

The Ticker

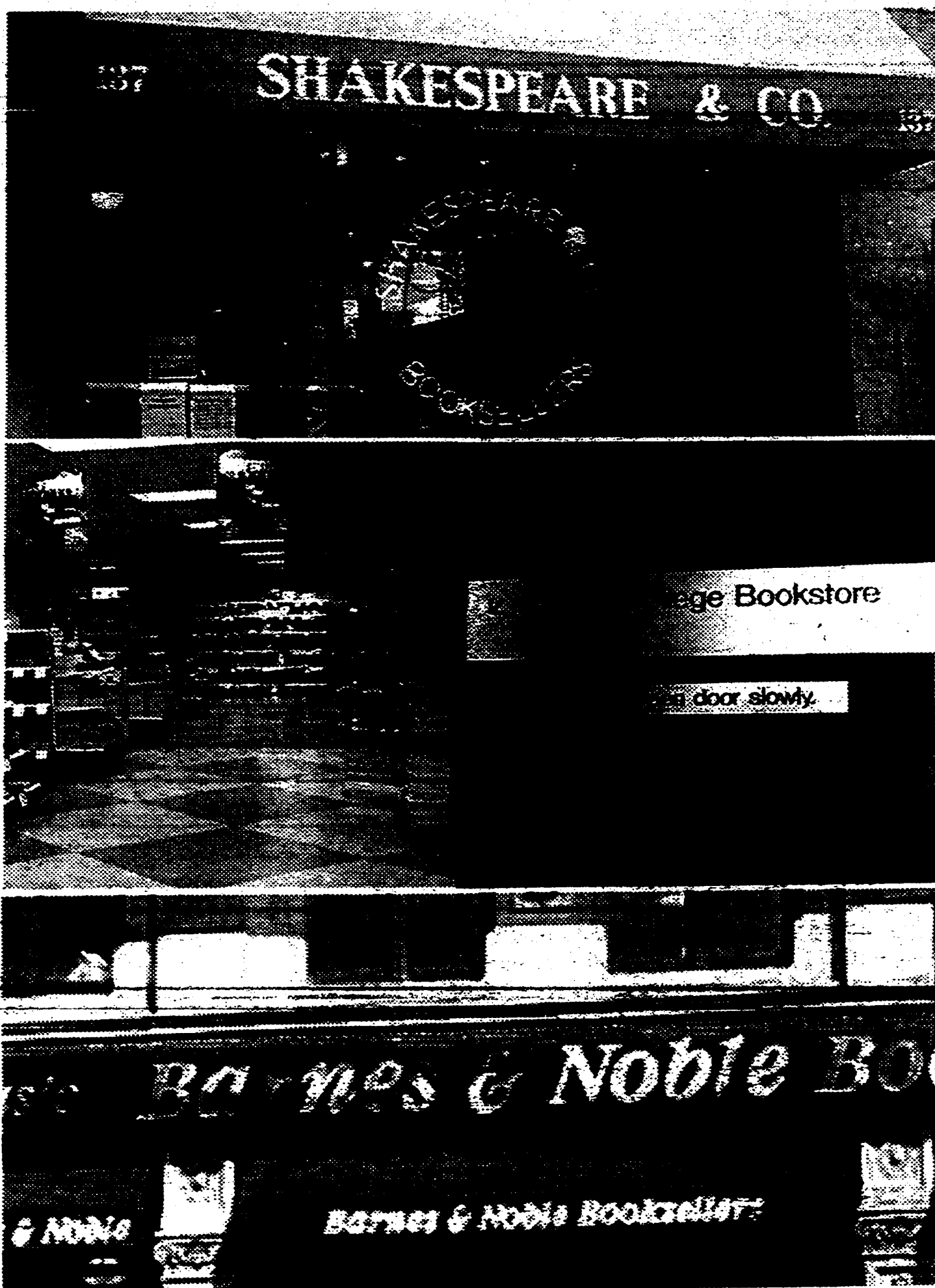
The Students' Voice Since 1832

Baruch College • The City University of New York

Volume 76, Issue 5

For the Students and the Community

September 29, 1999



(Top to Bottom) Shakespeare & Co., the Baruch Bookstore and Barnes & Noble Booksellers are all competing for their share of the student textbook market. (Photos/Shan-san Wu)

Bookstores Compete For Baruch Business

Baruch Students May Benefit from Competition

By Macollvie Jean-Francois
Staff Writer

As if college students do not have enough decisions to make, choices regarding the best place to buy books add to the confusion, and often times frustration, that students face each semester.

For Baruchians seeking the best deal, the main options are the following: the Follet campus store in the basement of the 26th Street building, Barnes & Nobles on 18th and 5th, Shakespeare & Co. on 23rd and Lexington and on-line bookstores. Receiving the best deal is important to financially-strapped students and the professors who place the orders, so The Ticker set out to determine which bookstore is the best as far as prices, service and discounts.

The Baruch College campus store, which is under contract with Follet, uses its "accurate" prices on their invoices, according to Eric Irwin, text manager. That is, based on what the publisher charges and the suggested retail price. As "the official college bookstore," Follet honors financial aid vouchers, has most texts ordered by professors in stock and offers a variety of Baruch paraphernalia, including tee-shirts, pens, teddy bears, children's wear and mugs. Non-text books are also available.

Prices on buybacks vary, depending on demand by professors and the store's stock. Fifty percent guaranteed buyback is offered on a variety of titles. A major advantage is that the college gets a commission on all sales: 7 percent of every dollar on the first \$2 million and 10 percent on everything thereafter.

"The Baruch store is just terrible," said Krikor Nishanian, a junior ad hoc major. "[There are] long lines and no service." Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, concurred. "They rip us off," she said.

Although Follet offers these services, Irwin acknowledges that the store has a bad reputation with students, but said that the based on the students' perception that they are getting ripped off.

Irwin clarifies, however, that there are a number of factors which contribute to missing texts and perceived high prices. Professors place their book orders so late that there is no way the bookstore receives them on time, according to Irwin. Increases in enrollment rosters also contribute to low stocks, he said. As for the prices, Irwin suggests that, although they are accurate, "there's always room for error," and that the store "is a business, not a non-profit."

Barnes & Noble 18th Street is Follet's major competitor for Baruch students' business. The store has "a reputation of having low prices," says Jennifer White, the Human Resource Manager, and Stan Frank, marketing director of B&N's college bookstores, hails it as the "largest academic bookstore in the world." B&N has an "enormous selection of used textbooks," he says.

Discounts offered by B&N include 10 percent off all hardcovers, 30 percent off hardcover New York Times bestsellers and 20 percent off paperback New York Times bestsellers. The Student Advantage card also provides an additional 10 percent discount, and professors receive a 10 percent discount off all purchases. Gift certificates are available for purchase as well.

According to White, the store buys back books year round based on demand as well as inventory. Although Gov. Pataki outlawed the tax on textbooks in New York State, B&N tries to make it appear as though it is their own pol-

continued on page 5

CUNY Trustees Pass Standardized Testing Requirements for All Remedial Students

Vote Comes Days After Mayoral Bid to Force Adoption of Same Requirement Fails

By Shan-san Wu
News Editor

In a vote held Monday, the CUNY board of trustees implemented a standardized test that CUNY students currently enrolled in remedial reading and writing classes will have to pass before being allowed to register for regular college courses.

However, according to CUNY chancellor and former Baruch College president Matthew Goldstein, individual campuses will be allowed to set different passing scores for the test.

Baruch students enrolled in remedial courses will be required to take and pass this test.

A number of faculty and students who attended the meeting booed the decision by the board of trustees and noted the measure could possibly force students who would and could succeed in college out of CUNY undergraduate bachelor degree programs. Opponents to the test also argued that students should have to

prove themselves academically in order to graduate, not in order to enroll, according to the New York Times.

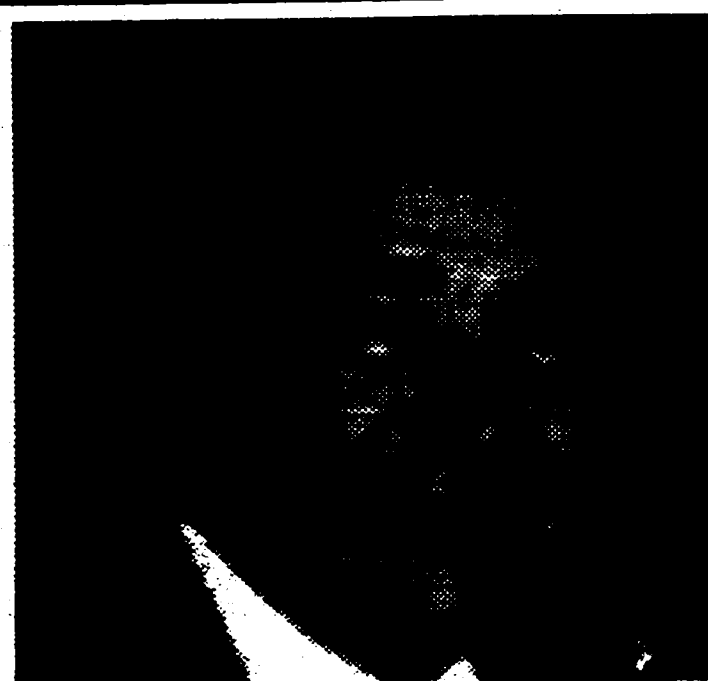
The decision comes only days after Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's bid to implement these same testing guidelines and establish more stringent academic standards for CUNY was dealt a blow last week when a judge ruled that it would be illegal for the

city to withhold funding for CUNY if campuses refused to implement the testing guidelines.

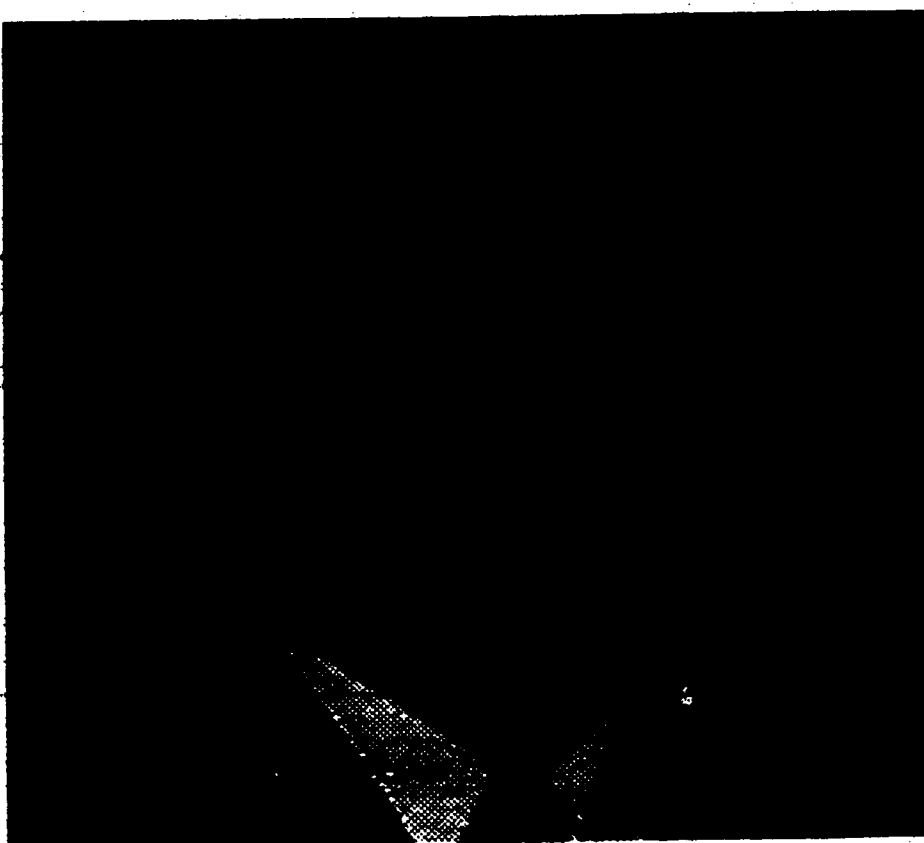
The ruling, handed down by Manhattan State Supreme Court Judge Michael Stallman, was the result of a lawsuit brought against the city by a CUNY student and prevented the city from using budget measures to force CUNY to set academic standards.

Without the ruling, the \$88.2 million dollars earmarked for CUNY in the municipal budget would have been withheld unless testing procedures were implemented by this week.

Apparently, an appeal of the supreme court decision by the city will not be forthcoming. A spokesperson from the city's legal department noted last week that if the CUNY Board of Trustees voted to implement the remedial standardized testing policy, which they did last Monday, an appeal would probably not be necessary according to the New York Times.



(Above) CUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Herman Badillo. (Left) Remedial test supporter Mayor Rudolph Giuliani





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Edward James Olmos Speaks at Union Square Bookstore

By Shan-san Wu
News Editor

What ended as a book signing at the Gramercy Union Square Barnes & Noble began as a call for the recognition of diversity as strength by actor, director and activist Edward James Olmos last Friday evening.

Highlighting what Olmos called "a book that was a long time in coming," the hour-long presentation began as he strode to the podium and fronted the glossy color photo cover of Latino faces to the audience.

"Welcome to Latino Life in America," he stated, smiling as the 100 plus audience greeted him and his new book, "Americanos," with a shower of applause. The ice broken, Olmos then shattered it by making his next remarks in Spanish, drawing even more applause and cries of approval as he did so. "For those of you who are Spanish-impaired," he continued laughing, "I will return to monolingualism. But if you have that disease, it's time to get rid of it."

A firm believer in multilingualism who has been recently credited with the statements "this country still believes that Jesus Christ has blonde hair and blue eyes," and "20th century America is one of the most violent societies in the history of the world," the 52-year-old Olmos is himself a microcosm of Latino life in America, both on screen and off. An acclaimed Emmy award winner and activist, he grew up in the predominantly Latino, Native American and Asian neighborhood of East Los Angeles. Olmos has made appearances across the country, using his voice and success as his main tools in promoting diversity and the Latino experience in America.

He can now add his new book to the toolbox.

"This is the first book in the United States that deals with Latino life written and designed by Latinos published by a major US company," said Olmos. "If you don't think that this is a glass of water in the desert for a culture of 40 million people, then you have another thing coming to you."

He recalled the objections of the Time/Life

"If you don't think that this is a glass of water in the desert for a culture of 40 million people, then you have another thing coming to you."

"I was surprised, not at [Maya Angelou], but at myself for being surprised that Maya Angelou spoke to me in perfect Spanish."

publishing company to everything from the size of the book to his desire for the book layout to be an all-Latino effort. The book is a compilation of full color and black and white photographs selected from 60,000 images of contemporary American Latino life.

"Eddie," he recalled Time/Life as saying, "we are not going to jeopardize the Little/Brown Publishing Company's reputation by letting your people design it."

"I'll put up the money," was Olmos' reply. End of argument, but an illustration of some of the barriers that still linger on the road to acceptance of diversity as an American strength.

"Diversity is the key to the future," said Olmos. "I am always surprised at how often I have to argue for things such as bilingualism."

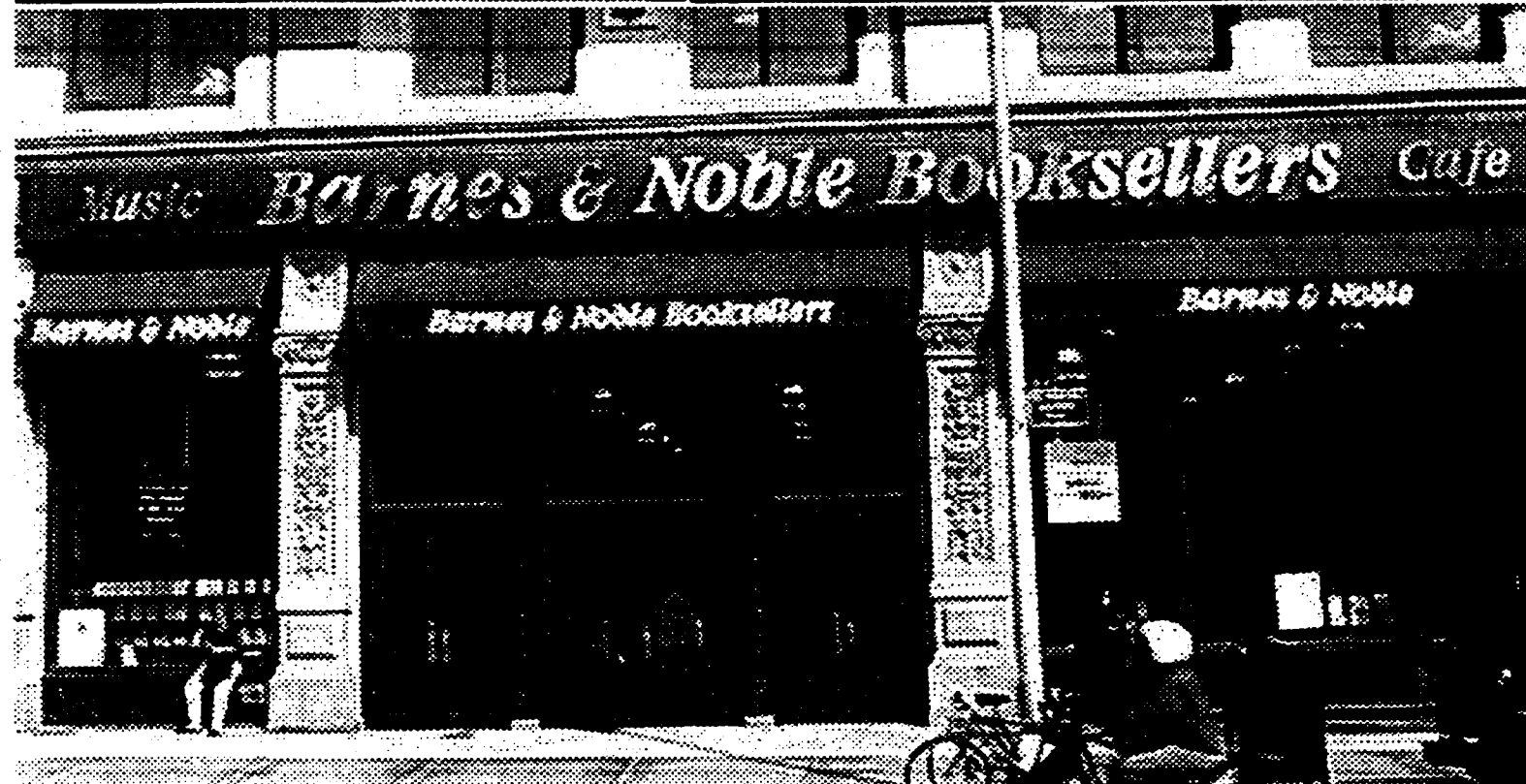
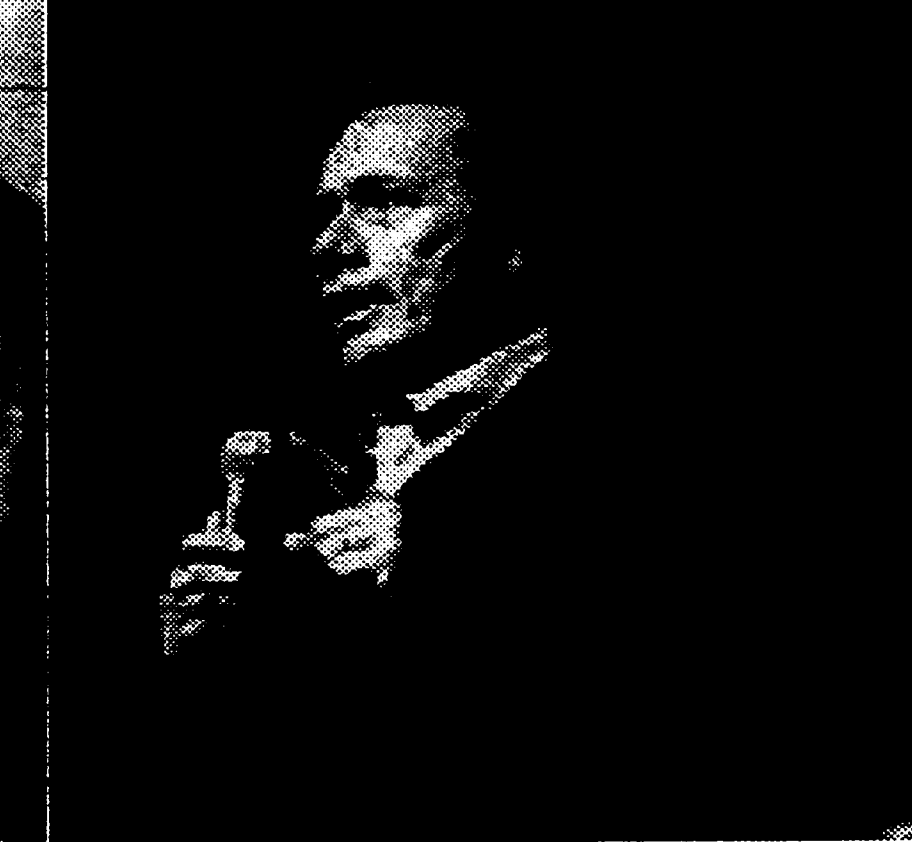
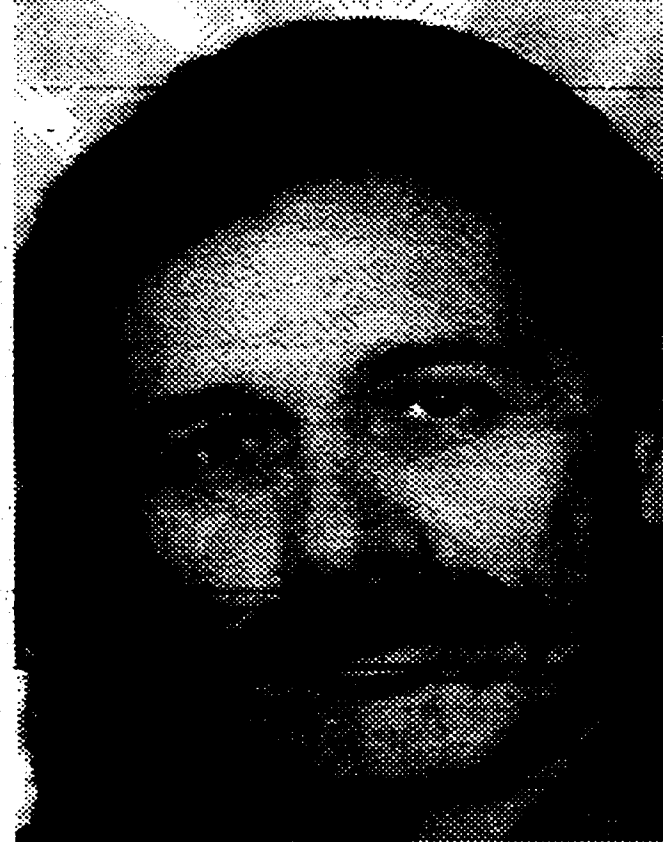
He suggested that people educated outside of the United States have a much different perspective on the meaning of the word "American." He recalled a recent visit to Canada where he had referred to himself as an American when asked "what he was."

"Some looked at me like I was completely ignorant of geography," he said.

In perhaps the most diverse city in the world, addressing a diverse crowd, in the shadow of the most diverse college campus in America, Olmos focused his remarks on the Latino community in America but made it clear his views applied across all ethnic lines.

He traced the origins of his own Latino heritage beginning in Africa 40,000 years ago, journeying through Asia to the Americas, and then finally ending with Spanish Europe approximately 500 years ago—fielding questions from the audience and telling stories of his book-writing experiences along the way.

When asked why he included a passage from renowned African American activist Maya Angelou, he recalled how surprised he was when at a social dinner seated with



(Clockwise from Top Left) Actor and activist Edward James Olmos made an appearance at the Gramercy Barnes & Noble on Friday to address diversity issues and to promote his new book. Many Gramercy residents attended the event.

Angelou, she began to address him in fluent Spanish. "I was surprised," said Olmos, "not at Maya but at myself for being surprised that Maya Angelou spoke to me in perfect Spanish."

Particular mention was made of the explanation given by one of the photographers for Olmos' book regarding the use of the term "Latino," versus the term "Hispanic" and the preference of both herself and Olmos for the former. "The term Hispanic is not inclusive," she said, "I prefer the term 'Latino'."

Many in the audience were residents of the Gramercy area and most stayed long afterwards to attend the signing. One who identified

himself as a "long-time resident of the neighborhood," asked Olmos if he would send a copy of "Americanos" to CUNY Chancellor Herman Badillo, whom he quoted as having referred to the recent influx of Latinos into

New York City as "Incans, Mayans and other small immigrants."

"I'll hand deliver the book to him personally," said Olmos, Academy Award nominee for his role in the

film "Stand and Deliver" in 1987. "His message is really what America should be about," said Baruch student Mariel Jimenez. "When someone is successful, they have a responsibility to their community to use that success for something good."

"I'll hand deliver the book to [Herman Badillo] personally."

Happenings @ Baruch

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| September 30 - | Recruiting: US Marines
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lobby 17 Lex |
| September 30 - | First General Meeting and Blitz Tournament
Chess Club
12:25 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Room 1543 360 PAS |
| September 30 - | Screening for Model Photoshoot - Photography Club
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
14th floor lobby 360 PAS |
| September 30 - | Cheerleading Orientation - African Greek Lettered Council
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Room 1440 360 PAS |
| September 30 - | "666-Is the Devil a Myth?" Speaker: Joey Maldonado
12:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Room 1436 360 PAS |
| September 30 - | GSA Happy Hour - Graduate Student Assembly
6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Room 1542/43 360 PAS |
| September 30 - | Binghamton Dance Practice - African Greek Lettered Council
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Room 1422 360 PAS |
| October 1 - | CPA Review - Evening Accounting Society (EAS)
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Room 1542 360 PAS |
| October 1 - | Baruch Toastmasters Meeting
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Room 2058 360 PAS |



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| October 1 - | Preparing and Developing Yourself For Success
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Room 1542 360 PAS |
| October 5 - | Catholic Social Teaching and Our Global Responsibility
7:30 p.m.
Wallace Hall 980 PAS |
| October 11 - | School Closed - Columbus Day |
| October 13 - | Follow a Monday Schedule |
| October 17 - | Making Strides Against Breast Cancer - 5 Mile Walk In Central Park
Register at the office of Student Life located on the 15th floor of 360 PAS (212) 802-6770 |
| October 23 - | Hillel of New York Trip to the U.S. Holocaust Museum
\$25
Contact the Hillel Office located on the 15th floor of 360 PAS |
| October 27 - | Measles, Mumps and Rubella Immunization Clinic
11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Room 1543 360 PAS |
| November 3 - | Last day to file for graduation for current semester |
| November 12 - | Last day to drop classes with a "W" grade |

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Booksorens Want Their Share of Baruch Textbook Market

continued from front



(Top) Students browsing the selection of new books at Shakespeare & Co. Booksellers on 23rd St. Each bookstore offers competitive pricing policies and incentives. (Bottom) All bookstores have their own textbook buyback policies. (Photos/Shan-san Wu)

icy. Various pamphlets and brochures throughout the store and the information desk clearly advertise their benefits programs.

One drawback is the location, which ranges anywhere from two to eight blocks, depending on which building a student is traveling from. The usually lower prices seem to make up for the travel, however. As for service, Betty Chan, a junior, says that B&N is the best. There are more clerks on hand to help students find books and check prices than the Baruch store has, she explains.

The new kid on the block, Shakespeare & Co. Booksellers, also "quickly and efficiently get you in and out," according to Nishanian. Although it is a relatively small store, Shakespeare serves both Baruch and the School of Visual Arts across the street, and is usually less crowded. Like B&N, there is a 10 percent discount on any book with student ID. Buybacks are based on a wholesalers' guide that lists those texts that are in demand.

Benefits to professors include a 20 percent discount on bulk items and free desk copies (publisher reviews of texts). Letter openers advertising the store are also given to customers as promos.

Margot Liddel, one of the store managers, makes clear that Shakespeare is "not really competing" with Follet. It is a small, independent store with low prices on books. Shakespeare's goal is to offer students an alternative to big, overpriced chains. "Students have a right to choose," said Bill Spah, one of the store's owners. Only problem is that students don't have that much to choose from at Shakespeare since their academic selection is not as extensive as Follet's or Barnes & Noble.

Last, but not least, is the variety of on-line bookstores offering students even more benefits, including BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com and MyPoints.com, just to name a few. They all offer a variety of services as well as opportunities.

Bigwords.com, self-proclaimed as "the site that has a frickin' freightload of new and used college books," offers new and used textbooks, low prices, express and free shipping nationally and internationally, opportunities for students to become affiliates and share in profits, gift certificates and even tips on how to search effectively for books. Shipping is free for orders over \$35 via regular mail. The charge increases for each additional item totaling over \$35.

As for professors, if they post their book lists on Booklist.com, their students save an additional five percent. They may also become affiliates and obtain a share of profits.

There is a catch, however. Students without credit cards are excluded from this option. Credit card fraud is always a possibility—transferring sensitive information via the Internet may get into the wrong hands. It also takes the book at least 24 hours to get to the student's door step, and it is possible to get the wrong order.

An even less expensive alternative is copying books in the Newman Library Reserves. One resourceful CIS major, who wished to remain anonymous, simply copied the relevant chapters from that desk. "A lot of times the old books cover the same subject, so it's easier to go around [buying books]." Aside from the fact that it is illegal to reproduce parts of, or whole books without the publisher's permission, the library does warn students against infringing on publishers' reserved rights. Postings in the copy rooms remind users that it is okay to copy materials for private study, scholarship and research, but that violators are subject to prosecution by the publishing firms. "It's like speed limits," said Stanton Biddle, the administrative services librarian in the chief librarian's office. "It says 50, but if you do 60 or 70, you may or may not get caught." Since the cost of posting bail would probably be equal to the cost of one book...anyway...it is a thought.

When all is said is done, the issue is still price. Students still need to know where the best prices are. So the Ticker conducted a brief, non-scientific survey to determine which store offered the best prices. The following list of 10 books, randomly selected, offers a snapshot. Keep in mind that some books were either

(List on Page 6)

New York City Seven Day Forecast: Wednesday 9/29 - Tuesday 10/5

Wednesday



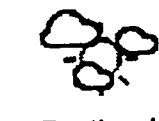
Showers.
75/64

Thursday



Rain.
69/54

Friday



Partly cloudy.
65/53

Saturday



Sunny.
70/56

Sunday



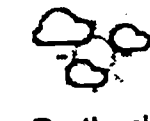
Cloudy.
71/58

Monday



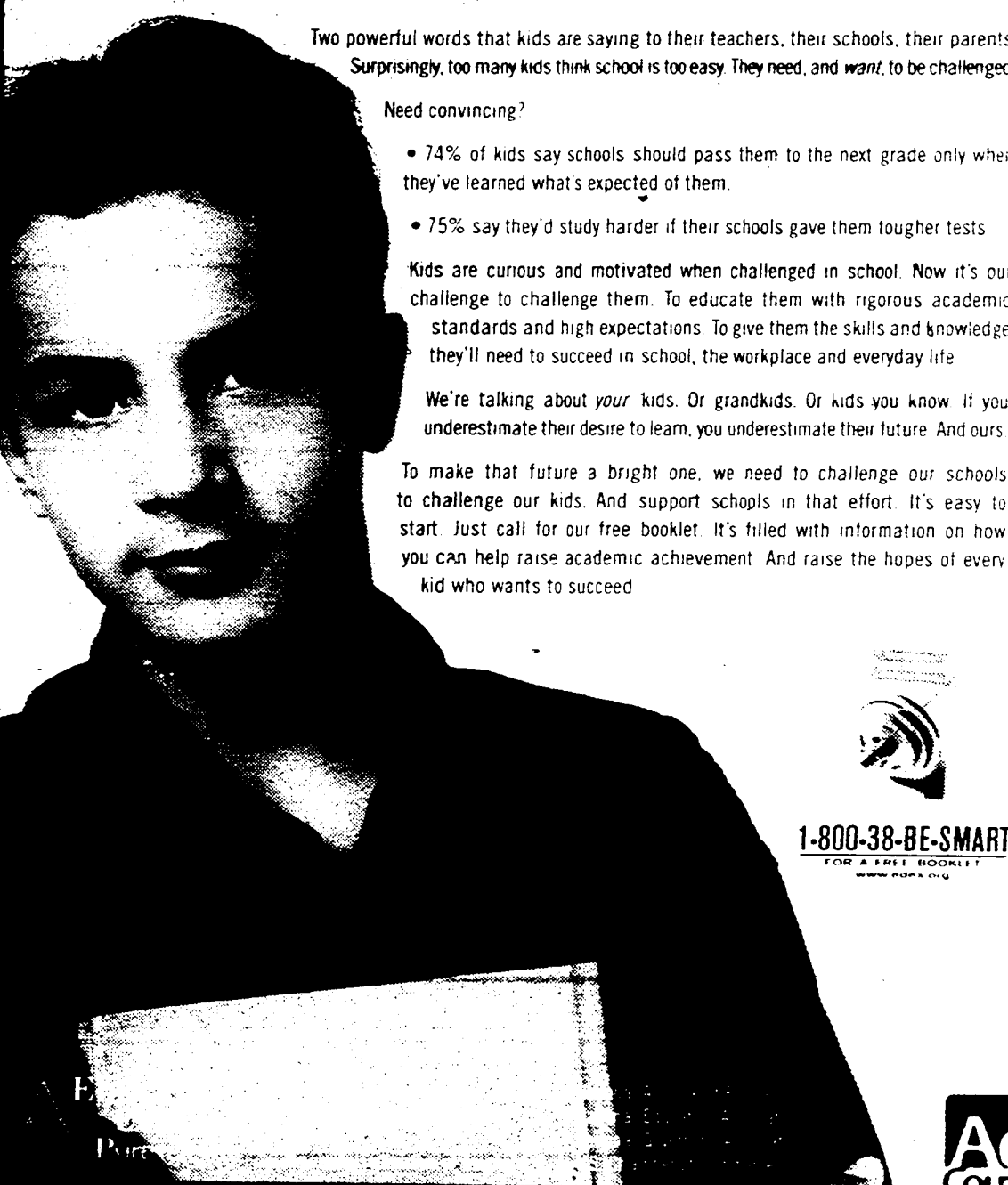
Showers.
71/57

Tuesday



Partly cloudy.
62/47

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Book (Title, Author, Publisher)	Follet (Baruch)	Barnes&Noble 18th Street	Shakespeare&Co.	Bigwords.com
	<i>Claim to fame:</i> "the official bookstore"	<i>Claim to fame:</i> "the world's largest bookstore"	<i>Claim to fame:</i> small, independent offers students right to choose	<i>Claim to fame:</i> "a frickin' freightload of new and used college books"
	New Price Used Price	New Price Used Price	New Price Used Price	New Price Used Price
<i>Marketing Research, A Problem-Solving Approach</i> , Ed., Sudman, Irwin/McGraw Hill	87 65.30	87 65.20	No new copies 61.20	80.14 69.49
<i>Fundamentals of Management</i> , Ed., Robbins & DeCenzo, Prentice Hall	56 42	56 41.95	55.85 39.40	51.60 44.74
<i>Auditing Concepts & Methods</i> , Carmichael, McGraw Hill	93 69	93 69.70	92.75 65.40	85.68 74.29
<i>Information Technology in Business</i> , Ed., Senn, Prentice Hall	65 48.80	62 46.45	64.85 45.70	54.11 43.64
<i>Statistics for Managers Using MS Excel</i> , Ed., Levine, Prentice Hall	89.40 67.10	89.50 67.10	86.00 62.80	N/A
<i>Principles of Macroeconomics</i> , 5ed, Case & Fair, Prentice Hall	61.40 46.10	58.75 44.05	57.05 43.15	56.53 49.01
<i>Sociology, The Core</i> , 5ed., Hughes, McGraw Hill College	35 26.30	35 26.20	34.90 24.60	32.26 27.98
<i>The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces</i> , exp. ed., vol. 2, Mack, W.W. Norton & Company	50.70 38.10	49.50 37.10	47.15 35.65	N/A
<i>The Tainos</i> , Rouse, Yale University Press	14 11.30	14 No used copies	No new copies 10.50	11.36 9.16
<i>Biology Concepts and Connections</i> , 3Ed., Campbell, Addison Wesley Longman	87 65.30	87 No used copies	81.55 60.16*	N/A

Totals: New 638.50 631.75 (- 6.75) 520.10** (-118.4) 371.68*** (-266.82)
Used 479.30 397.75** (- 81.55) 412.85** (-66.45) 269.30*** (-210.00)

CRASHING THE MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS

Passes? We don't need no stinkin' passes!

By Que-Que
Contributing Writer

My grandfather always told me that when good fortune falls on your lap not to question it; just go with the flow of the moment. I applied his wisdom on 9/9/99 and snuck into the MTV Video Music Awards, sat six seats away from Diana Ross, and walked down the red carpet with Diana Ross while I held a bag of Doritos. These events actually happened, and like my grandfather said, I just went with the flow of the moment.

It all started when a friend asked me to go to Lincoln Center with her to partake in the glamorous act of watching the stars come out of their limos. I was in Baruch at the 360 building getting ready to go home, so I thought that it would not hurt if I went.

We took the 9 train to Lincoln Center. As we walked out to the street I was suddenly in the midst of screaming teenage girls, New York police officers, and MTV tech people. We approached a barricade where MTV tech people were handing out yellow passes to a sea of people. The passes were used to allow selected people to enter the barricade, where they could then, at most, see a limo pass by.

They quickly ran out of passes and apologized to the empty handed fanatics. The girls I was with were upset about not getting a pass. I asked them to wait for me underneath a tree, as I felt the urge to walk around. As I started to walk, I could see the people inside the barricade. I then saw an officer opening the barricade to allow a woman to enter — my opportunity — and I followed behind her. The officer allowed us both to enter. I made my way back to the girls and they saw me and asked how I got in. I explained to them what happened and they asked me to try and get them some passes. I told one of the girls to hold on to my book bag while I went to get the passes. I left and never came back.

As I started walking forward, following the path of the barricade, I saw a group of well dressed people being lead by a tech person and I tagged along with them. The group ushered me through a second barricade, into a garage, and from there into a building. I was in the middle of the people who were going to be in the "mosh pits". There was one problem —

they all had red bracelets and I did not.

Along with myself two other people happened to sneak in this far and they also did not have the bracelets. One of the guys who snuck in did have a red strip of paper and cut up pieces I gave him a piece of my gum and he gave me a strip. I put the strip together with the gum and I went to the door. The security guard looked at me and looked at the uneven cut ghetto looking strip and kicked me out of the building.

I was back in the garage and at this point there were at least 25 people trying to get into the building I just got kicked out of. I did not like my odds with all the attention these new people were attracting. So I moved on to a different building. I spoke to a security guard who said he could not let me in. After another guard told me the same I was ready to go home. Then I saw the people trying to get in and I realized how far I was. I looked in a different direction and I saw a group of people in red shirts who no one was paying attention to. I walked in that direction and it paid off.

As I approached the people in the red shirts I witnessed two entrances. The entrance on the left had security guards at the door and the entrance on the right just had the tech people. I picked the right entrance and entered it. As I walked through a hall I saw rooms with mini televisions and wires. Further, I saw a room with food and I finally reached a dead end. I figured that at the least I should leave with some of MTV's food. So I entered the room with the food and grabbed a banana, a bag of Doritos, and a lollipop.

I peeled the banana and started to walk out of the hall. As I exited I spotted a woman talking with a tech girl. I did not know who that woman was but she turned out to be Melissa Rivers daughter of Joan Rivers. Melissa was with her husband and they were having trouble entering. The tech girl called for one of the guys in the red shirts to come assist Rivers. It turned out that the red shirt group were the talent escorts. The process of the escort coming to Rivers happened right as I walked out of the tech entrance. They began to walk in front of me and I began to tag along with them while still eating my banana.

I walked right behind them and I stopped when they stopped and started walking again

when they did. They lead me back to the guard who told me I could not get through. This time though the guard had to let me in because I was being escorted or so he thought.

I just went with the flow of the moment and followed the escort all the way out to the red carpet. The first thing I see is the group N'Sync standing while people behind the barricades on both sides of the carpet screamed. There I was in sneakers, blue jeans, and a black T-shirt holding a banana in one hand and a bag of Doritos in the other standing on the red carpet.

A police officer looked at me and approached me immediately, he stopped me and asked what I was doing there. I was still following the escort, a young Latino who saw me but did not say anything about me following him. I told the cop that I was with him and I pointed to the escort. The cop stopped the escort and asked him if I was with him. The escort blessed me at that moment and said, "Yeah... he's with me." I was shocked this stranger covered for me and gave me an instant excuse as to what I was doing on the red carpet. Good fortune had fallen on my lap and I did not question it.

We walked up the red carpet past the paparazzi and the adoring fans in the audience as they all looked at me with a surprised look in their faces. The escort lead Melissa Rivers to the platform where the stars were getting out of their limos and posing for their close ups. The barricades were about 20 feet away from the platform and I was right next to it. I had a close-up of all the stars as they stood five inches away from me. It was a dandy moment.

Melissa was waiting for someone and after three limos she was lead to out of the carpet and once again I followed. We were next to a table which was manned with Tech people. I finished my banana so I started to eat my lollipop. A cop once again approached me but just as quick left as I told him I was with the escort and River's party. We waited for 45 minutes and finally got up and went back to the red carpet. The person we were waiting for was Diana Ross and she arrived. The escort went back on the carpet and so did I. Diana made the crowd go wild and I was walking down with her. I still had my bag of Doritos in my hand and as Diana walked I followed right behind her. Pictures were taken of her and I was in the backdrop of most of them.

We walked all the way down to the end of the carpet, entered a building and then entered the garage through a side exit. We walked back the original two entrances and this time entered the left one, which had all the security at the door. The guards were so star struck with miss Ross that they did not even notice me. I slipped right in with the Ross party still following the escort.

The escort lead us to the final guard post outside of the backstage area. It was amusing to see all the guards with their disposable cameras going off at the sight of Diana. They let her in and as I was coming in one white haired cop asked me, "Hey do you have any hard identification?" "No," I said, "all I have is my bag of Doritos but I am with her," pointing to Ross. The cop let me in and as we walked down some stairs and walked through a door the first thing I saw was the audience and then I saw Chris Rock starting his monologue.

At this point I would have been content with standing for the whole show and I was looking for a spot to do just that. But the escort told the third row on the right to get up and they did. We filed in to the row and I was hoping to get a seat and I did. I was inside sitting in front of Snoopy dog, Dre, Xzibit, Eminem, and Cisco from Dru hill. I was in the next to last seat of the third row on the far right and on my right was Eminem's bodyguard.

I sat and looked around calmly watching everyone that was present. I introduced myself to the bodyguard and asked if he had a cell phone. He said that he did and lent it to me. I called my mother told her where I was and she said I was crazy while screaming passionately. I told her to put on channel 20 and to look for me. I hung up and enjoyed the three hour show.

When it was over I was tired and hungry. I went home with a gift that was stuffed in my seat which was some kind of picture book. It was a good night for me, I even saw myself that weekend on TV for two seconds. If you see the rerun look for me when Eminem wins best new artist of the year. You can see me when the camera pans I stick my head in the shot. As I finish telling you this, I sit back and think when good fortune falls on your lap don't question it just go with the flow of the moment.

The Four Mosquitoes of the Apocalypse

By Jessica Zhou
Features Editor

The folks at the Center for Disease Control and the New York City and State Department of Health were scratching their heads and wondering, "what the?!" upon discovery of the culprit in the encephalitis epidemic that has plagued much of the Metropolitan region. The mosquito borne illness that has claimed the lives of three people in New York City was originally thought to have been St. Louis encephalitis. Recently, the Center of Disease Control (CDC) in conjunction with the New York City and State Department of Health announced that they have positively identified the viral strain to be either the West Nile virus or the Kunjin virus.

Sounds a little foreign? You bet. According to CDC, the West Nile virus, originally from Africa, has never before been recognized in the United States or any other area of the Western Hemisphere. The Kunjin virus was thought to only be found in Australia. Just exactly how the virus ended up in our little corner of the world remains a mystery, but it looks like these little critters had quite a joy ride. (I sulk in

envy.)

It is anything but joy, however, for the residents of New York City, Westchester County, and Connecticut who have been showered with fear and Malathion, a pesticide. (Mind you, it must really suck for the mosquitoes too.) In attempts to exterminate the vectors of the virus, the city launched a campaign against mosquito-borne encephalitis with the aerial and ground spraying of insecticides. Mayor Giuliani and the City and Federal health officials joined hands in chorus to the tune of "There is absolutely no danger to anyone from this spray." Just to be on the safe side, don't walk outside with corn on the cob in hand, because this isn't exactly your typical butter spray.

Although there is no reason to fear the insecticide (as long as you have no inclination to eat it), there is legitimate reason to fear encephalitis, particularly in the case of the elderly, the young and those who have compromised immune systems. Encephalitis is a disease which causes inflammation of the brain. Although generally, people infected with this viral disease come down with only mild or no symptoms, severe cases may result in

headaches, high fevers, convulsions, delirium, lethargy, and even coma. Encephalitis can potentially be deadly. Three people in New York City have already perished at the hands of this disease.

To date, since last month, fourteen people have been diagnosed with encephalitis in the area. According to the Mayo Health Clinic, there is no specific treatment available for viral encephalitis. Medical care is aimed at treating symptoms and complications that arise from this disease.

Even as encephalitis is kept at bay by the spraying of insecticides, it is advisable to take preventative measures against the disease. It is unlikely that the average individual will handle animal carcass lying in the street, but if you happen to like to play with dead animals, birds in particular, here's a

word to the wise: Don't touch! Dead birds inflicted with the virus have been popping up across the city (mosquitoes, in fact, transmit the virus from birds to human). If you come across a suspicious looking sparrow (that is, ex-sparrow), do not handle it yourself and call the City Health Department.

On a more practical note: wear long sleeves and pants when outside. For those who like to come a little more prepared than the rest, armor yourself and loved ones with mosquito repellent containing DEET.

This is also a good time to finally repair those holes, neglected since '76, in door and window screens.

If you're still stricken with paranoia or just bored and want to get your tax dollars worth, you can call the City's emergency hotline at (888) 663-6692.

If His Lips Move, then He's Lying

Have you ever heard a snake hiss? Well, we are almost certain that it would probably sound like Herman Badillo at a press conference. In his recent statements in support of standardized tests as a condition of entry to CUNY, he has shown just how adept he is in the art of urinating on us and calling it precipitation.

This testing should be called what it is, not a raising of the bar, but a bar, period. In a public institution designed to give everyone a chance at education, students should prove that they are worthy of graduation. It seems that the trustees don't even want them to have a chance to enter. The exam may be a bar to entry for many.

Well, at least Badillo can rest easy knowing that those kids "from the hills of Mexico and the Dominican Republic, who have never been to any schools" won't be able to get in. Well, "in Mexico and Central America, there never has been a tradition of education" anyway, so they won't miss it. Right, Badillo?

Badillo has said, "The notion that lowering the bar will somehow help minority students ... is an insidious form of racism." Anyone who falls for this rhetoric is suffering from an insidious form of gullibility. Badillo admits that students are not being adequately prepared for college and the solution he offers is not preparation, but exclusion. As usual, the remedy is always to address the effect and not the cause.

Badillo has also said that students who failed the Freshmen Skills Assessment Test have not received the academic preparation they need to succeed in college. And "a student that is not prepared for college will not be successful when presented with college level work." Hmmm, somebody should tell those students with GPA's of 3.5 and better that started off in remedial classes that they are not supposed to be successful, according to Badillo, and they must start flunking immediately.

You know how the mayor and his cronies are never wrong.

Quote of the Week:

"I know my words were wrong, and I apologize."

*- Herman Badillo
Chair, CUNY Board of Trustees*

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

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Be All You Can Be - Period

I personally take exception to your article "Be All You Can Be: Don't Join the Army" which was printed in the Ticker, Sept. 15, 1999. In your article you take one individual's experience and with a very, very wide brush you proceed to paint the whole experience of joining the U.S. Army as a negative one. Are you writing an Op-ed piece or is this an article? Allow me provide some views on the National Guard as a counter weight to what I see as a skewed piece.

Ms. Walker first feels that the slogan "Be All You Can Be" is a misrepresentation of what the Army has to offer. This is not the case. The slogan is stating that what the Army has to offer an individual is Opportunity. The responsibility for taking up the challenge lies entirely on the soldier's shoulders. She entered into the service for "security". Although this is one of the needs that humans have, she should know that no where in the world, concerning anything of importance, is something a "sure" thing. Especially since one can be activated onto active duty at a moments notice. I should know because I just recently was for the relief effort of Hurricane Floyd. Also as a member of the National Guard, Ms. Walker should know that medical benefits are somewhat less than

those offered to individuals who are serving as active duty soldiers. What the National Guard has to offer are Tuition benefits (which varies from state to state) and insurance benefits in case of death. Also another factor which served as an impetus for her decision to join was her yearning for adventure. This is something that would have been offered to her should she have chosen to stay.

Ms. Walker then goes on to complain about the waiting that she had to do prior to the commencement of basic training. This unfortunately happens to everyone, but it no way diminishes the professionalism of the training doctrine.

Now let me address Ms. Walker's attitude toward the training in the use of the M-16. The very first and primary function of any standing Army is to defend its country's borders and interests. Should the task finally reach the Army, this means that force is needed. Therefore the training that is basic to all soldiers are in the areas of survival, weapons use and first aid. Again I stress basic. After a soldier finishes this training, then he/she moves onto the next phase which further trains them for their specific responsibilities. But everyone, from combat soldier to service and sup-

port to maintenance learns how to use weapons.

The function of basic training is not to "re-socialize" and "acquaint" soldiers to Army life. No, that is done in the second phase when they are given more latitude and are now being taught what their selected jobs entail. The primary purpose of basic training is combat. Therefore the Drill Sergeant is there to provide the necessary guidance and discipline needed for effective combat training. I do not know where it was where that "Ms. Walker" trained, but more so your article failed to provide any substantiating proof.

Lastly, the young are not the only ones who are best for this type of job. I enlisted at the age of twenty nine. I have served my country and state for the last five years. I have risen through the ranks from Private First Class to my present rank of Second Lieutenant. The National Guard pays for my studies. The intangible benefits that I have received from my experiences is a profound sense of self-worth accompanied with gratification in the knowledge that I can deal with extreme situations, work in a group and to be able to lead if the need arises. I understand what duty, responsibility and pride mean. Now I am not saying that this is for

On Life and Death

"We're all in this together"

To say that I am saddened by the recent suicide of Baruch student Thomas Berk is a colossal understatement. I did not know Thomas, but as a teacher, I feel a special sense of his death: I mourn the loss of opportunities he would have had as a result of his time spent in college.

But even more than that, I grieve over the tragic passing of a fellow human being who felt that life was no longer worth living. At one point in my own life, I felt as Thomas did and unsuccessfully attempted what he regrettably accomplished. Therefore, I can assure you that any problem, no matter how trivial it may appear to the people around us, can seem insurmountable to someone who has reached a point of wanting to end his/her life. I remember too well how threatening, unrelenting, and debilitating life was when I was there.

I can't encourage you strongly enough to seek the help of professional counseling if you are even remotely thinking about making the decision Thomas made. There are counselors at Baruch who are here to help you, and there is no shame whatsoever in asking for that help. If, however, you feel too uncomfortable to make that contact by yourself, come by my office — I will drop everything and walk with you to the counseling center, whether you are in one of my classes or not. You are important to me as students, future professionals, and as fellow humans; we're all in this together.

William Wardrope, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Speech and Corporate Communication

Politics and Stuff: The War of Art

By Mark Heron
Staff Writer

Our Mayor just does not know how to get along with anyone: friends, enemies or constituents. His motto could be likened to that of the Queen of Hearts who whenever anyone disagreed with her would immediately shout "off with your head!" Whose head is the Mayor after now, or should I say heads? The Mayor is now going after The Brooklyn Museum of Art. What crime could a museum have committed to upset the Mayor so? For one, disagreeing with him, and another, coming within his sights while he is running for office.

The controversy began when the Brooklyn Museum decided to showcase a controversial art exhibit. It seems that the Mayor deems himself an art critic as well as an artist. I quote, "If I can do it then it is not art." Sorry Mr. Mayor, but just because you think you can do something, does not make you an artist. If you need a model, see The Artist.

The exhibit, called "Sensations: Young British Artists from the Saatchi collection," ran afoul of Giuliani when he read a Daily News column and found out that there happens to be some art within the exhibit that could be controversial. This is New York, how shocking could this art be? I for one never heard of it until the Mayor decided to go on record with the public and talked about everything from freezing assets to taking over the museum to dissolving the board, and generally made an ass of himself. You would think that some major corporation was caught contaminating

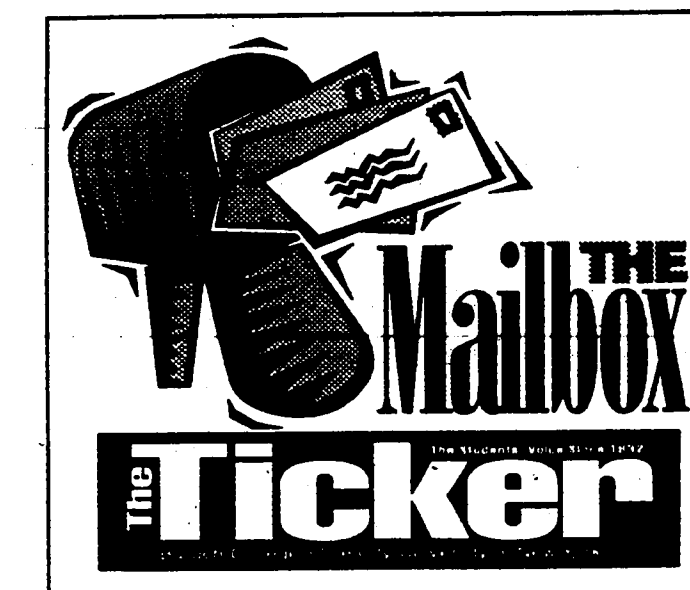
the waters of New York. Yeah, like he would try to take money away from his major contributors. I think the surest way of not promoting something is to not talk about. I don't think that going on public television, ranting and raving like a spoiled baby will stop people from going to a "sick" exhibit.

The exhibit features animal carcasses. For example, there is a tank with a half of a dead pig preserved in formaldehyde. There are also a few tanks with a cow carcass cut up into different portions also preserved in formaldehyde. What really got the Mayor upset supposedly was a work by artist Chris Ofili which features a portrait entitled "The Holy Virgin Mary." The portrait is of a woman accompanying pictures of buttocks cut out of pornography magazines and elephant dung. In all fairness to the artist I must mention that he is a devout Catholic — so there goes Giuliani's theory that the artist is anti-Catholic.

Now, for those of you who can't put two and two together. Let me spell it out for you. One: The Mayor is worried about raising funds for what may turn out to be the political battle of the 2000 election. Two: National Republicans like any attempt to shut down art that conflicts with their ideals. Three: The Mayor seems to some National Republicans as well as Upstaters as being too liberal for their taste. Four: Throw in a fund-raiser during the middle of the week in some no name State where you have nothing in common, except for your stand for decency on an arts issue that they may relate to, as well as his heavy handed approach. Put it all together and you've got a

This is, of course, a very serious issue. Not just the reality of the actual "jump," but what caused it. What brings people to feel so lost and so alone or scared that they just feel their only choice left is their absence? Their absence may be out of sight, but not of mind, soul or spirit - all that still there. We may put someone's memory in the back of our thoughts but they still are always there, always. So what am I getting to? Well, it is just not an option. Suicide is not going to be the answers to you problems no matter how right it may feel at the time. I can't offer any simple solution except for prevention. We, together as friends, family, classmates, faculty, strangers and fellow Baruchians, must help each other out. End this hate, animosity, segregation and limits set because of ignorant beliefs we feel toward one

money making issue. Throw in some volunteers and some votes and you may have a winner. That is of course if he keeps this up all the way to election day — when the squeeze men, the street side vendors, the taxi cab drivers, CUNY student's, the public school teachers, the park-goers, and the various artists that the mayor has run afoul of and they will come out



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everyone or that everyone will flourish under this type of environment. But for you to paint the Army as an oppressive, restrictive and generally useless waste of anyone's time, should they consider joining is not only subjective, but without a counter experience, is slanderous as well. Also, I would like to remind "Ms. Walker" that the private sector is a highly competitive and unforgiving environment in which starting a business has a slim chance of surviving. Surely she doesn't expect the competition to just move aside and give her an opportunity to make profit. She will have to work hard for it.

Sincerely,
Luis R. Contreras

"Practice being yourself and you will succeed"

To the people who think, breathe, love, hate and all that good stuff. I guess that means you. What's going on?!?! Is this some type of coincidence or is this an epidemic? This being suicide. Now you may not want to read on, but stop and think for a moment. Nothing ever truly seems perfect in life, but what's so bad about that? We need hard times to truly appreciate the good times.

Everyone may have felt he or she was at dead end at times. Some may not even have known how to get out. I could be referring to your best friend, your mom, your brother, or even the person that is sitting right next to you at this very moment. "Then what," you may say, "now I have to worry about others when things aren't even going good for me? Arrgh... STRESS..." Calm down. Let's try to work it out, together.

You are not alone, trust me. Just speak to someone about it (problems, worry, loss, suicide). People may feel like that from time to

another and just talk. Cut the boundaries and look at your fellow neighbor as another one who feels the same as you. You are not the only one. Maybe not everyone will understand you but don't let that end your search for comfort.

What are we here for? Majoring in subjects we one day would like to utilize in a career of our choice. Well most of us. Some of are confused, like me, but we still know we stay here to make something better of ourselves. To become the best we can be through this educational start. In succeeding in the business world or whatever path you take, you will always deal with people. To get that contract or sale you must know how to treat and understand people as people. Understand!!!!

Well, what's a better time and place to start than right now? Practice being yourself and you will succeed. No one likes phonies anyway. Your true self is the most beautiful thing you can be. Love yourself and share that feeling in a conversation with someone

else. You can encourage prevention and perhaps gain a better understanding of yourself and others. Don't give up, there is always someone who will listen. If you feel hesitant in expressing yourself to someone who knows you, that's alright for now. There are places to go or numbers to call, to be truly anonymous, that will listen and help you help yourself. Don't depend on others to fulfill you, they may help along the way, but you complete your fulfillment and cherish that. TALK, PREVENT, SUCCEED AND GAIN. Also, please Baruch, put window guards on all the windows (once was too many) and keep the awareness of love, understanding and student services alive.

In the memory of
Yankun Huang & Thomas A. Berk
Rest in Peace

With Love and Concern,
Williamina Gerloven

in droves and send him to electoral hell. Friends, if you do not stand up to tyrants today, they will stand on you tomorrow.

Well that's it for this week readers, if anyone has a suggestions or comments e-mail me at markheron@hotmail.com.

The opinions expressed on the Op-Ed 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 Op-Ed 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 Op-Eds editor.

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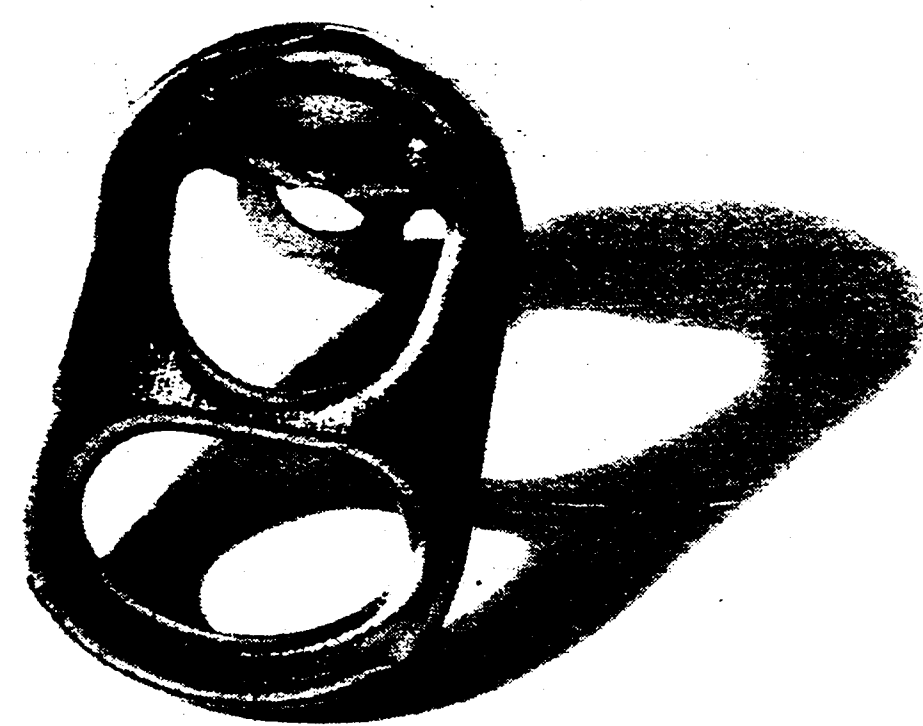


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BUSINESS

The Ticker & Technology

Biz Briefs

Sources: Reuters, Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal, Chicago Tribune, First Call Corp., PCWeek Online.

DOW Falls 54.3 Points, or 4.9 Percent for Week of Sept. 26. The Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered its worst one-week point drop ever last week and is now down over 9.24 percent from its record close on Aug. 25, at 11,226.04. The fall was attributed to three main reasons: The dollar's fall against the yen. A record \$25 billion trade deficit in July that renewed concerns that the Fed will raise interest rates. And an earthquake last week in Taiwan that halted chip production at several Taiwanese manufacturers.

Motorola to Buy General Instrument. After several days of rumors regarding Motorola's intent to acquire General Instrument, the company finally confirmed the offer in a move that sent both company's shares tumbling. Motorola (NYSE:MOT) will acquire General Instrument (NYSE:GIC) in a deal valued at about \$10 billion. General Instrument shareholders will receive slightly more than a half a Motorola share for each of their General Instrument shares. The news that Motorola would acquire the leading cable set-top box maker sent both companies' stocks lower. Motorola ended the day down 8 1/8 to 90 1/2, or 8.24 percent, while General Instrument closed at 49 11/16, down 2 13/16 or 5.36 percent.

VoiceStream to Acquire Aerial Communications. VoiceStream Wireless Corp. (Nasdaq:VSTR) announced plans to acquire Aerial Communications Inc. (Nasdaq:AERL) for as much as \$3.27 billion. The purchase is part of the company's plan to create a nationwide system to compete with AT&T Corp. (NYSE:T) and Sprint Corp. (NYSE:PCS). VoiceStream announced plans to acquire Omnipoint Corp. just three months ago. Once both deals are completed, the company will have licenses in 22 of the country's 25 top markets. Aerial shareholders will receive 0.455 shares of VoiceStream for each of their shares or \$18 in cash. News of the acquisition sent VoiceStream shares up \$5.875, or 11 percent, and Aerial shares up \$6.625, or 33 percent.

Bell Atlantic and Vodafone AirTouch to Merge Wireless Units. Bell Atlantic (NYSE:BER) and Vodafone AirTouch PLC (NYSE:VOD) will combine their networks to form the nation's largest mobile phone company with 20 million customers. Bell Atlantic will own 53 percent of the new entity with the rest belonging to Vodafone AirTouch. The companies hope to achieve operational synergies by uniting their North American networks to create a nation-wide system. The move will allow their wireless units to operate as one and avoid roaming fees for callers.

Sprint PCS to Offer Wireless Internet Access. Sprint PCS (NYSE:PCS) has begun offering wireless Internet access via its nationwide network. Connections are made via Internet-capable phones with built-in browsers. The service also makes connections available to a customer's laptop or PDA via a connection kit.

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Chip Stocks Shrug off Market Choppiness

By Michael Papilsky
Business Editor

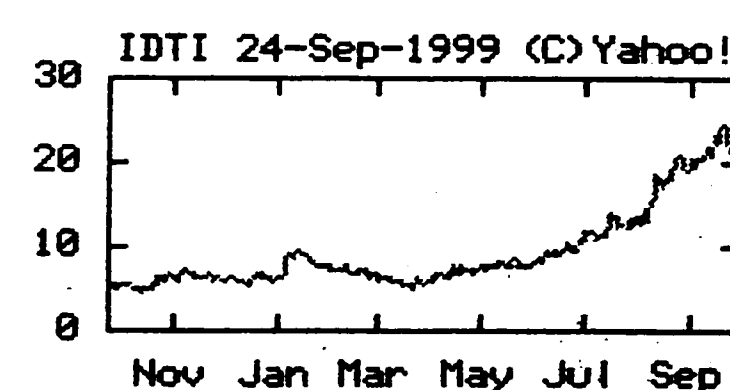
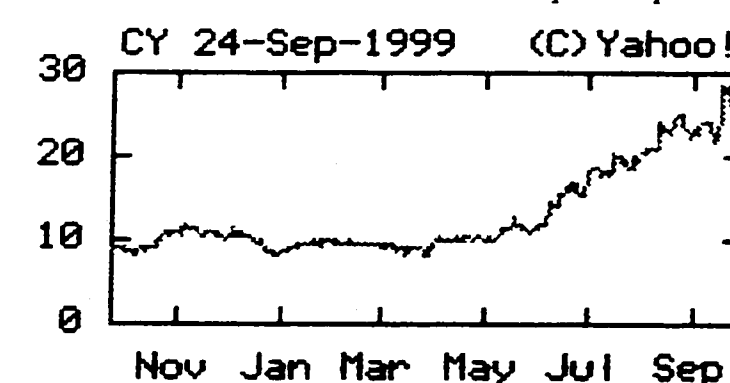
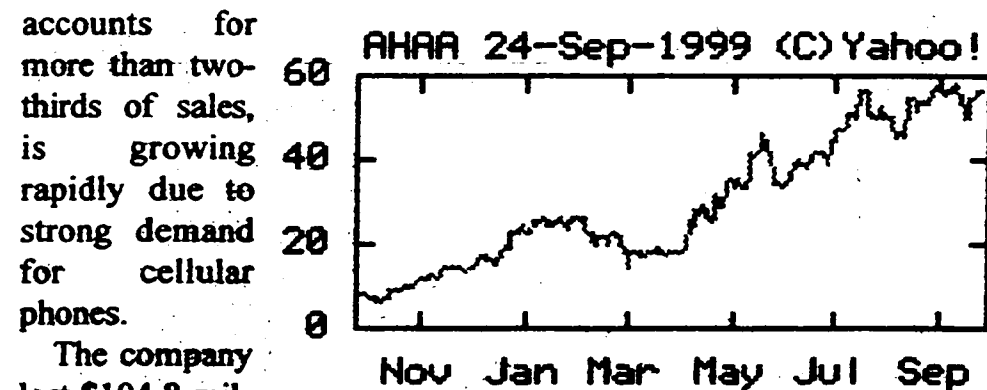
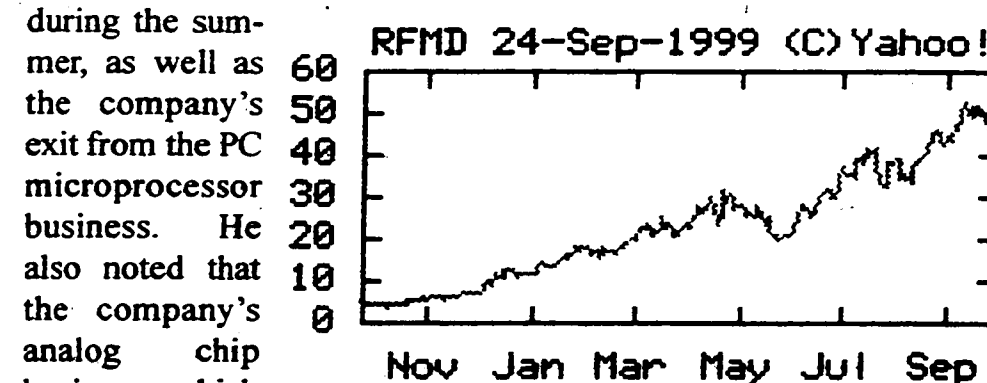
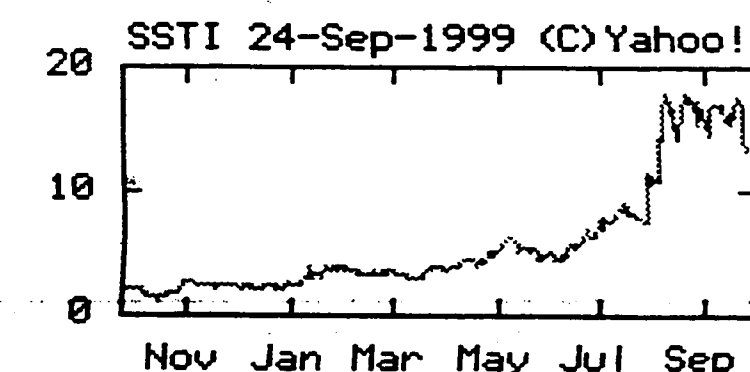
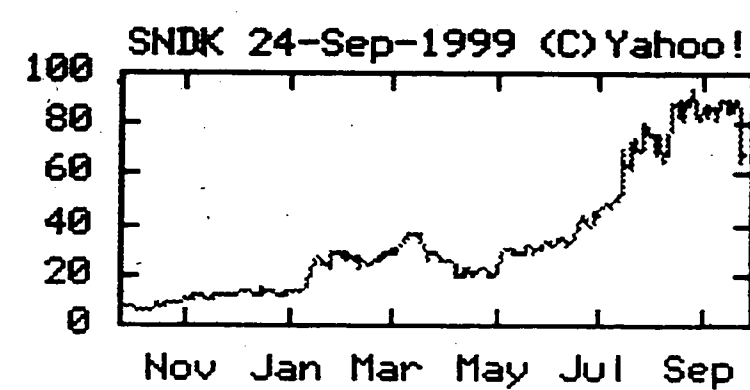
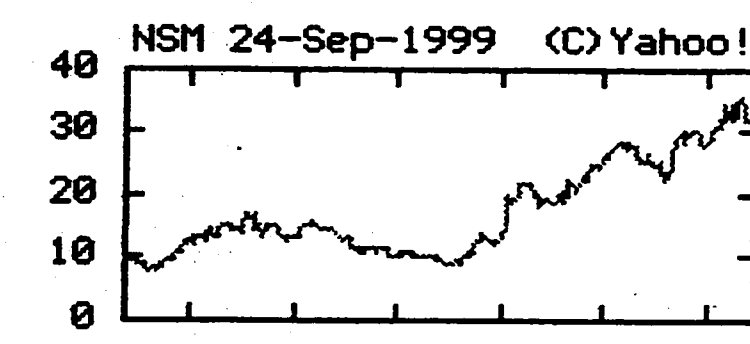
Many investors have been feeling the market's uncertainty lately as stocks remain choppy over continued inflation fears and trade deficit concerns.

Despite these concerns, semiconductor stocks have been on a rampage, as sales of computers, networking equipment and cell phones has caused global chip demand to surge after a two-year low, which has left many producers with reduced capacity to handle the increase in demand.

National Semiconductor Corp. (NYSE:NSM) showed signs of increased demand when the company surprised Wall Street on Sept. 9, reporting net income of \$47.1 million, or 25 cents a share for the quarter ended Aug. 29. The earnings included a one-time gain of \$48.4 million, with earnings before the gain coming in at a loss of \$1.3 million, or less than one cent per share.

The news was still a surprise as analysts were expecting a loss of 14 cents, according to First Call. Brian Halla, chief executive officer of National, said the company is "ahead of schedule on our return to profits plan," due to stronger than expected orders during the summer, as well as the company's exit from the PC microprocessor business. He also noted that the company's analog chip business, which accounts for more than two-thirds of sales, is growing rapidly due to strong demand for cellular phones.

The company lost \$104.8 million, or 63 cents



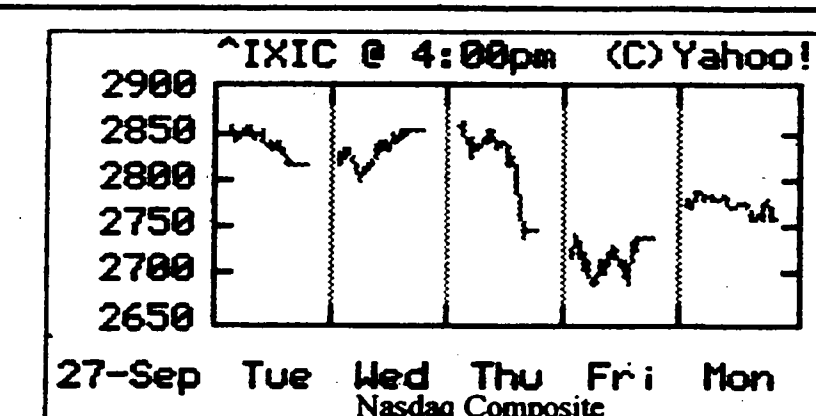
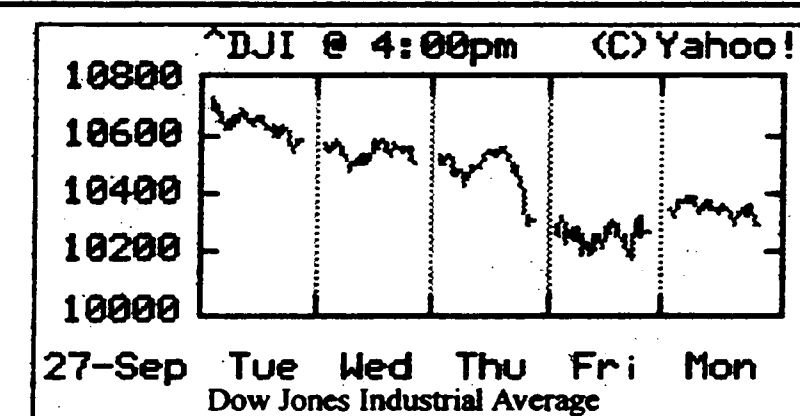
a share, in the same year-ago quarter.

In a related announcement, National announced that it has halted plans to spin off its chip plant in Greenock, Scotland as it needs the capacity in order to meet the rising demand for analog chips. National closed at 32 1/16 on Sept. 24, just 11.55 percent off its 52-week high of 36 1/4.

Other chip companies benefiting from the demand surge include flash memory makers Sandisk (Nasdaq:SNDK) and Silicon Storage (Nasdaq:SSTI). Both companies are running at capacity as they work to keep up with continued demand in the cell phone market that is outpacing industry capacity for flash memory. In fact, chip producers in other areas are also reporting record orders. Companies such as RF Micro Devices (Nasdaq:RFMD), Alpha Industries (Nasdaq:AHAA), Cypress Semiconductor (NYSE:CY) and Integrated Device Technology (Nasdaq:IDTI) have all seen their stock prices surge in recent weeks.

With demand on track to remain strong through next year, companies in the chip sector appear poised to continue their run with record profits. With a small correction last week as the markets tumbled and companies looked to evaluate their exposure to the Taiwan quake, it looks like a good time to buy into chip companies. One should, however,

buy with caution, paying close attention to which companies announced exposure to the Taiwan quake that could hurt their near-term results. Investors must also take into consideration that even if a company's production was not affected by the quake, if complimentary chips are not available, then demand for their own chips will weaken in the short term.



North American Box Office September 24-26 Weekend						
Rank	Title	Dist.	Wkend Gross	Cum. Gross	Weeks	Theaters
1	Double Jeopardy	PARA	\$23,700,000	\$23,700,000	1	2547
2	Blue Streak	SONY	\$13,200,000	\$37,700,000	2	2735
3	The Sixth Sense	BV	\$8,500,000	\$225,100,000	8	2791
4	For Love of the Game	UNI	\$6,600,000	\$23,200,000	2	2854
5	American Beauty	D'WORK	\$6,000,000	\$7,600,000	2	429
6	Stigmata	MGM/UA	\$4,800,000	\$40,500,000	3	2854
7	Stir of Echoes	ART	\$2,300,000	\$15,600,000	3	1897
8	Jakob the Liar	SONY	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	1	1200
9	Mumford	BV	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	1	1452
10	Runaway Bride	PARA	\$1,600,000	\$146,600,000	9	1870

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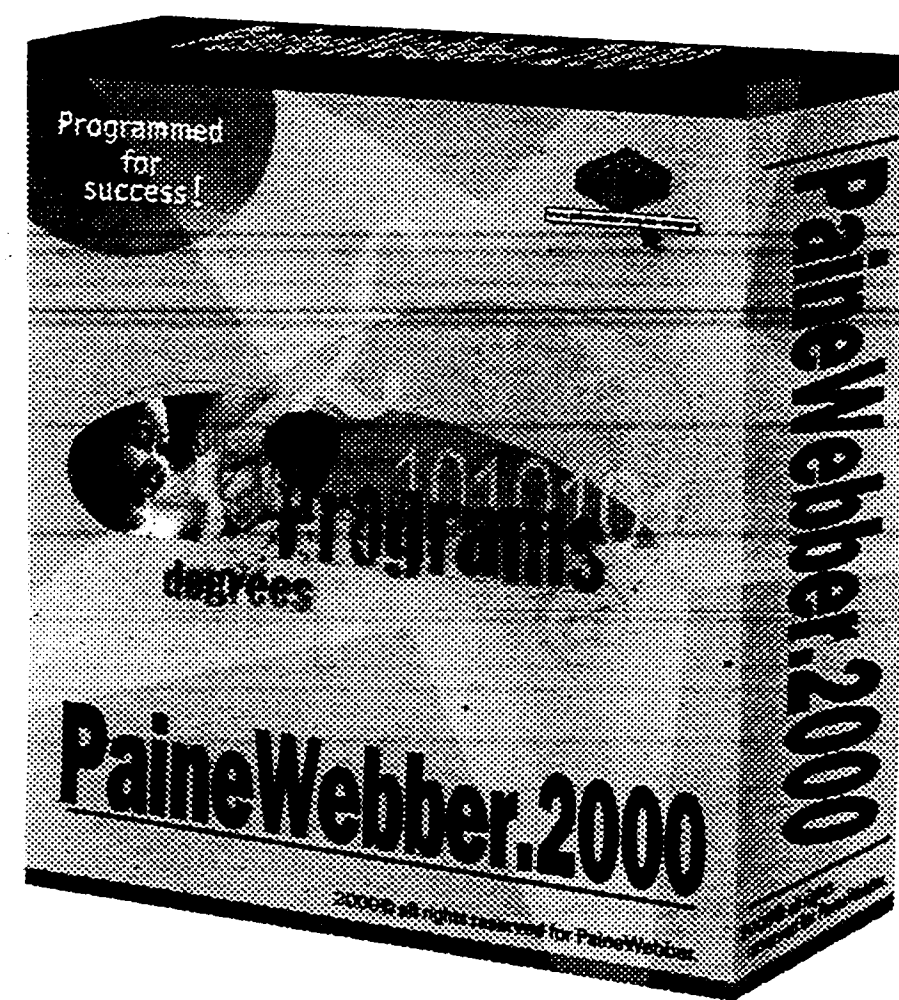
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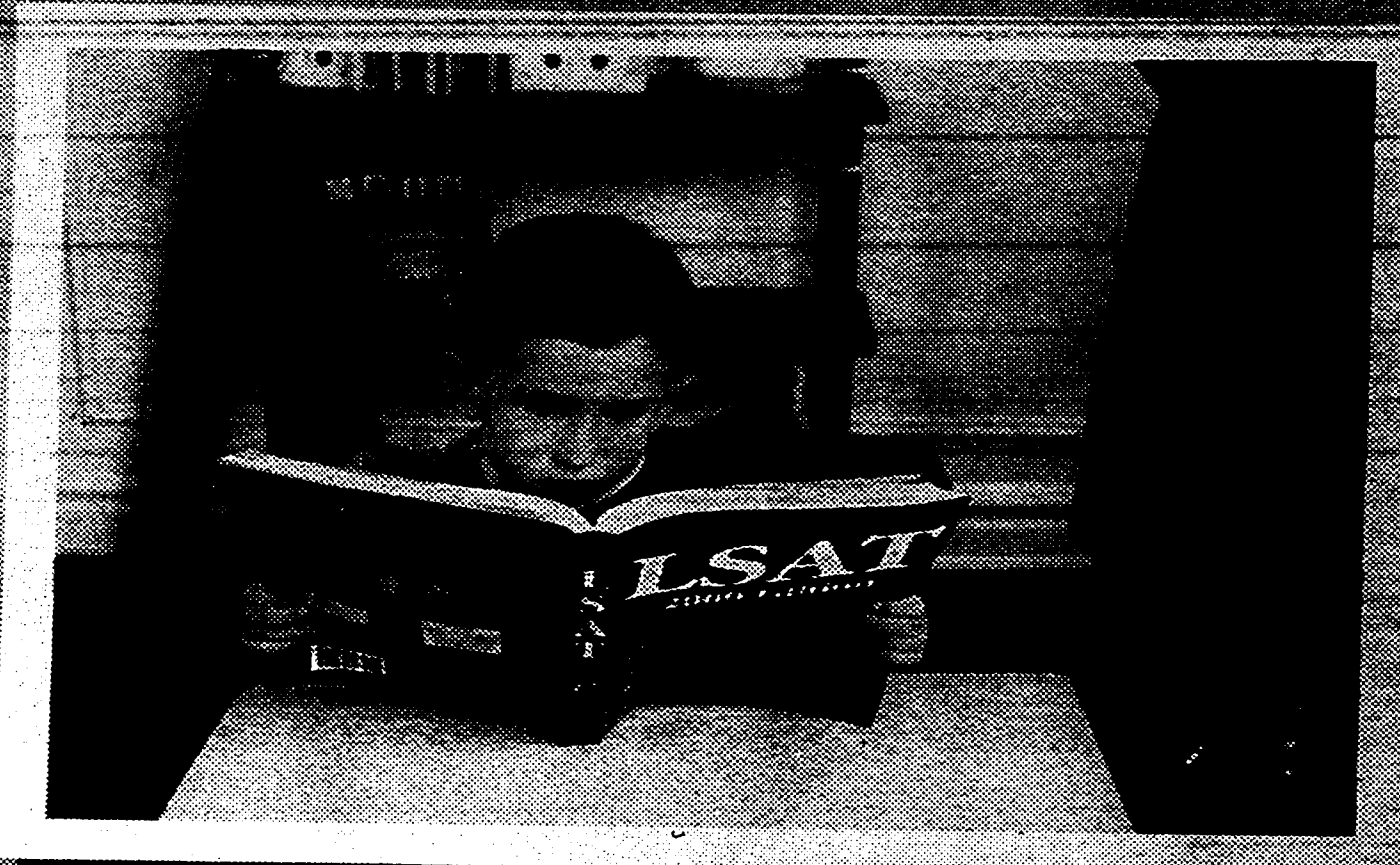
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The Ticker Sports

September 29, 1999

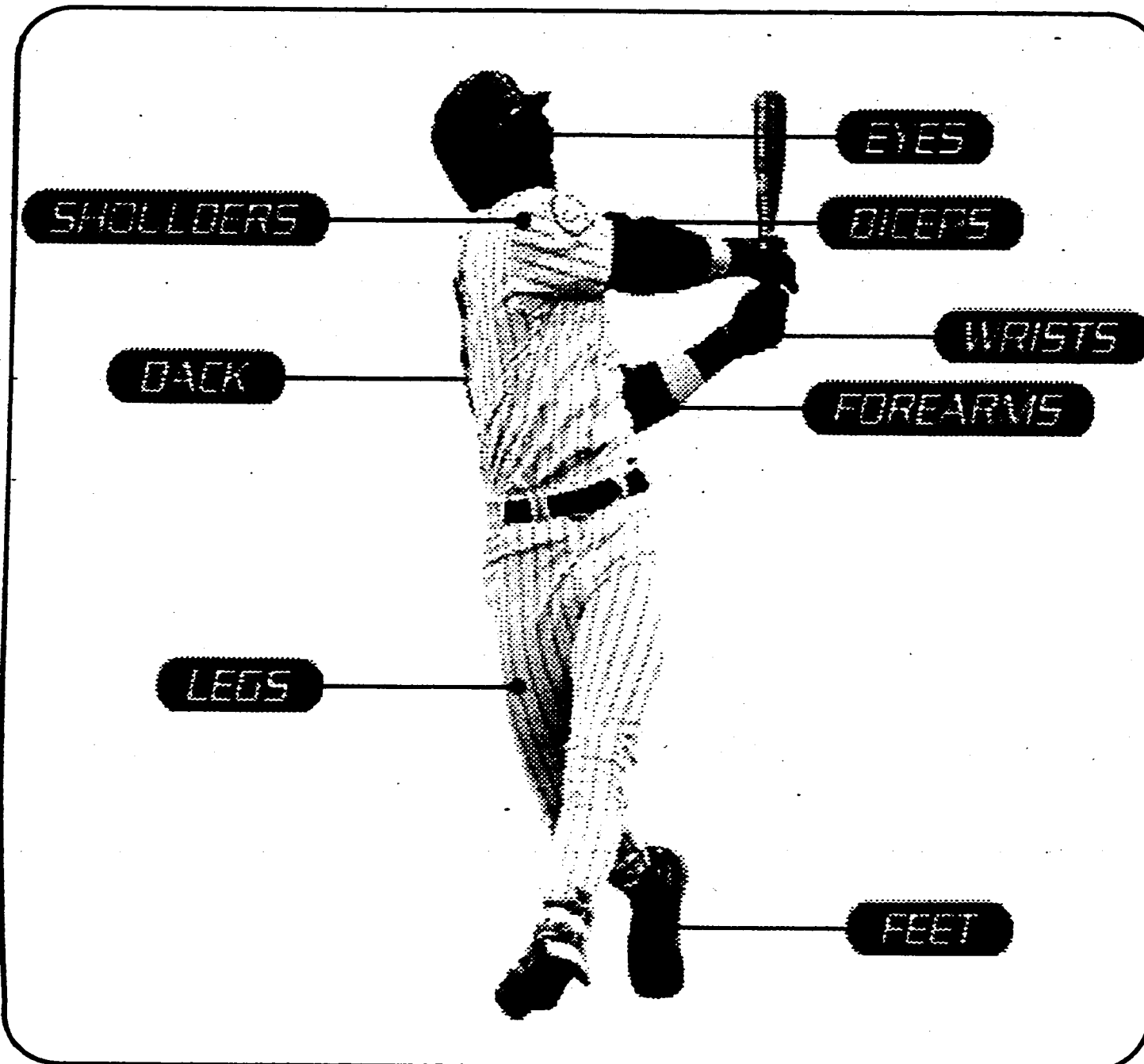
HOMERUN RACE FINALLY BEGINS

By Kenyatta Pious
Sports Editor

With about two weeks of Major League Baseball left, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire are tied for homerun supremacy, each with 61. Last year at this time, McGwire had 65 home-runs and Sosa had 63. Though it is this critic's opinion that both players have dishonored the age-old tradition that is baseball by taking two different drug supplements for muscle enhancement and performance (see: *The Ticker*, 9/2/98), it is still warming to see that these two are still battling each other while maintaining a friendship that has brought added respect to baseball.

Now that both players are tied, the homerun race has just began and it clearly is a toss up as to who will hit more. Last year, McGwire hit 70 homeruns and Sosa finished with 66. This year should be Sosa's year except he has already started to falter as the race winds down. Since both players fall in that vague category of quasi-role model, perhaps a tie this year would be more fitting.

Fans want to see more homeruns and hopefully they will not be disappointed. While Sosa now holds many fans propitious sentiments, McGwire cannot be ruled out. Neither player wishes to finish second because history has been very cruel to the runner-up. If it were not for a few shortcomings, these players would be considered great athletes. But as it stands, perhaps the message they must promulgate to fans across the world is that even in failure or possible deceit it is possible to wade above the rest. Perhaps fans can be assuaged if they remember that McGwire and Sosa only want to be the "best" and that this drive to excel, which incidentally is partly a phenomenon created by instinct, society, and the press, can propel peo-



The anatomy of a slugger. Sosa provides a glimpse at the mechanics involved in hitting homeruns. (AP Photo/Chuck Solomon)

ple to seek all avenues to achieve. All things considered this has been another momentous year for baseball.

SPORTS BEAT

By Kenyatta Pious
Sports Editor

- Dimitrius Underwood of the Miami Dolphins was found bleeding Sunday from a self-inflicted neck wound on a street in downtown Lansing, Mich. No further information is available. He is listed in fair condition after undergoing surgery.
- Ki-Jana Carter, the Cincinnati Bengals' No 1 draft pick in 1995, dislocated his right kneecap Sunday at Carolina. He is not expected to play for the rest of the season. This would make it the third time that he has suffered season-ending injuries.
- Team USA amassed the greatest comeback in Ryder Cup history to win the tournament for the first time since 1993.
- The NFL fined Saints safety Chris Hewitt \$7,500 for a helmet-first hit on San Francisco quarterback Steve Young.
- A man was charged with disorderly conduct yesterday for jumping out of the stands at County Stadium during a Milwaukee Brewers game and tackling Houston Astros right fielder Bill Spiers.
- The Bulls yesterday hired the retired Texas-El Paso coach Don Haskins as a consultant.
- The Pistons signed free agent guard Pooh Richardson, who had spent the last five years with the Los Angeles Clippers. His career averages are: 11.1 points and 6.5 assists per game.

ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY

By Shan-san Wu
News Editor

Last Week's Record: 7-5 Overall: 14-10
Last Week's vs. Spread: 6-6 Overall: 13-11
NY Jets (+5 1/2) at Denver:
The Broncos aren't going to go 0-4. The Jets aren't going anywhere with Mirer at QB.
Eagles (+9 1/2) at NYGiants:
Time to erase memories of the Washington debacle—By pounding whoever the Eagles run out as their QB this week. Giants.
Ravens (even) at Falcons:
Atlanta is crippled by injuries at QB and RB. Chandler is one hit away from the DL. Ravens.
Saints (-1) at Bears:
Curtis Enis is on the way to a breakout year. Nagging injuries to the RB Ditka traded his entire draft for aren't going to heal if he keeps on taking 15 NFL hits per week. Bears.
Rams (-3 1/2) at Bengals:
Vermeil has found the answer at QB. Coslet still looking for Ki-Jana. Rams.
Cardinals (+7) at Cowboys:
This is the last stand for the Dallas veterans of the Johnson era. Moose is gone, Emmitt, Irvin, Aikman and the rest are fading away into the sunset. With guns blazing. Cowboys.
Buccaneers (+7) at Vikings:
Minnesota's offense has been in preseason mode for the past three weeks. Moss is due for an explosion. Expect Tampa to try and pound Alstott with confidence in Dilfer fading. Expect Alstott to get stuffed. Vikings.

Jaguars (-3) at Steelers:
Jacksonville bounces back this week with a win at Three Rivers. Is Kordell the answer at QB? Jaguars.
Panthers (+8 1/2) at Redskins:
Panthers have skill at all key offensive positions. Enough skill to hold off Washington. Panthers.
Chiefs (+1) at Chargers:
San Diego defense too strong in sunny southern CA. Chiefs without Schottenheimer lose focus and identity. Chargers.
Titans (even) at 49ers:
With Steve Young out, the Niners still roll O'Donnell. Eddie George has power but he looks like he may have lost a step of speed. San Francisco.
Raiders (+3 1/2) at Seahawks:
Raiders on a mission to erase memories of last season's winter collapse. Tyrone Wheatley on a mission to erase all doubt of his ability. Seattle still adjusting to Holmgren's new system. Raiders.
Bills (+4 1/2) at Dolphins:
Marino and Johnson are finally working as a team giving Miami a true balanced attack—something they haven't had in more than a decade. Miami.
Pick of the Week:
Patriots (-12) at Browns:
Bledsoe, removed from confidence-robbing shadow of Parcells, is emerging into the best QB in the league. Browns could lose by 30. Patriots.

By Jon Minners
Asylum Production Editor

Hey yo! I'm back and suddenly feeling bored with the world of sports. There's really nothing interesting going on at all, but I'll give it a try. There's got to be something to insult.

Someone pass the Mets a box of Vicks cough drops, because they are really choking their season away. I had such high hopes for this team and now they are struggling for a wild card spot. I hope I didn't jinx them. If I did...well, too bad.

The NHL is starting up again. Wow, I can't wait. Who won the Stanley Cup last year? I can't seem to remember, or even care.

Well, to make this season different, the NHL has adopted a few new rules that are sure to spice up the game and confuse the hell out of me. A new point system for ties and overtime games and a new way to play overtime games are just two of the handful of changes being made. The NHL will distribute a quick summary guide dealing with the new rule changes so that people can understand them. The guide is about as thick as the Bible.

The NBA is looking for a new way to start the season off with a bang. They need fans back in a bad way. I got an idea. How about they have a lockout and start the season in March. Then they can have an exciting ten game season filled with injuries and screw-ups. Word to the wise; you wouldn't have to worry about getting fans back if you had cared about them in the first place and not locked out the season last year.

The WWF has won a lawsuit with Playboy so that Rena Mero can't use the name Sable for

the issue that should hit the stands sometime in October. I hope Playboy isn't too angry with the WWF that they don't feature any future WWF women on their covers. The new WWF star is Debra and I'm sure many a man out there including myself would like to see her puppies. If any women out there are angered over my comments, I've got two words for ya!...I'm sorry. What did you think I was gonna say?

Oscar De La Hoya is making excuses for his loss. His leg hurt in practice, he had a hang nail, he sucks, his ego was weighing him down, Don King screwed him up, he sucks. Out of the six excuses, I agree with about three of them.

Can't wait for Lennox Lewis - Evander Holyfield II. I'm not sure when it will take place, and frankly, I don't give a damn! I will, however, make a prediction. Put your money on Lewis. Unless Holyfield knocks him out, Lewis will win to make up for the judges' stupidity in the first fight.

I heard Mike Tyson is still searching for opponents he can fight for the next four fights he'll have before going back to jail again...I mean before going for the title again. So far, he's picked Sylvester Stallone, Mr. T, and Dolph Lundgren. He said he thinks they're tough and loved the fights he saw them in on video the other night.

The new Battledome series on channel 9 looks like American Gladiators on crack. Can't wait to check it out.

I guess that's it. Not much to really talk about. So, I'm gonna fall asleep during what will be another Jets loss and then watch the Simpsons. Later...

Hey Sports Crazy Baruchians,

write for Ticker Sports today!

E-mail Kenyatta Pious at ticker_sports@csu.baruch.cuny.edu