



Oc Fest was a hit. Hundreds of folks showed up for the first Oc Fest at Spirit Square. The crowd had a choice of entertainment ranging from visual art to poetry.

PHOTOS/PHILIP RICE

Slick Rick doing immigration time in Fla.

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gested Walters' exemplary post-prison life should be a mitigating factor.

After his '90s prison term, Walters resettled in the Bronx with his wife and two children, buying a pair of apartment buildings (he's paying property taxes while jailed). He also resumed the music career that began so memorably in the 1980s.

The London native first moved to the Bronx at 11, falling in with seminal rap figure Doug E. Fresh and rapping on the hit singles "La-Di-Da-Di" and "The Show."

With his eye patch and Mr.

T-style jewelry, Rick went solo with the platinum album "The Great Adventures of Slick Rick." Stardom seemed imminent before his conviction.

In an odd twist, Walters' status is in the hands of U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood—a Manhattan jurist familiar with immigration problems.

In 1993, she dropped out of the running for U.S. attorney general when it was revealed she had hired an illegal immigrant as her nanny.

"Nothing about this case," Solomiany said, "is normal."

Walters' appeal could become a test case for others, including one-time New York

nightclub impresario Peter Gaten. In August, he was ordered deported for a 1999 tax evasion conviction.

Solomiany said Wood was aware of both the case and Walters' lengthy jail stay. Walters didn't blame the judge, citing her December 2002 decision blocking his deportation.

"I still have love for the judge, 'cause if it wasn't for the judge, I'd be gone," he said. "She must have her hands tied behind her back with some political garbage."

This spring, as Walters approached his first anniversary behind bars, he wrote Wood a personal note.

"Heart to heart, cutting out all politics," Walters said. "Just talking raw. This is my situation, this is what I'm in jail for."

Walters never heard a response; Solomiany said Wood's office has cited a "heavy docket" for the delay. Walters, despite his second stay behind bars, was resigned to keep counting the days.



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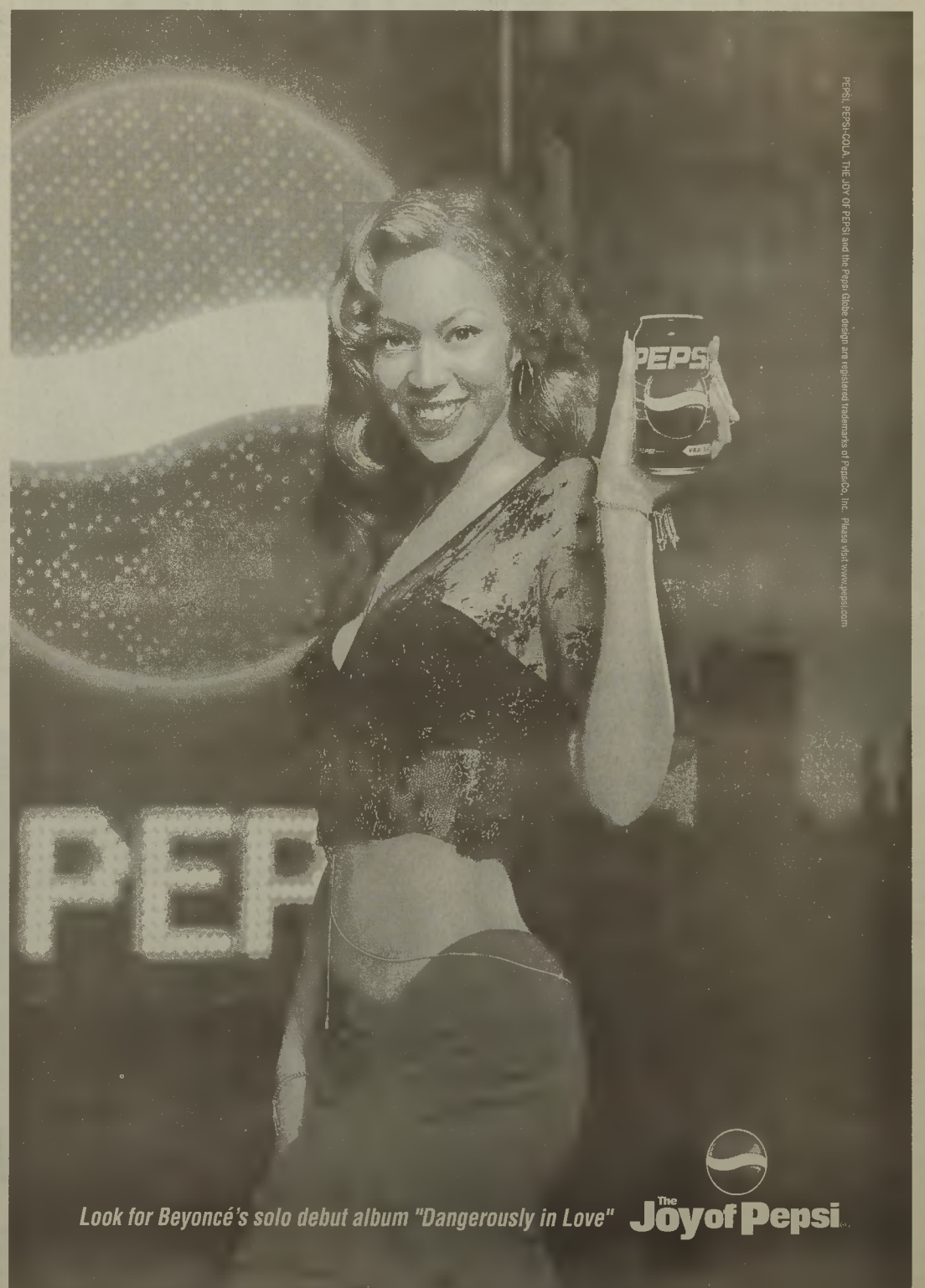
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