Student Dies In Suicide Jump From 15th Floor

NYPD Investigation Closed

By Shan-san Wu
News Editor

Baruch senior Thomas A. Berk died after falling 15 stories from the 111 East 18th St. building last Wednesday evening in what the NYPD has officially called a suicide. According to police, the 24-year-old senior from Queens climbed out of a empty classroom on the 15th floor at 6:30 p.m. and jumped from the ledge to his death. Berk landed almost directly in front of the entrance to the building, just barely missing a nearby row of parked cars by inches.

Police responded to the scene approximately five minutes later, according to a number of eyewitnesses on the scene. Officers immediately covered the body with a yellow tarp and cordoned off the area of impact, closing the main entrance to the building.

“I heard a loud noise when he landed,” said a waitress from a nearby restaurant who declined to give her name. “The police responded very quickly.”

No suicide note was left, but a backpack belonging to Berk was discovered by investigators in a 15th floor classroom. According to the Baruch News and Media Office, a journal containing multiple entries such as “life sucks,” “dependent” and “no money” was found inside the pack.

Berk’s body lay on the rain-soaked street for over an hour as investigators completed their work.

continued on page 3

US News Magazine Ranks Baruch Among Top Ten Most Selective Colleges In Nation

By Olubodun Omo-Omotoo
Contributing Editor

For the second year in a row, Baruch has received high ratings in US News and World Report Year 2000 annual college rankings.

In the classifications of ethnic diversity, admissions selectivity and graduating debt load, Baruch had an impressively high standing. In the area of ethnic diversity, Baruch received a score of .75 and .74 for 1999 and 1998 respectively, out of a possible score of 1.0. This score ranked Baruch as the most ethnically diverse school in the nation.

Baruch’s high rankings in these two particular areas are in addition to its comparable high overall standing. Baruch ranked in the Second Tier (schools ranked 51 to 100 out of 504) of Northern Regional Schools. Additionally, Baruch, with a remarkable 8%, has the lowest percentage of students graduating with student loan debt. Murphy of admissions attributes this phenomenon to “our low tuition and fees.”

Baruch’s admissions criteria was also ranked very high. With acceptance rates of 19% for the current year and 23% for the previous, Baruch’s admissions criteria was dubbed “more selective,” placing it in the ranks of other New York schools such as Syracuse and Fordham Universities. James Murphy of the Admissions office indicated that “of the 14,861 potential freshmen that listed Baruch on their applications, 2623 were accepted.” These statistics give Baruch the strictest admissions policy in CUNY.

The impressive showing puts Baruch students, particularly those soon to be entering the job market at a distinct advantage. Patricia Imbimbo of the Career Development Center contends that, for employers, admissions selectivity translates to the idea that Baruch students “are academically sound and likely to be confident, ambitious individuals.”

Imbimbo also points out, the diversity is an indication that “students who graduate from Baruch have had experience interacting with individuals representing many races and cultures.” She notes, “Companies specifically aiming to increase their company’s diversity may choose Baruch as a place to search for qualified candidates.”

The positive report reinforces Baruch’s reputation as a “flagship” institution.

 acceptance rates of Selected Universities and Colleges from across the nation according to the 1999 edition of the US News and World Report Coilege Rankings

1) Harvard University 13%
2) Princeton University 13%
3) Stanford University 15%
4) Columbia University 17%
5) Brown University 18%
6) Yale University 18%
7) Amherst College 20%
8) Georgetown University 21%
9) Dartmouth University 22%
10) CUNY-Baruch 23%
11) Swarthmore 23%
12) CalTech 23%
13) MIT 25%

Notables
- UC Berkeley 31%
- NYU 40%
- Wisconsin/Madison 58%
- CUNY Hunter 59%
- CUNY Brooklyn - 82%

Baruch’s rate for 2000 is 19%
Baruch Golden Key Chapter Honored With National Award

By Ana Sato

The Baruch Chapter of the Golden Key National Honor Society was awarded the Key Chapter Award during commencement held at the Golden Key Convention this summer. It is the seventh time in 10 years the Baruch Chapter has received this award.

Golden Key is a non-profit, international, academic honors organization that provides recognition, leadership opportunities and other services to its members. Membership is by invitation only, according to the Golden Key website, and is a national honor society program that recognizes outstanding students.

A chapter is also eligible for the Golden Key honor by maintaining a minimum 90% enrollment of outstanding students.

The chapter of Golden Key was especially recognized for three of the public service projects it supports: Shadow Days, Adopt-a-School, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

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Tropical Storm Floyd Closes School For Day

By Shannan Wu

Hurricane Floyd, which swept across the nation's southeastern last week, passed over and around Baruch College Thursday morning, causing a three hour delay of classes. Student workers, including many of the Baruch community, were called in to help with cleanup.

"I don't have classes on Fridays," said Baruch student Allen Williams. "Helped with cleaning up." Students arriving for afternoon classes Thursday September 16th were seen leaving buildings, as quickly as they were entering after being told by Baruch security officers that all schools were closing at 3:30 p.m. until further notice and that all classes after 12 noon had been canceled due to the approaching hurricane. It has been decided that classes should be closed and that classes should be cancelled at this time.

"I work on 18th floor and it was pretty loud," said Senior John Johnson. "After administration leaders were concerned about buildings in 12:30." "It doesn't look that bad outside, I don't know why we just stay here," said Baruch student Joseph Pino.

Darkness dawn quickly replaced the midday showers of the morning, however. As storms all along Park Avenue were closing and early businesses from the local New York City's building adjacent to Baruch were began reopening their doors to people without a home to continue.

"We received many phone calls from student helping students had been canceled," said Johnson. "And Johnson." Didn't know until later that morning if school was going to be closed or not, but we are trying to close the schools down for the remainder of the week. The storm continued on Tuesday in the afternoon and Thursday will have no school as well.

"Maybe we should have a hurricane every day in New York, we need to have an emergency plan," said Johnson.

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Baruch Golden Key Honor Society officers who attended the International Golden Key Convention held in Orlando, Florida. Ana Sato is being presented with the Key Chapter Award by George State University President Bill Paton (Photo/Ticker Archives)

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Journalism Resources
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The Ticker
Publishing Weekly

The students' voice gets stronger

Judging by the audience's reaction, the evening was a success.

By Mandarin Jean-Francois
Staff Writer

Goodall Sets Her Sights on the World
Message of Hope and Responsibility Comes out of African Rainforest

An audience of 200 people packed the audience at the 11th floor of the Newman Center on Thursday, September 16, to hear Dr. Jane Goodall speak about her life's work of protecting chimpanzees.

Dr. Goodall spoke about the destruction of their natural habitat and the conservation efforts needed to preserve it.

Goodall, who received her Ph.D. in ethology from Cambridge University, was introduced byDr. John Glick, director of the Newman Center.

"Dr. Goodall has been in the field of chimpanzee research for over 30 years," Glick said.

Goodall spoke about the need for conservation efforts to preserve chimpanzee populations.

"Chimpanzees are one of the most intelligent animals on Earth," Goodall said.

"We need to start thinking about these animals as our neighbors and not just as a source of entertainment."
His name was Thomas Berk.

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De La Hoya Vs. Trinidad: Fight of the Year?

By Terence Sukkdeo
Contributing Writer

It was expected to be the largest pay-per-view audience for a non-heavyweight fight. Two of the best welterweights of the decade were about to collide, with a $2 million prize money and a potential purse of $250 million. The fans were ready, the expectations were high. Comparisons were made to the Holyfield-Hearn fight of almost 2 decades ago. It was supposed to be the fight of the year in a year that already had much buildup, much hype. De La Hoya/Quarry and Trinidad-Whitaker. Two evenly matched boxers, undefeated welterweight champions of the world. Both of whom had defeated the man once considered the greatest welterweight, Pernell Whitaker (although I still question a La Hoya victory over "Sweet Pea") it was no wonder that the odds were 3 to 1 in favor of a draw.

The bell finally rung, the promotions ended, it was time to live up to the hype. But it was a disappointing start. Each fighter seemed too conscious of the other’s talent. They were both cautious and defensive. De La Hoya ran around inside the ring the entire fight with Trinidad relentlessly pummeling. The first round was close, I gave it to De La Hoya as well as the next two rounds. De La Hoya was winning the fight six rounds to two, but he was no longer in the lead. Trinidad, feeling less desperate, became more aggressive and out boxed De La Hoya. The only thing that gave Trinidad the last 4 rounds. I thought it was a draw as so many fans had predicted but it seems that judge Jerry Roth gave Trinidad the lead back. The next round was of the lead early rounds to Trinidad and another round four. Decision: Judge Glen Hamada 114-114, Judge Jerry Roth 115-113 and Judge Bob Logiste 115-114 for Felix Trinidad, new WBC and still IBF welterweight champion of the world.

The Long and Short Winding Roads

By Jon Minners
Asylum Production Editor

Hey yoo! Welcome to my corner, where I deal with ideals for the people. A look into the world of sports, Mike Lupica does not enter. My sarcastic verbal jabs knock all opponents to the mat. No one is safe. I'm an equal opportunist. Wrestling is a combination of sports, soap operas and adventure series. These guys are athletes. You try doing what they do. Try going on the road for 280 days without an off-season. These guys are actors who can play the elaborate storylines that can also be seen on All My Children, General Hospital, etc. If women can have soap, why can't men? Sure, wrestlers utter the f-bad, but not all the fuckin’ time. The South Park movie and the Witch Project had careers in it left and right. They were occasionally very well by the critics and rightfully so. They were good, and that is all that mattered. And yes, occasionally, I feel bad for them. I like my bread and circuses. I put up with the NYDP Blue showing Dennis Franz's golden ass.

Speaking of the WWF, I am getting a little pissed off. There seems to be a lot of narrow minded people out there. People who just don't understand or can't handle the WWF's recent rise to popularity. Jesse Ventura's release of a WWF match and people call him a disgrace to politics. What did he do wrong? He was once a wrestler. Can't he visit his old profession? Giuliani got dressed in drag and went on Saturday Night Live, but no one complained then. True, he was a disgrace already, but still got re-elected and it looks like he is in the lead over Hillary "I don't stand by my man since he's currently walking all over me" Clinton at the moment for the Senatorial race. He was only acting, why can't he rise to popularity. Maybe they can convince the Johnson of the other's talents. They were both cautious and defensive. It was not to be the fight we were expecting De La Hoya ran around inside the ring the entire fight while Trinidad relentlessly pummeling. The first round was close, I gave it to De La Hoya as well as the next two rounds. De La Hoya was winning the fight six rounds to two on my scorecard but he soon relinquished this lead. Trinidad, feeling less desperate, became more aggressive and outboxed De La Hoya the rest of the way. I gave the Trinidad the lead back, but he was no longer in the lead early rounds to Trinidad and another called a round four. Decision: Judge Glen Hamada 114-114, judge Jerry Roth 115-113 and Judge Bob Logiste 115-114 for Felix Trinidad, new WBC and still IBF welterweight champion of the world.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) should get interesting again, as Ken Shamrock now joins the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) after he beat Chavez and developed a huge ass on his bottom. It was supposed to be the largest pay-per-view audience for a non-heavyweight fight. Two of the best welterweights of the decade were about to collide, with a $2 million prize money and a potential purse of $250 million. The fans were ready, the expectations were high. Comparisons were made to the Holyfield-Hearn fight of almost 2 decades ago. It was supposed to be the fight of the year in a year that already had much buildup, much hype. De La Hoya/Quarry and Trinidad-Whitaker. Two evenly matched boxers, undefeated welterweight champions of the world. Both of whom had defeated the man once considered the greatest welterweight, Pernell Whitaker (although I still question a La Hoya victory over "Sweet Pea") it was no wonder that the odds were 3 to 1 in favor of a draw.

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