



**PULLBACK:** Economic woes may not be over yet

# Market reacts poorly to Obama

AP PHOTO

Traders Richard Newman (left) and Andy Beller work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday as the market pulled back again.

**“A little pullback kind of puts things back in perspective. . . . There’s still a lot of bad news out there.”**

—Dennis O’Brien, president of Coastal Financial Advisors, Howell



By **MICHAEL L. DIAMOND**  
BUSINESS WRITER

The sharp downturn in the stock market this week was a reminder that the nation’s economy still faces high unemployment, a faltering commercial real estate industry and the prospect of the federal government slowly ending its stimulus.

Oh, investors don’t much care for President Barack Obama, either.

“In general, the market is indicating it doesn’t like what’s going on at the federal level,” said Bill Cole, chief executive officer of The Heritage Group of Companies, a financial planning firm in Toms River.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the week at 10,172.98 down 4.1 percent, reversing itself after what had been a strong performance since last spring. Other indexes

followed suit. The Standard & Poor’s 500 fell 3.9 percent; and both Nasdaq and the Asbury Park Press/Bloomberg 75 index of companies with ties to New Jersey fell 3.6 percent.

The market seemed to cast its opinion on the big political news of the week. Namely, it cheered last Tuesday, when the Democrats lost what once looked like a sure Senate seat in Massachusetts. And it cringed the rest of the week when Obama said he was girding for a fight with banks that stood in the way of new regula-

**NEW TERM IN DOUBT:**

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke faces mounting Senate opposition for another four-year term, and the White House worked aggressively to keep his nomination afloat. **PAGE A6**

tions.

Political leaders are trying to tap into the anger of voters such as David Alvarez, 60, of Wall, who owns a flooring company.

He has watched in disgust as banks, saved by taxpayers, turned around and gave employees bonuses, made it harder to get loans and canceled his credit cards that had the most favorable terms.

“I see the volatility in the (stock) market, but I just think this stock market doesn’t reflect the mainstream,” he said. “It’s not parallel to what’s happening out here. Too many people are out of work. These big bonuses didn’t sit right with us.”

Financial advisers at the Shore said it was evidence that the stock market could be in for a roller-coaster year.

See **Stocks**, Page **A3**



**COASTAL**  
FINANCIAL ADVISORS