. This assimilation is justified by the theory of the good Black and the bad Black. We then watch television programs and commercials and see the clean cut Black man aiding the white man in the struggle for freedom against the dreadlocked, baggy-clothed, hip hopping thug.

Worse than this is that the Latino rarely applies in this regard because we are kept strictly in a two channel ghetto.

In fair retrospect, there is plenty of quality programming, well written storylines, and good acting. However, the reflection of the reality we, as Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans and people of color, face is as distorted and stereotypically reinforcing as it was generations ago.

So now I'm snugly strapped in my Versace leather electric chair clicking for the right frivolity. I stop at the *Channel* that offers the merging of 2 worlds. An *Eye* that watches the real world and gives us a second. The *Central Broadcasting System* of the *Eye* invites me with, "Welcome Home." I turn off the television because I'm homeless. But I'm still strapped in.

\*\*\*\*

## Definitely Not A Catastrophe

continued from page 23  
four characters, Alice, Mia, Ari, and Michael. Mia and Alice are roommates; the former must change her major and keep her girlfriend Danni happy, while Alice is trying to find love and avoid her professor because she's not confident enough to show him her thesis on Doris Day. Meanwhile, Michael, a pre-med student is searching for a place to stay and also has been admiring Alice from afar. Finally, there is Ari, the "Warren Beatty of the campus," who is searching for love and the truth behind its meaning.

A wonderful range of characters colors this endearing comedy. Writer/director Emma-Kate Croghan has created a commentary on the current lifestyles of college campuses. Despite taking place in Australia, the stories and characters are universal. Croghan presents realistic characters in the everyday turmoil of their lives, and with ingenious observations and technically proficient and creative direction, she creates an atmosphere we can feel with characters we grow to

love more and more as the film progresses.

Another element that I particularly felt was worth noting was Croghan's inclusion of lesbian characters and the struggles they go through to keep their own relationships alive amidst the everyday world. Though the lifestyle

is foreign to numerous people (including myself), Croghan has made it accessible to everyone by not stressing the fact that they are lesbian but just regular people. At the same time, Croghan doesn't take the normal route and water down or diminish these characters' lifestyles or importance in

the film. In fact, Mia is probably the character that carries this film and represents the universal battles of students trying to maintain relationships, pass classes and battle the school bureaucracy (which most of us in Baruch are definitely familiar with).

Ultimately, a fine script and direction by Croghan, a well balanced and talented cast (particularly Frances O'Connor as Mia and Matthew Dyktynski as Ari) combine to bring us another excellent "little" film that, I hope, does not get drowned out by the big boys.

At press time, "Love and Other Catastrophes" is scheduled to open nationwide on March 28.



Matt Day (L) and Matthew Dyktynski in a scene from *Love and Other Catastrophes*.

Courtesy: Fox Searchlight Pictures



# Invoking the Abbotts

By Manny Rodriguez

I'm sick of New York! How many movies are made about New York every year? How about L.A.? It gets pretty stale after a while. The lives of other peoples from different times and places is equally interesting as multiple Oscar nominee *Fargo* has proven. Twentieth Century Fox's new film, *Inventing The Abbotts*, explores the relationships between the Abbott daughters and the Holt brothers during the late 1950's in Haley, Illinois.

A film that plays like a soap opera, *Inventing The Abbotts* is more a relationship film rather than a period piece. In that respect, it is similar to *The English Patient* (my last reference to an Oscar nominee) in that the beautiful scenery and time period play a role but one that is always secondary to the dynamics of the character relationships and action in the story. It does not work as well in *Inventing The Abbotts* because the story and characters seem to be able to represent almost any time period in the twentieth century. Their sensibilities and characteristics are not as heavily influenced by the time as it should be and it takes away from the essence the film is trying to recreate. In fact the only character that captures the period completely is Pamela Abbott, played ably by Liv Tyler.

However, the flaws of this film are not in abundance and never take away from the entertaining nature of this film. As it begins, we are introduced to the Holt brothers, Doug and Jacey. The story is told by the younger brother, Doug, and it starts slow. But with a touch of humor and fine acting, we come to enjoy watching these characters.



The cast of *Inventing The Abbotts*: (clockwise from top): Joaquin Phoenix, Liv Tyler, Billy Crudup, Jennifer Connelly and Joanna Going.

Courtesy: Twentieth Century Fox

Twenty minutes into the film, much like a soap opera, we're engrossed in the plot and story despite our reservations about believability.

The most compelling characters are easily Jacey and Eleanor Abbott. Jacey, played excellently by rising star Billy Crudup, is a seemingly one-dimensional character who proceeds to reveal many complex realities in his make-up. Jennifer Connelly's

portrayal of the "bad sister" Eleanor is close to perfect and a definite improvement from her weak work in the disappointing *Mulholland Falls*. It's a shame that her character is taken out of the film so quickly.

The direction is brisk, meaning that Pat O'Connor understands his characters and is able keep the story flowing and comprehensible. O'Connor also makes nice use of the scenery with expansive shots that show us large areas and proceed to give us a sense of the period that the characters falter in delivering. This is not to say the acting is not fine or inaccurate. In the contrary, the performances are well drawn and meticulously portrayed. It is the script itself that fails to supply this element of period in the characters.

*Inventing The Abbotts* is a highly entertaining film that showcases a group of fine young actors and actresses (Billy Crudup, Joaquin Phoenix, Liv Tyler, Joanna Going and Jennifer Connelly) along with a deep performance from Kathy Baker (Picket Fences) as Doug and Jacey's mother, an interesting setting and a script that is rich in interesting relationships despite a lack for period sensibilities. *Inventing The Abbotts* opens on April 4 nationwide.

## COMING ATTRACTION:

Next issue, in A & E, an exclusive interview will appear of *Inventing The Abbotts* stars Billy Crudup and Joanna Going (pictured left) and director Pat O'Connor.



Merle W. Wallace

# Swayin' To The London Suede

By Syed A. Bokhari

In 1992, the band Suede (known in the US as "London Suede" due to a copyright infringement) literally exploded on the scene in the UK when they were featured on the cover of Melody Maker magazine, under the banner "The Best New Band in Britain." This, after Assistant Editor Steve Sutherland heard only two demos, "*Metal Mickey*" and "*Pantomime Horse*," both of which later appeared on Suede's eponymous debut album from the independent company Nude Records.

Critics and fans alike adored the band, comparing them to the likes of David Bowie and the Smiths, not only because of the band's performance quality, but also for reigning themes of sexual ambiguity. Also, Suede couldn't have chosen a better time to come out on the music scene. To the disappointment of many Brits, American Grunge was taking over the airwaves in the UK, and Suede actually led the way for an influx of bands who went against what was seen as "male testosterone-driven noise." When they performed their

third single "*Animal Nitrate*" on the Brit Awards (UK equivalent of the Grammys), they were introduced as "The Already-Legendary Suede." With singer Brett Anderson's on-stage charisma and guitarist Bernard Butler musical talents, this foursome seemed unstoppable in their conquest of Europe and Japan.

With the release of the band's second album *Dog Man Star*, many things seemed to go wrong. Guitarist and co-songwriter Bernard Butler left the band several weeks before the album's completion. And even though the album was critically acclaimed, it didn't receive as much fan appeal as the debut. *Dog Man Star* went to #1 on the UK charts, but this was a different sounding album; much slower and less guitar driven than their previous material. Besides that, attention in the UK shifted to bands like Oasis, Elastica, Pulp and Blur. Also, "trip-hop" acts like Tricky, Massive Attack, and Portishead, as well as techno/electronic acts such as The Chemical Brothers and

Underworld, started to shift attention away from guitars, to turntables and funky beats. Critics began to suggest that there was no place for Suede in UK pop music, and that every explosion, must sooner or later fizzle out.

Well, to put all doubts to rest, The London Suede is back in action, and more prosperous than ever. Now a quintet, with the addition of a new guitarist Richard Oakes and keyboard player Neil Codling, fans and the bandmates themselves have rejuvenated their faith. The new album, *Coming Up*, was released in September of 1996 internationally, and immediately became a hit, reaching the #1 chart position in several countries, and giving the band three top ten singles so far; "*Trash*," "*Beautiful Ones*," and most recently "*Saturday Night*." To make up for the nine months that American fans have had to wait for the domestic release, the band is adding several bonuses. The audio CD doubles up as a CD-ROM, featuring videos and other goodies, plus the first 10,000 copies will include an exclusive six-track live e.p. As a longtime fan, I must

stress that The London Suede is a superb live act. In fact, the band's information service has kindly released a listing of provisional North American live dates. Honestly, this is a show, and a band, that you can't miss!

**May 1997** (These tour dates are not yet definite.):

5/9	T O R O N T O ,
Warehouse	
5/10	O T T O W A ,
Barrymore	
5/11	M O N T R E A L ,
Metropolis	
5/14	N E W Y O R K
CITY, Supper Club	
5/15	N E W Y O R K
CITY, Supper Club	
5/17	B O S T O N ,
Paradise	
5/18	B O S T O N ,
Paradise	
5/21	L O S A N G E L E S ,
El Rey	
5/22	L O S A N G E L E S ,
El Rey	
5/23	S A N
FRANCISCO, Fillmore	
5/27	M I N N E A P O L I S ,
1st. Ave.	

# Zen Bender

continued from page 26

of their influences and they end up sounding like their influences. I've seen this one band where they had original songs but tried to sing like that singer in Pearl Jam and even copied his mannerisms. That's not against the copyright laws, but there's no originality in that either! Do something different!

"It's a big mix," added John, "cause we have different styles that we're into. So we have funk coming in, we've got psychedelic, we've got...you know...little blues, pop, a lot of heavy stuff, and it all comes together."

"I think one of the reasons" said Matt, "is that it's so process oriented. One guy will take off, another guy will follow, then the whole band's in, you know! So it's not like we start with an idea or concept, you know, like 'let's make a song that sounds like this'...I don't know if people do that, geez, they probably do! But we don't do that. The music comes first and then it has to be categorized. I don't know if there's a preconceived notion of generally what we want to make a song sound like. The song creates itself. It's very processy. And we don't force each other to do other things which at times can be a little conflicting and stressful, but the bottom line is the end-product, and the end-product we like, a lot! I don't think a lot of bands write like that!"

"And although Chris writes a lot of tunes, Matt continues, "we don't really work as a band that way...you know what I'm sayin'? It (their creating process) creates a really interesting vibe, a totally unique thing that constantly surprises even us! In the studio, we've got tapes and tapes of jams that are all songs!" "They're gonna be on our next album," Chris mentions.

Then we break it down finally, when we listen to all these tapes of jams that we do when we rehearse, we'll find out that there's a bunch of songs in there and we're gonna

wind up making our next album that way. That seems to be the way we do it."

"We love to f\*ckin' play! It's a disease! It really is!" followed Matt. "Everyone of us could be doing something different, and everyone of us chooses to do nothing different." We don't make any money at this either, Chris points out. "You load out of the studio into the freight elevator, out of the freight elevator, into the van, out the van, then into the club, and then you play for forty five minutes and that's your glory. You respect the other bands by checking out what they wanna do, supporting what they wanna do. Then you load back into the van, into the freight elevator, out of the freight elevator, into the studio again and it's like an eight hour job for forty five minutes of glory. It's crazy but we live for it...we love to play for people. We'll play at your college. We'll play in a dorm room! or we'll come to your house and play in your room! (I was tempted but my neighbors might burn my house down!)"

As you can see, there's a lot of enthusiasm and heart behind this band. I also admire their attitudes because on the night that they were playing, most of the people in the club were "groupies" for the band scheduled to play last, so whoever was playing before that band had to win those people over. Let's put it this way—they had a tough night! But Chris only said, "It's part of the challenge." Tell that to the previous band! One of the singers couldn't take it! He cursed the audience and told them they sucked because they were almost ignoring them!

I wouldn't be surprised if I hear Zen Bender all over the radio any time soon. They almost had a record deal with RCA two years ago, but it "fell through," so they're on their own. They made the EP themselves (called *Unlearning*) and the LP was made by Wild Justice Records,

which was the management that tried to get them the deal. "They came very close to coming through with it," Chris says. The record company folded. They made their own label to try to get us out and the record company folded. We've decided, 'Hey! All we could do is pull our money together and keep going."

This band is serious about their music, and like Chris said, they don't make much money doing what they do. There's dedication and love for music and they only feed off of seeing people enjoy what they do and they get pumped. Which reminds me of what the singer from White Zombie said in an article, "You have to be an idiot to play music for money!"

**ZEN BENDER** is: **Chris Wall**, vocals, guitar; **Alex Hamilton**, drums; **John Wanamaker**, guitars; and **Matt Josephs**, bass. Zen Bender has been around for five years and they currently have two CD's out. The LP is called *Zen Bender*, and the EP is called *Unlearning*. You may also hear the band at a radio station at 89.5FM WSOU (South Orange) on Sunday nights for local and unsigned bands OR you can make a request anytime by calling (201) 761-WSOU. Some of the songs from the CD's include: "*Real*," "*Leap of Faith*," "*Green*," "*Dream Cage*" (cool songs, nicelyrics too!), and John's favorite—"*Unlearning*." Then, if you like what you heard, you can check them out at their home page at the internet at <http://www.cnct.com/homeXcwall>. There, you can order their CD's, T-shirts, send them e-mail, sign their guest list, see their upcoming gigs, and look at naked pictures (just kidding!). It's a great source for the band! Zen Bender's next gig is on *March 29th at the Bat Cave on 30th Street and 8th Avenue*. So if you're interested, check them out!

# Everything But The Girl

Continued from page 26

are the ones he does for EBTG. His remixing abilities with other artists, such as Bjork ("*Hyperballad*") and Garbage ("*Stupid Girl*"), are minimal, at best. Then again, "*Missing*" and "*Driving*" are great songs in their own right. Anyhow, we begin our excursion into EBTG's old sound with "*Old Friends*," which is quite soulful and dancible itself. Afterwards, we delve deeper into Ben and Tracey's roots until we reach the laid back, coffeehouse stylings of "*Rollercoaster*." Along the way, highlights include covers of "*Love is Strange*," originally by Mickey and Sylvia (from Dirty Dancing—remember that?!), and "*I Don't Want to Talk About It*," their biggest hit from the '80's. That's really the best thing about this compilation: the track sequence. Instead of jumping directly from a clubby track like "*Driving*," to one like "*Rollercoaster*," we're gently eased through the fifteen year history of this band, making EBTG's back catalogue seem more accessible to newer fans. After "*Rollercoaster*," we're introduced to another remix of "*Driving*," in a laid back trip-hop style, which then takes us into "*Better Things*" and "*Protection*," two collaborations with Massive Attack; the band responsible for introducing EBTG to the world of dance music. It's rather odd that none of the tracks from EBTG's most recent album, *Walking Wounded*, were included on this compilation. Songs like the band's latest single "*Before Today*" and "*Walking Wounded*," certainly count in the "Best of..." category, especially since the latter were quite popular internationally, debuting at number five on the UK singles chart in '96. This album is only available on import at the moment, and hopefully, a US release is soon to follow.

-Syed A. Bokhari

# The Notorious B.I.G.

continued from page 23

equivalent. Puffy ingeniously recognized certain intangibles that could make Biggie an immediate platinum hit. It should be mentioned that Puffy's recognition of these talents are what would make Biggie unique as a commercial rap artist yet the techniques employed, to turn him into such have been used for decades.

Firstly Biggie had a unique ability to express his life and environment with a combination of angry passion and limited insight that easily related to ghetto youth. It is necessary to take note that an MC is not, and should not, be excluded as being hip hop because he/she does not adequately give insight. Biggie never really had showed the ability to critically analyze his

surroundings as well as he described them. As a result, how could one expect it.

Nevertheless, his unique ability merged beautiful with two key ingredients that allowed him to keep respect as being hip hop despite his obvious commercial ventures. Firstly, being from the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn projected the positive image it had onto Biggie every time he shouted it out over a crossover hit. Most within hip hop will not admit it but undue and often unearned props are given to artists based on the image of the borough one is from.

After this recognition, Puffy began the process that is the most crucial in this package—the construction of the artist's image. With hip hop integrity in mind, one can see the

inevitable, ensuing failure in having someone else construct your image. Hip hop MCs are verbal representations of themselves with regards to their morals, environment, and past. Their image, to remain true hip hop, must be a direct reflection of this, therefore the MC's image should be constructed primarily by him/herself.

The questions, and often justifying arguments, that arise are how could Biggie let this happen? Was it really Biggie's fault? What did Biggie do that compromised his integrity?

A look at the package created by Puffy's direction—The Notorious B.I.G.'s *Ready To Die* debut album—answers each question. The themes expressed in an MC's album, especially the debut, reveal to his audience who he/she is. In the career of

any artist this is what keeps the basic hip hop fan base loyal. The hip hop artist, in order to gain respect, must uniquely present his/her reality through their music. For this one needs a theme (or set of themes), that is original. Unfortunately, most fans of any genre cannot tell true originality from the melding of various themes to create something different. Biggie's themes were not original but certainly different because of his unique intangibles Puffy was able to exploit.

When it was time to release Biggie's first single from *Ready To Die*, Biggie preferred "*Machine Gun Funk*" as opposed to "*Juicy*." Biggie recalls that

continued on page 30



# The Notorious B.I.G.

continued from page 29

"Puffy was on some. 'Yo, let's get rich. If we drop 'Juicy,' you'll have a gold single. If people weren't with 'Juicy,' they could turn it over and hear 'Unbelievable' [VIBE Magazine, *Things Done Changed*, 1995]. We can clearly see that Biggie had no control over this, yet it isn't so clear that Puffy knows the universal record label marketing techniques. For Biggie, he is 'keeping it real' because he has the hard joint on there to represent. However, Puffy wins so much more in this lopsided exchange. A single is assumed to only be bought after it is heard. For a first single, the B-side is virtually irrelevant because the mass of radio listeners will not hear it. The underground fans who never heard of Biggie wouldn't check for his B-side if they didn't like his commercial flavor shown on 'Juicy.' This cycle of A-side—commercial and B-side—real prevailed throughout Biggie's career and will most likely continue with the release of his new album, *Life After Death*.

Puffy's strategy is epitomized by 'Juicy's' message because it utilizes the intangibles that Puffy first saw. This 'rags-to-riches' story seen and heard throughout clichéd U.S. culture is assumed to original hip hop because it evokes feelings we all have. However, no MC from Brooklyn has ever crossed over this tale directly. Puffy envisioned Biggie becoming the symbol of the American dream to Brooklyn youth. Biggie didn't mind at all because Puffy and all of Bad Boy kept Biggie in the same mind frame that he had as a drug dealer. It wasn't about making quality music for the generations of Black and Latino youth he represented in Brooklyn.

Biggie, his fans and his label, felt he stayed real because he continued the same ignorant quest for money at all costs he had as a drug dealer. Biggie reflected this by reveling in the image that was shaped for him. At first, it is possible to see why he made songs like 'Juicy,' 'One More Chance,' 'Big Poppa,' as these were the dreams, values, and limited insight he grew up with. However, his embracing of this constructed image (which included clichéd tales of sex and violence over samples produced to highlight the hooks and not the lyrics), was epitomized on 'One More Chance (RMX),' to 'Brooklyn's Finest' with Jay Z. Biggie is thus to blame for this because his music conformed to

this image and much of it wasn't hip hop, and in the realm of hip hop history Biggie is more of a rapper/artist for a label than an hip hop MC in the industry.

Historically Biggie suffered from the same pitfalls that has plagued Blacks and Latinos for decades in the music industry and centuries in the United States. He should be seen as a victim of his own success not because he was killed but because his music often sacrificed its essence for Bad Boy's frivolously easy quest to live at Hot 97. His death really has nothing to do with his content because every musical star of that magnitude is subject to jealous, ignorant hatred.

Unfortunately, Biggie's immediate legacy developing much prior to his death, was the rap industry's ability to employ another of their methods. This would be the public saturation of slightly varied, if even, forms of the current popular seller. This obviously hurts any musical genre because originality is no longer needed and becomes expensive to a label to keep acts of that nature. Biggie serves as a model to record labels on how they can package the brutal reality and mentality of ghetto Black and Latino youth without sacrificing the pop elements that appeal and allow the masses to hear without listening.

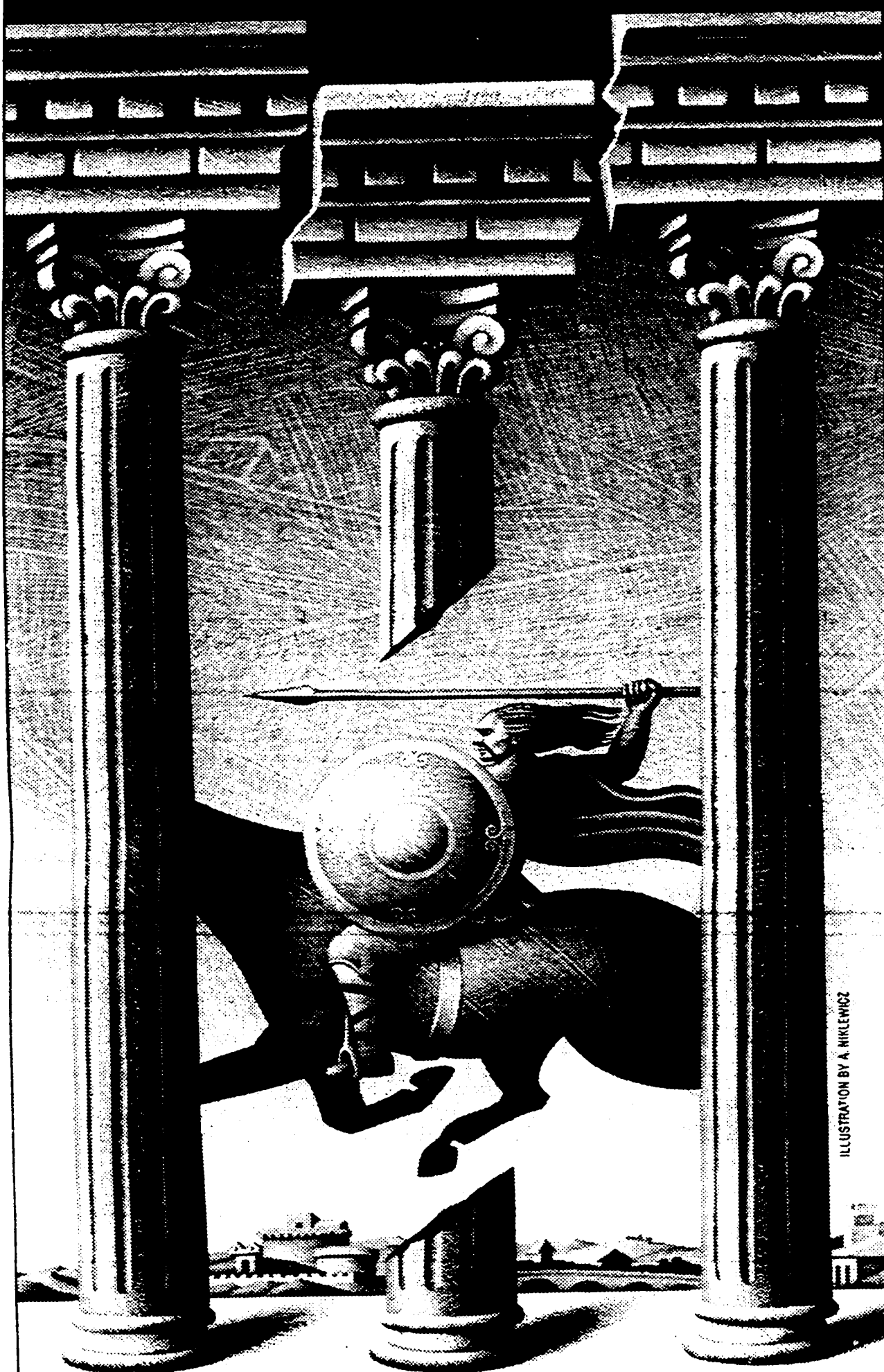
The legacy of Biggie Smalls is thus the furthering of the cycle of dilution that has affected all our musical artforms. It is necessary in hip hop as it was with Jazz, Rock-n-Roll, salsa, etc., for talented artists to take a stand on demanding their musical integrity and truthful expression. This ultimately is the only way hip hop can survive, and is exactly the definition of it.

If you have responses to Edward Rodriguez' Sunset Style column or the Notorious B.I.G. article, address them to:

The Ticker  
Attention: Edward Rodriguez  
360 PAS  
New York, N.Y. 10010  
or E-Mail us at:  
the.ticker@scs.usitebaruch.cuny.edu  
Please make sure to address all responses to Edward Rodriguez

## Breaking the Sound Barrier

Discover the thrill of opera for only \$10 at New York City Opera!



City Opera invites students to come and experience the unforgettable thrill of opera through our special Student Rush Program. For only \$10 per ticket, you can enjoy our exhilarating performances from orchestra-level seating.

From Bizet's seductive *Carmen* to Lerner and Loewe's dazzling *Brigadoon*, we bring you a stimulating fusion of music and drama in a fantastic selection of classic opera and musical theater. All performed with a special onstage chemistry at Lincoln Center's world-class New York State Theatre.

So for a sound offer that won't break the bank, call our Student Rush Hotline for complete details of available performances.

Call our Student Rush Hotline at (212) 870-5630 for full details.

NEW YORK  
CITY OPERA  
FALL 1996-SPRING 1997 SEASON

Tickets must be purchased on day of the performance at the New York State Theatre box office and are subject to availability. The box office opens at 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, and at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. Students must present valid ID when purchasing tickets. Two tickets per student are available. New York City Opera, New York State Theatre at Lincoln Center, 40th Street and Columbus Avenue.

Happy Birthday to the love of my life, the most wonderful girl in the world: Aurelia.  
Love, Steve

Janet M.,  
Happy 23rd Birthday on 4/8,  
I'll see you tonite!  
Hung (6'1", 210 lbs. 11")  
@212-227-3595

## THE CITY OPERA PRESENTS THE MIKADO

By Frank Luo

Start with one part *Comedy Of Errors*, two parts *Prince And The Pauper*. Add a dash of black humor and a generous dollop of political satire, stir, garnish with 18th Century British Japonica, and you have — *The Mikado*.

Perhaps the most beloved, and certainly the most successful of the many works by William Schwenck Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, *The Mikado* is the tale of a prince fleeing an arranged marriage, only to discover love, treachery, corruption, and redemption, all in the village of Tipitoo, and all in the space of a week. As morbid as the play's theme seemed at times, (it seems that some major character or another is always being threatened with death by beheading, burying alive, suicide, or 'something humorous, but lingering, with ether boiling oil or melted lead') the final outcome is a hilarious musical satire.

The performance, while not truly outstanding, is definitely above average. While every performer accounted generously for themselves, of particular note are Ko-Ko, sang by James Billings, whose rendition of 'Willow, Tit-Willow' should move the heart of even those who know the song for the plot that it is, and Pitti-Sing, prettily sang by Angela Horn. Barbara Shirvis' portrayal of Yum-Yum was a delight, and Joseph McKee's Poo-Bah was nothing short of hilarious. The

scintillating sets are reminiscent of 19th Century Japonism, and somehow manages to convey the ambiance of a past era without falling prey to the usual trap of carbon copying what once had been. They do credit to their designer, Thierry Bosquet, as do the refreshingly original yet indubitably Japanese costume designs, which were even more dazzling than the sets.

While the vocals and the orchestral performances were wonderful, the dance performance seems at times incomplete. The performance did not come together until the second act, and there were instances wherein the lack of uniformity or precision in the choreography obstructed the audience's enjoyment of the production. This, as much as some viewers' perception that one mustn't laugh in an opera house, made the first act of the comedy an undeservedly quiet one. However, as its flaws are few while its virtues are many, *The Mikado* receives from me four fat ladies out of five. It is a delightful performance that should not be passed up.

*Tickets for The Mikado are now available for Tuesday, April 15th, and Wednesday, April 23rd. For student discount ticket information, and a full listing of The City Opera's offerings, please call 212-870-5630.*

## ETHNIC CARICATURES IN THE ARTS

-- FROM THE MIKADO TO THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

By Frank Luo

It is always interesting to see things in a new perspective. Or an old one, if one has not seen it before. The City Opera's *The Mikado* offers us such an opportunity, presenting us with the popular conception of the Far East in late 19th century England.

In the days of Impressionism and Japonism, when the Avant Garde of modern art was formed and named, the influx of Asian art and aesthetics offered a strong contrast to the Victorian cluttering of the artistic world by bringing the calculated use of negative space and ambiguity into the Western mainstream. It is often thought that Monet and company owed more to the wood carvings of Edo Japan than to the traditions of the Renaissance, the Baroque, and the Victorian eras.

Yet the view is skewed, as any view filtered through artificially narrowed channels of communication must be. The formality of Japanese society, while probably no more ridiculous to us today than the many strictures of the Victorian court, was of a sort unfamiliar to, and therefore generally misunderstood by even the most cosmopolitan members of 19th century Western intelligentsia.

*The Mikado* presents an outdated view of the Far East, bringing to us a culture that is nominally

Japanese, but in reality a pan-Asian mish-mash that combines Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other East Asian cultures into a mixture that was the very craze in Victorian England. Fans, vases, wood prints, lacquered furniture, and other artifacts of Asia became highly prized collectors' items. Anything having to do with Asia, especially Japan, who had opened two commercial ports to the West early on and established diplomatic relations with the West before any other nation in Asia, became fashionable. Gilbert and Sullivan lore suggests that the inspiration for the play struck when a samurai sword—a collector's item since their having been outlawed in Japan—fell from William Gilbert's study wall. The truth is probably that the playwright saw a market for a play set in an exotic culture that happens to be fashionable at the moment, and took full advantage of it to launch a comedy satire in his usual vein of work.

In any case, the point for us, the audience, is really to see and know this work for what it is. It would not be difficult to argue that the play displays stereotypical characters and situations that are unfavorable caricatures of stereotypical views of Japan and its residents, because, well, it does. Unlike such films as *Black Rain* and *The Year Of The*

*Dragon*, *The Mikado* contains stereotypes that are so far removed from reality as to seem almost cute in its ridiculousness. The films purport to mimic real life, while the play makes no such pretense. At best, it parodies life, exaggerating that which the audience may identify with or laugh at. While *Black Rain* presents itself as some sort of revelatory work about the amazing effectiveness of American detective methods in cutting through the Japanese governmental bureaucracy, and *The Year Of The Dragon* presents Mickey Rourke as some sort of Eliot Ness-esque crime fighting demigod placed on earth as a divine gift to society, punishing the evil Chinese gangsters and (of course) rescuing the beautiful Chinese-American journalist from her undeserving Chinese boyfriend, *The Mikado* pokes fun at bureaucracy, the corruption of the ruling class, the dangers of an autocratic ruler gone nearly mad with boredom and is losing touch with reality, and last but not least, the freedom to choose one's own life mate, instead of having such a choice dictated to you—all issues relevant to society at large, and particularly so for Victorian England, which was at the verge of passing into the modern era.

The play itself opens with the following passage:

*If you want to know who we are,  
We are the gentlemen of Japan.  
On many a vase and jar,  
On many a screen and fan,  
We figure in lively paint; Our  
attitude's queer and quaint -  
You're wrong if you think it ain't,  
oh!*

Which, though it may seem rather offensive at first, ultimately reveals the play's caricatures for what they are—simplified, limited representations that have no more basis in reality than people and places painted on vases and jars. The very fact that such items are referred to is a rather obvious hint that the play takes its view of the East from such second or third hand sources, and that such caricatures are designed mainly to entertain, not to inform.

So, though some conscientious individuals may object to such portrayals of the culture and customs of a particular ethnicity, *The Mikado* takes its entertainment more from the discomforts of Victorian England than from the misrepresentation of Japan. It is perhaps even beneficial to see such a ridiculously unrealistic portrayal of a foreign culture, that we may be reminded how often, and how easily we take to the simplest, yet most inaccurate interpretations of people and cultures that are unfamiliar to us.

SPIRIT stands for Student for Political Involvement Revitalization for Innovative Thinkers. SPIRIT is dedicated to revitalizing the student government and leadership here at Bernard M. Baruch College. We intend to create a positive atmosphere for students to seek out the most that this college has to offer. The student involvement and mutual participation is at an all time low in this university. Student voter turnout can barely hit ten percent. We the people of the SPIRIT party will change that.

Let us start with our name SPIRIT. It is what we stand for. We are proud to be Baruch Students. However, this is not the case with the entire population of this school. We intend approaching students, informing them about student issues concerning life and social events happening in this school. By the end of our rein, the student spirit's shall be uplifted and they will be proud to be a student of Baruch College.

### We Intend on Doing as Follows:

1. Raising the social events here at Baruch, as well as, heightening the awareness amongst students of the events.
2. Inviting local legislatures down to meet with Baruch Students and provide for a new alternative way to protect our rights and obtain our goals.
3. Bringing in student votes on the hiring of professors for their tenure in this college.
4. Changing the rules for the teacher evaluations, so that tenured professors must publish their evaluation results.
5. Continuing our Asian Studies developments and trying to establish an international student exchange in various countries in that region.
6. Making a more informative transfer and freshman orientation so that transfer students shall receive their credits upon orientation.
7. Student government will regularly meet between clubs and freshman seminar classes.
8. Student Government will be going around to local stores in order to achieve discount for Baruch students.

The SPIRIT party is very true to its ideology. Our ability in obtaining these goals rests with the experience of our members. Our members have been club presidents, students leaders for years and they come from various cultural backgrounds.



# **BARUCH COLLEGE COUNSELING CENTER - Room 1745 AND SEEK PROGRAM (212) 802-6840**

## **Spring '97 Counseling Center Hours:**

**Monday @ 9:00am-5:00pm / Tuesday @ 10:00am-8:30pm**  
**Wednesday @ 9:00am-7:30pm**  
**Thursday @ 9:00am-8:30pm / Friday @ 10:00am-5:00pm**

## **Counseling Center Groups:**

**Sexual Harassment "Self-Defense"  
meets on Thursdays @ 3:00 pm**

**International Student Support Group  
meets on Mondays @ 1:30-2:30pm  
Room 1703, 360 PAS**

**"Threesome" and "Three of Hearts"  
Movie & Sexuality Discussion Group  
meets on Wednesdays @ 2:00 pm  
Room 1703, 360 PAS**

## **Workshops with SACC:**

**Anxiety & Stress Management II  
"Preparing for Midterms"  
Thursday, April 3rd @ 12:30-2:30pm  
Globus Lounge (Rm. 1704), 360 PAS**

## **SEEK Program Groups:**

**Financial Aid Workshop  
Room 1704, 360 PAS  
Thursday, March 27th  
@ 12:30 pm**

**"Assertiveness Training  
for Asian Students"  
by Violet Seung  
Room 1703, 360 PAS  
Thursday, April 3rd  
@ 12:45 pm**

**Conversation Circle for  
SEEK/ESL students every  
Thursday during club hrs.  
Room 1740, 360 PAS**

**Anxiety and Stress  
Management III  
"Finals & Skills Assessment  
Tests"  
Thursday, May 8th  
@ 12:30pm  
Globus Lounge (Rm. 1704)  
360 PAS**

**\*The times of groups and location are subject to change depending on  
student's availability, please call 802-6840 if you are interested in any**

## **Baseball Preview**

*continued from back*

5. **Philadelphia Phillies.** What can I say? This team sucks and its amazing that only four years ago they won a pennant.

**OFFENSE:** None. Gregg Jefferies is the only respectable hitter here. Hopefully, he can regain his .300+ hitting form. Rico Brogna, the former Met, can hit homers and Rex Hudler is a quality, if not everyday, hitter. They are lacking in power, speed, average and everything else needed to score runs.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Curt Schilling is their man. He could win 15 to 20 games regularly if he was on a winning team. Mark Portugal is inconsistent and everyone else is below average. If there fifth starter, Mike Grace, can duplicate the quality pitching he provided last year before his injury, they could become more competitive. Their setup man out of the pen, Ken Ryan is quality and Ricky Bottalico is a well deserving All-Star. Their defense is average. They are filled with no name hustlers who can catch. It won't win them games but it will stop fans from laughing.

**OUTLOOK:** The Phillies mean wins for other teams. They are greatly lacking in all categories and getting rid of Jim Fregosi doesn't help. The Mets can definitely beat this.

## **National League Central**

1. **St. Louis Cardinals.** Tony LaRussa can turn around any team and last year the Cards succeeded in winning the division.

**OFFENSE:** Quality with Ray Lankford, Brian Jordan, Gary Gaetti, Ron Gant and John Mabry all producing strong numbers. They work well as a team and don't try to win with one swing of the bat. Like the Cardinal teams of recent history, they have good speed on the bases and force runs. If Jordan hits more homers, he could be an MVP candidate.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Strong all around roster with Andy Benes leading the starting core. Benes and Todd Stottlemyre are two pitchers who can shut any group of hitters down when their control is good. Donovan Osborne is a smooth lefthander and Alan Benes (Andy's brother) is a steady riser. Danny Jackson provides veteran leadership as the fifth starter and makes the Cards' starting five highly complete. Dennis Eckersley has lost some stuff but still remains a great short reliever who can get the job done. Their bullpen is filled with pitchers who can give good innings and low ERA's. They also have two good lefthanders, Tony Fossas and Rick Honeycutt, out of the pen which is something most teams envy.

**OUTLOOK:** Very good. The Cardinals will not embarrass themselves but they may not have enough stars to catapult them to the pennant.

2. **Houston Astros.** Last year, they were underachievers. This year they're not considered good enough to be underachievers. Nevertheless, they have enough to battle St. Louis for most of the season.

**OFFENSE:** Very strong if unbalanced. The four B's, Craig Biggio, Jeff Bagwell, Derek Bell, and Sean Berry,

provide the offensive numbers that franchises are built on. In fact, Biggio and Bagwell are the type of players who are Hall of Fame quality if they put in some more years of dominance. They are already the best at their positions in the league. Berry is a rising star. With only 431 at bats, he hit 17 homers and drove in 95 runs. Bell may be the underachiever. He needs step up his concentration level and become the .300 hitter his talent implies. The rest of the lineup is average with Luis Gonzalez, another under achieving talent, joining the Astros in left field. They will be tough to contend with but far from invincible.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Good starters but not All-Star quality. After the first three, there are too many question marks. Sid Fernandez may not be physically up to the challenge of being a fourth starter and if he's not, forget this year. In the pen, there is no proven closer which breaks down the make up of the pen. They don't have enough talent to win games with pitching which will cause them to trail St. Louis in the end. On the field, they won't embarrass themselves. Biggio is a Gold Glove and Bagwell is at that level. If Pat Listach can't play short, their infield will break apart. The outfield is good and behind the plate, Brad Ausmus is unproven.

**OUTLOOK:** The Astros will provide some thrills with the four B's but there aren't enough B's to propel them above St. Louis.

3. **Chicago Cubs.** Never a champion, always an entertainer. They will not win it all this year but will be pure baseball.

**OFFENSE:** A nice one but incomplete lineup. Brian McRae has proven he is a quality leadoff hitter and could become an All-Star this year. Mark Grace is Keith Hernandez II. He is a great fielder and hits for a high average (.331) and little power (9 HR). He's a player any team would love to have. Sammy Sosa would have won the HR title if he hadn't broken his right hand. His 40 homers and 100 RBI are the numbers he can put up for years to come. Then there is Ryne Sandberg who successfully returned to baseball. His average was low (.244) but he hit 25 homers and drove in 92 runs. He has lost range at second but still is better than half of the second basemen in baseball. His veteran presence is priceless. The rest of the lineup is weak. There are no more hitters that provide consistent offensive threats for pitchers and in a hitting park like Wrigley, it makes beating the Cubs at home so much easier.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** A bunch of quality starters but no one who can win games without help. Steve Trachsel made the All-Star team and was good but not great. The additions of Kevin Tapani and Terry Mulholland will make them respectable. Mel Rojas takes the closer role and is backed by an above average bullpen. The Cubs will win games because of the strength of this pen if things go well. Defensively, the infield is lopsided. The right side is strong but the left is weak. Dunston is adequate but rookie Kevin Orie is untested. Scott Servais is dependable behind the plate which is all you can ask these days.

**OUTLOOK:** The Cubs are fun. They have players who will make it interesting and it is possible that they could surpass Houston if things fall in the right place. But do they ever?

4. **Cincinnati Reds.** No more Marge Schott but more problems on the field. The Reds aren't getting better despite the additions of some high profile players.

**OFFENSE:** BARRY LARKIN will be in the Hall of Fame. The best shortstop in baseball right now (though Alex Rodriguez of Seattle will obviously surpass him in years to come). An MVP in 1995, the first SS with over 30 homers and 30 stolen bases in a year last season, and three Gold Gloves are just some of what he can do. He wins games and can lead a team all the way again if he gets a good enough team. Too many uncertainties loom in the Cincinnati lineup that may hurt them. Add-in Deion Sanders does little. He is a weak hitter who steals basis with speed not technique. Bret Boone can be a star in this league but he needs to stop trying for homers. Ruben Sierra, another addition, had an atrocious '96 and seriously needs to regain the form that made him a star with Texas. Reggie Sanders was slowed by injuries but is an excellent hitter who can do it all a la Barry Bonds. His success will mean a higher finish in this division. Hal Morris is another talented average hitter with some pop. The lineup, in general, is good but too questionable.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Subpar. Many of the starters have had better years in the distant past and have proven they cannot duplicate them. John Smiley is a good guy on a team that needs more greatness. The truth is, their starters don't have what it takes to handle the hitters in this league every night and compete in this division. Jeff Brantley is a fine closer backed by mediocrity in the pen. On defense, the Reds are below average but far from complete. They have a good double play combination and are strong in right with Reggie Sanders and it ends there. Deion Sanders has a weak arm in center and though his speed will save him many times, he misjudges too many balls to fool any of us into thinking he is a good outfielder (or baseball player).

**OUTLOOK:** Sad. A once competitive franchise is slipping further and further into mediocrity. In a few years they could be the Phillies.

5. **Pittsburgh Pirates.** Another team that looks like a triple A squad. It can only get better but it may get worse.

**OFFENSE:** They lost Jeff King, Jay Bell, Carlos Garcia, and Orlando Merced. That was their offense. Now, all they have is Jason Kendall and Al Martin. Martin, if he develops more power can be a star. Kendall, already an All Star, is not as good as his praise indicates. He handles pitchers weakly and his hits are mostly unproductive. However, he can improve and has the talent to return to many All Star games. The addition of Kevin Elster will not help them.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** An entire roster of unproven pitchers and prospects attempts to carry the Pirates through '97. It's not going to work. Jason Schmidt is a perfect example. A talented pitcher, he has yet to produce good numbers and in a team that can't hit, how can he win games or feel like he can? Defensively, they are untested also. Their chemistry, like Florida's, will be off for a while. But where Florida can rely on good pitching and run support, the Pirates will have none of that.

**OUTLOOK:** The loss of Jim

Leyland and many players will hurt this team immensely. Games against the Phillies will be interesting, won't they?

## **National League West**

1. **Los Angeles Dodgers.** Another underachieving team, in the opinion of many. But it cannot be denied that they have the talent to win this division and compete for the pennant.

**OFFENSE:** Loads of talent but not adept at producing runs. Mike Piazza is a perennial MVP candidate who will probably be removed from catching duties in the future to prolong his already brilliant career. Eric Karros has proven to be a run producing force and with another Rookie of the Year in Todd Hollandsworth, there is another player who can reach star status. The leadoff spot is unstable with the uncertain status of Brett Butler. Raul Mondesi is multi-talented but symbolizes underachievement. More patience at the plate and a commitment to continual improvement will help him become an MVP caliber player. Todd Zeile is an unpassionate run producer. What the Dodgers need is passion. A more aggressive nature could take them to the pennant.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Hideo Nomo is the real thing and will win a Cy Young some time in his future. Ramon Martinez has regained the form of his All-Star days and Ismael Valdes and Pedro Astacio are fine starters. Chan Ho Park is also talented and can win ten to thirteen games. The pen is strong. Todd Worrell is getting better every year and saved 44 games last season. Antonio Osuna, Mark Guthrie and Scott Radinsky provide the best middle relief in the NL. Defensively, they're terrible. They'll be that way all year. Piazza is a lousy catcher with bad technique and game calling skills. His offense keeps him in this league if you didn't know. Mondesi is erratic (12 errors) in right and only Karros is consistent.

**OUTLOOK:** If they Dodgers harness their offensive talent and score runs at a high clip, they could win it all. I don't think that will happen. Their lineup is very unbalanced and their defense could lose games. However, they will be tough to hit and pitching can take you anywhere in baseball.

2. **San Diego Padres.** A surprise team last year, they will not creep up on anyone this year. But they will compete.

**OFFENSE:** Very good. Power is supplied by MVP Ken Caminiti and Greg Vaughn. Steve Finley will not repeat his 30 homers but will provide a versatile offensive showing. Tony Gwynn is the best pure hitter in baseball. He will most likely win the batting title again because no one else can hit .350 except him. The leadoff hitter, Quilvio Veras is unproven but can run the bases well. Ultimately, the Padres have enough to compete and maybe contend for the division and wild card.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Two good starters and nothing else. Joey Hamilton and Andy Ashby have the skills to reach All Star status but no one else has the stuff to win games. The bullpen is adequate with Trevor Hoffman (42 saves) and some decent

*continued on page 34*



*continued from page 33*

relievers. They'll stay in games and hang with the Dodgers but won't have enough to pass them. The defense is good. Caminiti, Gwynn, Finley, and Joyner are all quality. At short they are weak with Chris Gomez but are solid behind the plate with John Flaherty.

**OUTLOOK:** The Padres will have loads of standout performances, especially from Caminiti, Finley and Gwynn. If Vaughn hits and another starter does well, the Padres could squeak out another division title.

3. **Colorado Rockies.** The air is thin and so is the pitching. The most potent NL offense will be done in once again by bad pitching.

**OFFENSE:** Four players had over 40 homers and drove in over 110 runs. And a fourth player, Larry Walker, would have done it if he had stayed healthy. Eric Young had the best year of his career at the leadoff spot. Walt Weiss was also complimentary and adequate in the offense. They really have no flaws except when they leave Coors Field. Their production is feeble when they are not at home and using the explanation of the thin air at Coors is right but doesn't justify the mystery. Why are proven hitters struggling so mightily on the road when they have the talent and skills to produce anywhere? It's a question that has been answered but no one will really ever know *why*. The Rockies can only hope they can change that sad fact this year.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** No pitching here. Kevin Ritz is their best with a 17-11 record and a horrible 5.28 ERA. Bill Swift has yet to regain the 20 win form he had in San Francisco in '93. After that, no one is the slightest bit a proven pitcher. That includes the bullpen.

**OUTLOOK:** The Rockies will hit like hell. On the road they may lose a lot because of their lack of production in other parks. The Rockies ultimately have no pitching and cannot survive a full season with only hitting at home.

4. **San Francisco Giants.** BARRY BONDS.

**OFFENSE:** BARRY BONDS. My MVP last year, he produced amazing numbers, including a 40-40 season, despite no protection. Six new starters will not help much and will only provide bad chemistry. Besides Bonds, there are no dangerous hitters, only mediocre ones. J.T. Snow could emerge because he has the talent and has done well in the past but its asking too much of the entire squad to produce quality numbers that they are incapable of.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** A load of young prospects fills the starting staff. It's doubtful that the growing pains will end. The bullpen is slightly better but is guaranteed to be overworked this year. Rod Beck saves games at a high rate (35) but his ERA is going up every year. Julian Tavarez and Jim Poole are good pickups from Cleveland.

**OUTLOOK:** Barry Bonds. He is the only thing to look forward to and worth paying money to see. If the starters can improve and learn, it could be a productive, yet still losing, year.

#### American League East

1. **Toronto Blue Jays.** Thank you, free agency! By taking advantage of high priced free agents in the market, Toronto has improved to the point

where in a couple of years they may return to the championship excellence established in '92 and '93.

**OFFENSE:** Joe Carter remains a consistent run producer, as he has been the leading home run and RBI man since '86. Last season, Carter (.253-.30-107), Ed Sprague (.247-.36-101), Carlos Delgado (.270-.25-.92) and Benito Santiago (.264-.30-.85) provide a solid amount of power despite a presenting fear in the hearts of pitchers. Their performances should be similar in '97. If Sprague, Alex Gonzalez and Delgado can continue improving and Carlos Garcia and Orlando Merced (formerly of the Pittsburgh Pirates) provide performances equivalent to last year, Toronto will be able to produce enough runs to win games.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** A powerful starting staff. The addition of Roger Clemens brings the Jays over the top. If Clemens can regain his control (106 walks), he will be able to win 15 to 20 games easily. Pat Hentgen, last year's Cy Young winner, has proved himself to be a premier pitcher in this league. He won 20 games on a team that won only 74 games. Juan Guzman can be dominating when he wants to and last season he led the AL in seven categories (including ERA). Erik Hanson, coming off a subpar season, has the skills to win 15. The pen features closer Mike Timlin and strong middle reliever Tim Lincecum. A solid roster all around. The defense is bolstered by an exciting double play combo with Garcia and Gonzalez. Santiago is well above average behind the plate but the rest of the team is average at best.

**OUTLOOK:** Pitching will carry the Jays. Their entire pitching roster is balanced but a lot depends on the success of Clemens. Their offense is adequate but lacking in exceptional talent and is their biggest weakness. But pitching wins games and divisions and everything else after that.

2. **New York Yankees.** The best last year. On paper, they weren't better than Atlanta but winning the games is what counts. A well deserved, and long awaited championship.

**OFFENSE:** Well balanced and potent. Derek Jeter is a future star. If he bulks up he can hit 25 homers and drive in 90 runs. He basically does everything else well. Wade Boggs is still the best third baseman they have and thinking that Charlie Hayes will do it better for you for 162 games is laughable. Paul O'Neill needs to stop choking in the second half and Cecil Fielder needs to keep hitting homers and be quiet. He is a one-dimensional player who excels in a dimension that so many players before and now do better. Tino Martinez and Bernie Williams are the Yanks' best hitters. Martinez can provide clutch RBI throughout and Williams is an MVP candidate. He's a poor man's Ken Griffey Jr. His only flaw is his arm but he still managed to collect 10 OF assists. There shouldn't be big problems scoring.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Andy Pettitte is a strong, reliable, big game pitcher who will have a great career with the Yanks. David Cone still has the best stuff outside of Randy Johnson and is a Cy Young contender. David Wells is on the slide and his sterling record at Yankee Stadium doesn't mean much on the road. Last season, he provided lots of innings (224.1) but wasn't too good in them (5.14). Kenny Rogers is suspect returning from in-

jury and it's hard to tell if he can regain his brilliant form of '95. Dwight Gooden obviously can't pitch for a whole year and the Yankees may find out the hard way. The loss of John Wetteland is huge. His absence destroys the Yanks' winning formula and puts too much pressure on Jeff Nelson. A burden that he neither has the talent or dominating presence to take. Defensively, the Yanks are superb. They will not lose from fielding mistakes. Only Darryl Strawberry and Mariano Duncan are weak links and not enough to hurt them.

**OUTLOOK:** If some of the starters burst out with career years and the bullpen survives the loss of Wetteland, the Yanks will win this division and contend for the pennant. It's not going to happen.

3. **Baltimore Orioles.** A surprising turn around in the second half helped the Orioles advance to the American League championship series where they eventually lost to the Yanks. This year, don't expect such success.

**OFFENSE:** Strong. Brady Anderson is no fluke. He is a terrific all around player who really doesn't belong in the leadoff spot. Roberto Alomar is another legend whose only flaw is spitting at umpires. Rafael Palmeiro is a smooth hitting force who will provide enough runs in '97. Cal Ripken Jr., Chris Hoiles, B.J. Surhoff and the newly signed Eric Davis will fill out a great lineup.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Mike Mussina is their man and last year's ERA must be a one time thing. After him, everything is on shaky ground. Jimmy Key is now only average and it looks like Scott Erickson will not regain the form that won him 20 games with Minnesota. Rocky Coppinger and Shawn Boskie are not going to do it in all likelihood. In the pen, Randy Myers is still productive but sliding but the rest of the pen is strong. It will save the Orioles many times. On defense, Alomar is the best in the majors at second. The addition of Davis in the outfield will bolster the defense and Ripken's move to third and Mike Bordick's inclusion at short will help the infield reach an amazing level.

**OUTLOOK:** A contender who will not have enough pitching to finish the fight for the division.

4. **Boston Red Sox.** A falling team with only one player, Mo Vaughn, worth watching.

**OFFENSE:** The MVP in '95, Vaughn is a triple crown threat. His backup is weak now that Jose Canseco has bolted to the A's. Lots of decent hitters (John Valentin, Mike Stanley, Tim Lincecum) and loads of average hitters fill an unspectacular lineup. Rookie Normar Garciaparra could be a standout but we'll have to wait and see. Their offense will hang with teams but won't beat anyone.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Three pitchers, Tim Wakefield, Aaron Sele and Tom Gordon have struggled to reach the level their talents can take them in '96. It is hard to tell whether they can this year. If they do, watch out. These guys can carry a team. The loss of Clemens is big. He was the only one certain to have a good year. The rest of the starters are no namers. The pen has closer Heathcliff Slocumb who can do good work. The rest of the bullpen is adequate if not gamebreaking.

**OUTLOOK:** Too many question marks that, most likely, don't have positive answers. If there three starters wake up and fulfill their talent, the Red Sox could surprise.

5. **Detroit Tigers.** A sad team despite a few hitting up and comers.

**OFFENSE:** Travis Fryman is their best player while Tony Clark and Bob Higginson have emerged at future threats. After them, this team doesn't have much. There will be a lot of blow outs with the Tigers on the losing side of most of them.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** The worst in the majors. No one has proven they belong in the majors. This year doesn't look to be different. The defense is adequate. Everyone can catch the ball but it doesn't matter when they're hittin' 'em over the fence.

**OUTLOOK:** The pen is equally futile. The starters will get rocked and the pen will get rocked. The hitters will never be able to catch up.

#### American League Central

1. **Cleveland Indians.** Despite losing Albert Belle, the Indians have more than enough to win this division.

**OFFENSE:** Excellent. Marquis Grissom is a fine leadoff hitter in baseball. Omar Vizquel is a wonderful table setter and the meat of the lineup is bolstered by the addition of Matt Williams. Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez and Julio Franco will provide more than enough power and RBI. David Justice adds another power source. Albert who?

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Charles Nagy and Orel Hershiser are not great but consistent. With hitting like this they only have to be good. Jack McDowell should bounce back from a weak '96 and Chad Ogea has some talent. The bullpen is superb. Jose Mesa is a dominant closer and loads of quality middle relief fills out the pen. Defensively, up the middle, no one is better. Only Tony Fernandez at second could be a liability. But their defense won't hurt them.

**OUTLOOK:** The Indians look like a pennant winner so I'm picking them for the big show. In '95, they choked and they might this year. Who knows?

2. **Chicago White Sox.** Adding Belle helped a lot but losing Alex Fernandez keeps them as an also ran.

**OFFENSE:** Frank Thomas and Albert Belle are the deadliest combination in baseball now. Pitchers will try not to lose to them and won't succeed. Robin Ventura is a star too and is getting better. Harold Baines, Dave Martinez and Ray Durham fill out a strong lineup.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** The loss of Fernandez makes their roster average. It isn't as complete as Cleveland's and will hurt them in the long run. Wilson Alvarez needs to become a superstar fast. James Baldwin needs to become a star pitcher too. The odds are against these starters and the bullpen (with only Roberto Hernandez, their closer, being of high quality) to produce the results to top Cleveland. The defense is very good with Gold Glover Ventura at third.

**OUTLOOK:** The Sox will compete hard and will be interesting to watch because of Belle and Thomas. But their sluggers will not overcome the steady, balanced attack of Cleveland.

*continued on page 35*

## Baseball Preview

*continued from page 34*

3. **Kansas City Royals.** Free agency helps a small market team! I'll never get this stuff.

**OFFENSE:** The Royals' offense is enhanced by the additions of Jeff King, Jay Bell and Chili Davis. They are finally respectable. But like Toronto, they will rely on pitching to win their games.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Kevin Appier is one of the league's best. He even had five complete games (which is almost an extinct stat nowadays). Tim Belcher is still a strong pitcher any team would like to have and Jose Rosado is a rising star. If Chris Haney can handle his starting role better, the Royals could have something big here. The pen features falling star Jeff Montgomery. He needs to bounce back if the Royals are going to have a winning season. The middle relief is below average like every other team in baseball. On defense, Jay Bell gives them a Gold Glove caliber shortstop. A lot of hard workers fill up this team and if manager Bob Boone can keep a stable lineup and environment, an ensuing heightened comfort zone could boost their defensive play.

**OUTLOOK:** The Royals are getting better. They can easily be a .500 team and if Rosado and Haney emerge, they'll have something more to build on. For now, expect a team that can beat anybody and a team that can lose to anybody.

4. **Minnesota Twins.** Like the Mets, there isn't much pitching but a mass of hitting stars that will make watching the Twins fun.

**OFFENSE:** Chuck Knoblauch, because of Roberto Alomar's brilliance, is overlooked. He is a high average hitter (.341, 197 hits) with power (35 doubles, 14 triples, 13 homers, 72 RBI), who does the things a leadoff hitter needs to do (.448 on-base percentage, 140 runs and 45 steals). Paul Molitor's career continues to thrive because of the DH. He hit .341, Had 225 hits, hit 41 doubles and drove in 113 runs. He even stole 18 bases all at age 40. Marty Cordova proved he was a legit Rookie of the Year with impressive numbers (.309-.16-.111) Roberto Kelly, if he plays an entire season, and the addition of Terry Steinbach (.272-.35-.100) give Minnesota enough fire power to battle anyone in a hitting contest. Also, if Todd Walker fulfills expectations and becomes Rookie of the Year, runs will never be a problem in '97.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Relying on Rick Aguilera is not what they need to be doing but they're not listening to me and doing it anyway. What can you do? After Aguilera, there's Frankie Rodriguez. Great stuff but no concentration, stamina

or control. Bob Tewksbury has control but he was serving straight balls in '96. He seriously needs to start fooling hitters in '97 or the Twins will be hopeless. The pen has no proven closer and untested relievers. Not a good prognosis. On the field, they will be sharp. Knoblauch is a standout at second but what's new?

**OUTLOOK:** Fun for me because I like watching their hitters hit but not fun for manager Tom Kelly. His team will be overachieving if things go well but the end will show a subpar finish due to pitching deficiencies.

5. **Milwaukee Brewers.** A team that surprised and contended last year may not be able to sneak by teams in '97.

**OFFENSE:** John Jaha (.300-.34-.118) had a breakout season and Jeff Cirillo finished in the top ten in average (.325). Fernando Vina and Jose Valentin did well also and they seem to have enough real talent to achieve marks close to their '96 totals. Dave Nilsson is a rising star. Now that he'll be playing everyday as a DH, expect him to have remarkable numbers. The rest of the lineup is stark. No one seems to have exceptional hitting talents. Surviving the regular AL hitting shows will be a struggle.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Pretty good. Ben McDonald and Cal Eldred have some talent. They could win 15 apiece if Earth was a nice place. In Milwaukee they will struggle for 12. The pen features Mike Fetters, who is a good closer. His ERA (3.38) and opponents' batting average (.274) is too high which suggests that lots of adventures in the late innings could be a routine. Some decent middle relievers will help somewhat. On defense, Valentin at short is terrible. He's the type of player who not only makes errors (37) but he makes them flashy. Cirillo at third made 18 and Vina at second made 16, so infield defense will definitely screw them up. The outfield is average at best. Defense is a real problem here.

**OUTLOOK:** Like any undertalented team, the Brewers need to overachieve and rely on perfect execution of fundamentals and good (not great) pitching. They can't provide that this year.

#### American League West

1. **Texas Rangers.** Last year's MVP, Juan Gonzalez, is back to cause a fury and now they have a real closer. Watch out.

**OFFENSE:** Gonzalez is a classic slugger in the old school sense. He hits homers like mad (47), hits for average (.314) and drives in runs (144) in at a high rate. He missed 28 games by the way. Ivan Rodriguez had a wonderful season. Anything he does at the plate is just a bonus to his outstanding work behind it. Rusty Greer and Dean Palmer had fine years last sea-

son and there's no reason to think they can't duplicate it. Will Clark and Mickey Tettleton are two old men who can be dangerous if they can stay healthy. The real weaknesses are at the top and bottom of the lineup. But they'll still score enough runs with this multi-talented roster.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Ken Hill is a Cy Young candidate and John Burkett, Darren Oliver, Bobby Witt and Roger Pavlik are all quality starters. They are the only team in the AL with five good starting pitchers. And they all can be better than they have been in the past. The pen is solid now with John Wetteland. They can thank the Yanks for not pursuing him, which was a mistake. His late inning adventures are worth it for the results. Solid relief is also present here. The defense is exceptional. Ivan Rodriguez is the best defensive catcher since Johnny Bench and I didn't say that. Other experts say it with good reason. Rusty Greer is real good in center, Gonzalez has a great arm in right, and Clark and Palmer are adept at the corners. They'll be sharp.

**OUTLOOK:** They are the only team balanced enough to top Cleveland. They'll win this division despite a struggle with Seattle.

2. **Seattle Mariners.** The best hitting in the majors may not be able to overcome a lack of pitching. What's new in this league?

**OFFENSE:** The best. Scary. Fun. Alex Rodriguez only needs to put in nine years more and he's in the Hall. Ken Griffey Jr. is already in. Edgar Martinez is the best all around hitter in baseball. Jay Buhner is one of baseball's deadliest power threats. Dan Wilson, Paul Sorrento and Joey Cora just add to the best 2 to 5 setup in baseball. They'll score too many runs this year.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Randy Johnson will be strong despite coming from surgery. He is a Cy Young candidate and with Jeff Fassero (from Montreal) in the mix, they'll have two fine lefty starters. Scott Sanders needs to step it up for the Mariners to win this division and the pennant. The rest of the starters are average. Jamie Moyer will not repeat last year's 13-3. Salomon Torres is still too raw. The pen has no real closer and the relief is weak. This is their problem and losses will exist mostly because of it. The defense features two Gold Gloves in the outfield with Griffey and Buhner. Alex Rodriguez is a future Gold Glover and Cora is getting better at second. Dan Wilson is an All Star behind the plate.

**OUTLOOK:** Pitching is their only concern and realistically, it is too much to expect these pitchers, with their mediocre histories, to achieve greatness. Seattle will be scary and tough to beat but they will be beat. But not before they take the Wild Card.

3. **Anaheim Angels.** You can change your name but you can't run away from the truth. You're getting worse and you need help.

**OFFENSE:** Some bright spots (Tim Salmon, Jim Edmonds, Garret Anderson) and many weak links make up a team that will not be able to hang on for long. Right now, they are not laughable but if they keep losing players and not working to sign some free agents, they'll sink deeper into the pit of the AL West.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Chuck Finley, Mark Langston and Mark Gubicza are old pitchers who have struggled the last couple of years. They need to bounce back this year for Anaheim to be a contender. Also, Jim Abbott was the worst starting pitcher in all of baseball. He had 2-18 record, 7.48 ERA and batters hit .306 against him. He stunk it up and he needs to redeem himself this year. The pen has Troy Percival, the AL's best closer, he throws heat and seems to be unhittable. If the Angels get to the point where they need a save, give them the win. The rest of the pen is average but not terrible. Chuck McElroy is a dependable long reliever. On defense they are below average. They'll make some fine plays and make some bad ones too.

**OUTLOOK:** The Angels are not going to contend but they can still make some waves if there veteran pitchers can return to past glory.

4. **Oakland Athletics.** Raw power can only go so far in baseball but the A's will need to rely on it again this year.

**OFFENSE:** POWER. The A's have Mark McGwire, who, if healthy, can break the single season home run record easily. Jose Canseco will hit homers too and provide a devastating power combination with McGwire once again. Jason Giambi, Geronimo Berroa, and Scott Brosius are fine hitters but the remainder of the lineup is weak. If they don't hit home runs, they will struggle.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Almost no pitching makes them an easy call for last place. Like Detroit, they are filled with no name pitchers with some talent who are unlikely to succeed in a league that presents a devastating array of hitters every night. The entire roster is not noteworthy. On defense they'll be average. Like Anaheim, they'll be erratic.

**OUTLOOK:** Hope that McGwire and Canseco combine for 100 homers. They can do it but that won't save them. But it will make them more fun to watch.

**Write for  
Ticker  
Sports**



# TICKER SPORTS

## Home Of The Statesmen

March 26, 1997

### Major League Baseball: The Complete 1997 Preview

By Manny Rodriguez

There's only one game that mirrors life perfectly. A game of failure; where individuals struggle for six months a year to equal the glory of past legends' infamous snippets of success. Think of it: Ted Williams had a career batting average of .344. That means, despite his fabulous hitting prowess, he was out more than he was safe. Sound like life?

The 1997 major league baseball season is going to begin on April 1. Here's a quick look at the 28 contenders arranged in the order in which I believe they will end the season:

#### National League East:

1. *Atlanta Braves.* The reigning champion—not quite! The most talented and well rounded team of this decade only has one ring to show for their domination in the regular season. Why? Maybe because they're chokers.

**OFFENSE:** A well balanced attack that features high average hitters (Kenny Lofton, Chipper Jones), power (Jones, Fred McGriff, Ryan Klesko, Javier Lopez) and a group of young up and comers who have the talent to emerge as all-stars for years to come (Andruw Jones, Javier Lopez, Jermaine Dye). Jones carried the team last year and never faltered despite being switched from third to shortstop for a significant period of time in the end of the season. This year, expect more of the same. The Braves will score more than enough runs as Lopez' steady improvement could make him an all-star, while Jones may come out as an MVP. The addition of Kenny Lofton keeps them at a high level and the removal of David Justice is addition by subtraction. It opens up room for future star Andruw Jones.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** The best starting staff in the majors features the last six NL Cy Young winners (Maddux, Glavine and last years winner John Smoltz). The addition of Denny Neagle further strengthens their staff and makes them an immediate favorite for the division and the pennant. In the bullpen, there's Mark Wohlers. He's the closer built in the textbook mold: throws hard! His ERA was slightly over 3.00 which is a little too high for a closer, but he converted 39 of 44 save opportunities. Like John Wetteland, now of the Texas Rangers, he'll get you where you need to get but not without an adventure.

Defensively, the Braves are average at best. Grissom is probably the best centerfielder in the NL. He plays extremely shallow which allows him to get balls that usually drop in for hits, but has the speed to reach most balls hit over his head. The remainder of the

outfield is suspect with the unaggressive Klesko in left and the overrated in every way Justice in right. The Braves would definitely be better off with either Jones or Dye in right. Jones is quality at third and can play short. Lemke, at second, is steady if unspectacular while McGriff makes all the plays he needs to make at first. The weak link is shortstop with the average fielding, subpar hitting Jeff Blauser. He missed a big chunk of last year with injuries which may account for his weak play, but is still nothing to scream about. If the Braves are only as strong as their weakest link, then they're in iffy shape. Ultimately, the Braves are disportioned and overall very unstable defensively but they have the pitching and hitting to overcome these lapses.

**OUTLOOK:** Once again, the Braves look like champions. They haven't changed much but maintain the powerful pitching and balanced hitting that have made them successful in recent years. A weak bullpen may force the Braves to falter in playoff time as it did against the Yanks. If and when it happens is the only mystery.

2. *Florida Marlins.* A vastly improved team that may surprise everyone. The addition of Jim Leyland, formerly the manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, forces everyone to watch out for this up and coming contender.

**OFFENSE:** Very nice. In fact, it has a chance to be the best in the NL. Gary Sheffield is a perennial triple crown threat and MVP candidate this year. His numbers (.314-.42-120) tell part of the story. What they don't say is that he had virtually no protection all year and amassed 142 walks, as pitchers were scared of him and no one else on this formerly crummy team. Added power with Bobby Bonilla and Moises Alou join Sheffield, Jeff Conine and rising stars Edgar Renteria and Luis Castillo. Renteria is probably the best all around shortstop in the NL outside of Barry Larkin. The only problem may be getting this lineup to mesh together, which could take as much as two months.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** The meshing of these players is more apparently visible on defense. Three players will be in positions they did not play consistently last year. Adding to this, Sheffield is still new to right field and makes the sides of the outfield (Alou in left) very shaky. Up the middle, however, the Marlins are incredible. Castillo and Renteria are being compared to a young Lou Whitaker and Alan Trammell. Devon White is a former Gold Glove in center and Charles Johnson, also a Gold Glove, is the best defensive catcher in the NL. The pitchers throwing to

Johnson will be formidable. Cy Young runnerup, Kevin Brown, was the most dominating pitcher in the league last year. Poor run support forced him to only post a record of 17-11. He won't have that problem this year. Al Leiter, the former Yankee, is a hard thrower and posted fine numbers (16-12, 2.93). The signing of Alex Fernandez makes them a match, in this department, with Atlanta. The bullpen is adequate and equal to Atlanta. Their closer, Rob Nen, is probably the most dominant in the NL.

**OUTLOOK:** The Marlins will not win this division if only because they have too many players out of position and in new environments. Chemistry will be a problem in the early going but Leyland will have this team playing championship ball by the end of the year and into the playoffs, as I predict them to win the Wild Card. I also feel their stride will not break and will take them all the way to the top. Yes, a bold choice but they are my pick to win it all. Don't laugh. If anyone picked the Yanks to win last year, I would have been laughing!

3. *Montreal Expos.* Definitely qualifies as a team that has been ravaged by free agency. A massive amount of players have been lost, yet the Expos, with the leadership of manager Felipe Alou, always muster up enough talent to contend and/or pretend during the course of the season.

**OFFENSE:** Good. Mark Grudzielanek amassed 201 hits and stole 33 bases to emerge as the everyday leadoff hitter and an All-Star. Mike Lansing, David Segui are steady hitters. Rondell White is a player, as Tim McCarver says, "with lightning quick hands" and the talent to be a star. However, Henry Rodriguez is the key. He hit 36 homers but only 20 in the first half. Pitchers adjusted to him and he couldn't adjust to the adjustments, simply put. He needs to develop more discipline and learn to hit something other than a fastball. Rookie of the Year candidate Vladimir Guerrero could be a force if he hasn't been brought up too quickly. The rest of the lineup is weak which gives the Expos a highly unbalanced lineup.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** The loss of Jeff Fassero to Seattle was big. It leaves Carlos Perez as the two starter which is a problem because he's returning from a busted left shoulder and he's left handed. Placing their hopes on a possibly changed pitcher is not the thing to do. Their first starter, Pedro Martinez, was an All-Star last year but faltered in the second half. He obviously needs to regain his form of the first half and do it for a year. The rest of the starting staff is below average with Rheal Cormier being aver-

age. The bullpen is also suspect with a new closer in Ugueth Urbina. He began as a starter and moved to the setup role where he improved drastically. It is still unknown what he can do in a closer role, being that it is not just a new role but an entire mentality a player must develop. Defensively, they are also weak. No one is horrific but there are no gold glove candidates here either. It may be a factor that changes game for the worse for them.

**OUTLOOK:** The Expos are still strong enough and have the steady guidance of Alou to overcome player losses and pretend for the division. Unfortunately, that's all they will do.

4. *New York Mets.* My favorite team. Why? I don't know. This year is providing little reason. The Mets improved in only one aspect (the addition of John Olerud) and did not make an attempt at improving their starting pitching. It's going to be a long hard year for Bobby "I haven't done anything in my managing career" Valentine.

**OFFENSE:** Surprisingly potent with Lance Johnson, Bernard Gilkey and Todd Hundley. All three had career years and were not flukes. Expect only a slight drop off in production but similar results. Carlos Baerga and Olerud are the real keys. If they regain anything close to their past AL glory, the Mets will have runs to spare. Also, Butch Huskey must fulfill expectations and become the power threat his physique and talent suggest.

**PITCHING/DEFENSE:** Pray. The Mets have only one respectable starter, Mark Clark, and on most teams he is a three or four starter. Bobby Jones is talented but finds a way to falter and by the end of the year he'll have an average record and weak ERA. Pete Harnisch is past the prime he never had. Which is to say that the form he regains this year after a year long struggle to return from shoulder surgery may not be all that great. The bullpen still has the best left handed closer in the game with John Franco. But he'll have very little to close and mostly because of the terrible bullpen the Mets have. The only hope will be Greg McMichael, formerly of the Braves, who will serve as their Obi Wan Kenobi out of the pen.

**OUTLOOK:** The Mets didn't get better and only time will tell if they got worse. They still have enough offensive stars to stay out of last place and contend for third.

continued on page 33

