



the ticker

BARUCH COLLEGE, THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Barry Bonds is a disgrace to baseball.

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VOLUME 92 • ISSUE 1

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AUGUST 27, 2007



VICTOR CHU | THE TICKER

Students reach for free t-shirts given away by WBMB, Baruch College's radio station. Following convocation, a club fair took place on the street between the Vertical Campus and library building, and featured live music, games and food. Page 2.

Textbook prices are on the rise

□ Students join forces to protect their wallets and save money

BY LUBA BOGOPOLSKAYA
STAFF WRITER

One semester's tuition at Baruch is \$2000. A year would be \$4000, a bargain compared to most other schools. But whether you attend a private or a public college as a full-time student, be prepared to spend an estimated \$940, according to the College Board, per year on textbook material.

The Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance reports a 186% increase in textbook prices from 1984 to 2004, which is about 6% a year. According to the Nation-

al Association of College Stores, the average price of a new textbook is \$53, while a used one is \$44. But if you ask any student about how much they expect to purchase a new edition of Financial Accounting, Art of Public Speaking or any other required material for, the answer starts in the \$80 range.

For those who receive no or limited financial aid, these expenses present an extra burden, which has often been a reason for debate. Do we blame the "greedy" publishers and authors or the professors who, after all, are the ones who make us purchase required textbooks? And how do stores come up with such ridiculous prices?

First, let's look at "where the new textbook dollar goes." More than half (64.3 cents) goes to the publisher for such things as

SEE TEXTBOOKS PAGE 4

Bird trapped inside Vertical Campus

BY VICTOR CHU AND SHELLEY NG
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A small bird has been trapped inside the Vertical Campus for over a month.

Identified as a finch, the bird has fluttered from the eighth to 14th floors in an effort to escape the confines of its enormous steel cage.

Finches are found in the northern hemisphere and are characterized by their small, stocky beaks. A typical finch nest in a tree and is shaped like a basket.

According to Steve Paintner of BCTC, Animal Control was called in July and stated that its evening

nesting place would have to be found before they could take any action.

However, with the vast amount of empty vertical space and the bird's diminutive size, locating its nesting place has been nothing short of finding a needle in a haystack.

The bird was first fed health food bars and now its diet consists of pet store bird food.

The finch only recognizes that food has been set out for it on a certain bench on the 13th floor, Painter stated.

Unknowing students, though, have been pushing the plate away from the bench.



STEVE PAINTNER | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

The bird has become affectionately referred to as Baruch College's "littles student."

ZSB service excellence rewarded

□ Baruch staff awarded for quality service

BY NAOMI A. GARDBERG
ZICKLIN SCHOOL CORRESPONDENT

During the ZSB Honors and Recognition Ceremony on May 11, 2007, Zicklin School of Business Dean John Elliott recognized Benjamin Enoma (Office of Graduate Admissions), Joseph Grandone (Office of the Dean), Linda Moore (department of management), Rasal Mowla (Doctoral Programs Office) and Troy Taylor (Office of the Dean) for going beyond their job descriptions to make the lives of students, professors and other staff a little easier.

This was the second win for Moore and Taylor. Award winners received a desk plaque and a check for \$1,000. A wall plaque celebrating each year's awardees is set to hang near the dean's office later this year.

Elliott initiated the ZSB Service Excellence awards during the 2003-2004 academic year to recognize administrative assistants who took extra steps to better serve the Baruch community. Each spring, members of the ZSB community are asked to nominate administrative assistants who provide excellent service. A committee of faculty, staff and student representatives recommends awardees based on



ALAN PEARLMAN | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

From left, Joseph Grandone, Naomi Gardberg, Linda Moore, President Kathleen Waldron, Rasal Mowla, Benjamin Enoma, Troy Taylor and Dean John Elliott.

their nominations and narratives describing their service.

The 2006-2007 ZSB Service Excellence Awards Committee consisted of David Boxill (Baruch Human Resources), Professor Ann Brandwein (Department of Statistics), Maria DiBenedetto (Graduate Student Services), Imran Emmanuel (ZSB undergraduate student), Professor Naomi Gardberg (Department of Management), Professor Richard Kopelman (department of management), Katrina Motch (ZSB graduate student), Junie Swift (Graduate Career Management) and Beverly Warner (Office of the Dean).

Over the three-year history of the awards, 14 exceptional employees have been recognized including Rosa Alvarado-Dejesus, Berk Aydin, Ann Festa, Beth Figini, Tiffany Lane, Tom Lee, Pat Lewis, Linda Moore, Dularie Ramkishun, Juni Swift, Tara Sinclair, Noemi Taveras, Troy Taylor and Shelley Watson.

During the spring of 2008 the ZSB Service Excellence Committee will recognize five more support staff for their service excellence. When a ZSB administrative assistant provides you with superior service, take note of his or her name, so that person may be nominated.

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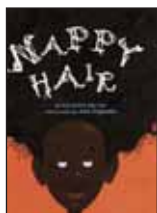
BUSINESS

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FEATURES



"Nappy Hair" stirred controversy before Don Imus.

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ARTS



Shakespeare in the Park heats up with "Romeo and Juliet."

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LEISURE



Watch what you eat and avoid the "Freshmen 15."

Page 14.



News

Convocation activities welcomes new students

□ Two all-day orientations allows new students to familiarize themselves with the college, its facilities and fellow classmates

BY VICKY ZHAI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Wednesday and Thursday, incoming freshmen and transfer students received a taste of Baruch College as they attended Convocation Day, which included diversity training, an improv activity and the Baruch Beginnings Fair.

Packed with back-to-back activities, students were exposed to college preparation programs where the majority of them met with their Learning Communities and peer mentors together for the first time.

The rest of the students who were not in Learning Communities attended a one-day convocation on Thursday where they too were exposed to similar programs.

Starting with an 8 a.m. breakfast, students were greeted by Mark Spergel, director of student orientation and director/coordinator of the Freshman Year Incentive, Ben

Corpus, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management and dean of students, and Kathleen Waldron, president of Baruch College, among many other important speakers.

Later, they embarked on the multitude of activities lined up for them. Activities exclusively for Learning Communities included Intro to e-Learning, Project Kickoff and "Ultimate Money Skills."

Into to e-Learning

Once acquainted with Baruch's computing system several months ago at freshman orientation, these students attended another workshop to refresh their mind about Blackboard, WebMail, wireless connection and BCTC's helpline.

This added workshop was made to reduce havoc and confusion for students in the first weeks of classes.

Project Kickoff

Project Kickoff, now mandatory for Learning Communities, bring students closer together as they collectively spend their first semester of college completing creative and self-rewarding presentations.

Working closely with their peer mentors, students will do intensive research for one of the five project topics: microfinance, history of student life, diversity of their lives, redesign of 17 Lexington and service in the college community.

Ultimate Money Skills

"Ultimate Money Skills" presented by a representative of Mon-

ster.com taught students basic but vital advice on how to manage money.

Diversity Training Workshop

Trainers from the Anti-Defamation League taught a 3.5 hour program called "A Campus of Difference." The students participated in educational and interactive activities.

In light of Baruch's diversity, it is quoted as one of the basic premises of A World of Difference Institute, "Diversity is a strength...not a problem or challenge to be faced."

Icebreaker activities provided students to familiarize themselves with their Learning Communities as they learned about identity, culture, stereotypes and diversity.

While they learned assumptions about physical appearance is deceiving, they simultaneously realized that this program was nothing like the straight lecture it seemed to be.

Improv!

Members of Baruch's Performing Arts Center performed as *The Improvoholics*. It was an interactive program with suggestions made by the audience.

College themes shown in a different light removed the seriousness of college. Students were uproariously laughing as the members and volunteers made jokes.

Themes included "school blues," job interviews and public speaking, which are related to the adventures and obstacles incoming students will have to face.

Freshman Convocation

Convocation, the opening of each academic year, began with an introduction from James McCarthy, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Also starting his first year as a faculty member in Baruch College, McCarthy stated, "Join me as we get lost in finding classrooms in the Vertical Campus." He gave a historic speech about universities versus colleges.

Next to speak was President Waldron and her informative speech tailored specifically about Baruch. One noteworthy rhetorical question she asked was: "What does it mean to be the most diverse college in the United States?" The Baruch College community is just as diverse in its student body as it is in its faculty and staff. She encouraged students to use the City's resources to enrich their college experiences.

One of the most popular speeches given was by the Undergraduate Student Government President Anthony Hernandez. His inspirational speech gave two of the most pertinent phrases he gathered from his experience here at Baruch: "College is what you make it" and "What would you do if you know you could not fail?"

Book Discussion

Guest speaker Ed Cardoza, director of Development, Partners in Health (PIH), led a discussion about this year's freshmen reading, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by

Tracy Kidder.

The moral enforced in the non-fiction text can be used as a metaphor for college.

As a reminder before the students start college Cardoza advised, "Do not let fear prevent you from succeeding . . . when you have a problem, face it head on . . . it must be done, it has to be done."

Parents and Families Orientation

At 5:30 p.m., parents and families were invited to an orientation of their own. They were notably greeted by President Waldron, Vice President Corpus and Phyllis Zadra, associate dean of the Zicklin School of Business, as well as members of academia, careers and counseling.

Baruch Beginnings Fair

The club fair, located outside the 25th Street entrance of the Vertical Campus topped the day off with music, food, games and prizes.

The day would not have been complete without ending it on a stress-free evening before college would begin.

All kinds of student clubs took the opportunity to invite new members to join and gave the students a preview of just some of the clubs offered.

Service centers representatives showed up as well and allowed students to become familiar with Baruch's services such as the Student Academic Consulting Center, the Registrars' Office, Health Services and the Newman Library.

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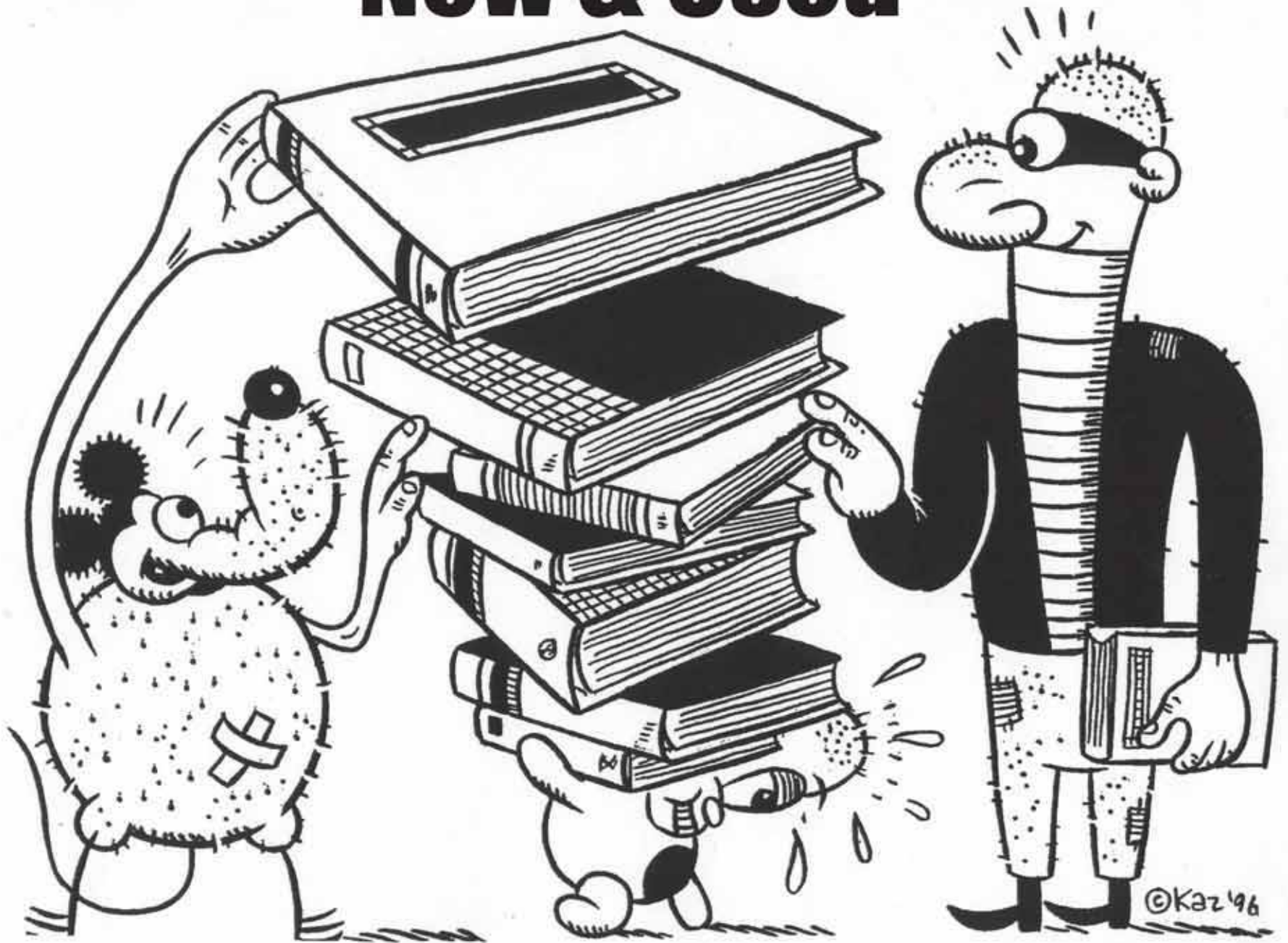
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Ticker wins at the track

□ Horse race reporting leads to national recognition

BY SHERRY MAZZOCCHI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

By covering the Hambletonian, the world-class harness racing event of the year, three Baruch College journalism students published articles in major New York area newspapers.

Kellie Clark, Lia Eustachewich and Marina Sobiyeva all attended the Clyde Hirt Sports Media Workshop. The four-day course is held each August at the Meadowlands during the sports' biggest race. It is designed to hone future sport writers' skills and teach the basics of harness racing, writing and handicapping. Deborah A. Little, the harness racing writer for *The New York Post*, compared it to a boot camp. "This was by far the best class we've ever had," she said. "Everyone was really talented."

Little said the workshop is rigorous. Designed to teach students how to cover a major sports event, they learn to ask sports specific questions and write articles under tight newspaper deadlines.

Her husband, Dave Little, also an instructor in the workshop, is the racing editor for *The New York Daily News*. "We are brutally honest," she said. "My husband can be very critical. He said, 'If it sucks, I will tell you it sucks.' If we are not honest with them, no one else will be."

Sports writers sat with the nine participants and helped them focus and edit their articles. Sobiyeva said, "You sit down and start writing right away. You are really working under pressure. It's stress-

ful and fun at the same time."

Clark said the deputy sports editor at *The Daily News*, Jim Rich, gave them tips on writing and had them delete every adjective in their articles. Eustachewich said, "It was just the facts, no flowery words, no big vocabulary."

Each participant got hands on experience and met drivers and owners. They also got a chance to visit the offices of *Sport Illustrated* and meet other sports writers like Bill Gallo, the award winning sports cartoonist for *The Daily News*.

At the Meadowlands, they sat in the press box with other reporters, walked around the paddock and met trainers. They got to ride in a sulky with a driver, Eustachewich explained. "You got a feeling for what it is like to go around the track, although it's not as fast as the driver goes during a race." She delicately mentioned that the horse "went number two" while driving around the track. "Not a lot of people can say they've had that experience," she said.

Clark wrote about Pampered Princess, the only filly in the race, for *The Daily News* and *Hoof Beats Magazine*. Eustachewich's two articles for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* focused on Adrian Chip, the second place winner owned by former Philadelphia Flyers center Peter Forsberg. Sobiyeva wrote about the winner of the Hambletonian, Donato Hanover, for *The Asbury Park Press*.

Eustachewich had the most difficult assignment of all, because her focus was on Forsberg, who did not arrive at the track until just before the race. "Lia had to write an advance without any quotes," Little said, "but she found a way to make it work." After Forsberg arrived, Little and Eustachewich walked into his private hotel suite and introduced themselves to get an interview. Little said reporters have to be willing to track people down

and ask questions to get the story.

None of the three Baruch juniors had any prior exposure to harness racing. Clark said that before the workshop, she did not even like horses. "Being in the harness racing community was fun. It's very tight knit. I really learned a lot from it," she said. Sobiyeva also said that meeting so many people opened up unique perspectives on racing.

Clyde Hirt, for whom the workshop is named, had a long career as a harness racing writer. He wrote for several New York papers including *The New York Mirror*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Sports Eye* and *The New York Times*. In 1987 he was named a U.S. Harness Writers Association Hall of Fame reporter. Little described Hirt as the quintessential New York harness racing writer.

Known for wearing bow ties and sports coats resembling sofa covers, Hirt worked hard to get the story. "He was always involved, always doing something. He was one of the first people to come up and help you and rally behind you," Little said. After his death, the United States Harness Writers' Association decided to honor Hirt by naming the workshop after him.

Little described the workshop as a labor of love for all of the writers, editors and other members of the racing community. She said, "The event is done with the kindness of sports editors across the country." She calls sports editors from other papers to get bylines for students. Even the Meadowlands contributes to the workshop by paying for hotel rooms and providing a place to meet. Little said that she and other writers are passionate about what they do and want to share their knowledge and experience. All three Baruch students said what they learned was invaluable. Clark added, "It was the best experience of my life."

Textbook prices are on the rise

□ CONTINUED FROM FRONT

paper, printing, editorial costs (32.1 cents). Then come federal, state, local and sales taxes (9.9 cents) followed by marketing costs (15.3 cents) and publisher's income (7.0 cents). Next is the author's income, which comes out to 11.6 cents. Finally, the college bookstore takes 1.7 cents for freight expense, 7.2 cents for store operations, 10.8 cents for store personnel and 4.4 cents for store income.

Although informative, this breakdown still does not explain why with every year textbook prices go up. The Government Accountability Office attributes these changes to the addition of supplemental materials such as CDs, passwords for online websites and study guides. An executive director for higher education at the Association of American Publishers, on the other side, blames it on "small press runs" and an "incredibly expensive" production process.

With the increasing number of complaints coming from students and their families, publishers have tried to defend their actions at a Capitol Hill briefing by mentioning their programs "that can hold prices down." Students are provided with various formats of the textbook material, which "can save them hundreds of dollars by the end of an academic year." Yet no solution was

offered for what to do about used editions, which in most cases cannot be sold back for more than half of their original price if the current semester's class is already using the new edition.

Baruch students, along with many others across the country, have often taken the matter into their own hands by using various social networking websites, online classified listings (theticker.campusave.com, facebook.com, bigwords.com and halfpricebooks.com to name a few). Or, there is the old fashioned way of putting up flyers on the display boards located across the express elevators of the Vertical Campus. The last method, however, is avoided by those who prefer not to reveal their private email addresses or cell phone numbers to the whole school.

As yet another school year begins, it seems like this problem will not go away anytime soon. Whether you will exchange textbooks with your fellow students, spend extra time on a bargain hunt or eventually give up and purchase a full-priced edition, the situation is not completely hopeless. For more facts and tips or to find out how to make your voice matter, you can join the "Campaign To Reduce College Textbooks Costs" by visiting maketextbooksaffordable.org.

With the increasing number of complaints coming from students and their families, publishers have tried to defend their actions at a Capitol Hill briefing by mentioning their programs "that can hold prices down."

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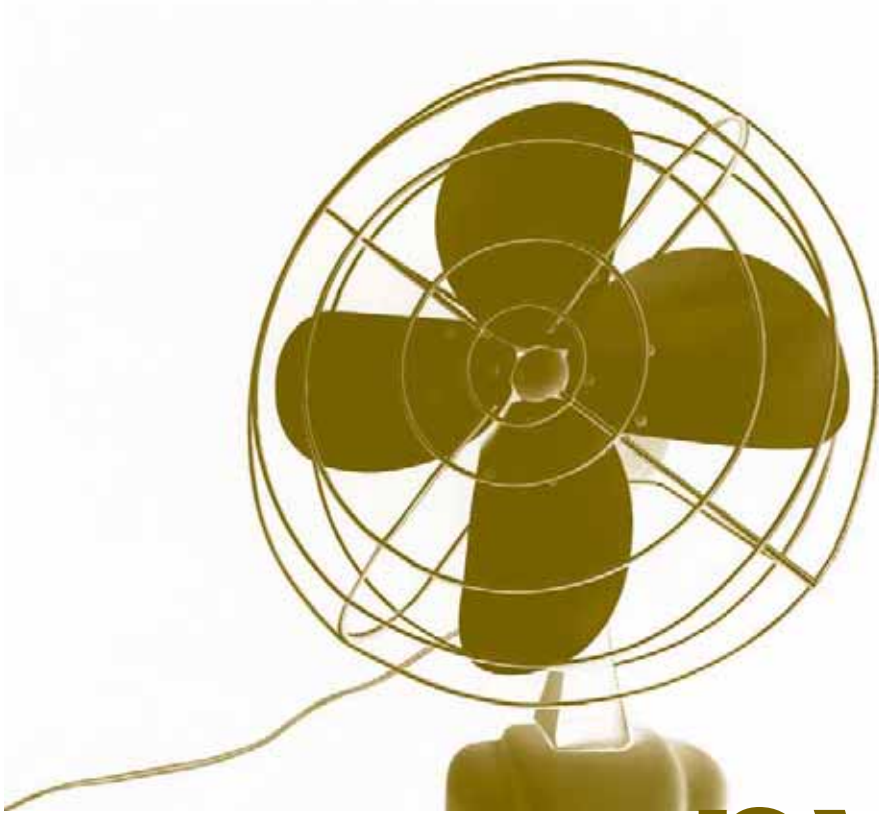


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Opinion

Welcome, freshmen, to Baruch College!

You might already know that our college has been ranked the most ethnically diverse in the U.S. The magnitude of this honorable ranking didn't mean much to me until two weeks ago, as I was stuffing the summer edition of The Ticker into envelopes addressed to you.

The diversity of names that were passing through my hands was profound; no two names were even remotely similar.

Given your individual uniqueness and distinct backgrounds, you will have a variety of opinions. They might be on your experiences here at Baruch or they might pertain to national or world issues. Whatever the case may be, speak up! We're dying to hear what's on your mind.

Get it off your chest, freshmen. Send your opinion articles to tickeroped@gmail.com.

Have a happy and successful first year!

P.S. My opinion? Forget beer. The true cause of the "Freshmen 15" is the Baruch cafeteria.



LIA EUSTACHEWICH

LETTER FROM THE OPINION EDITOR

Barry Bonds: The grim reaper of quality baseball

KELLIE CLARK

On August 7, Barry Bonds hit home run number 756 and single-handedly brought thousands to their feet.

In the same instance, he cast a shadow on America's favorite past time and forever tainted the home run record originally held by Hank Aaron.

For me, a true fan of the sport, the day that Bonds became the "Home Run King" was synonymous with the desecration of baseball.

As he triumphantly ran the bases after blasting a solo shot off of Nationals left-handed pitcher Mike Bacsik, he ruined the notion of baseball in the minds of its next generation fans.

In a sport that has slowly been taken over by steroid suspicions, I cringe at the thought of the future of this beloved game.

I can only imagine the disappointment that the remaining legends of baseball feel when they see the corruption that takes place among some of the sport's current players.

Even though Aaron prepared a taped speech for when his record was broken, he must not have been too pleased to see that record taken from him by steroid-induced Bonds.

With the abuse of steroids that currently



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clouds over baseball, I have sullenly accepted the fact that I will never watch the game the same way my father and grandfather did. I will never turn on the television and see another Hank Aaron, Joe DiMaggio or Willie Mays get up to bat without wondering if steroids influenced their stellar performance.

The future of baseball is in the hands of the current Little Leaguers who have grown

up with the controversies of performance-enhancing drugs instead of the respect and admiration that past generations have held for the sport's most esteemed players.

The fight over whether or not Bonds deserves to hold this record will continue — most likely to no resolve — and I will continue to feel shame for the sport, its players and for the future of baseball.

Hey Rev, leave the judging up to God



TONY GUTIERREZ | AP

Kathleen Wright holding a picture of her late brother Cecil Howard Sinclair, a U.S. Navy veteran.

DAVID PAULINO

I was recently appalled by an Associated Press article titled "Church Learns Vet Was Gay, Cancels Memorial."

The story involved a Texas mega-church that "cancelled a memorial service 24 hours before it was to start because the deceased was gay."

Church pastor Rev. Gary Simons stated, "We did decline to host the service — not

based on hatred, not based on discrimination, but based on principle."

He alleges that prior to the abrupt cancellation, the church was not aware that the Navy Vet, Cecil Howard Sinclair, was gay, and only became aware of his sexuality after watching a tribute video that showed him and other men showing affection for one another.

Sinclair's sister believes Reverend Simon was aware of her brother's sexuality. So, a man can die for his country and its ideals, yet they cannot hold a proper funeral service for him?

Sinclair's sister, Kathleen Wright, vehemently believes that Reverend Simon was indeed aware of her brother's sexuality.

So, a man can die for his country and its ideals, including the right for churches to exist, yet they cannot hold a proper funeral ser-

vice for him?

Although I am definitely not the greatest theologian in the history of Christianity, wasn't it Christ who stated, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself?"

How are Rev. Simon's actions and statements in accordance with the love Christ taught us, through his own testimonial life?

When Rev. Simons says, "Even though we could not condone that lifestyle, we went above and beyond for the family through many acts of love and kindness (in offering to pay for another service site)," does he truly believe himself?

Doesn't the Bible state that only God can

judge a person? When a person begins to judge and exclude people from the gates of Heaven in the name of God they are ostensibly playing the role of God, which is blasphemy.

According to the Bible, 2 Corinthians 5:10 states:

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Given that, we should pray that God has mercy on judgmental, pseudo-Christians like Rev. Gary Simons, for preaching the bigot message of exclusiveness.

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Letters must be signed and will appear as space permits. The word limit is 400 words. Essays must be 300 - 600 words. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity. The author's name is usually published but may be withheld for compelling reasons, at the editor's discretion.

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The Ticker is published weekly by the Ticker editorial staff at:
One Bernard Baruch Way
Suite 3-290
New York, NY 10010

All work except printing is done by Baruch students. All contributions and letters are welcome. Our office is open during regular school hours. Any display or advertising questions

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Classifieds

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Business

Fed eases discount rate, volatility contracts

Investors wait on economic stats for confirmation

BY EMMANUEL ONYENYILI
AD MANAGER

Although Wall Street was hoping for a rate cut, the Fed has kept citing concerns about inflation, which they see as the economy's main enemy. The Fed proceeded two days later with a short-term infusion of liquidity by adding billions to the banking system via mortgage-backed securities to calm the credit crisis, stabilize the system and stop the bleeding we have seen in these markets.

The Fed also explained their discount rate cut saying, "Financial market conditions have deteriorated and tighter credit conditions and increased uncertainty have the potential to restrain economic growth." Simply put, many economists argue the recently popped housing bubble was a product of easy and loose money under former Fed chairman Alan Greenspan and cutting rates would light a fire under inflation and potentially cause another bubble in the housing or financial markets.

Observers also point out that cutting rates in the midst of this credit crisis and sub prime fallout would be seen as a sign of panic by the Fed and may give further credence to the severity of troubles in the sub prime space. Furthermore, it may send the wrong message to some hedge funds involved in the credit and mortgage markets that might expect a monetary safety net or a bailout.

One of the main causes that have led to the current credit crisis involves the expansionary monetary policies that are currently in place. This is illustrated by worldwide interest rates that are still below nominal GDP growth. This isn't Zimbabwe and the Fed should not act like Mr. Mugabe, who solves problems by printing more money and now has an infla-



FEDERAL RESERVE

Trends of Federal Funds and Discount rates.

tion rate above 7,634%.

Thus far we have only an 8 percent correction in the Dow from its 2007 peak. In a similar trend the S&P 500 just went into the red for the year on Aug. 15. From a historical perspective, this is a very minor correction. In 1998 the market dropped 22 percent; in 1987 it dropped 40 percent. Although it might cost Wall Street in the short run, a lack of Fed intervention via a rate cut may help normalize the level of volatility in the markets, help to accurately reprise assets and readjust investor's attitudes towards risk. This will not only provide a rein against future inflation, it can also help the Fed gain further effectiveness and control.

If this market crisis has taught a lesson, it is simply that investors are no longer familiar with downside volatility, they only want upside volatility. Investors have also forgotten that a major drop in the market every once in a while is healthy. Consider that on July 16 and 17 the market peaked and four days later the market experienced numerous yearly lows. An incursion of that many lows right after a peak is highly unusual and proves that there is a major disruption in the markets. In brief, some sanity needs to be restored back into the system. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson in an Aug. 12 interview with CNBC's Maria Bartiromo put it best, "more broadly when you look at the market, there's been

a reassessment of risk. Risk is being re-priced...credit is being re-priced, that's what happens when there's a wake up call and when there's excesses."

Even after leaving the fed funds rate unchanged, while citing inflation concerns the Fed acknowledged that the U.S. economy has slowed due to the slumping housing market. After a surprise Aug. 17 announcement in which they cut the discount rate by 50 basis points to 5.75 "to promote the restoration of orderly conditions in financial markets," they noted that the downside risks to growth has increased "appreciably" from "somewhat" as they had stated after their Aug. 7 meeting.

In Fed language, that is a significant difference. This indicates that the Fed has to acknowledge this "appreciable" increase with more than just words and is downgrading their economic forecast. The current fed funds rate is restrictive and ultimately inconsistent with the Fed's growth forecast. It is now clear that this is not just a Wall Street issue; there is a contagion effect on Main Street. It is an observed fact that many bond markets it appears has already priced in a cut or two (discounted) and some observers point out that the Fed might already be playing catch up. In addition, as a consequence of overloading the reserves, the fed funds rate was trading south of the target as of Aug. 17. In 2003, the

Fed tied the discount rate to the fed funds target rate at 100 basis points (1 percent) higher; the difference is now 50 bps.

With 23 percent of total outstanding marketable debt at the end of 2006, the mortgage-backed securities market is the largest segment of the U.S. bond market. Therefore, the increased risk aversion that the sub prime component of the MBS segment can have across the fixed income market should not be underestimated.

No one really has a full scope of how bad the sub prime loans are, how "over rated" the mortgage backed bonds are, how big the fallout could get and how many more victims it may claim. We do know that the effect is global, from the Bear Sterns Hedge Funds to France's BNP Paribas investment funds. Even two Australian hedge fund groups, Absolute Capital and Basis Capital, had to temporarily freeze fund redemptions as a result of news that it was exposed to sub primes. IKB Deutsche Industriebank is exposed to sub primes while AIG recently revealed it also holds 28.7 billion in sub prime securities.

Previously announced Private Equity deals are now stuck because banks that have promised financing for the mega private equity deals are "hung", as a famous former Wall Street trader wisely put it. The hedge, stock, mutual and bond funds that are supposed to buy the high yield bonds issued to close the private equity deals are too illiquid to buy anything. Meanwhile, credit agencies S&P, Moody's and Fitch continue to downgrade a slew of securities subject to a collapse in sub prime mortgage assets.

Is there a chance that the Fed will not cut rates in the next meeting? There is always a chance. The financial markets can settle down and economic statistics might get stronger. Thus far, Bernanke & Co. has been on top of the situation; they are changing in response to shifting information and the inconspicuous transparency in their statements has been a welcome change.

Detroit shifts out of reverse

BY EMMANUEL ONYENYILI
AD MANAGER

Last summer, the auto and housing industry were at the top of the lists of industries that national economists believed may send the economy on a downward spiral, with many predicting that rising oil prices would accentuate the struggles of Detroit's automakers in their battle with their more nimble and cost efficient foreign counterparts.

Fast forward a year to the summer of 2007 and not only did the ongoing sub prime mortgage debacle help unravel the housing market, the ripple effects in the credit markets that led to the end of easy money may just prove to be a major turning point in the economy, especially if the feds fail to relieve the pressure by leaving rates unchanged through the end of 2007.

Almost forgotten by the markets is the other struggling industry, the auto industry and for good reason; Detroit automakers are getting back on track. More specifically, after seven consecutive quarterly losses and a dwindling market share, Ford managed to surprise Wall Street by delivering

second quarter net profit of \$750m, or 31 cents a share in the midst of a volatile July market and a overall tame earnings season. Compared to last year, Ford reported a \$317m loss and lost a total of \$12.7 billion in 2006.

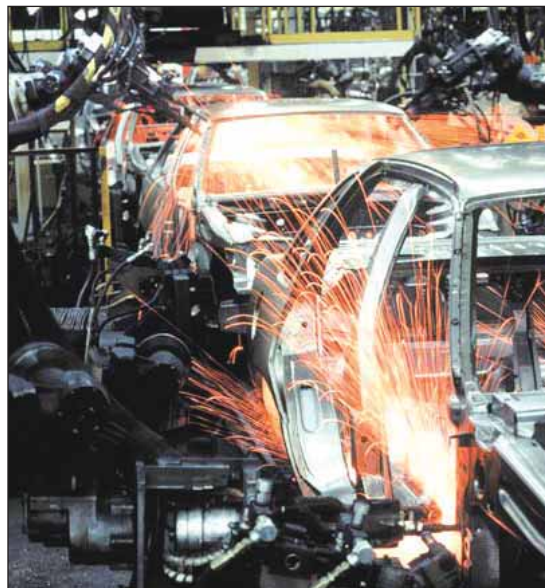
When William Clay Ford Jr. recruited Boeing's former senior vice president Alan R. Mulally to lead Ford's reorganization, the Boeing exec said, "At the top of the list, I would put dealing with reality." And the reality was that sales were falling at most of Ford's divisions. Ford, Mercury, Lincoln, Jaguar and Land Rover sales were barely in the green. Mulally, who was integral in leading Boeing to a successful recovery after the crises that plagued the airline industry after Sept. 11, has implemented a "less is more" approach that seems to be working and most importantly, he has Ford efficiently executing its plans.

Mulally also realizes that competing with foreign automakers like Toyota, Honda and Nissan meant cutting cost. Ford's cost cutting plan announced earlier this year involves eliminating 44,000 jobs and closing 16 plants by 2012. Ford also believes that returning to its roots as an innovator within the industry will lead it back to its glo-

ry days as one of Americas most successful companies. It has borrowed \$23.5 billion to help finance accelerated product development. If you own Ford stock, don't expect to see any dividends till 2013. This is due to a loan provision which impedes Ford from declaring dividends until the loan is completely repaid, or until 2013.

The quarterly profit is stepping in the right direction, but the challenges facing the automaker are still substantial. Health care and pension costs, rising steel and gas prices and a sliding U.S. market share are major concerns.

Ford's "less is more" strategy is also evident in its sale of its Aston Martin sports car division in March and decision to entertain bids for other foreign brands under its belt. Several reports suggest that Ford is



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A Ford assembly plant in Ontario.

close to selling its Jaguar and Land Rover units, while Volvo might also be gone by winter's end. This strategy would return Ford to its mass-market manufacturing roots and place it in a much better position to fend off its foreign competitors. While any claims that Ford would maintain positive earnings for the remainder of the year would be pure speculation, it's safe to assume that Ford is definitely dealing with reality.

CAREER CORNER

BE CAREER DAY: PREPARE TO MEET YOUR POTENTIAL EMPLOYER

BY SUSANA GOMEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall Career Day is coming on Sept. 28, and over 56 companies will be looking to recruit students from all majors. Organized each semester by the Starr Career Development Center (SCDC), the Career Day basically gives you the chance to meet potential employers, tell them about your interest in their company and your strengths as a candidate, and network with those who are already in the industry. In previous years, companies have reported to prefer Baruch students because of their exposure to diversity, strong academic background and professionalism. When attending the Career Day, the key word is preparation:

Prepare your resume. All students are welcome to attend the fair, including those who graduated in June and August, but the one thing you should bring with you is at least 20 copies of your updated resume. The SCDC normally offers one-on-one resume reviews by appointment and will be hosting a Resume Rush on Sept. 25 to help students in a first-come first-served basis to polish their resume.

Prepare to talk to the recruiters. You can look at it from two angles. First, you need to know about the companies you will be talking to. The SCDC recently launched Starr Search, a new online system that helps you find and apply for internships and jobs, and also offers tons of other career related opportunities. When you log into Starr Search, you can look for the list of companies that will be attending the fall Career Day.

Having an idea of which companies you are interested in is vital because employers expect that you have done a little research — such as at least visiting their website to know what they do. You can also log into the SCDC homepage and watch recruiters who attended previous fairs speak of their expectations from the students who come to the Career Day.

The other part of preparing to talk to the recruiters is about having something to say about yourself. For instance, think of your reasons for choosing your major and pursuing your present career. This will help you develop your personal pitch: a brief introduction of yourself that tells about your accomplishments and goals. Also, don't forget that wearing business attire is a requirement. Your appearance will help you convey the professional image you have been working on.

Having attended a Career Fair myself, I should also stress that you want to prepare to be relaxed. Once you feel confident that you know the companies that interest you and that you know what you want to tell them about yourself, you can come to the Career Fair looking to meet people who already have experience in the fields that interest you — these conversations can give you insight into the world of work that you couldn't gain anywhere else.

Check for upcoming Job-Fair Preparation Workshops at the SCDC, in VC 2-150

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Features

From the capital of the world to the capital of the state

Baruch's own visits the assembly

BY NIR C. BUCHLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Churchill once said that “democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” As I was heading to Albany for a semester internship at the New York State Assembly on January 1, 2007, I kept in mind this quote. Albany used to be labeled by some as the most dysfunctional system in the country. On the same day at 6 a.m., newly elected Governor Spitzer was running in Washington Park in Albany with the slogan that “On day one everything changes.”

So, we, the 160 interns of the New York State Assembly program, we knew that we were coming to Albany in a historical time.

Every year, students from colleges across New York State, intern at the New York legislators office.

The internship is competitive (students usually are given 12 to 15 credits by their colleges) and remunerated (interns are provided with a stipend of \$4,140).

They are given meaningful tasks, in fact, past interns have become legislators, key players in executive offices or lobbyists.

Following a week of orientation each intern is assigned to an Assemblymember office. The staff of the program is careful in placing interns so that the interest of interns and the demand from offices are met.

For instance, upon my request I interned for the Assemblymember of the district where I live (and where Baruch College is located) and I enjoyed great responsibilities because of limited staff resources for freshman legislators.

Besides responsibilities in their offices, interns are required to attend a one-hour class per week.

I had the opportunity to attend a class taught by Professor Desfosse, who used to serve as the Presi-

dent of the Council of Albany and is a renowned journalist and scholar. Certainly, those classes helped us to understand the dynamics of New York State Politics.

In addition, interns have to attend weekly forums featuring distinguished speakers.

As interns were getting used to their tasks in their office, the Albany session was by all accounts very different from the past years.

New York State is unique in the sense that the Governor is very powerful. In fact, some New York governors have used Albany as a stepping stone to become U.S. Presidents. In parallel, the legislature can counterbalance the executive power.

Hence, it is not uncommon to witness a struggle of powers between the Republican Senate the Democratic Assembly and the Governor.

January and February have usually been months with low political activity in Albany, but this year we witnessed a heavy exchange between the legislature and the executive power on who to pick to replace the State comptroller.

As the legislative process went along with intensive budget negotiations and an interesting agenda of reforms, interns were assigned important tasks by their office. Some represented their Assemblymember in meetings; they greeted and wrote to constituents.

Many of us worked on bills, tracked sponsors and wrote bill memos but for many, the momentum of the internship was the mock session.

During the mock session process, interns met in conference and introduced real bills that were introduced by their respective legislators.

Those bills went through committees that interns attended and then a few bills were introduced to the floor.

Each intern strictly represented the Assemblymember of his or her office. Thus, interns who were supposed to replicate the legislative process were not supposed to rep-



NIR BUCHLER | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

The New York State Assembly building in Albany, NY.

resent their personal ideas but the opinions and vote of their legislators.

Interns then had the opportunity to use the Assembly chamber for three hours, sit at their legislator seat, represent, debate and vote.

This year, we intensively debated on a resolution on Iraq, a bill on sex education, a bill on TAP aid to students and a bill on emergency contraception.

As a political science major I thought that this practical experience was unique.

The program is not restricted to political science majors and every student can apply to the program.

Students interested in the program can contact Nir Buchler at nb059877@baruch.cuny.edu.



NIR BUCHLER | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

The reporter at work for New York City Assemblyman Brian P. Kavanagh.

Imus fallout resurrects painful memories for Long Island teacher

BY DENNIS MATRIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After being canned earlier this year for calling the Rutgers female basketball team “nappy-headed hos”, rumor has it that radio personality Don Imus is heading back to the airwaves. But, according to one of his advocates, the “shock jock’s” firing from CBS should have never happened.

“I do not think Imus is racist at all” exclaimed Ruth McCloskey. “He has helped many different people... he should have been suspended.”

McCloskey’s support for the shock jock comes as no surprise. Last spring, the Don Imus fallout felt like déjà vu for the former Brooklyn educator.

Back in 1998, the ex-Bushwick teacher made national headlines when she unwittingly sparked a racial firestorm for introducing her third grade class to a book titled “Nappy Hair” to her inner-city students, but her unorthodox way of teaching ignited fiery responses. Some branded her a racist while others called for her dismissal, eerily reminiscent of the Imus fall-

out.

“The Imus incident did stir up old, painful memories. But the two [situations] are very different,” she countered. “Imus is an entertainer, hired to be a ‘shock jock.’ I had the best of intentions.”

That purpose was to build self-acceptance in appearances. “My goal was to have each and every student feel good about whom they were and how they looked,” -while boosting reading scores.

But what was supposed to be a lesson in both literacy and self-acceptance turned out to be an education in intolerance. McCloskey, who is Caucasian, became the victim of death threats by some vocal members of the African-American community, culminating in her abrupt departure from PS 75.

“The protesting members of the community had the principal call Ruth down...where they bombarded her with vulgar insults and physically chased her out into the street,” recalled “Nappy Hair” author Carolivia Herron.

“Nappy Hair”, meaning coarse or unkempt hair, tells the story of a young girl named Brenda who de-

lights in stories told by her Uncle Mordecai about her “squeezed up, knotted up” hair.

The work is loosely based on the author’s own experience of listening to childhood “nappy hair” stories. Herron, who wears an afro and describes her own childhood coil as “possibly the nappiest in the world,” said she never had misgivings about its title.

And according to Herron, the idiom is often used derisively within the African-American community. So when a white schoolteacher assigned the reading, Herron believes the protestors’ vehement reaction was partly due to a misunderstanding. McCloskey might have used the phrase objectionably like Imus.

“Actually he used the adjective, ‘nappy-headed,” Herron clarified, which “is more likely to be insulting than the words ‘nappy hair’ because [the term “nappy-headed”] turns a human being into an object,” she said.

Insulted by Imus’ comments, Herron wrote an Opinions article for cnn.com titled “Nappy hair is beautiful, calling names isn’t,” where she addressed his remarks

in the voice of her “Nappy Hair” creation, Uncle Mordecai.

“They linked my precious little Brenda’s nappy cool hair with filth and just plain meanness,” reads an excerpt. That’s no way to do!”

Though the former English professor defended McCloskey’s usage of her book 9 years ago as a way to boost confidence and literacy to her students, “Nappy Hair” was not penned for children, but rather for graduate students of epic poetry at Harvard University.

It was the tome’s “call and response” format said McCloskey that made it such a favorite of the students, she asked her then boyfriend to make photocopies for each child.

Herron believes the duplicated materials, which heightened the characters’ complexions, making them appear dramatically darker and consequently unearthing memories of long-buried racist caricatures such as “black -face” and “the mammy doll,” where blacks were depicted charcoal in color, added to the controversy.

“These same people never apologized,” added McCloskey, who

never returned to P.S. 75 despite being asked back by school officials after their investigation concluded her suspension was unjustified.

“I was afraid to return to that school,” said McCloskey. “It would be sending an erroneous message to the children — ‘I’m in the classroom trying to teach about loving one another — no matter what the culture or color — but pay no mind to the security guard that has to escort me to my car because I’ve gotten threats from your neighbors!’”

Despite the troubling torment, McCloskey never gave up teaching. And although the ordeal remains an ugly chapter in the schoolteacher’s life, like the fairy tale stories she assigns, there’s a happy ending.

“I have been married for nearly 8 years [and] I have two fabulous boys,” said the Long Island mom who now considers Herron to be part of that extended clan.

“Carolivia is like family to me. We suffered something together and that created an instant bond,” she said. “I represented something special to her — her story — a part of her being.”

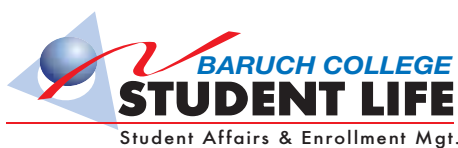
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Cross dressing for faith, a mullah in drags

In A glimpse inside the Red Mosque turmoil in Pakistan

BY TABASSUM ALI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A pro-Taliban mullah was arrested by police in Pakistani capital Islamabad early July. Mullah Abdul Aziz was trying to escape from a besieged Lal Masjid Mosque, also known as the Red Mosque, where a crowd of students under his leadership demanded an installment of Islamic Sharia Law. The administration of the mosque announced the enforcement of Islamic laws in the federal capital and threatened to unleash a wave of suicide bombers if the government took any action to counter it. "Our youth will commit suicide attacks if the government impedes the enforcement of the Sharia and attacks Lal Masjid and its sister seminaries," Abdul Aziz, then in-charge of the mosque, warned during a Friday sermon in April. But the radical leader's attempt to flee in a strange way — wearing a traditional women's veil — has unmasked him and his movement.

Abdul Aziz was born to a conservative Islamic leader, Mullah Abdullah. Before his death, Abdullah led the Red Mosque and became a devoted supporter of the Taliban and the al Qaeda chief Osama bin

Laden. Abdul Aziz's younger brother, Maulana Abdul Rashid Ghazi, confessed to the media that the father had special ties with bin Laden and the two had met on several occasions. After Abdullah died, his sons took over the running of the mosque along with two madrasas; Jamia Hafsa for female students and Jamia Fareedia for men. As the new leaders of congregation, Abdul Rashid Ghazi and Abdul Aziz continued preaching an uncompromising and extreme form of Islam.

However, many Pakistanis are skeptical about their ideas. "Most of these radical extremists have no affinity to Islam or Muslims," says Salman Ahmad, Pakistani rock star who now teaches at Queens College in New York. "They are interested only in bringing attention and power to themselves."

It's true that the current government, and all the governments before it, going back to the rule of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, have varying responsibilities in getting the situation to this dire stage. It's also true that the recent turmoil in the Red Mosque might help the government in the very short term. The stand-off at Lal Masjid might provide a distraction from the Chief Justice fiasco, while also reminding many Pakistanis who no longer support the current president Gen. Pervez Musharraf why they supported him before. As for Lal Masjid itself, a little bit of history lesson would help con-

textualize what has happened.

Mullah Abdullah was close to the late Pakistani ruler General Zia. During the time of the Soviet occupation in Afghanistan, Lal Masjid became a favored conduit for sending the "mujahideen" fighters to this country, and also Kashmir. It's also widely believed that the mosque's leadership offered patronage to several sectarian groups such as the banned Sipah-e-Sahaba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Harkatul Mujahideen. Even during the July stand-off, as President Musharraf publicly stated, several members of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad were hiding in the compound and helping the two brothers.

The question that should be on everyone's minds, however, is which government, past or present, need to answer for the July turmoil? Why was the situation allowed to come to this? Why was not the jihadi manufacturing machine fueled by extremist seminaries and mosques such as Lal Masjid, which were not reined in, but kept on a tight leash? The role of students who took refuge in the besieged Red Mosque should hopefully attract public and media scrutiny on the role played by madrasa towards fostering extremist views in Pakistan. Of course, a solution to this problem is not easy since it involves the decrepit and crumbling mainstream education system, but these are all questions and issues that need answers and



OLIVIER MATTHYS | EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Radical cleric Abdul Aziz was arrested wearing a burqa (shown above).

introspection.

The final analysis of the drama that played out in Islamabad is much bigger than this government or its health. This is about what Pakistan is and is going to be. To confuse what has happened in Islamabad with the mere machinations of a few clerics or the survival tactics of government types is not only to miss the point. It could very well mean missing the boat on something that will influence the future of both the state and society.

Abdul Aziz and his staff

attempted to establish a parallel judicial system, much like the Taliban did in Afghanistan. But after being captured, the cleric faced charges of murder, kidnapping and obstruction of justice. Pakistanis like Salman Ahmad saw his attempted escape in a veil as something more than a run from prosecution. Escaping in a burqa shows you how cowardly these men of 'absolute faith' really are," says Ahmad. "They are a shame and disgrace to all Muslims."

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Leisure

Avoid the Freshman 15

□ Steer clear of weight gain by monitoring what you eat, exercising and sleeping well

BY DANA ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

It's the beginning of another school year and a new freshman class enters. Below are a few tips for incoming frosh (and neglectful upperclassmen) to avoid gaining the dreaded "freshman fifteen".

- Planning is key. With proper planning, you can keep the weight off and even lose some if necessary.

- Look for free time in your schedule.

Most people don't have classes that run back to back. Use some time between classes to head to the gym. You can also use the week-ends as a supplement.

- Be spontaneous. Baruch offers a variety of ways to exercise. You can play a game of hackey-sack, head to the game room for table ping-pong, or play soccer, basketball, or racquetball in the gyms. The only true limit is your imagination.

- Try to limit fast foods to two or three times per week.

Most of these foods are laden with unnecessary saturated fat and calories. For example, a Big Mac



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Don't pig out. Be conscious of all food intake.

from McDonald's contains 540 calories and 29 grams of fat—almost half the recommended daily amount. Yes, there are other sandwiches and burgers, but even a measly hamburger and small fries will set you back 500 calories with 22 grams of fat. If absolutely unavoidable, a better choice might be a sandwich from Subway (easy on the mayo!) or a wrap.

- Go easy on the vices. The average beer has 150 calories. While smoking may suppress your appetite in the short run, in the long run it will make exercising harder, not to mention give you yellow teeth and a variety of health problems.

- Get enough sleep. Skimping on sleep messes with your metabolism, and generally makes you a grumpier person.

- Don't skip breakfast! Skipping breakfast decreases your metabolism. In addition, you will probably eat more during the day to compensate. Breakfast also helps you stay more alert during the day, which is always useful in school and work.

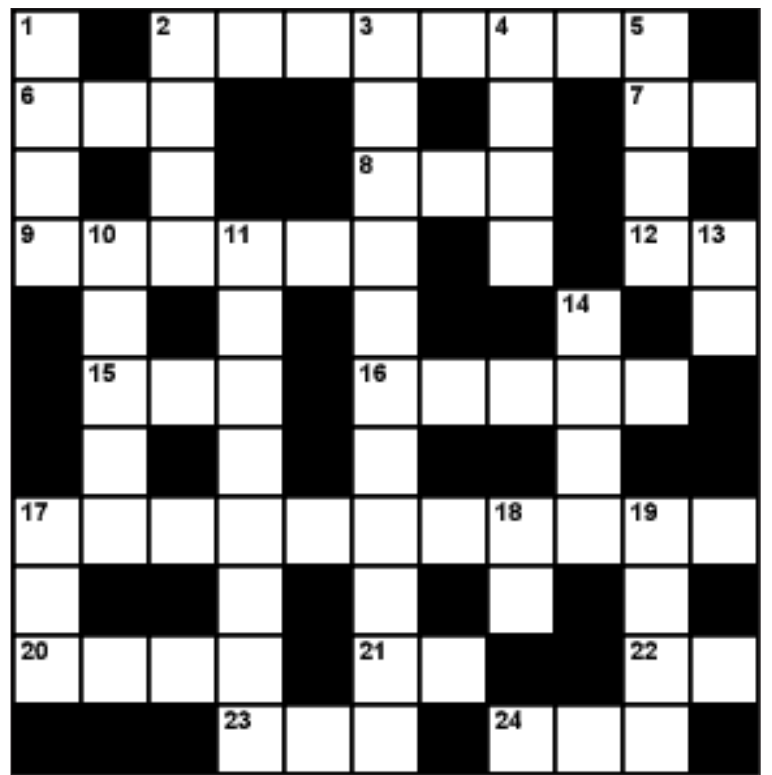
- Cheat every once in a while. If you don't treat yourself to what you like at least a few times, you'll go crazy. Just remember, balance is the key: don't pig out

Test your smarts with this puzzle

Across
 2. _____ lupine
 6. Your sun-sparkled body, _____, makes me drool
 7. Counties get _____ to hay CRP land (MT)
 8. Forest service manager not preserving _____ Padres
 9. (Ed. note: And it all started with taxpayer _____ research to benefit sheep ranchers. Bah, Bahh, Bahhh, Humbug!)
 12. southwest
 15. Rancher Pleads Guilty: Score one for _____ evidence
 16. Comparing _____ With Lewis and Clark
 17. Program Director, Utah Environmental Congress
 20. Dead fish _____ the low-flowing Klamath
 21. Brumley Ridge Allotment, Manti-_____ Sal National Forest, UT: soil erosion, invasive plants, loss of native biodiversity, high forage utilization by cattle--this allotment has it all!
 22. The 26_____ Annual Public Land Law Conference, March 13-15, 2003, Missoula MT
 23. In my mind I _____

24. Fish and Wildlife Service
Down
 1. cow-pasture pool
 2. ranch income
 3. Aquila chrysaetos canadensis
 4. Ranchers whom I like _____ by
 5. Ravenous _____ have farmers hopping mad
 10. Bastion of Ecological Literacy _____ Siege: Our Public Schools
 11. Wildlife Line Art (Black-and-White) _____
 13. May 29, 1848 state
 14. An Open Letter to the Sierra Club Board of Directors in support of a "_____Cud" Conservation Policy
 17. Denver, CO enviros
 18. Santa _____ National Forest orders cows removed from range
 19. Alberta ranchers stuck in similar _____

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Positive Thinking

A new view for a new semester

BY CHANDRESH BHARDWAJ
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the semester starts, we all have various expectations, hopes, frustrations, and so many other emotions associated with this four month period.

There will be times when you feel that you are the best, while there will be times you will be too depressed to even think about anything. Well, that's student life!

No matter what we do, we all have our share of ups and downs.

To deal with various situations that might arise, I have come up with some suggestions for my fellow students to help them keep it going strong and smooth through the semester.

- Take it easy! Don't let minor things ruin your peace of mind. Strive for the best but don't cling to the results.

If you get good results, great, but if you don't get what you were expecting, don't stick with that for too long.

Life is changing every second. You may be missing hundreds of other opportunities while you dwell on your loss.

- Remember, you all are starting your semester with 'A' grades. Brian Tracy, a motivational speaker, said that all students start their semester with 'A' grades.

The careless things they do are what take away their points little



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by little, and thus they end up getting less than 'A' grades.

Just keep this thought in your mind on your first day of class, and you can get 'A's' in the classes you are taking.

Simply make sure that you don't do anything that would take away your well deserved 'A'

- Set a clear goal for the semester.

Have you ever tried to go somewhere without really knowing where? If so, you probably know that you end up nowhere.

In the same way, on the first day, make it very clear what you

want from this semester. Is it getting good grades or obtaining a competitive internship? Is it actively participating in some club or making new acquaintances?

After you decide exactly what you are looking for, make sure that everyday you are doing something towards achieving your goal.

Before you go to sleep, ask yourself what you have done today to add towards your goal for this semester.

At the same time, make a plan for what you are going to do tomorrow to reach your target.

- Look for your best friend: Humor.

Last but not least, make sure that you laugh wholeheartedly.

Most of us don't need a reason to be depressed, we need a reason to be happy.

Life is too short and too beautiful to even think of sad events. Let go of your frustrations.

Accept life as it comes and try to take advantage of every situation you encounter. All the best!

Students are welcome to e-mail their comments, questions and requests for peer counseling to Chandresh Bhardwaj at cbh2207@gmail.com.

Past "Positive Thinking" articles are available at theticker.org.

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Arts

A tragedy well done, Romeo & Juliet

In Shakespeare in the Park presents stellar performances

BY KEN K. TSÉ
ARTS EDITOR

The Public Theatre's Summer Shakespeare Festival, also known as Shakespeare in the Park, garnered much attention this year with the production *Romeo and Juliet*, starring big names such as Lauren Ambrose (*Six Feet Under*), Camryn Manheim (*The Practice*) and Oscar Isaac (*The Nativity Story*).

On this particular night at the Delacourt Theatre in Central Park, June 20, the performance started late due to malfunctioning speakers. However, for this particular performance, perhaps it was best that it started late — the full moon was out, allowing that hint of natural light to enhance the ambience of the stage. And one cannot fully appreciate the shallow pool in the center of the stage unless it is dark and all light ripples and reflects off the water. The stage is set, and so begins Michael Greif's *Romeo and Juliet*.

This classic play has been performed countless times throughout history. Every time it is performed, the director must make crucial choices to bring about the correct feel and look with a new interpretation for every performance. While there is no correct one, Greif has certainly done some creative and marvelous things with this classic. As a feature of the stage in Central Park, the shallow pool of water serves many atmospheric purposes in this production. It creates the gritty, dirty feel for the battle scenes and a romantic appearance for the intimate scenes — truly a genius feature for the stage.

However, those not familiar with the play, or those who do not



A statue of Romeo and Juliet in Central Park.

pay attention to the first lines, will have the setting confused for Venice instead of Verona. The industrial looking bridge suspended over the pool is minimally altered to create backdrops such as Juliet's balcony, Friar Lawrence's cell and even the Capulet's tomb. With creative light-

ing and other props, one can easily imagine the various settings, despite little change on stage.

Aside from the director's interpretations of the look and feel of the play, the actors themselves must assume the personas of the characters in ways that submit to

their style. Lauren Ambrose shines as Juliet throughout the play with such passion and grace. She moves and speaks childishly as one would expect the naïve and young Juliet to do. Her lines are delivered so compellingly that one forgets that Ambrose has a deeper voice than one would expect of Juliet. Of course, Ambrose's small frame, despite having had a baby in January, helps fit her into the image of Juliet. Her scenes are executed so powerfully, especially in the difficult scenes towards the end as Juliet sheds her naivety, that murmurs could be heard from the audience from how perfectly Ambrose delivered where many others had failed.

Oscar Isaac's Romeo unfortunately takes a step down compared to Ambrose's Juliet. While Isaac moves like an idealistic lovelorn teenager, his voice is stuck on two high and low tones. He does not seem to put as much of himself in the lines as Juliet. Stealing the scenes from Romeo's side is Christopher Evan Welch as Mercutio. While looking much older than one would expect of Mercutio, when you hear his contagiously cackling laugh, you can tell Welch was perfect for this part. For the carefree fun-loving Mercutio, Welch appears like he simply stumbled out from a bar, but still ready for more. And at other times, Welch handles Mercutio like a comedian with much improvised comedic routines — true to Mercutio's comedic nature.

Almost of equal status is Juliet's answer to Romeo's Mercutio — the Nurse. Camryn Manheim unleashes the bawdiness of the Nurse, yelling and laughing incessantly, to the pleasure of the audience. The brief scene between the Nurse and Mercutio is like a rivalry between Welch and Manheim to see who can outperform the other. Their chemistry makes it arguably one of the best scenes in the play.

Lord Capulet, played by Mi-

chael Cristofer, though played well, doesn't reveal his true talent until we see Capulet unleash his fury at Juliet in Act 4. And of great disappointment is Austin Pendelton as Friar Lawrence. Although he has brief moments of passion, he seems to not do so well without Romeo by his side. Friar Lawrence seems to lack the connection so many of the other actors were able to form with the audience at first glance.

While it is difficult to produce a Shakespearean play performed with traditional renaissance costumes, Greif was careful on what to keep and what not to keep. Obviously, the rapiers were a keeper and the fights were richly choreographed. Much praise for the threeway duel between Romeo, Tybalt and Mercutio — an intense new take on the very active and energetic first scene of Act 3. Enhancing the intensity of the Act 3 battle is thanks to the pool, which gave the fights a fluid, yet gritty aesthetic. While Romeo took on a partially bohemian style of dress, most all the characters were dressed in a style reminiscent of the late 1800's. However, the female servants and citizens appeared to don dresses resembling that of renaissance women's attire.

Ideally, we can expect Greif to cut certain unnecessary lines, such as the thumb-biting and the musicians at the discovery of Juliet's "death" for pacing reasons and such, but we can forgive him for everything else he has brought to the play. It is true that the difference between live and pre-recorded performances is that in a live performance, you leave feeling closer to the story and the characters. You will feel yourself shed a tear in the action packed opening scene of Act 3, laugh hysterically at Mercutio and the Nurse's antics, and at the end, you won't want it to end.



FLICKR.COM

Hairspray: great on stage and screen

BY LIZETTE ORTIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hairspray was created in 1988 by director and writer John Waters. Twenty years later Waters let his baby go into the hands of director Adam Shankman who recreated the movie for today's generation, giving us all the rebirth of the musical — *Hairspray*.

Hairspray is a very entertaining and amusing musical that carries a great message. The main idea is the ending of racial segregation and

accepting people for who they are regardless of color, gender, or physical appearance. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed the songs and performances by the extremely talented cast which included John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Queen Latifah, Amanda Bynes, Zac Efron, Christopher Walken, James Marsden, Brittany Snow, Elijah Kelley and the star of the movie — newcomer Nicole Blonsky!

I was curious what it was like for established actors to play alongside new comers. In an interview with

James Marsden (Corny Collins) revealed that it motivated them even more. Seeing the newcomers' passion and energy made Marsden realize they are going to be the new stars on the block so he and the rest of the well known cast like Travolta and Pfeiffer had to step it up a notch to keep up with the fresh talent. The movie grabs your full attention with witty lines and endless humor.

You'll find yourself tapping your feet and singing to the music in this movie that is definitely worth catching at theaters this summer.



EONLINE.COM

John Travolta, left, and Queen Latifah in a scene from "Hairspray."

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Its all history



NEWSDAY (TOP) | ESPN (BOTTOM)

A-Rod and Tom Glavine both hit major milestones in their career.

BY STEFANIE SPARACCIO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It was not Friday the 13 nor did the weather almanac predict a full moon for August 4 and 5. Nevertheless, Alex Rodriguez generated thunder in the Bronx while Tom Glavine pitched lights out at Wrigley Field over this unforgettable weekend for New Yorkers and Major League Baseball.

On the sweltering afternoon of Saturday, August 4, New York Yankees television broadcaster Ken Singleton started off Alex Rodriguez's first at-bat of the day with: "The fans want today to be *the day*." And it certainly was. In the bottom of the first inning with runners on second and third, and one out, A-Rod stepped up to the plate unaware that the very first pitch he would see would guarantee him a permanent spot in the record books.

With a deep drive to left field off of Kansas City Royals' Kyle Davies, Alex Rodriguez became only the 22nd player in Major League Baseball to join the honorable 500 home run club. And as if blasting 500 home runs is not impressive enough, at 32 years of age A-Rod currently owns the record for being the youngest player to achieve such an accomplishment.

As he rounded the bases grinning like a little leaguer who just slugged his first home run, teammates Derek Jeter and Bobby Abreu awaited his arrival at home plate while his entire team cleared the bench to congratulate him in front of the Yankees dug out. A curtain call topped off the moment as roaring chants of "MVP" echoed in Yankee Stadium.

With his home run-less 10-game stalemate between his 499th and 500th home runs, the pressure mounted for A-Rod and Yankee fans became uneasy. Nevertheless, A-Rod pulled through and has

since been on fire with the stats to prove it. Alex Rodriguez is only the third Yankee, among Cooperstown natives, Babe Ruth and Mickey Mantle, to reach such a phenomenal point in his career.

New York Met fans certainly had something to celebrate as well over the same weekend Alex Rodriguez blasted his 500th career home run. Across the borough in Queens, faithful Met fans frantically watched the ESPN "Game of the Week" between the New York Mets and the Chicago Cubs.

As it turned out, another future Cooperstown inductee made Major League Baseball history in Chicago that night.

The "W" that decorated many scorecards on the majestic night of Sunday, August 5 successfully placed Tom Glavine on an exclusive list of accomplished MLB pitchers. The 41-year-old lefthander joined the 300th All-Time Wins Club as he threw his impressive 300th win against the Cubs in an 8-3 victory at Wrigley Field.

As Mets closer Billy Wagner sealed the deal on Glavine's historical night, a celebration transpired on the field with congratulatory handshakes and hugs awaiting the honorary Mets pitcher.

The two-time National League Cy Young Award winner surely has a lot to be proud of, especially for a player who has never been on the disabled list since his 1987 MLB debut.

Glavine has become only the 23rd pitcher to earn 300 victories and is also one of three active pitchers, with New York Yankee Roger Clemens and former teammate and San Diego Padre Greg Maddux.

The mystique of New York baseball never ceases to amaze its fans, so long as the Yankees and Mets continue producing storybook seasons with monumental moments.

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9/1-Harrison House Invitational vs. Rowan 7 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

9/1-Boxer Kicker Invitational vs. Pacific 1 p.m.
9/1-Boxer Kicker Invitational vs. Wisconsin-Stevens Point 7 p.m.
9/2-Boxer Kicker Invitational vs. Lewis & Clark 1 p.m.
9/2-Boxer Kicker Invitational vs. Pacific Lutheran 7 p.m.



Last season's teams basking in glory



BARUCH SPORTS INFORMATION

The tennis team walked away with another championship last year.

BY MARIANE ST-MAURICE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"In a sport you cannot lie. You cannot [fool] anybody, not even yourself," said tennis Head Coach Florin Giuglescu. The Baruch Bearcats have a way of not fooling anyone: they are champions. For the second year in a row, Baruch has won the Commissioner's cup, the highest achievement award within the CUNY Athletics Conference.

Two of the teams that helped capture the prestigious cup were men's tennis and volleyball, two teams that went into postseason after winning their respective CUNYAC championships.

The men's tennis team kicked off its championships on Saturday, April 28, in the semi-finals against Hunter College.

The Bearcats' victories in four of six singles games and two of three doubles allowed them to conquer the Hunter Hawks and advance to the finals.

The following day, the Bearcats were back in action, this time facing Brooklyn College. Baruch came back from trailing 2-1 in the doubles by winning four of the six singles matches, winning 5-4 overall and becoming champions for the fourth consecutive year. Not only did they win the CUNY Championships, but the Bearcats were also granted a playoff berth to play

in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, making them the first CUNY team ever to participate.

The determined athletes made the most of the opportunity, and won against their first-round opponent, Alvernia College, on Friday, May 4. The two teams were tied 4-4 until the very last match, at the end of which Baruch's Ramon-Shane Johnson, the CUNYAC tournament MVP, brought the score to 5-4 in Baruch's favor.

The Bearcats then ended their season by playing national defending champion Emory University. Though Baruch lost 8-0, they still made it past any point previously reached by a CUNY team.

The men's volleyball team also had a remarkable season and postseason, participating in two tournaments in the latter. Under the direction of Head Coach Justin Stack, the Bearcats ended their CUNY season by beating their all-time rival, Hunter College, in the finals.

The Hunter Hawks, who had not lost a game all season, fell to the Bearcats 21-30, 30-27, 30-19 and 30-22, in front of a large, energetic crowd.

After two CUNYAC Championships in just as many seasons, Baruch marched on to its second North East Collegiate Volleyball Association and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference tournaments. On Wednesday, April 11, the

Bearcats won their 50th victory in two years by defeating Bard College at the ECAC tournament, simultaneously recording their first-ever post-season tournament victory.

The team continued on to the tournament semifinals, in which they faced Ramapo College. The Bearcats lost 30-26, 30-26 and 30-16 to the Road Runners, completing their season filled with nationally ranked opponents, with a 21-18 record.

Various Baruch teams have, in fact, been adding nationally ranked teams to their schedules in an effort to intensify competition. More similarly structured schedules for next year will give the Bearcats and their dedicated fans something to

Bearcats sharpening their claws for big season



BARUCH SPORTS INFORMATION

Camilo Reyes (above) will be playing a big part in this year's team.

BY MARINA SOBIYEVA
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last season proved to be very successful for the soccer team, as the Bearcats won the 2006 CUNY Conference Tournament finals. The victory qualified them for the NCAA Soccer Tournament for the second time in three years. Given the team's history, what can be expected from the 2007 season?

"We've graduated a lot of . . . team leaders," said Assistant Coach Dima Kamenshchik. He expects to have about 10 or 11 new players in order to replace 11 that graduated.

Although the recruiting process took place back in the spring semester, the tryouts took place only about 17 days before the first game of the season, which will take place on August 31.

With only a couple of weeks to prepare, Kamenshchik expects the biggest challenge to be "coming together and being on the same page." He continued that "players will have to relearn to play with each other." Although the team meets for practices during the off-season, it may not always be the case during the summer.

Kamenshchik makes no predictions for the new season. "Before I see them play it is not fair to say if

they are prepared, or not" he said. "[The team] has one of the hardest schedules in this conference. [The Bearcats] are going to play some of the toughest teams," he continued. This includes the College of New Jersey and NYU teams.

Nick Shnayderman, junior, who is about to start his third year on the team, believes that the biggest challenge will be "to stay focused and disciplined throughout the whole season." Shnayderman feels confident about the upcoming season.

Although a lot of old players graduated, he feels that "[the team] still has very good players returning, [in addition to] many new good recruits."

"The team's attitude is positive about going into the season with confidence from last year's championship," he said, "Every CUNY team wants to beat us, so they will play twice as hard when playing against Baruch." The prospective tough schedule does not seem to intimidate this player: "We are looking forward to taking another step to the top," he said.

"This is going to be a challenging season," said Kamenshchik, "The guys will have to play better than they did before, obviously because of the amount of people that we lost."