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FILES
C 00-M-1556

January 22, 2003

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003

Hon. Janet Deixler
Secretary
State of New York
Public Service Commission
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

Dear Secretary Deixler:

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("the Company") hereby submits proof of newspaper publication, in Case No. 00-M-1556, in the form of notarized statements (original and 3 copies) attesting to the publication of the appropriate legal notice, once per week for four consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the Company's service area. Attached to each notarized statement is the legal notice for one of the four successive weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

By: Joel H. Charkow
Joel H. Charkow

State of New York
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

SS:

BYRON STEVENS being duly sworn,
says that he/she is the principal Clerk of the Publisher
of the

NEW YORK POST

a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and
published in the English language, in the County of
New York, State of New York; that advertisement
hereto annexed has been regularly published in
the said "New York Post" once, on the
6, 13, 20, 27 day of DECEMBER 2002

Byron Stevens
Sworn to before me this 27 day of

December 2002
Deborah P. Rosen

NOTARY PUBLIC

DEBORAH P. ROSEN
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01RO5023290
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires Jan. 31, 2006

State of New York
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

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Model shops tussle over holiday tunes

FASHION BUZZ

By Jared Paul Stern

HAVING grown tired perhaps of merely battling over models, the city's top agencies are now preparing to go to war on another front: music.

Both Elite and ID are set to launch their own CDs this season, featuring a customized compilation of tracks to be sold in record stores around the world.

Elite's disc, titled "Elite Model's Attitude" and launched last night with a bash at Estate, was produced in conjunction with Pschent Records and **Ronnie Kosa** and mixed by someone called **DJ Felix**.

ID's platter, "Fashion Lounge," is being distributed by Universal Records and features an exclusive track by **Norah Jones**, **Ravi Shankar's** daughter, who was recently featured on the cover of Vanity Fair's music issue.

"Elite is trying to put 'out

a CD that won't be half as good, [or] have even a tenth of the promotional budget. We will blow them out of the water with the first Norah Jones dance track ever," boasts ID's lawyer, **Ray Dowd**, who's itching for a fight.

Meanwhile, ID Models chief **Paolo Zampolli** has another skirmish on his hands, this one with ModelWire.

As we reported last week, Zampolli says he has signed on with the "next generation" of imaging programming — a product called Modelview, created by a gang of Russian programmers and former model agency execs.

Zampolli claims Modelview, which is Web-based and boasts an integrated booking program, is both "cheaper and faster" than ModelWire.

However, former Ford Models president **Joey Hunter**, now ModelWire's president and CEO, says that's not the case.

"He didn't stop using us,

we cut him off because he hasn't paid his bills," Hunter says. "We let him try our system for free, then we told him he'd have to pay to keep using it. Paolo's got a big mouth, but it's all bulls -- t."

Zampolli counters that ModelWire owes him money, since he's the one who helped them land a lucrative contract with Elite. **Bob Olejar**, who founded and has since left ModelWire, and who's said to be launching his own model imaging business with backing from Microsoft, backs him up.

"Joey is just jealous of our success," Zampolli declares. "He's fantasizing that we owe him money. His company is desperate and he owes me money. And he's just an old retired has-been."

Meanwhile, Hunter says he's not worried about either Olejar or Modelview.

"Bob's got a non-compete clause which says he can't be involved in any competitive business," Hunter notes. "And in any

case we're already a 'product integration partner' with Microsoft.

"My project is coming along very, very well," Olejar answers. "I cannot really comment on Microsoft or Joey Hunter's opinions."

"I can tell you that ModelWire has been great for our new project," Olejar continued. "All but a few of ModelWire's clients have contacted me in various states of desperation. ModelWire had a near monopoly on the modeling business, but now the industry seems to want something new."

As for Modelview, Hunter sniffs, "I don't know of any agency using [it]."

In any case, Hunter admits his business isn't yet profitable.

"We're not making money yet," Hunter says, "and if we continue working with guys like Paolo we never will. But we're on track; we'll get there."

Please send e-mail to: jsfern@nypost.com



MODEL MUSIC: An exclusive Norah Jones track turns up on ID Models' "Fashion Lounge" disc.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FULL REDEMPTION

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY

(now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company)

General Gold Bond Mortgage

2.625% Bonds, Series Q, due 2010

CUSIP NO. 391118PG5

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of the Great Northern Railway Company General Gold Bond Mortgage, dated January 1, 1921, by and between Great Northern Railway Company (now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company) and The First National Bank of the City of New York (now Citibank, N.A.), as Trustee, as supplemented (the "Indenture") and Supplemental Indenture (No. 7), dated as of January 1, 1946, to the Indenture, \$28,805,000 principal amount (the entire amount held publicly) of Great Northern Railway Company General Mortgage 2.625% Gold Bonds, Series Q, due 2010 (the "Bonds"), have been called for redemption on January 1, 2003, at a redemption price of 100 1/8% of the principal amount thereof.

The Bonds shall become due and payable on the date fixed for redemption and will be paid at the aforesaid redemption price upon presentation and surrender at the corporate trust office of the Registrar and Paying Agent, U.S. Bank Trust National Association at the following applicable addresses:

By Mail: (Registered Bonds)
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
Corporate Trust Services
P.O. Box 64111
St. Paul, MN 55164-0111

By Mail: (Bearer Bonds)
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
Corporate Trust Services
P.O. Box 64452
St. Paul, MN 55164-0452

By Hand or Overnight Mail:
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
180 East Fifth Street
4th Floor - Bond Drop Window
St. Paul, MN 55101

The method of delivery of the Bonds to the aforesaid corporate trust office is at the option and risk of the holder thereof; but, if mail is used, registered mail is suggested.

In the case of registered Bonds, interest accrued to January 1, 2003 will be paid in the usual manner to the persons in whose name the Bonds are registered at the close of business on December 15, 2002. In the case of coupon Bonds, coupons for interest which mature on or prior to January 1, 2003 shall continue to be payable to the bearers of such coupons. Interest on all the Bonds will cease to accrue on and after January 1, 2003.

It is not necessary to sign the Bond or complete the reverse of the Bond unless, in the case of registered Bonds, payment is to be made to a party other than the registered holder, in which case, the assignment of transfer on the reverse of the Bonds must be properly completed.

CITIBANK

THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY
BY: CITIBANK, N.A., as Trustee

Dated: October 30, 2002

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, we may be required under backup withholding rules to withhold 30% of any gross payments made to holders who fail to provide us with, and certify under penalties of perjury a correct taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate) on or before the date the securities are presented for payment. Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so, may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide a valid taxpayer identification number in the required manner when presenting your securities for redemption. Backup withholding is not itself a tax and amounts withheld may be claimed by the holder as a tax refund or credit consistent with the holder's overall U.S. federal income tax liability. A non-U.S. holder should provide a Form W-8BEN if the interest and any gain on redemption is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the holder, but should provide a Form W-8ECI if such amounts are so effectively connected, in each case certifying the holder's non-U.S. status, as the basis for an exemption from U.S. federal backup withholding tax. In addition to backup withholding, the United States will impose a 30% regular withholding tax on interest paid to a non-U.S. holder if such interest is not effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the holder, unless the holder provides the Form W-8BEN described above in which the holder specifies that it is eligible for a United States tax treaty which eliminates or reduces the withholding rate. Such holder also potentially could be subject to a 30% U.S. federal income tax on any gain on the redemption if the holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more for the calendar year in which the redemption occurs. A non-U.S. holder which provides a Form W-8ECI with respect to the interest and any gain such holder realizes on the redemption would be subject to U.S. federal tax on such amounts in the same manner as if such person were a U.S. holder. Foreign holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the United States tax consequences of the redemption.

CUSIP NUMBER is for reference purposes only and no representation is made as to its correctness printed on the Bonds or on this Notice of Full Redemption.

Wal-Mart won't sue over sale leak

Choosing not to escalate a fight over the intellectual value of its sale prices, Wal-Mart Stores has withdrawn a court order seeking to identify who leaked information about its holiday shopping discounts.

Wal-Mart last month delivered a subpoena from an Illinois federal court to FatWallet.com after the bargain-hunting Web site provided early notice of the post-Thanksgiving sales at the nation's largest retailer.

The leak outraged Wal-Mart and several other major retailers whose post-

Thanksgiving discounted prices were posted online well before one of the most competitive — and pivotal — shopping weekends of the year.

Wal-Mart and other industry giants, including Target and Best Buy, got their post-Thanksgiving prices pulled from FatWallet and similar sites by citing digital copyright protections.

Earlier this week, Roscoe, Ill.-based FatWallet threatened to retaliate with its own legal action, prompting Wal-Mart to back off.

AP

LEGAL NOTICE

Con Edison Has Filed Changes to its Gross Receipts Tax Rates

On November 27, 2002, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("Con Edison" or "the Company") filed electric and gas tariff amendments with the New York Public Service Commission ("PSC") related to Gross Receipts Tax ("GRT") in compliance with orders of the PSC.

The tariff amendments, scheduled to become effective January 1, 2003 provide for application of separate GRT rates applicable to the commodity and delivery bill components of residential and non-residential customers' bills. Currently, the Company applies a blended commodity and delivery GRT rate to customers' total bill amounts, and these blended rates are eliminated in this filing. The new GRT rates also reflect a reduction in statutory state GRT rates effective January 1, 2003 and provide for recovery of the Company's estimated state income tax.

Complete copies of Con Edison's proposed tariff amendments are available for review at the offices of the Public Service Commission, 1 Penn Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10019, and at offices where applications for Con Edison electric and gas service may be made.

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.



TONYA HARDING
Skates like Gates.

Judge says M'soft tactics like Tonya's

By LAUREN BARACK

A federal judge pimp-slapped Microsoft for knee-capping Sun Microsystems.

U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz compared Microsoft to former 1994 Olympic skater Tonya Harding, whose ex-husband attacked Harding's competitor Nancy Kerrigan with an iron club.

Several sports metaphors have been used throughout the hearing, according to one source. But Motz appeared to be annoyed with the software giant over its claims that it shouldn't be forced to include Java in its operating system, as Sun is demanding.

"Isn't there a social value in being able to participate fairly in a market, undistorted by your competitor?" Motz asked of Microsoft's final witness, the University of Chicago economist Kevin Murphy.

But Microsoft believes that what Sun is demanding does distort the playing field. "There is competition in the market and what Sun is proposing we see as foreclosing competition," said Jim Desler, a spokesman for Microsoft.

Sun's concern is that if forced to wait until the end of a trial that may not even start until next year, to have Java installed on Windows, the damage will be irreversible.

FLYING TOO LOW

United inefficiencies have long spelled doom

By BETH PISKORA

United Airlines had it coming.

UAL Corp., parent of United, has no one to blame but itself for its financial woes and impending bankruptcy, according to competitors, Wall Street and government sources.

The company, which is 55 percent owned by its employees, has long had a bloated payroll and other high-cost inefficiencies that made it one of the lowest-profit airlines for years.

Although United is the nation's second-biggest airline in terms of miles flown, its market capitalization — at only \$75 million — is dwarfed by other "smaller" airlines like Southwest, which has a market valuation of \$12.5 billion, or JetBlue, with a market cap of \$1.6 billion.

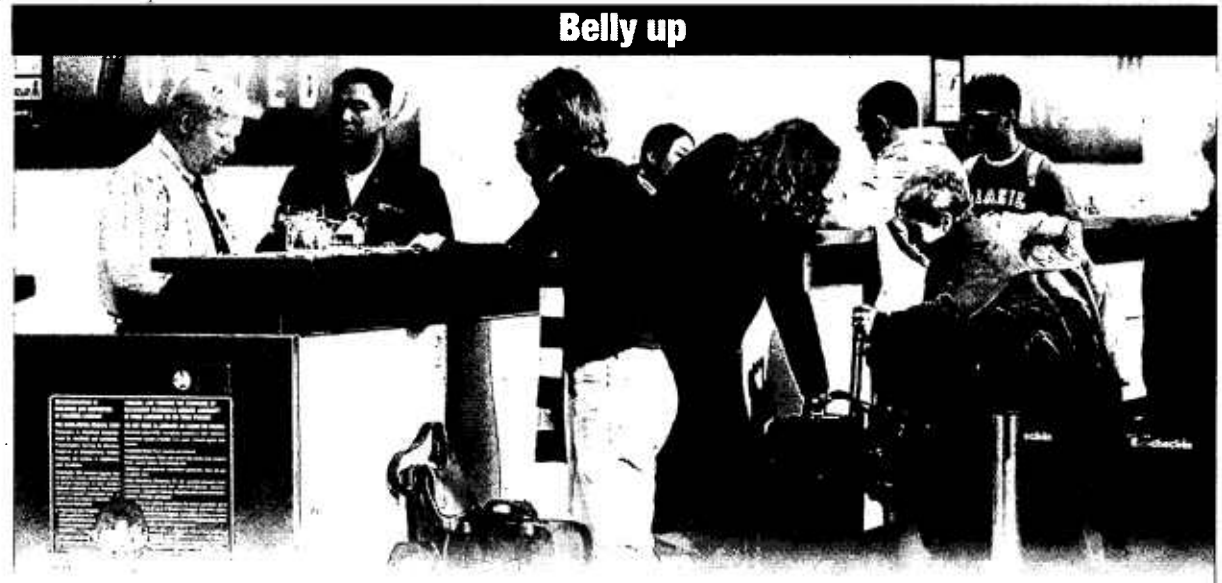
"Their revenues were not in line with their costs," said Daniel Montgomery, director of the U.S. Air Transportation Stabilization Board, which voted Wednesday night to deny UAL a requested \$1.8 billion federal loan guarantee.

UAL stock plummeted to \$1.00, down \$2.12, or 68 percent.

One prominent Wall Street analyst said the stock, already down 93 percent this year, could be "worthless" by the end of the month.

"United might need to reduce flight and seat capacity" as much as 12 percent next year, said J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. analyst Jamie Baker.

The airline had said earlier that it would cut capacity by only 6 per-



Belly up

United may be the second-largest airline, but it is among the least efficient. Here's why:

	United	American	Continental	Southwest	JetBlue
Labor cost per mile	\$4.60	\$4.62	\$3.53	\$2.90	\$1.96
Total cost per mile	\$11.00	\$10.38	\$8.90	\$7.38	\$6.48
Market cap	\$75 million	\$1.2 billion	\$576 million	\$12.5 billion	\$1.6 billion
Profit/Loss*	-\$1.6 billion	-\$2 billion	-\$192 million	+\$147 million	\$39 million

*For nine months ended Sept. 30

Source: J.P. Morgan Chase, Bloomberg, Post research

cent next year.

However, reacting to pressure from unions, United actually added capacity last month even as demand dropped.

Through the first 11 months of the year, however, United's capacity was down 11 percent from 2001 levels, while demand was down 7.8 percent.

United also has the highest cost structure in the industry, paying a total of \$11 for every mile flown. A whopping \$4.60

is for labor costs alone.

By contrast, Southwest Airlines, the darling of the industry, pays only \$7.38 per mile flown, and only \$2.90 is for labor. Southwest does not grant outright ownership stakes in the airline to employees, as does United, but Southwest does grant options as a way to keep payroll costs down.

UAL now faces a potential delisting by the New York Stock Exchange, which informed the com-

pany yesterday that it must get its share price up or get tossed from the Big Board. Today, UAL will be dropped from the Dow Jones transportation average and replaced by UPS. That means index funds may be forced to sell UAL today, driving the price down even further.

On the debt side, UAL was downgraded from junk, "CCC-," to crap, "D."

"The ATSB's decision

will almost certainly lead to a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by UAL," said Philip Baggaley, an S&P analyst. "The downgrade of UAL's and United's corporate credit ratings to 'D' reflect United's continuing payment default on about \$920 million of debt and, with the ATSB's action, the disappearance of any realistic possibility of the defaults being cured before grace periods expire on the debt."

New Fastow charges seen

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. prosecutors said they will seek a new indictment against former Enron Corp. Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow, a signal the government may add charges or defendants in the case against the alleged mastermind of the fraud that led to the energy trader's collapse.

Fastow pleaded innocent Nov. 6 to 78 counts of fraud, money laundering and other charges. Prosecutors have told him they plan to ask a grand jury for a second indictment, the Justice Department's Enron Task Force said in a court filing. *Bloomberg*

Diageo tries to settle with Burger King buyer

By ERICA COPULSKY

As it scrambles to salvage the sale of its troubled Burger King unit, Diageo PLC is considering providing some of the debt to finance a deal, The Post has learned.

Diageo, the world's largest liquor maker, has been in heated talks to re-cut its planned \$2.26 billion deal to sell its fast-food chain to a buyout consortium led by David Bonderman's Texas Pacific Group, after the buyers balked at the price.

Diageo was forced back to the negotiating table after TPG, along with partners Bain Capital and

Goldman Sachs Group Inc., said that Burger King's deteriorating financial performance — largely caused by a vicious price war with McDonald's — had substantially lowered the value of the franchise and made it difficult to finance a deal.

According to sources familiar with the situation, Diageo is discussing revised terms and conditions with the private equity group to lower the Burger King price tag to around \$1.6 billion.

TPG declined to comment on the deal. Diageo could not be reached for comment. The U.K.-based



Splash News

DAVID BONDERMAN
TPG chief.

beverage maker is also considering various structures to help clinch a deal, including retaining a minority equity stake in Burger King, providing the financing for some of the high-yield debt or a combination of the two.

Burger battle burns Golden Arches chief

By JESSICA SOMMAR

The hamburger wars just claimed their first casualty.

McDonald's Corp.'s Jack Greenberg, the chief executive officer who spent 21 years working under the Golden Arches, will hand over the reins at the end of the month as the world's largest restaurant chain grapples with steep competition and falling profits.

Greenberg, 60, has faced mounting criticism from investors; the stock has fallen 40 percent since Greenberg took the top post in 1998. Originally Greenberg planned to stay at McDonald's until 2005.

Greenberg has "run into so many brick walls that he started losing credibility, and even if he's doing the right things, which I thought he was, it won't work if people don't believe in him anymore," said Carl Sibelski, analyst at independent researchers Morningstar Inc.

The burger battles have heated up in the last few months.

Burger King offered a dollar menu this fall, forcing McDonald's to enter the fray — late in the game — in mid-October with a dollar menu of its own.

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FOX SPORTS NET

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THE MANFREDI'S	120-71
HOWARD KOEPPEL	118-73
JOE MAC	117-74
KEITH COX	116-75
RICH CAPPETTA	116-75
LESTER WU	115-76
SAM FOX	114-77
MIKE PATRIKIS	113-78
JOE MONTE	108-83
FOX SPORTS	105-86
MICHAEL OSHRY	103-88

Joe Mac is out on vacation at Hedonism and will be back next week. ENJOY THE GAMES

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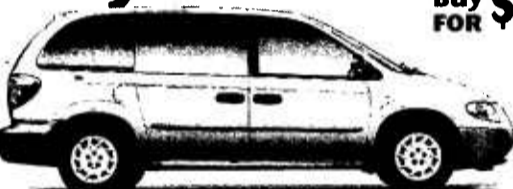
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McDyess might try following Rice diet

By MARC BERMAN

BOSTON — Antonio McDyess has looked toward 40-year-old Oakland Raiders receiver Jerry Rice as a source of motivation, according to his agent, Andy Miller.

In fact, Knicks doctor Norman Scott has consulted on a few occasions with Niners team doctor Michael Dillingham before and after McDyess' left-kneecap surgery on Oct. 15.

McDyess and Rice had a similar string of back-to-back major left-knee injuries. Then with the 49ers, Rice tore his ACL on Sept. 1, 1997 and returned Dec. 4, 1997. Eleven days after his return, Rice cracked his left patella bone (kneecap).

Rice had offseason surgery and was a Pro Bowler in 1998. He hasn't missed a regular-season game since his kneecap surgery and is the Raiders' leading receiver with 77 catches and 1,022 yards.

With Denver, McDyess tore his patella tendon during training camp last season. After being traded to the Knicks, McDyess fractured his kneecap during preseason and had surgery Oct. 15.

KNICK NOTES

"There are similarities," Miller said. "Both I and Dr. Scott, we got on the phone with Dr. Dillingham before the surgery and we've talked to him about the rehab process around the kneecap. We've done our due diligence. Jerry has been as good a player as before the injuries and it's a positive thing to look at."

Miller said he still doesn't know if McDyess will even try to make a late-season comeback. His cast will be removed in the next week or two. "That's when the rehab gets into the nitty-gritty," Miller said.

Knicks, who face Celtics tonight, canceled practice at their practice facility because of the snow, so they didn't have to review film of their hideous final two possessions that cost them Wednesday's game against Orlando.

On the last possession, Howard Eisley failed to inbound the ball to either Allan Houston or Latrell Sprewell. "Everybody knows we have two guys, Allan and Spree, especially

Allan," Don Chaney said. "We have to do a better job of executing and getting the ball to our shooters."

In the Philly loss Nov. 16, Eisley also failed to get the ball to either Houston or Sprewell on a last possession and missed a forced 3-pointer.

The NBA released a statement on a Post story in which the agent of Yugoslavian 7-1 center Darko Milicic is challenging the league's ruling on age limits for the draft. Milicic will be 18 on draft night, but the NBA contends he won't be eligible because he's still 17 at the May 12 entry deadline — a stance that hurts the Knicks.

Milicic would likely be the second overall pick after LeBron James. "Our lawyers believe the language is very clear on when you have to be 18," the NBA said.

Pistons European scout Tony Rozone, who will see Milicic next week, said, "If he's not eligible this year, he'll be No. 1 next year. If he was playing high school in America, we'd be talking about him like LeBron."



Real Deals on Real Cars

NEW 2003 VW GOLF GL



BUY FOR \$16,599 **LEASE FOR \$169***

PER MO. 36 MOS.

\$2003 down pymt + \$169 1st mo. pymt + \$0 ref. sec. dep. + \$0 bank fee = \$2172 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/total cost/residual = \$6084/\$8087/\$10,362
Stk #V033461. VIN #34010539. 4 DR. 4 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs. Monsoon am/fm cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, dual air bags. MSRP: \$17,270.

ALL INCLUDE:
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• 5 YR/60,000 MI. LIMITED POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

NEW 2002 VW NEW BEETLE GLS



BUY FOR \$15,999

Stk #V023236. VIN#2M459733. 2 DR. 4 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs. am/fm cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, alloys, alarm/sec sys. MSRP: \$19,925.

NEW 2003 VW JETTA GL



BUY FOR \$17,795 **LEASE FOR \$169***

PER MO. 36 MOS.

\$2003 down pymt + \$169 1st mo. pymt + \$175 ref. sec. dep. + \$575 bank fee = \$2922 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/total cost/residual = \$6084/\$8837/\$10,944.30.
4 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, am/fm cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, dual air bags, alarm/sec sys. MSRP: \$18,875.

NEW 2003 VW PASSAT GL



BUY FOR \$21,995 **LEASE FOR \$222***

PER MO. 36 MOS.

\$2003 down pymt + \$222 1st mo. pymt + \$225 ref. sec. dep. + \$575 bank fee = \$3025 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/total cost/residual = \$7992/\$10,795/\$14,274.
Stk #V033220. VIN #3E015268. 4 DR. 4 cyl. auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, am/fm cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sec sys. MSRP: \$23,400.

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**OPEN SUNDAY
12-4**

Drivers wanted

Goldman traders reverse course, will stay in Gotham

By PAUL THARP

Goldman Sachs has backed off its threat to pack up its trading desks and move them to across the Hudson to Jersey City.

A beaming Mayor Bloomberg yesterday

told a group of business leaders that the big firm has decided to keep its 1,500 equities trading crew in Manhattan.

But he said another 1,000 office people will make the shift from Manhattan to Jersey City.

The Post reported last

week that Goldman's traders didn't want to leave their Manhattan location at One New York Plaza, a 2.5 million-square-foot office tower on Manhattan's

The third-largest securities firm will instead move about 1,000 other employees from various lower Manhattan offices to the new 42-story building.

The workers will include staff from global securities services,

Goldman traders dig in

Firm may send back office staff to Jersey City instead

POST HEADLINE: How we broke the story.

southern tip.

Goldman had planned to move stock traders in 2004 to "Wall Street West" in a gleaming new tower under construction on the Jersey City waterfront at 30 Hudson St.

money managers, the clearing business of Goldman's New York Stock Exchange market specialist Spear, Leeds & Kellogg and an electronic transaction service business.

Safety-Kleen CFO charged in \$267M fraud

Former Safety-Kleen Corp. Chief Financial Officer Paul Humphreys was indicted on charges of plotting to overstate earnings by \$267 million, help-

ing drive the industrial waste management company into bankruptcy.

Yesterday's indictment follows last week's guilty plea by Safety-Kleen's former controller, William

Ridings, who said he schemed with Humphreys and former Vice President Thomas Ritter to defraud investors.

Ritter has not been charged. *Bloomberg*

Boutique hotel to check in Uptown

By BRADEN KEIL

While the hotel industry continues to climb out from its economic depths, the owners of SoHo's trendy 60 Thompson hotel are creating a chain of upscale boutique inns.

Brothers Jason, Lawrence and Michael Pomeranc are taking their newly-formed Thompson Hotels brand both uptown to Columbus Circle and down the East Coast to Miami's South Beach.

The Pomeranc's and their partners are in the planning stages to transform the Westpark hotel at 6 Columbus Circle into a luxury boutique hotel and are expected to have the same upscale feel as the company's SoHo flagship.

"The details as far as design, the name — which will be changed — and the restaurant, will come as soon as some loose ends are tied up," Jason Pomeranc said.

Pomeranc expects the Columbus Circle project to begin in the next two to



N.Y. Post: Jennifer Weisbord
JASON POMERANC
Columbus Circle hotelier.

three months with a completion in spring 2004.

The latest acquisition by Thompson Hotels is The Sagamore in Miami Beach — a vintage oceanfront Art Deco hotel located at 1671 Collins Ave. a few doors away from Ian Schrager's Delano and next to the planned Miami Beach Ritz Carlton.

It is a joint venture be-

tween the Pomeranc brothers and the Taplin Group of Miami Beach.

Now called The Sagamore, a Thompson Hotel, the building was constructed in 1948 and designed by architect Albert Anis.

Situated on a prime stretch of beachfront in the historic Art Deco district of South Beach, the hotel includes 93 suites, 8 penthouses and 16 two-story bungalows after its renovation and restoration.

The 60 Thompson flagship in SoHo, opened in late 2001, has 100 rooms and is located on a tree lined street. It's rooftop membership bar, A60, opened this Spring and is a regular watering hole for visiting celebrities and New York notables.

Pomeranc wouldn't confirm whether restaurateurs Jean Marc Houmard and Michael Callahan, who opened Thom at 60 Thompson, will be involved in the restaurant ventures in the company's other hotels.



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"We sincerely regret if this advertisement should reach any home where there is illness or sorrow, as this was certainly not intended."



LEGAL NOTICE

Con Edison Has Filed Changes to its Gross Receipts Tax Rates

On November 27, 2002, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("Con Edison" or "the Company") filed electric and gas tariff amendments with the New York Public Service Commission ("PSC") related to Gross Receipts Tax ("GRT") in compliance with orders of the PSC.

The tariff amendments, scheduled to become effective January 1, 2003 provide for application of separate GRT rates applicable to the commodity and delivery bill components of residential and non-residential customers' bills. Currently, the Company applies a blended commodity and delivery GRT rate to customers' total bill amounts, and these blended rates are eliminated in this filing. The new GRT rates also reflect a reduction in statutory state GRT rates effective January 1, 2003 and provide for recovery of the Company's estimated state income tax.

Complete copies of Con Edison's proposed tariff amendments are available for review at the offices of the Public Service Commission, 1 Penn Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10019, and at offices where applications for Con Edison electric and gas service may be made.

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FULL REDEMPTION

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
(now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company)
General Gold Bond Mortgage
2.625% Bonds, Series Q, due 2010
CUSIP NO. 391118PG5

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of the Great Northern Railway Company General Gold Bond Mortgage, dated January 1, 1921, by and between Great Northern Railway Company (now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company) and The First National Bank of the City of New York (now Citibank, N.A.), as Trustee, as supplemented by the "Indenture" and Supplemental Indenture (No. 7), dated as of January 1, 1946, to the Indenture, \$28,805,000 principal amount (the entire amount held publicly) of Great Northern Railway Company General Mortgage 2.625% Gold Bonds, Series Q, due 2010 (the "Bonds"), have been called for redemption on January 1, 2003, at a redemption price of 100 1/8% of the principal amount thereof.

The Bonds shall become due and payable on the date fixed for redemption and will be paid at the aforesaid redemption price upon presentation and surrender at the corporate trust office of the Registrar and Paying Agent, U.S. Bank Trust National Association at the following applicable addresses:

By Mail: (Registered Bonds)
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
Corporate Trust Services
P.O. Box 64111
St. Paul, MN 55164-0111

By Mail: (Bearer Bonds)
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
Corporate Trust Services
P.O. Box 64452
St. Paul, MN 55164-0452

By Hand or Overnight Mail:
U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
180 East Fifth Street
4th Floor- Bond Drop Window
St. Paul, MN 55101

The method of delivery of the Bonds to the aforesaid corporate trust office is at the option and risk of the holder thereof; but, if mail is used, registered mail is suggested.

In the case of registered Bonds, interest accrued to January 1, 2003 will be paid in the usual manner to the persons in whose name the Bonds are registered at the close of business on December 15, 2002. In the case of coupon Bonds, coupons for interest which mature on or prior to January 1, 2003 shall continue to be payable to the bearers of such coupons. Interest on all the Bonds will cease to accrue on and after January 1, 2003.

It is not necessary to sign the Bond or complete the reverse of the Bond unless, in the case of registered Bonds, payment is to be made to a party other than the registered holder, in which case, the assignment of transfer on the reverse of the Bonds must be properly completed.



THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY
BY: CITIBANK, N.A., as Trustee

Dated: October 30, 2002

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, we may be required under backup withholding rules to withhold 30% of any gross payments made to holders who fail to provide us with, and certify under penalties of perjury a correct taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate) on or before the date the securities are presented for payment. Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so, may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide a valid taxpayer identification number in the required manner when presenting your securities for redemption. Backup withholding is not itself a tax and amounts withheld may be claimed by the holder as a tax refund or credit consistent with the holder's overall U.S. federal income tax liability. A non-U.S. holder should provide a Form W-8BEN if the interest and any gain on redemption is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the holder, but should provide a Form W-8ECI if such amounts are so effectively connected, in each case certifying the holder's non-U.S. status, as the basis for an exemption from U.S. federal backup withholding tax.

In addition to backup withholding, the United States will impose a 30% regular withholding tax on interest paid to a non-U.S. holder if such interest is not effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the holder, unless the holder provides the Form W-8BEN described above in which the holder specifies that it is eligible for a United States tax treaty which eliminates or reduces the withholding rate. Such holder also potentially could be subject to a 30% U.S. federal income tax on any gain on the redemption if the holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more for the calendar year in which the redemption occurs. A non-U.S. holder which provides a Form W-8ECI with respect to the interest and any gain such holder realizes on the redemption would be subject to U.S. federal tax on such amounts in the same manner as if such person were a U.S. holder. Foreign holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the United States tax consequences of the redemption.

CUSIP NUMBER is for reference purposes only and no representation is made as to its correctness printed on the Bonds or on this Notice of Full Redemption.

Most Widely Held

Name	Vol (000)	Last	Chg
AOL Time	12807	13.56	-0.09
AT&T rs	4489	27.53	+0.02
ATT Wris	9735	6.65	+0.08
AgereB n	2172	1.28	-0.07
Avaya	749	3.00	-0.11
Cisco	53210	14.11	+0.26
Citigroup	10926	36.62	+0.36
ExxonMob	9441	34.88	-0.14
GenElec	15258	25.90	-0.24
Home Dep	14332	27.29	+0.52
Intel	53041	18.19	+0.03
IBM	7128	80.17	-1.27
JohnJn	6587	55.05	-1.12
Lucent	39699	1.48	+0.03
Microsoft	27138	54.17	-0.49
Oracle	30743	11.40	+0.09
Pfizer	15017	31.12	-0.49
Travel B n	4384	15.26	+0.40
VerizonCm	4928	38.40	-0.25
WalMart	8554	51.38	-0.62

Most Active

Name	Close	Chg	Vol
Baxter	29.05	+0.27	246352
BrMySq	25.35	-1.80	180407
SprntPCS	5.36	+0.56	178709
Hallibtn	20.00	-0.40	172296
GenElec	25.90	-0.24	152581
Pfizer	31.12	-0.49	150179
HomeDp	27.29	+0.52	143326
AOL TW	13.56	-0.09	128078
EMC Cp	6.67	+0.31	113381
LibtMA	9.47	+0.12	113211
Nasd100Tr	25.84	+0.12	596964
SPDR	90.77	-0.01	336319
DJIA Diam	85.65	-0.34	51351
SemiHTr	25.29	-0.11	44566
DevonE	48.00	-0.57	29644
Cisco	14.11	+0.26	532104
Intel	18.19	+0.03	530416
CienaCp	6.20	+1.02	504246
Amgen	50.45	+3.18	309833
Oracle	11.40	+0.09	307432
Microsoft	54.17	-0.49	271387
ApldMatl s	14.37	-0.20	262650
DellCptr	27.43	-0.32	216509
NextelC	12.40	+0.55	211996
Costco	29.56	+1.08	184854

Biggest Daily Gainers

Name	Close	% chg	Vol
HarmG wt	12.40	+17.9	79
Spartch	21.31	+17.9	5047
Capstd rs	22.75	+13.6	2525
HarmonyG	17.01	+12.3	41598
Pulitzer	47.94	+11.9	2530
SprntPCS	5.36	+11.7	178709
TVX Gld rs	13.48	+10.9	3536
NatProc	16.18	+10.7	2520
Gtech s	27.37	+10.6	28930
Comcast29	22.90	+10.1	7158
EmersonR	5.40	+22.2	8261
OrleansH	8.00	+8.0	356
MLDEur05	9.55	+7.3	94
Cybergd n	5.98	+6.8	1441
ML EMC	7.90	+6.8	76

Biggest Daily Losers

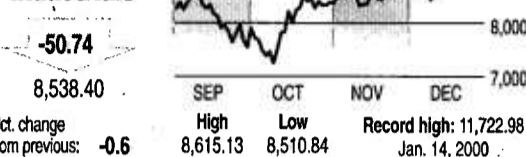
Name	Close	% chg	Vol
PhnxCos	7.20	-11.8	8235
AU Opt n	6.01	-10.2	3566
AutoZone	73.56	-7.7	59147
Biovail	30.01	-7.7	80243
Siderca	13.00	-7.4	799
Alstom	5.89	-7.2	853
Inflneon	7.80	-6.9	6118
BrMySq	25.35	-6.6	180407
Le28GLW29	6.20	-6.6	24
ML AFC n	11.25	-6.3	103
HollyCp	20.65	-7.4	668
GmbricP s	7.75	-6.1	10
OhioArt	12.75	-5.6	6
PremB pfA	25.05	-5.5	36
BVBC pf	8.80	-5.4	17
FstCty pf	10.40	-28.7	7
ExpS AETr	75.00	-16.9	4
BallardPw	12.32	-13.2	30556
KinnevikA	8.80	-12.9	2
Hallkin	5.10	-12.7	239
ICT Grp	14.05	-12.5	2581
OYO Geo	8.75	-12.5	93
BellMic	5.43	-10.7	2094
TipplingP	9.75	-10.5	66
Woodhd	9.75	-9.6	110

NEW YORK POST

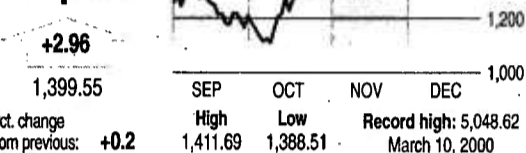
Market Watch

Daily Markets Roundup

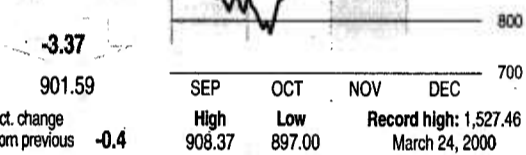
Dec. 12, 2002
Dow Jones
industrials



Dec. 12, 2002
Nasdaq
composite



Dec. 12, 2002
Standard &
Poor's 500



Currencies

	Yesterday	Pvs day
Argentina	3.4950	3.5050
Australia	1.7690	1.7835
Brazil	3.7535	3.7825
Britain	1.5813	1.5767
Canada	1.5558	1.5555
Chile	697.84	702.25
China	8.2781	8.2781
Denmark	7.3274	7.3730
Euro	.9818	.9917
Hong Kong	7.7989	7.7989
India	48.170	48.140
Israel	4.6555	4.6685
Japan	122.73	123.62
Mexico	10.2133	10.1887
N. Zealand	1.9685	1.9912
Pakistan	58.38	58.38
Russia	31.8650	31.8650
So. Africa	8.8950	8.8585
Switzerland	1.4502	1.4618
Taiwan	34.84	34.86
Venezuela	1299.8000	1302.0081

British pound expressed in U.S. dollars. All others show dollar in foreign currency.

Bond Yields

	Yesterday	Pvs day
Prime Rate	4.25	4.25
Discount Rate	0.75	0.75
Federal Funds Rate	1.25	1.25
Treasuries		
3-mos. T-bill	1.18	1.19
6-mos. T-bill	1.24	1.25
5-yr. T-note	3.02	3.19
10-yr. T-note	4.03	4.14
30-year T-bond	4.90	4.99

World Indexes

Name	Last	% chg
Amsterdam	335.72	+1.4
Brussels	2008.78	+1.5
Frankfurt DAX		
FTSE 100	3974.90	+1.3
Hong Kong Idx	9784.57	-0.7
CAC-40	3190.09	+1.5
Nikkei 225 Index	8727.66	-0.9
Sydney	2939.50	-0.6
Milan	18085.00	+0.8

US Indexes

Name	Day's high	Day's low	Last	% chg	YTD chg
30 Indus	8625.89	8487.74	8589.14	+0.2	-14.3
20 Transp	2352.65	2327.57	2348.06	-0.2	-11.1
15 Utilis	205.31	201.20	205.21	+1.1	-30.2
Nasdaq100	1047.74	1019.40	1036.34	+0.3	-34.3
Composite	1407.15	1377.71	1396.59	+0.4	-28.4
S&P 500	909.94	896.48	904.96	+0.1	-21.2
S&P MidCap	437.67	432.29	437.45	+0.5	-13.9
Russell 2000	395.36	391.41	393.88	+0.1	-19.4
Wilshire 5000	8603.56	8487.62	8562.71	+0.1	-20.0
Internet	98.94	94.16	97.49	+3.5	-25.2

Biggest Mutual Funds

Name	Obj	Total Assets (\$Mlns)	4-wk	Total Return/Rank	5-yr	Percent Load	Min Init Invst
Fidelity Invest: Magelln	LC	58,056	+1.9	-19.9/C	+4.8/A	3.00	2,500
Vanguard Idx Fds: 500	SP	56,226	+2.6	-19.4/A	-0.2/A	NL	3,000
American Funds A: ICAAP	LV	45,299	+3.0	-12.9/A	+23.7/A	5.75	250
American Funds A: WshA p	LV	41,423	+4.2	-13.2/A	+16.3/A	5.75	250
PIMCO Instl PIMS: TotRt	IB	39,254	+0.3	+9.9/A	+47.6/A	NL	5,000,000
American Funds A: GwthA p	XC	30,947	+1.8	-19.1/A	+47.8/A	5.75	250
Fidelity Invest: Contra	XG	28,013	+0.6	-7.3/A	+21.7/A	3.00	2,500
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	LC	26,676	+1.1	-15.8/A	+5.5/A	NL	2,500
American Funds A: EupacA p	IL	22,422	+1.0	-13.3/B	+12.0/A	5.75	250
American Funds A: N PerA p	GL	21,979	+1.7	-14.7/B	+29.4/A	5.75	250
Vanguard Fds: GNMA	MT	21,292	+0.2	+9.6/A	+41.9/A	NL	3,000
Vanguard Instl Fds: InstlIdx	SP	20,088	+2.6	-19.3/A	+0.4/A	NL	10,000,000
American Funds A: IncoA p	MP	19,501	+3.0	-4.6/B	+22.0/B	5.75	250
Vanguard Fds: Weltn	BL	19,122	+2.5	-5.6/A	+26.2/A	NL	3,000
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	LG	18,634	+0.6	-19.0/A	+3.1/A	NL	2,500
Vanguard Fds: Wndsl	LV	17,734	+3.5	-14.0/A	+4.9/B	NL	3,000
Fidelity Invest: Puritn	BL	17,709	+2.4	-6.4/A	+18.4/B	NL	2,500
Fidelity Invest: Eq Inc	EL	17,247	+3.5	-14.5/C	+14.9/C	NL	2,500
Fidelity Invest: BluCh	LC	16,875	+1.6	-22.5/D	-3.4/C	NL	2,500
Janus : Fund	LG	16,330	+1.6	-24.3/B	-3.6/B	NL	2,500
Vanguard Idx Fds: TotBnd	IB	16,271	+0.2	+7.8/D	+40.4/B	NL	3,000
American Funds A: Fdinva p	LC	15,011	+2.8	-16.3/A	+14.6/A	5.75	250
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	XG	14,578	+3.5	-30.5/D	+10.9/B	NL	2,500
Fidelity Invest: LowP r	MV	14,502	+3.9	-1.9/A	+52.2/A	3.00	2,500
Putnam Funds A: GrlnA p	LV	14,114	+3.7	-16.6/B	-3.3/C	5.75	500
Vanguard Idx Fds: TotStk	XC	13,932	+2.8	-18.0/C	-1.3/C	NL	3,000
Vanguard Fds: HlthCre	HB	13,782	-0.2	-9.3/A	+104.1/A	NL	25,000
Janus : WrldW	GL	13,508	+0.5	-23.2/E	-0.6/C	NL	2,500
Frank/Temp Frnk A: CalTFA p	SS	13,414	-0.4	+5.7/E	+29.0/B	4.25	1,000
Fidelity Invest: DivGth	LC	13,118	+3.0	-16.6/A	+31.7/A	NL	2,500

GR = Growth. GI = Growth & Income. SS = Single-state Muni. MP = Mixed Portfolio. LG = Long-term US Govt. EI = Equity Income. SC = Small Co Growth. CP = Cap Appreciation. IL = International. Total Return: Change in NAV with dividends reinvested. Rank: How fund performed vs. others with same objective: A is in top 20%, E in bottom 30%. Pct Load: Sales charge. Min init invt: Minimum \$ needed to invest in fund. NA = Not avail. NE - Data in question. NS = Fund not in existence. Stock Footnotes: n = New in past 52 weeks. pf = Preferred. s = Split or stock dividend of 20 percent or more in past 52 weeks. rt = Rights. u = Units. v = Trading halted on primary market. vl = In bankruptcy or receivership. wd = When distributed. wi = When issued. wt = Warrants. ww = With warrants. Mutual Fund Footnotes: x = Ex cash dividend. NL = No up-front sales charge. p = Fund assets used to pay distribution costs. r = Redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply. t = Both p and r. Gainers and Losers must be worth at least \$2 to be listed in tables at left. Most Actives must be worth at least \$1.

Most Active MEDIA

company	ticker	vol (000)	close price	% change	52 wk high	52 wk low	P/E
AOL TW	AOL	12807	13.56	-0.7	34.25		
LibtMA	L	11321	9.47	+1.3	15.03		
Comcast	CMCSA	10942	23.60	+0.9	40.45		
Comc sp	CMCSK	8792	22.85	+0.2	40.56	16.40	
Disney	DIS	5649	16.87	+0.1	25.25	13.48	28
USA Intr	USAI	5618	24.34	-1.4	33.53	15.31	
YouthStrm	YSTM	5460	0.11	...	1.49	0.02	
ChartCm	CHTR	5199	1.45	-1.4	17.05	0.76	
ViacomB	VIA/B	5177	42.95	-2.2	51.89	29.75	51
EchoStar	DISH	4807	21.42	-1.4	30.03	13.41	
Fox Ent	FOX	3506	26.69	+2.9	28.40	16.13	28
ClearChan	CCU	3249	39.35	-1.2	54.90	20.00	
GM H	GMH	3199	10.90	-0.8	17.55	8.00	
LTWC	LTWC	2465	0.09	-3.2	0.28	0.03	
XM Sat	XMSR	1991	3.11	-1.0	20.68	1.66	
Univision	UVN	1964	26.40	-1.9	47.00	16.40	
CoxCom	COX	1719	30.08	+2.1	42.09	18.95	
Sirius	SIRI	1551	0.68	-5.6	13.05	0.66	
Omnicom	OMC	1510	68.65	+0.6	97.35	36.50	21
Interpublic	IPG	1399	13.71	-1.1	34.98	9.85	17

Most Active TECH

company	ticker	vol (000)	close price	% change	52 wk high	52 wk low	P/E
Cisco	CSCO	53210	14.11	+1.9	21.84	10.10	38
Intel	INTC	53041	18.19	+0.2	40.00	12.00	48
CienaCp	CIEN	50424	6.20	+19.7	19.30	2.41	
NortelNw	NT	40913	1.81	-4.7	8.77	0.43	
SunMicro	SUNW	40725	3.53	+1.0	14.41	2.25	
Lucent	LU	39699	1.48	+2.1	6.68	0.55	
Oracle	ORCL	30743	11.40	+0.8	17.50	7.25	32
Microsft	MSFT	27138	54.17	-0.9	70.62	41.41	32
JDS Uniph	JDSU	27046	2.90	+2.9	10.50	1.58	
ApplMatl s	AMAT	26265	14.37	-1.4	27.95	10.26	90
DellCpnr	DELL	21650	27.43	-1.2	31.20	21.90	37
Alcatel	ALA	19957	4.76	-9.8	19.73	2.03	
SiebelSys	SEBL	16538	7.72	+3.8	38.38	5.33	70
i2 Tech	ITWO	13876	1.24	-5.4	9.58	0.41	
Qualcom	QCOM	13119	38.51	-2.6	59.10	23.21	88
Yahoo	YHOO	12727	17.68	+7.4	21.35	8.94	
KLA Tnc	KLAC	12712	38.40	-1.8	70.58	25.16	42
Redback	RBAC	12628	1.01	+6.3	6.43	0.24	
BEA Sys	BEAS	12567	10.83	+9.2	22.50	4.59	72
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RICHTER TOLD SEASON'S OVER

By LARRY BROOKS

Mike Richter was crying on the inside, that was clear to everyone involved with the poignant conference call last night in which the goaltender announced he had been advised by two brain-specialists he would have to sit out the remainder of this Rangers season.

Richter was measured, but his voice betrayed his emotion.

"I'm not saying that I'm not frustrated or confused; it's a tough one to digest, that's for sure," Richter said. "Two weeks ago I was wondering when I'd be able to start, and now this; it's depressing to hear that I won't be able to play for a long time."

"There's so much I have to absorb right now and kind of accept. It's very difficult to accept."

Richter remained with the Rangers for seven days — and even dressed as a backup once — before going to see Johnston in Montreal on Nov. 14. When his symptoms had not subsided as of Sunday, he visited Johnston again on Monday then flew to Chi-



MIKE RICHTER
Suffered concussion.

cago for a previously undisclosed meeting with Dr. James Kelley.

"Their conclusion was they don't want me playing at this time," said Richter, who spoke a final time by phone late yesterday afternoon with Johnston. "She wouldn't discuss next year. She told me a lot of what I need to do is nothing; that I need a lot of rest. She told me what I have to do is focus on getting better."

Richter, 36, married with two small children, said he still suffered from, "light-

headedness, fatigue that's pretty pronounced if I do anything."

"I can't function on a daily basis," he said. "It's amazing how you can't anticipate life. Your brain was hit. The whole central nervous system is out of whack."

Richter received support from Pat LaFontaine and Jeff Beukeboom, both forced to retire because of concussions; and from Eric Lindros, whose medical history is well known.

"A few weeks ago Eric took out a book about the Caribbean, and said this is where you're going," Richter said. "He told me it wasn't time to play the hero. His advice was strong, and it was not to take any short cuts. He's been great."

Now Richter's career has been short cut. His voice broke as he discussed his loss.

"I always said that the game is a great gift. I love the game," he said. "To be told that I can't play, that I'm not allowed..."

"I have to go on... and I will."

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For stores, the season of chopping

By LISA MARSH

As the most critical part of the Christmas shopping season begins, retailers are quaking in their boots — and slashing prices.

The news so far has been bad for retailers. Their year-to-year increases have been so slim that most industry analysts have revised seasonal expectations even further downward.

But there are plenty of procrastinators. America Online revealed that with eight shopping days until Christmas, 34 percent of its members had not even started shopping and 81 percent still had gift-buying to do.

So retailers are lining up deals to lure those late-season shoppers, bumping up discounts.

While Macy's had its last one-day sale before the holiday on Wednesday,

"there are still some good sales and values," a company spokeswoman said.

To give busy shoppers more opportunity to buy, Kmart stores will be open for 110 straight hours, starting this morning and not closing until 8 p.m. on Dec. 24.

"It will be very crowded this weekend," said Mike Niemira, economist for the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. "How much they'll spend is the question."

Concerns like the slowing economy and increased talk of a war with Iraq are weighing heavily on consumers' minds.

Niemira said his company surveyed retail CEOs to determine what impact they thought a war would have. "They believe a war could be worth as much as one percentage point of lost sales," he said.

Poaching models for the holidays

FASHION BUZZ

By Jared Paul Stern

IT doesn't look like the model wars are taking time off for the holidays.

Devilish DNA Model Management director **David Bonnouvrier** just stole blue-blooded superstar **Stella Tennant** away from his arch-enemy, **Kate Moss** booker **Women**.

Tennant, who's related to the **Duchess of Devonshire**, won last year's VHL-Vogue Model of the Year award and is best known as the Burberry gal.

Her departure is something of a speed bump for **Women** boss **Paul Rowland**, who in the past month has raided the larder at IMG, capturing Armani babe **Bekah Jenkins**, rising star **Selita**, swimsuit siren **Ana Beatriz Barros** and Yves Saint Laurent star **Lisa Winkler**.

Tennant is the second big name to walk away from **Women** recently, following **Vuitton** vixen **Eva Herzigova's** jump to **One Management**.

"I think she just wanted to

change her presentation in New York," DNA's Bonnouvrier told Fashion Buzz. "She's been at **Women** for a long time. She's a real icon of our industry, and she's got certain expectations. She felt it was time to move on. It's very exciting for us, of course."

Women partner **Ronnie Harris** remains philosophical. "She's a very, very nice girl and we'd have wanted her to stay of course, but she wanted to move so she moved," he says. "The industry is like that. It's part of the dynamics of the world."

Meanwhile Bonnouvrier isn't overly impressed by Rowland's raids. "Seven years ago you couldn't do anything without **Women** in the city," he says. "But they've had their time."

As for industry behemoth IMG, home of many big-name beauties, Bonnouvrier's verdict is "Too many girls, not enough people."

As the previous item indicates, models are not among the most loyal or grateful class of citizens. So the industry is buzzing about an extraordinary show of gratitude that *supe du jour* **Gisele Bündchen** is said to have bought her agent — **Anne Nelson** at IMG — a Mercedes-Benz for Christmas.

Unfortunately for Nelson, however — and other agents who hoped the move might inspire their girls to similar acts of largesse — the Bündchen tale isn't true.

"I wish," Nelson laughs. "First of all, I don't need a Mercedes. She hasn't given me anything yet. But if she does happen to give me a car, I'll pick you up in it and take you to dinner."

Oh well.

In the old days, a standard present from model to



LEAVING WOMEN: Stella Tennant as been poached by DNA Model's David Bonnouvrier. Reuters

booker was the girl's day rate; i.e., if she made \$5,000 a day the booker got a \$5,000 check for Christmas. But lately that tradition has fallen by the wayside. This season everyone's snickering about the booker at Company who got a candle and a bar of soap from one of her best girls.

Since Nelson's Mercedes seems to be mythical, it looks like ID Models vice president **Kirsten Kim Weaver**, who was handed \$10,000 from Arden and L'Oreal babe **Cinthia Moura**, as well as a Cartier watch from Cavalli muse **Nadejda Savcova**, is the season's big winner.

The folks at ID were also happy to get a Methuselah of Cristal champagne from **Kiera Chaplin**, Charlie's

model/actress granddaughter, who was happy about her booking in this month's Vanity Fair.

Meanwhile, rumor has it that one lucky booker at another agency got a designer bag full of \$10,000 in cash and all kinds of other goodies from one of its top girls. Now that's the kind of model worth poaching.

And sources say that in an effort to stimulate the spirit of giving, an agent at New York Models sent a letter to that agency's girls to the effect that donations would be welcome — which didn't go over well with all of them.

An agency rep denies it. Might not be a bad idea, though.

Please send e-mail to: jsfern@nypost.com

LEGAL NOTICE

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GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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2.625% Bonds, Series Q, due 2010
CUSIP NO. 391116PG5

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of the Great Northern Railway Company General Gold Bond Mortgage, dated January 1, 1921, by and between Great Northern Railway Company (now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company) and The First National Bank of the City of New York (now Citibank, N.A.), as Trustee, as supplemented (the "Indenture") and Supplemental Indenture (No. 7), dated as of January 1, 1946, to the Indenture, \$28,805,000 principal amount (the entire amount held publicly) of Great Northern Railway Company General Mortgage 2.625% Gold Bonds, Series Q, due 2010 (the "Bonds"), have been called for redemption on January 1, 2003, at a redemption price of 100 1/8% of the principal amount thereof.

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The method of delivery of the Bonds to the aforesaid corporate trust office is at the option and risk of the holder thereof; but, if mail is used, registered mail is suggested.

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CUSIP NUMBER is for reference purposes only and no representation is made as to its correctness printed on the Bonds or on this Notice of Full Redemption.

Con Edison Has Filed Changes to its Gross Receipts Tax Rates

On November 27, 2002, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("Con Edison" or "the Company") filed electric and gas tariff amendments with the New York Public Service Commission ("PSC") related to Gross Receipts Tax ("GRT") in compliance with orders of the PSC.

The tariff amendments, scheduled to become effective January 1, 2003 provide for application of separate GRT rates applicable to the commodity and delivery bill components of residential and non-residential customers' bills. Currently, the Company applies a blended commodity and delivery GRT rate to customers' total bill amounts, and these blended rates are eliminated in this filing. The new GRT rates also reflect a reduction in statutory state GRT rates effective January 1, 2003 and provide for recovery of the Company's estimated state income tax.

Complete copies of Con Edison's proposed tariff amendments are available for review at the offices of the Public Service Commission, 1 Penn Plaza 8th Floor, New York, New York 10019, and at offices where applications for Con Edison electric and gas service may be made.

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.

Fixer-upper 90 West St. to be sold

By LOIS WEISS

The landmarked building at 90 West Street that was extensively damaged on Sept. 11 is in contract to be sold for just over \$10 million and converted to residential use.

But before you pull out your wallets to take home what appears to be a tremendous bargain, understand that the 350,000-square-foot building could require an additional \$135 a foot to renovate, plus millions more to restore to Landmarks Commission specs, bring it up to current city codes, and then complete the finishes on luxury apartments.

Real estate sources identified the buyer as Brock Capital Real Estate, a company that was in line to buy portions of the glitzy green One, Two and Three U.N. Plaza from the Giuliani administration before Bloomberg officials KO'd the deal.

Led by Moshe Dan-Azogui, Brock Capital is the U.S. affiliate of VSP Capital Holdings, which is traded on the Tel Aviv stock market. Dan-Azogui did not return calls for comment.

Paul Johnson of Aegon USA, the Midwestern company that owns the property, advised by e-mail, "We have received inquiries concerning the acquisition of 90 West. We continue to be the owner of record of 90 West." Sources said they will walk away with their insurance proceeds and that anything else they get on the building "is gravy."

"One of the things that is attractive about the property for residential converters is that it is on two corners and has 360-degree views, which is very unique as compared to the other 15-plus projects in that area," said Andrew Heiberger, president of Citi-Habitats.

3 more years for Brennan

Former penny stock promoter Robert Brennan, already serving a nine-year prison term for fraud and money laundering, was sentenced to three more years yesterday for violating a judge's freeze on his assets.

Brennan, 58, pleaded guilty in August to violating an April 2000 order by U.S. District Judge Richard Owen when he paid \$500,000 in legal fees to his criminal defense lawyer, Michael Critchley. His plea followed his conviction in April 2001 for hiding \$4.5 million from bankruptcy creditors, to which he was sentenced to nine years by a judge in Trenton, N.J.

Bloomberg
JAN 10 2003 10:00 AM

PUBLIC NOT INVITED

Bars, clubs to get around butt ban by going private

By PAUL THARP

Despite the ban on smoking in bars, new loopholes are emerging that may let customers light up all they want in clubs and night spots.

Even small neighborhood pubs could be able to tell the Bloomberg butt police to bug off under the legal lodges.

Promotion experts say it'll still be legal to smoke at private, invitation-only events where the public isn't invited. "The key to this are the words — 'open to the public,'" said Joe Mastrocovi, managing partner of national night club promotion firm, Modere Promotions, Inc.

"The large night clubs and dance clubs will probably turn over most of their nights to be controlled by independent promoters, who create the venue into a private event by invitation only."

"They would be specific events requiring invitations to get in," he said.

"When the general public isn't permitted inside, it gives a lot of wriggle room to set your own rules for the events," he said. "Like allowing guests to smoke."

Restaurants may have a more tricky route to transform themselves into invitation-only operations. "It depends on the kind of restaurant. In one where its kitchen closes after the dinner crowd leaves at 10 or 11 and the place becomes a night club, the place can cater just to private, invitation-only events."

In the small neighborhood bars, owners could close their places each night to the general public,

Butt out!

The city's smoking ban is anything but a drag for promoters, who plan to exploit loopholes. Here are details:



- Night spots could hold "private parties," with entrance granted on request.
- Membership cards could be issued for entrance, also with no sweat.
- Revenue of little neighborhood bars not skilled in marketing could go up in smoke.

and hang up signs saying "Private Party" or "Closed for Fund Raiser. Invitation Only."

"You can get fraternal organizations that want to sponsor fund-raiser nights at neighborhood bars. You could take a place for all

kinds of events — from aiding Alzheimer research to the Emerald Society, the Police Department, firemen.

"You could snowball these events into helping a lot of groups and a lot of

good causes," said Mastrocovi.

One industry lawyer familiar with the new anti-smoking law said it has exemptions that could allow widespread smoking, but declined to discuss them on the record.

"The test will be whether you can prove it's an invitation-only event," the person said.

Mastrocovi expects that some restaurant operators will be creative in trying to beat the smoking ban in their premises, and will likely face an enforcement bust for allowing invitation-only smokers.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I think it would be a pretty good case to challenge the constitutionality of the Bloomberg law."

The small eateries and pubs that do nothing to find ways around the ban will probably take a big loss in customer traffic.

"The neighborhood bars, those guys of the old ways, will take the biggest hit. The people who frequent them want to go in there and park, and sit and talk."

The law could actually help boost local marketing business, by creating thousands of new events that didn't exist before for promoters to sell goods and services.

"It's going to create a lot of business for creative marketing people," said publicist David Granoff, an avowed non-smoker.

"Whenever any law changes, it creates new business opportunities for somebody, somewhere."

Some nightlife observers think that familiar local watering holes will gain status by becoming invitation-only hangouts.

Granoff and other marketers see a proliferation of newsletters and websites that track smoker-events around town. "There'll be buzz words, like 'have a smokin' time,'" said Granoff.

High-priced talent hits Warner Bros.

High-priced celebrities are the latest headache for AOL Time Warner.

Apart from its accounting troubles and a weak online future at its AOL division, the company is feeling a pinch from its usually successful Warner Bros. studio.

Warner isn't getting much bang for all the big bucks it spends on pricey stars such as Sandra Bullock, Robert DiNiro and Eddie Murphy, who get \$20 million and up for a picture.

Their latest flicks from the studio have bombed, such as Murphy's "Adventures of Pluto Nash," which cost more than \$100 million but took in just \$4 million at the box office.

Through the end of No-

A string of 13 star-driven duds is making studio brass more nervous than usual, says the Los Angeles Times.

Arnold Schwarzenegger's big-budget bomb "Collateral Damage," took in just \$40 million and Clint Eastwood's "Blood Work" produced only \$28 million.

President and COO Alan Horn said the star flops are causing the studio to be more cautious, and more inclined to take on partners. Some question whether big stars are even worth the expense, since many of the biggest hits in the past several years haven't had big stars.

Through the end of No-



WireImage.com

ALAN HORN
Warner president.

vention, six of the 10 films with the highest ticket sales in 2002 had no superstars. They were "Spider-Man," "Lord of the Rings," "Star Wars: Episode II," "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," and "Ice Age."

Paul Tharp
may edit this story

Bush scaling down plans for tax cut

By BETH PISKORA

The big gift Americans are expecting from President George W. Bush next year may not be everything they hoped for.

Yes, tax cuts are still coming. But the elimination of double taxation of dividends is not going to be the boon investors believe.

The Bush administration intends to cap tax-free dividends at \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for couples filing joint returns, The Post has learned.

The reasons are many. First, the federal government simply cannot give up all the income it gets by double-taxing dividends — first by taxing the companies and then by taxing the shareholders.

According to congressional estimates, the federal government takes in about \$2 billion a year by taxing individuals on dividends that have been already taxed at the corporate level.

Second, the White House is trying to fend off complaints that this is yet another gift to the very rich. By capping the free dividends at a relatively low level, more taxpayers of all income levels will benefit.

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2000 FORD WINDSTAR SEL \$16,995 AUTO, DUAL A/C, POWER DOORS, ALLOYS, CD, #1749, 45K	2000 LINCOLN LS V6 \$18,995 AUTO, LEATHER, MOONROOF, ALLOYS, BLACK, 34K, #U1805	1998 MERCURY ODYSSEY LX \$21,995 AUTO, FRONT & REAR A/C, 7 PASS, 5 DR, ALLOYS, #U1801	2000 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR \$27,995 AWD, LEATHER, V8, RUNNING BOARDS, FULL POWER, #U1772, 38K

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SPORTS SHORTS

BASEBALL: Maddux stays

As reported exclusively by The Post yesterday, **Greg Maddux** decided to stay with the Braves, accepting the team's offer of salary arbitration yesterday.

The four-time Cy Young Award winner had been a free agent. Accepting arbitration is the equivalent of signing a one-year deal for the 2003 season.

Maddux, a 36-year-old right-hander, made the decision late Wednesday night, according to agent **Scott Boras**, and told the team of his decision about eight hours before the midnight deadline.

● **Dick Stuart**, a brawny slugger whose bad fielding earned him the nickname "Dr. Strangelove," died last Sunday. He was 70.

An All-Star in 1961, the first baseman hit .264 with 228 home runs and 743 RBIs in a 10-year career. He played for Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, the Mets, Los Angeles and California, and finished up in 1969.

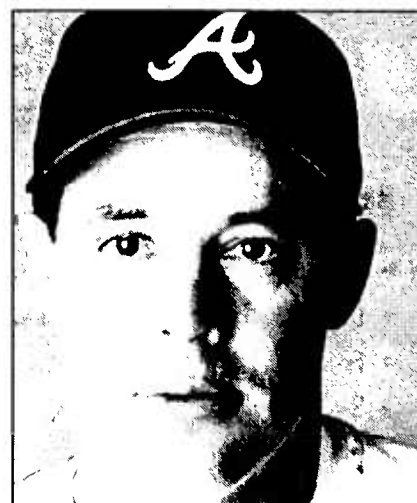
Stuart caught the attention of baseball scouts in 1956 when he hit 66 home runs for Lincoln of the Class A Western League. From then on, he always put a "66" with his name when he signed autographs.

A poor outfielder, the Pirates moved him to first base when he made his major league debut in 1958. Even so, Stuart still struggled in the field, making 16 errors in only 64 games that season.

Stuart made a whopping 29 errors at first base for the Red Sox in 1963.

● Former major league manager **Whitey Herzog** underwent triple bypass surgery and was in stable condition, reported KMOX, the Cardinals' flagship radio station.

Herzog, 71, led the Cardinals to three National League pennants and their last



GREG MADDUX
Still a Brave.

World Series championship in 1982.

HOOPS: WVU program in clear

West Virginia has done enough to address rules violations in the men's basketball program, and no further action is necessary, the NCAA says.

The Mountaineers are 6-1 after a fifth straight victory Wednesday over Western Carolina.

● Former Arkansas basketball coach **Nolan Richardson** sued the university in federal court, claiming its chancellor and athletic director discriminated against him because he is black and violated his free-speech rights.

HOCKEY: Coyotes get Ranheim

The Coyotes acquired veteran left wing **Paul Ranheim** from the Flyers for a conditional draft pick in 2004. The 36-year-old Ranheim had four assists in 28 games for the Flyers this season, his 16th in the NHL.

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'97 KIA SPORTAGE Auto, A/C, Power Pkg., 65K miles \$6995	'99 HYUNDAI LEGANZA Auto, A/C, P/W, P/L, 45K mi. #53542 \$6995	'98 VW BEETLE Auto, A/C, CD, 46K mi. #53603 \$9995	'00 TOYOTA COROLLA Auto, A/C, P/W, P/L, 38K mi. #53683a \$9995	'00 97 VW JETTA GLX V6, Auto, A/C, Lthr., Sunroof, 60K mi. \$9995
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\$19,995* | \$179⁺ LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.

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COMPANY CLAIMS

New fraud suits hit modeling agency man Flutie

FASHION BUZZ

By Jared Paul Stern

A court-appointed trustee has filed a blistering attack against **Michael Flutie**, founder of Company Management, the boutique modeling agency that launched the careers of such top mannequins as **James King**, **Jaime Rishar** and **Rhea Durham**, accusing him of "looting" the agency.

According to a complaint filed in U.S. bankruptcy court by trustee **David Kittay**, Flutie engaged in a variety of fraudulent behavior in his operation of the now-bankrupt Flutie New York Corp.

Back in September we reported that Flutie New York — a company owned by Flutie's father, **Albert**, and which at one time had licensed the name Company Management — had filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection.

This helped protect Flutie from lawsuits filed by former Company models,

including Revlon star **Durham**, Wonderbra model **Saira Mohan** and Gap girl **Amy Wesson**, who are all involved in litigation with Flutie New York Corp. and with Flutie himself over contract disputes.

"Flutie New York was merely an administrative entity that had been dormant for a number of years," Flutie told Fashion Buzz at the time.

"Basically, all it was doing was spending too much money defending bulls--t lawsuits. 'This has nothing to do with us, who we are today or the talent we represent. And we've never been healthier.'"

Flutie has since branched into entertainment management and movie production.

Now Kittay alleges that Flutie bilked the modeling outfit and its creditors by using company funds for his personal use, and by improperly transferring assets of his bankrupt company to another firm in a bid to thwart them, according to Court TV's *The Smoking Gun*, which

obtained the documents and gave Fashion Buzz an exclusive preview (since we put them onto the story in the first place).

According to Kittay, Flutie treated the modeling company "as his own personal cookie jar, and used the corporate veil as a sham through which to engage in conduct intended to deprive the [his] legitimate creditors of assets."

But Flutie tells us everything's been blown out of proportion.

"My father has lived for over 80 years with an unblemished reputation," he declares. "He prides himself in dealing fairly, honestly and ethically with everyone. Neither he nor I know of any impropriety in the affairs of Flutie New York Corp."

"All of the items that Mr. Kittay described are accountancy issues," he continues. "I have contacted the Flutie New York accountants and they will respond."

According to trustee Kittay's legal complaint, Flutie was personally "loaned" \$386,000 from

the modeling company without proper documentation; Kittay also alleges that Flutie New York paid a variety of Flutie's "personal expenses," including "his rent, home telephone and utility bills, [and] health club membership fees."

Kittay also says Flutie ran up \$380,000 in personal purchases on his corporate American Express card.

In addition, Flutie transferred the contracts of at least a dozen fashion models from Flutie New York to another firm under his control "in an effort to avoid debt collection efforts by models and other creditors with claims against the Debtor," Kittay claims.

Kittay's complaint is seeking million of dollars in judgments against Flutie, his father and the pair's new corporate alter egos. Flutie, however, is convinced that this too shall pass.

■ Please send e-mail to: jstern@nypost.com



SUING: Saira Mohan is one of the models involved in contract disputes with Michael Flutie and Flutie New York Corp. Dan Herrick/DML

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FULL REDEMPTION

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY

(now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company)

General Gold Bond Mortgage

2.625% Bonds, Series Q, due 2010

CUSIP NO. 391118PG5

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the provisions of the Great Northern Railway Company General Gold Bond Mortgage, dated January 1, 1921, by and between Great Northern Railway Company (now The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company) and The First National Bank of the City of New York (now Citibank, N.A.), as Trustee, as supplemented (the "Indenture") and Supplemental Indenture (No. 7), dated as of January 1, 1946, to the Indenture, \$28,805,000 principal amount (the entire amount held publicly) of Great Northern Railway Company General Mortgage 2.625% Gold Bonds, Series Q, due 2010 (the "Bonds"), have been called for redemption on January 1, 2003, at a redemption price of 100 1/8% of the principal amount thereof.

The Bonds shall become due and payable on the date fixed for redemption and will be paid at the aforesaid redemption price upon presentation and surrender at the corporate trust office of the Registrar and Paying Agent, U.S. Bank Trust National Association at the following applicable addresses:

By Mail: (Registered Bonds)

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National Association
Corporate Trust Services
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St. Paul, MN 55164-0111

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U.S. Bank Trust
National Association
Corporate Trust Services
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St. Paul, MN 55101

The method of delivery of the Bonds to the aforesaid corporate trust office is at the option and risk of the holder thereof; but, if mail is used, registered mail is suggested.

In the case of registered Bonds, interest accrued to January 1, 2003 will be paid in the usual manner to the persons in whose name the Bonds are registered at the close of business on December 15, 2002. In the case of coupon Bonds, coupons for interest which mature on or prior to January 1, 2003 shall continue to be payable to the bearers of such coupons. Interest on all the Bonds will cease to accrue on and after January 1, 2003.

It is not necessary to sign the Bond or complete the reverse of the Bond unless, in the case of registered Bonds, payment is to be made to a party other than the registered holder, in which case, the assignment of transfer on the reverse of the Bonds must be properly completed.



THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY
BY: CITIBANK, N.A., as Trustee

Dated: October 30, 2002

Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, we may be required under backup withholding rules to withhold 30% of any gross payments made to holders who fail to provide us with, and certify under penalties of perjury a correct taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate) on or before the date the securities are presented for payment. Those holders who are required to provide their taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so, may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide a valid taxpayer identification number in the required manner when presenting your securities for redemption. Backup withholding is not itself a tax and amounts withheld may be claimed by the holder as a tax refund or credit consistent with the holder's overall U.S. federal income tax liability. A non-U.S. holder should provide a Form W-8BEN if the interest and any gain on redemption is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business of the holder, but should provide a Form W-8ECI if such amounts are so effectively connected, in each case certifying the holder's non-U.S. status, as the basis for an exemption from U.S. federal backup withholding tax.

In addition to backup withholding, the United States will impose a 30% regular withholding tax on interest paid to a non-U.S. holder if such interest is not effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the holder, unless the holder provides the Form W-8BEN described above in which the holder specifies that it is eligible for a United States tax treaty which eliminates or reduces the withholding rate. Such holder also potentially could be subject to a 30% U.S. federal income tax on any gain on the redemption if the holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more for the calendar year in which the redemption occurs. A non-U.S. holder which provides a Form W-8ECI with respect to the interest and any gain such holder realizes on the redemption would be subject to U.S. federal tax on such amounts in the same manner as if such person were a U.S. holder. Foreign holders are urged to consult their tax advisors concerning the United States tax consequences of the redemption.

CUSIP NUMBER is for reference purposes only and no representation is made as to its correctness printed on the Bonds or on this Notice of Full Redemption.

Generic-drug makers rap Bush plan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Generic-drug makers including Barr Laboratories Inc. and Andrx Corp. said a plan by President George W. Bush to speed their products to market doesn't go far enough toward stopping big drugmakers from tying up patents in court.

Bush announced his proposal in October, and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said then that the president's plan to allow quicker generic copies of prescription drugs may save consumers about \$3.5 billion a year.

The White House plan would require

makers of brand-name drugs to submit more detailed patent information and would limit their ability to stall generic competition to a single 30-month stay while patent challenges are taken to court. Manufacturers of some brand-name drugs have used multiple stays to ward off competition from cheaper copies.

The trade groups, individual drugmakers, insurers, and other parties filed comments on the Bush proposal with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration this week. Monday was the deadline to file, Hansen said.

Bloomberg

LEGAL NOTICE

Con Edison Has Filed Changes to its Gross Receipts Tax Rates

On November 27, 2002, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. ("Con Edison" or "the Company") filed electric and gas tariff amendments with the New York Public Service Commission ("PSC") related to Gross Receipts Tax ("GRT") in compliance with orders of the PSC.

The tariff amendments, scheduled to become effective January 1, 2003 provide for application of separate GRT rates applicable to the commodity and delivery bill components of residential and non-residential customers' bills. Currently, the Company applies a blended commodity and delivery GRT rate to customers' total bill amounts, and these blended rates are eliminated in this filing. The new GRT rates also reflect a reduction in statutory state GRT rates effective January 1, 2003 and provide for recovery of the Company's estimated state income tax.

Complete copies of Con Edison's proposed tariff amendments are available for review at the offices of the Public Service Commission, 1 Penn Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10019, and at offices where applications for Con Edison electric and gas service may be made.

CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK INC.



WireImage

GUY OSEARY
Suing Idealab.

Idealab sued for \$725M by its investors

By CAROLINE WAXLER

Plaintiffs, start your depositions.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge ruled yesterday that a lawsuit against Internet incubator Idealab and founder Bill Gross can proceed to trial.

The more than 40 plaintiffs — who include Web hottie Cindy Margolis, Michael Dell, Madonna business partner Guy Oseary and the William Morris agency — are suing the company and the former dot-com star, seeking to remove Pasadena, Calif.-based Idealab's directors and management.

The civil case, filed in early 2002, accuses Gross — along with the company's directors — of fraud, self-dealing and breach of fiduciary duty.

Among those to be deposed in the case is former board of directors member Jack Welch.

But although the suit may proceed, the judge asked the plaintiffs for more information on other allegations of wrongdoing.

The steamed plaintiffs want Idealab's remaining assets to be distributed to all the shareholders.

Ideally these plaintiffs, who constitute about 75 percent of the preferred shareholders, would like to get back \$725 million of the money they invested. But that's not likely to happen, since the company is just currently worth between \$300 million and \$400 million.

At the same time, the investor group is asking the SEC to have Idealab's exemption from the Investment Company Act of 1940 yanked.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has begun an inquiry over the case, in which the plaintiffs contend that Idealab has been run like an operating company and therefore shouldn't be exempt from such things as reporting its results to the SEC. If the investors win either case, they might put Idealab out of business.

SPENDERS SLEEP

Stores see biggest Christmas slump in 30 years

By LEAH HAINES

There were bargains galore — but shoppers were thin on the ground in Manhattan yesterday as retailers' hopes for a post-Christmas boom melted.

Discounts of up to 75 percent did their best to lure shoppers out of bed at the crack of dawn.

But it is unlikely that enough people hit the pavement to head off what's expected to be the biggest Christmas shopping flop in 30 years.

By lunch time, one of Manhattan's busiest shopping districts — 34th Street — was at half speed, with plenty of elbow room on the sidewalk and not a frenzied return line to be seen.

"I think the snow is keeping them away; it's knee-deep upstate," said one store assistant

who arrived at work at 6 a.m. expecting throngs of spenders at the door.

Though retailers had gambled their fates on do-or-die mark-downs, only the hardest shoppers seemed prepared to brave the weather to get to them.

"We got up at 5 a.m., took the 6:30 train and got here by 7 to start shopping," said Mary Brennan of Mineola, L.I. Brennan, together with her neighbor Geri Cinotti, spent \$300 filling six enormous bags full of goodies.

"To be honest, there's much more variety here, and Macy's is like the mother ship," Brennan said.

"I got this beautiful Christopher Rabko glassware for 60 percent off and Christmas garlands for half price."

Her bargain of the day? A resin Santa doll marked down to \$5 from \$45.

Margot Wong, from Canarsie in Brooklyn, didn't start shopping until 9:45, but she still had found everything she wanted two hours later. "I thought it would be crazy here, but it's not at all," she said.

Wong was heading off at about 1 p.m. to dump her shopping and start another round after scoring a pair of \$500 Charles Jourdan boots for \$124, a designer kettle for better than half-price and Ellen Tracy clothes for 75 percent off.

Retail analysts have been divided over whether big sales in the days after Christmas would spur the industry to life.

"If sales have been pretty weak through Christmas Eve, post-

Christmas is going to be weak too," said Keith Goddard, director of research at Capital Advisors Inc., which holds shares in such retailers as Wal-Mart and Kohl's.

Wal-Mart has lowered its sales forecast for December, saying any last-minute surge in demand was too little and too late.

Target Corp., the third-largest U.S. retailer, said earlier this week its December sales were well below forecasts.

A Kmart spokeswoman told The Post that the company's October results had only recently been posted, and that it had not even made a projection for holiday sales. Macy's refused to comment on whether its sales appeared to be working, and Bloomingdale's did not return The Post's calls last night.

UAL, unions head back to the table

By PAUL THARP

United Airlines — bankrupt but breaking records filling its planes — is ready to toss all labor contracts for cheaper overhead.

The world's No. 2 airline is legally permitted to nullify contracts with the five labor unions that represent its 83,000 workers while it tries to reorganize in bankruptcy court.

United, which plans to file papers this week that would let the court order new contracts, is expected to push for deeper concessions than it won several weeks ago in a rescue bid for a federal bailout loan package.

The pilots union, which spearheaded those earlier concession talks, had agreed to 18 percent pay cuts to help the cash-strapped airline avoid bankruptcy. But pilots say they're reluctant to give back more than 18 percent in a new contract.

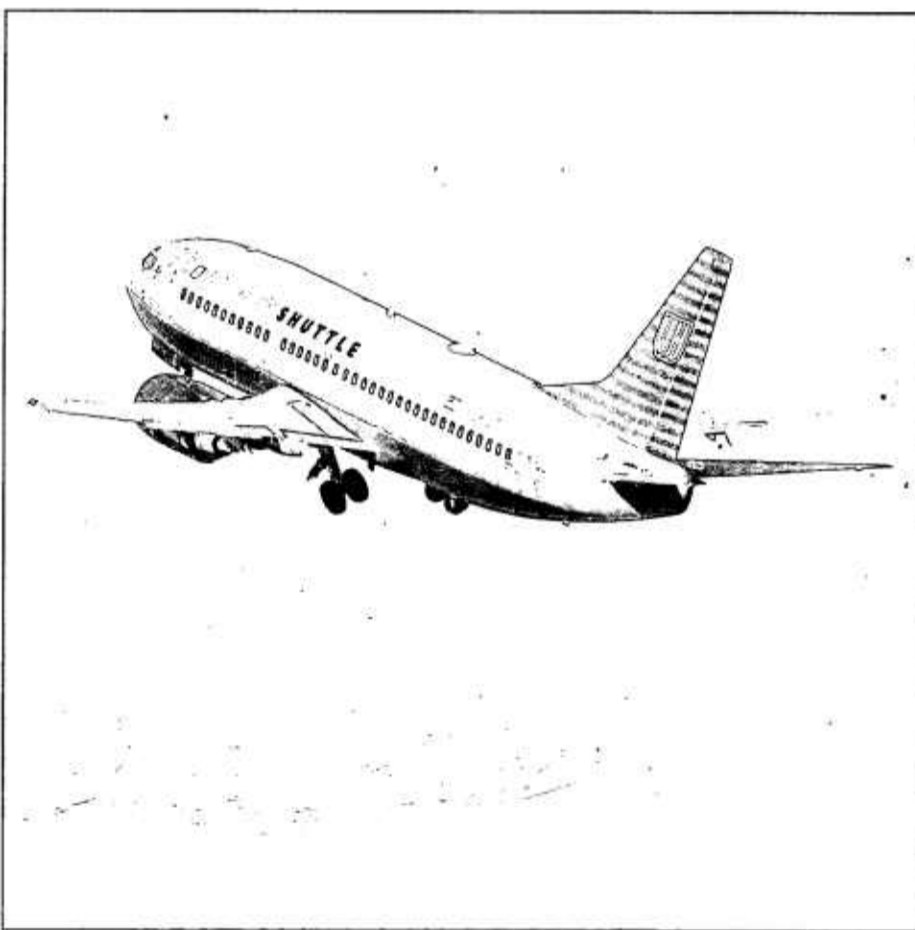
"We have 51 days to reach a settlement, but we're not going to be penalized in it. A settlement must be fair and rational," said David Kelly, a spokesman for the Airline Pilots Association.

Meanwhile, United was celebrating a new record: carrying the more paying passengers in a single day.

On Saturday, 90.7 percent of its seats were filled with ticket buyers — the highest level ever, the carrier said. Tickets had been slashed as much as 20 percent for that period.

But the added revenue may not help United recover more rapidly from bankruptcy, say analysts.

Until recently, United was 51 percent owned by employees. But when United's financial problems worsened last autumn, the employees' stock ownership trust began unloading truckloads of shares — about 24 million — like a panicked investor.



ROCKY FLIGHT AHEAD: A United Airlines jet takes off from Denver earlier this month. The airline is asking a bankruptcy court to nullify union contracts to help UAL further reduce its labor costs.

Getty Images

Identix shares jump 15% on Defense Dept. order

Thanks for the late Christmas gift, Uncle Sam!

That's what Identix Inc. investors were saying yesterday as shares rose 15 percent, or 72 cents, to \$5.56 after the security company announced it had won an order to provide 450 fingerprint scanners to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Identix, which makes both fingerprint- and facial-recognition products, trimmed its financial targets for the current quarter 11 days ago, saying sales to the government had been slower than expected.

Not so slow, apparently. The 450

fingerprint readers will be used to identify Department of Defense personnel. In addition to the readers, Identix will also provide 500,000 template licenses, for the software that converts the fingerprint image into strings of numbers.

According to analyst Jay Meier of Miller Johnson Steichen Kinnard, the Identix deal may just be a forerunner to an even bigger Department of Defense contract, slated to be doled out soon, and perhaps another fat one from the Department of Homeland Security. Since Identix already has its foot in the door and the company is one of few to make

the technology, said Meier, "it's like, who you gonna call?"

"If Identix lands either of those pieces of business, the stock will go a lot higher," Meier added.

Identix CEO Joseph Atick said that the company's financial outlook was unaffected by the order. "This was anticipated in the guidance that we've given," Atick said.

Identix warned on Dec. 16 that it expected revenue for the second quarter, ended Dec. 31, of \$20 million to \$23 million, for a loss before charges of 6 cents to 8 cents per share. Its shares fell 19 percent after that news.

Caroline Waxler



"LOOKS LIKE A GOOD TIME TO TRADE IN THE REINDEER."

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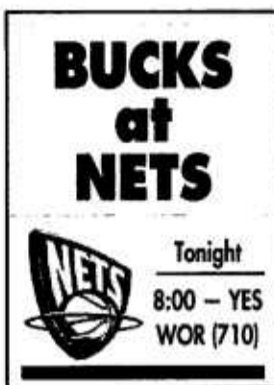
NETS PACKIN' 'D' FOR ROAD AHEAD

By FRED KERBER

The streak shows 11 straight victories at home, five in a row overall. Offensive numbers are up, defensive numbers are down. Why are the Nets playing so well? Byron Scott presented the most simplistic denominators.

"Jason Kidd, No. 1. Richard Jefferson. Kenyon Martin. Rodney Rogers. I could pretty much go down the line. Lucious Harris," said Scott, who no doubt would have extended the list to 12 names. "Individually, we've got some guys who are playing extremely well. Team-wise, we're playing extremely well on both ends."

Being at home for much of December certainly hasn't hurt the 20-9 Nets' stature as the best team in the Atlantic Division and one of four NBA teams with 20 victories. That home comfort will dissolve as the Nets become nomads in January — 10 of their 14 games are



on the road. But two of their last three games before New Year's are at home, including tonight's at 8:00, the start of a home-and-home with the Bucks.

"Hopefully then we'll just put a picture of Continental [Airlines] Arena in our wallets," suggested Kidd with a smile. "I don't know. Plaster the bus with Continental Arena [pictures] until we get off the bus?"

Or they could keep doing what they've been doing: play defense. The defense has been excep-

tional even without Dikembe Mutombo, the guy they brought in to be the defensive anchor. The players will say, and rightfully so, they relied too heavily upon Mutombo early. With him out, they've stepped up and have molded together a true approach to team defense.

"We know he's not back there to block shots, so we're picking our intensity up on the perimeter and stuff like that, not letting guys get to the basket," said Kenyon Martin, progressively becoming one of the league's premier defensive forwards. "We're making them shoot jump shots and contesting shots."

And forcing missed jump shots. With Mutombo through 16 games (they were 10-6), the Nets surrendered 90.2 points a game and an impressive .422 (549-of-1302) shooting percentage. In the 13 games since (they are 10-3), the numbers are even better. Foes have shot .402 (417-of-1038)



ROAD BLOCK: Richard Jefferson and Nets have held opposing scorers (like Latrell Sprewell) from getting to basket and is key reason for early success.

Jeff Zelevansky

while scoring a minuscule 87.2 points per game. They rank fourth in the league in scoring defense (88.8) and second in field-goal defense (.413). Plus, the defense will get better with the return of Mutombo. And Kerry Kittles. And Chris Childs.

"We didn't know how to play with [Mutombo]. The injury, though, might have helped us. We have to play defense and let Deke be the last option," Kidd said.

"We're playing well without [Mutombo] right now, but he's still a big

part of it. Having him here in the first part of the season, then not having him made us adjust, made us play tighter defense," said Jefferson. "If we continue to play like this, plus you have a shot-blocker back there? We'll be ready."

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