

# SPRING BREAK

Article

On Safari in the Concrete Jungle: NYC on the Cheap

By: Natalie Folster

Well, they've got to be kidding about the Spring part, and it's debatable whether the half-hour left over after you finish all those overdue essays, readings, assignments, etc. constitutes a break, but it's that time of year again. Time to pack a bag and hit the road for some R and R.

Photos by Dave McCluskey

Nightlife: SCARY!!

The natives are friendly, unless provoked.

There are ways and then there are ways to have a blast in N.Y.C.

There are things to be done in New York, and they won't necessarily cost you all your money or your life. Take walking for instance. The island of Manhattan is a solid block of concrete twelve and a half miles long and thirteen blocks wide in the middle. It is incredibly easy to get around because all the streets are numbered. Crammed into this tiny space is a microcosm of urban life.

Each neighborhood has a completely different feel to it. The noisy, crowded sidewalks of Chinatown, the well-heeled calm of Fifth Avenue, the seedy desperation of West 42nd Street, and the laid back afterhours atmosphere of the up-

per West side with its broad, tree-lined streets and trendy cafes. Central Park on a Saturday afternoon in summer is like a carnival, an overwhelming experience for the senses. It is possible to wander around for days and never tire of observing the New Yorker in his natural habitat.

The tourist bit-climber, take the Staten Island Ferry (\$25 round trip) which cruises right by the Statue of Liberty. To restore your faith in humanity, visit the United Nations. Natives say that the bus tour of Harlem is worthwhile. Go skating at Rockefeller Center or in Central Park.

Cutrate tickets for Broadway shows are available at Tkts NY outlets in the lobby of

the World Trade Centre and in Duffy Square (more variety at 47th and Broadway. Even at reduced prices, it will cost you \$15-\$25 for a hot ticket (and for some which are not so hot).

However, it is possible to see some fine theatre for less than \$8. Check New York Magazine, the New Yorker, or the Village Voice for complete listings all over town, including concerts, exhibitions, etc.

At 9 am in front of the NBC Info Office at Rockefeller Center, they give away standby tickets for Letterman, Saturday Night Live, The Cosby Show and Donahue. Otherwise, the waiting lists for seats in the audience are up to a year long. Amateur Night (every Wednesday) at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem is legendary. The au-

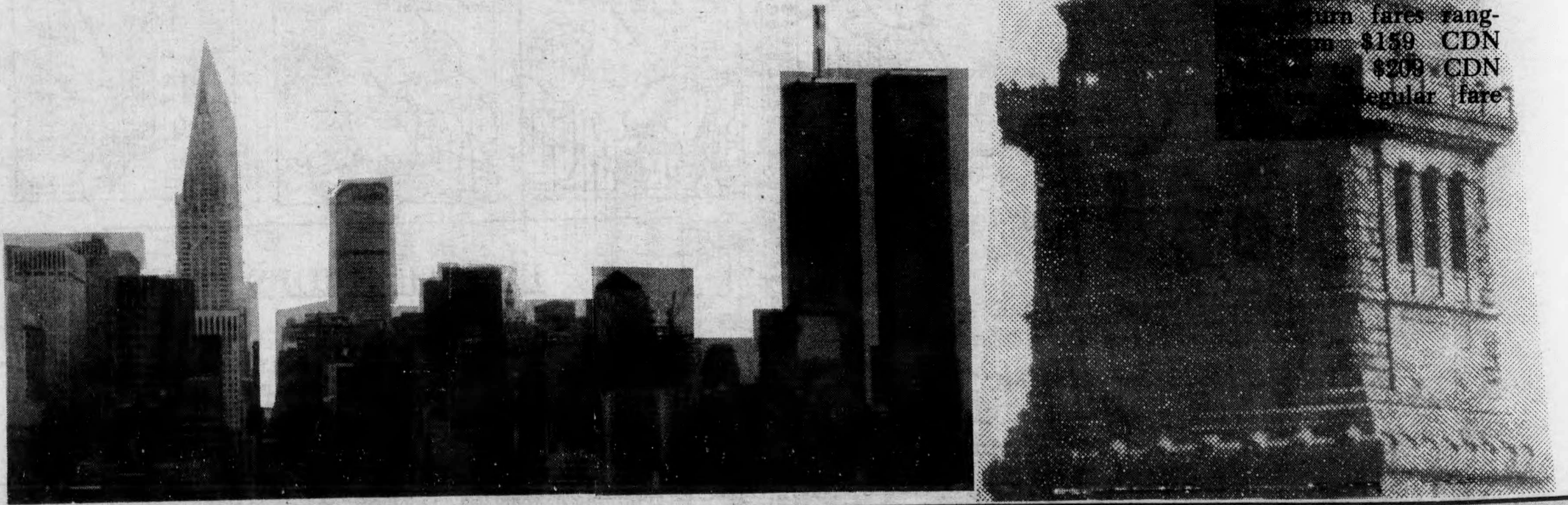
dience is merciless, the entertainment first rate. Tickets range from \$5-\$20 and you are advised to get them before Wednesday.

### Accommodations:

The YMCA youth hostels, and during the summer, the universities, offer cheap accommodations for students. Hotels in Manhattan range in price from about \$30-\$300 US a night. For more information, write the New York Convention and Visitor Bureau, 2 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019 or call (212) 397-8222. Be warned that food is very expensive here. Best pizza in town: Ray's of Greenwich Village, in the Village and at Columbus and 72nd.

### Getting There:

Right now, the most economical way to get to New York is to fly. A number of seat sales in effect, fares range from \$159 CDN to \$209 CDN regular fare.



NYC or HIL:

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