

# cornell bulletin

centennial issue



**bulletin**  
celebrates  
**100**  
**year**  
**anniversary**

# letter from the editors 2001

The events of September 11 broke everything apart. Immediately following the collapse of the World Trade Center, the city seemed to stand back and look at itself, one person at a time, wondering, "Why am I still alive? Am I doing something important?" The loss of so many lives gave brave, new meaning to our definition of personal purpose; suddenly self-aware, we realized how lucky we were



to walk these streets, have our voices heard, change and be changed by the world. But simultaneously, many of us felt the scourge of such profound thoughts: smallness. Our lives and what we do within them suddenly seemed very small and inconsequential. Going to organic chemistry, writing a paper for your history seminar, even getting dressed in the morning, all took on a somewhat irrelevant air. There was such death. There was such loneliness.

The staff of the *bulletin*, in the past few weeks, has come across an unlikely and inspiring cure for this kind of isolation: archives. As we pieced together the events of the past by looking at old issues that go back 100 years (the first bulletin was published in 1901, see the adjacent letter-from-the-editors), we began to see ourselves proudly interwoven into a history of brave women.

Going to Orgo, writing that paper, getting dressed in the morning—these are all things that thousands upon thousands of Barnard women have done before us, and for that matter, thousands upon thousands will do after us. We are truly never alone. Right at this moment, our moment to fill these classrooms and residence halls, we are very much alive and affecting the world around

us. Just as women in 1912, in 1957, in 1978, in 1991 were wholly and passionately part of their moment, we are part of ours.

The *bulletin* staff this semester has been courageous and dedicated. Carrying on the tradition at the *bulletin*—persistence and passion in the face of too little recognition and too little money—they have produced nine outstanding issues. But it is not the final product we are most proud of, clearly not that. It is the process: 20



or so Barnard students, some of them wide-eyed first years, some of them looking-forward seniors, and everything in between, crowd into our tiny, windowless office every Monday night. We argue issues of journalistic ethics, brainstorm ideas, critique old issues, and laugh, always laugh. Sometimes in the echoing of that laughter, we wonder about how many other Barnard women have sat in our same chairs and shared our same frustrations and triumphs.

We are strengthened by a tradition that is detectable through these archives and the writers that come alive within them; we are a part of something important and brave. And in a time where it is easy to feel alone, possibly ineffectual, certainly a little hopeless, we are inspired to recognize how connected we are

to a tradition of women who write, of women who tell the truth. In 100 years we hope a technologically-advanced and talented staff of "*bulletinas*" comes across our words, shuffling through the ancient issues of 2001, and feels a part of something that matters, as we have.

*Courtney E. Martin*

Kiryn Haslinger & Courtney E. Martin  
editors-in-chief

## barnard bulletin

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# letter from the editors 1901

The ineffectiveness of disunion has been making itself felt for a long time here in Barnard. Lack of knowledge on the part of the students of college affairs, lack of interest and sympathy in them, lack of a broad, comprehensive, all persuasive college spirit

has constantly hindered the best development of college life and has kept Barnard weak where it has possibilities of being strong.

This fact is perceived most plainly in college athletics. The college has given, even this year, but a very indifferent support to its athletic associations.

The Tennis Club and the Basket-ball team especially have done good, enthusiastic work, but the undergraduate body as a whole hardly realizes the existence of these associations.

We have a chorus, and orchestra, a Greek club, a Deuchter Kreis, a French society, yet we know nothing about them outside of the fact that they appear once a year in the *Mortarboard*. Some one may urge that they do not amount to very much. We do not believe this is true, but in order that the college associations may amount to much, that they may reach the level, not that the other colleges have attained, but the level which is their right solely and simply because they belong to Barnard, they must receive the interest and support of the whole college.

It happened that a number of students who have the welfare of the college at heart were discussing conditions of life at Barnard. They all agreed that something ought to be done to bring the disjointed parts of the college into a whole. to bring the diversity of interests into a unity of sympathy.

Finally one of the number said, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" And the answer came, let us start a college newspaper.

So now it comes about that that the *Barnard Bulletin* presents itself to the college world. Its aim is, primarily, to supply the college with news and

**"Something ought to be done to bring the disjointed parts of the college into a whole. . .**

**... the Bulletin's broader, underlying aim is to be the element of strength that shall weld the college together."**

its broader, underlying aim is to be the element of strength that shall weld the college together. The *Bulletin* realizes that it has undertaken a very great task. It may accomplish only a very little of what it hopes. But it feels that if

Barnard will give it encouragement and support, it may in turn give strength and support to Barnard. At any rate, it pledges its very best efforts to that end.

Feeling sure that the students will appreciate the good will toward them which President Low expressing in the closing lines of his letter to us, we take pleasure in printing them below.

*"Hoping that the new paper may be a success, and with best wishes to you and to all the students of Barnard College for a happy new year, I am*

*Yours, very truly,  
Seth Low"*

The overcrowding of the bulletin boards, due to the increasing size of the

college, and the consequent disregarding of them, led to the suggestion that a college newspaper might well fill their place. So, the name *Barnard Bulletin* came naturally to the paper, and like its namesake, The *Bulletin*, is public property. Everyone in any way connected with Barnard, alumnae, graduate student, specials, undergraduate organizations of all kinds, are cordially invited to make use of the paper, not only for personal notices of lost and found, for meetings, dues, etc., but for the expression of opinion and public sentiment on college affairs in general.

The editors of the *Bulletin* would like to say here that they have the good will and encouraging approval of Acting Dean Robinson. They take this opportunity to thank the Dean for showing them the same courtesy and interest, which, since he has officiated at Barnard, he has invariably showed to college organizations and undertakings of all kinds.

Upon a much smaller scale the *Bulletin* has been planned somewhat on the lines of the *Spectator*, and somewhat according to what the editors deem best suited to the needs of Barnard.

And so in time we hope to be able to enlarge the paper in proportion to these increasing needs of the college.

Frances E. Belcher, Elsa Alsberg, Carita Spencer, & Rom La Lyon  
founding editors

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12 december 2001

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cover photo by Madeleine  
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# former *bulletin* editor now film critic for *Daily News*

By Tiffany Mummey

Jami Bernard is a well known film critic for the *New York Daily News*. She is also a former *bulletin* Editor-in-Chief and Barnard graduate of 1978.

*What made you decide to work for the bulletin?*

My first day I went over to the *Spectator* and ended up just being completely put off by the guys who worked there. I mean, I eventually became friends with some of the guys who were on the staff—and still am friends with some of them—but I was basically told that I may have been good where I came from but now it was competition with the best. I ended up at the *bulletin* because it was fun. The *Spec* made me feel like I should have been grateful to them for being able to write a tiny story. Plus, I feel that if I had worked there I would have gotten lost in the mix.

*What positions did you have on the paper?*

I worked on the paper all four years of college. I started out doing a humor column on social life on campus before becoming Editor-in-Chief and it was actually a topic of controversy among Columbia students. I always took the Barnard viewpoint on things and had some attitude toward Columbia. I remember actually writing a column on how a Columbia guy's idea of a floor party was to string a bunch of radios together and put them all on the same radio station. A lot of Columbia guys were really insulted by it.

*Were you planning a career in journalism when you started out at the bulletin?*

I actually assumed that I would write books for a living. I had no idea that I was going to end up working in newspapers, but the fact is that when I went to work for the *New York Post* after graduation, it was not so much different then from when I had been working at the *bulletin*. There was the same type of personality clashes, the difficulty of making deadlines. Plus, at the *bulletin* I learned all aspects on how to put a newspaper together, everything from writing to production to layout and it allowed me to be moved around to a number of jobs while I was at the *Post*. I did everything from rewriting to copy editing to travel writing to editorial

writing. I learned how to do a little bit of those things while at the *bulletin*, and it definitely translates into a bigger paper. Because of my *bulletin* experience I knew which pictures would be good action photos, how to write captions and deadlines and was very detail-oriented. I was able to fit into any place at a newspaper.

*How do you feel about your experience at the bulletin?*

Working on the *bulletin* was a very important part of my Barnard experience, probably the most important part of my Barnard education. It did the most for the development of my writing, the most for my self-esteem, and I was able to use a lot of the things I learned while at the paper later on. When I was made Editor-in-Chief I was just totally immersed in the *bulletin* and the position was just very time-consuming. I really had to grow into my role, but I think that maybe it was too much to handle at the same time. I didn't know anything about news reporting. Dealing with campus politics was very difficult and so was handling a staff. You're just out of being a teenager and think you know everything, and I believe that when I started I was definitely lacking in interpersonal skills. But I did make friends on the paper and the friends that I had the longest were the ones who had been on the paper with me. I've kept two sets of every newspaper that I have ever worked on.

*Is there anything you wished you hadn't done while you were at the bulletin?*

My biggest mistake while I was at the *bulletin* was writing an editorial on how liberal arts majors shouldn't have a science requirement. I'm so ashamed of it because I actually wish that I had become a science writer and [could] understand the subject now, but I'm lucky that I made those types of mistakes then. When you make it into the big leagues, more people are paying attention, and it's a lot harder to make mistakes. But that's why being on the *bulletin* was a learning experience because when I started writing for newspapers I had a precedent for the decisions I had made before in similar situations.

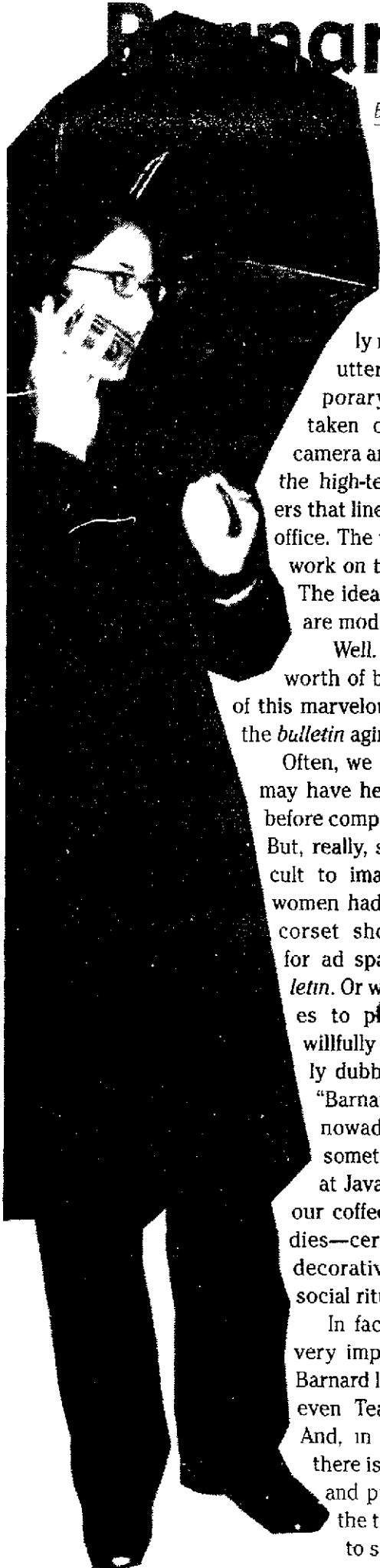
Tiffany Mummey is a Barnard first year and *bulletin* staff writer



Jami Bernard in her senior picture, 1978

# Barnard then and now...

By Renata Bystritsky



The Barnard *bulletin*, for all its distinguished age, has never been associated in my mind with words like "history" or "tradition." The magazine cover and layout are completely modern, featuring pictures of an utterly contemporary world taken on a digital camera and edited on the high-tech computers that line the *bulletin* office. The women who work on the *bulletin* are modern women. The ideas we write about in the *bulletin* are modern ideas.

Well. Only after perusing 100 years' worth of back issues did I realize that all of this marvelous modernity is just a result of the *bulletin* aging really, really well.

Often, we forget our own history. Oh, we may have heard about those archaic times before computers, or education, or jeans. But, really, snug in our own time, it's difficult to imagine the days when Barnard women had so much use for corsets, the corset shops competed for ad space in the *bulletin*. Or wore long dresses to play tennis. Or willfully and persistently dubbed themselves "Barnard girls." And nowadays, a tea is something we order at Java City to annoy our coffee-guzzling buddies—certainly not a decoratively feminine social ritual.

In fact, teas were a very important part of Barnard life. There were even Tea Committees.

And, in a 1901 issue of the *bulletin*, there is a complaint that "The jostling and pushing of throngs of people in the theater and halls was a disgrace to social affairs of the sort the teas

are supposed to be" (Well! I never!)

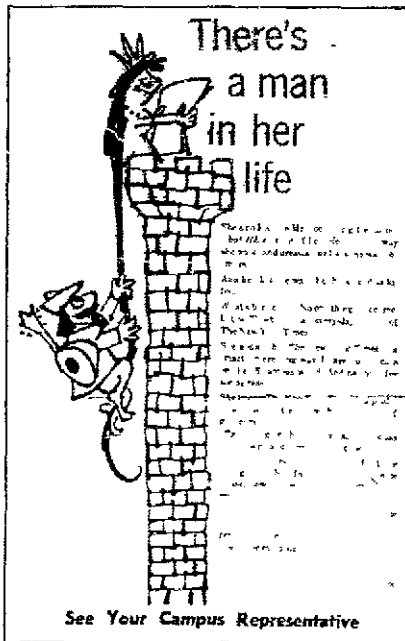
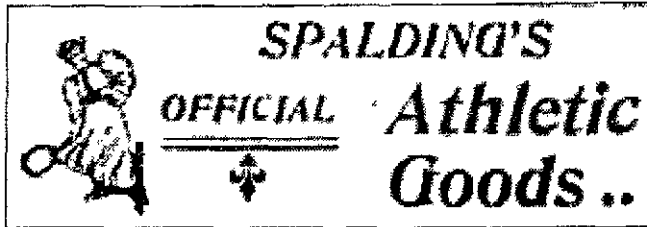
And, as if that wasn't bad enough, a letter to the editor in a 1912 *bulletin* shows that teas continued to fall victims to individuals inconsiderate of the ambience. By this time, the teas had been moved to the Undergraduate Study, which had been endowed with a piano. "How glorious to have a piano for song practice when that in the theater was not available, or for enlivening a group of students in a leisure hour! But what are we to think of the propriety of grinding out popular tunes

on this same precious piano when the study is being used for a tea. . . The cheap department store music is not in it with such entertainment Souls both musical and unmusical shudder at it and rebel." (I wonder how she'd have responded to a blaring Rent soundtrack. . .)

But let's, for a moment, visit 1912. This is a year that might be somewhat familiar to us, if only because the blockbuster Titanic was set in 1912. And what was Titanic like pre-Leo?

"There is one thing connected with college life which the Titanic disaster has brought to our notice—we have got time to read the papers!

There is probably not a girl in college who has not read the accounts of the accident in at least one paper every day. . . We do most enthusiastically suggest that just because there may be no particular horror reported, we shall not cease to read the papers," reads an article on the front page of the April 24, 1912 *bulletin*. "Our excuse is that 'we haven't got time,' a fairly reasonable excuse, we must admit for college girls, but. . . this is a plea for a little intelligent perusal of the daily papers, in order that we may not appear ignorant spectators of what will some time be



real history and incorporated in History A."

Pretty insightful, you've got to admit. Especially for a "college girl." (Tee-hee) Those liberated late 50s provided an even better incentive to read newspapers. Look at the encouragement given by

# how has it changed?

this *New York Times* ad. "She's no Marilyn Monroe or Brigitte Bardot—but HE's proud of her! And he likes the way she thinks and talks, too. What's her secret? No one thing, of course, but we'll bet she's an every-day reader of the *New York Times*."

Now, then, what's preventing you from running out there and reading the *Times*?

Merely reading the paper, of course, is not enough. In the late 40s, an ad encouraged all and sundry to "face the world at your most attractive best" by wearing Pliant Form brassieres and girdles.

Of course, you didn't need any man to be happy. Look at all the opportunities available to women in the 50s! For instance, in 1957, an ad offered Barnard ladies an opportunity to "fly as a TWA Hostess." And all you had to do was be "Between 20-27, 5'2"-5'8", weigh between 100 and 135 lbs., 2 years college, or equivalent in business experience, clear complexion, good vision without glasses, unmarried." Simple enough, isn't it? I wonder why those silly dames insisted on going to graduate school.

Sometimes, however, it seems that the more things change the more they stay the same. From a letter to the editor in the late 50s: "A minute ago it was 8:30 am, and the temperature was 16° F. An hour and a half ago at 7 am, the girls of Brooks and Hewitt were awakened by the alarming clang of the fire bell announcing the fire drill. . . Everywhere, girls shifted from one wet bedroom-slipped foot to the other. . . For fifteen long minutes they stood there shivering." Sound familiar?

Even more familiar is an article in a September, 1942 edition of the *bulletin*. "Columbia United War Relief Sponsors International Fair" is just one of the many headlines detailing the university's involvement in the war effort. There were blood and labor drives, Barnard

even set up a Red Cross Center on campus. An Italian orphan, Tony, was

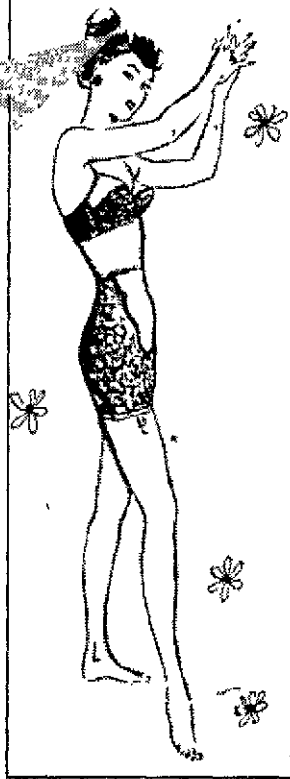
"adopted" and the *bulletin* tried to raise money to aid him. And an article in "About Town," a regular section not unlike our "New York City Living," quotes William Lyon Phelps. "The theater is never more needed than during a war. The theater is an essential part of civilization; without it we are uncivilized." For Broadway and New York City has always been a backdrop for Barnard and the *Barnard bulletin*.

Over the past century, Barnard College has undergone some major changes. Nowhere are these changes documented as clearly as the *Barnard bulletin*, which was and remains Barnard College's only weekly newspaper. And yet, despite the drastic shifts in trends and attitudes and important issues, throughout the ages—and the *bulletins*—one thing has remained constant: Barnard women (or girls), have retained their cheerful, independent spirit, their sense of humor, and their determination to better themselves and the world around them.

In 100 years, perhaps someone will write an overview of Barnard since 2001. They'll look back on the *bulletins*, on the Barnard we lived in. And I'm proud of what they'll see

Renata Bystritsky is a Barnard junior and *bulletin* commentary editor

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# White Gloves and Trolley Cars

A Barnard senior interviews her grandmother, a member of the class of 1940

By Adrienne Serbaroli

One afternoon in the spring, a young lady in a school uniform ascended the main steps of Milbank Hall for her 3 o'clock interview appointment. A senior at Villa Maria Academy, a private high school for young women on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, she was carrying with her a transcript of her grades and letter of recommendation she had received from the Mother Superior.

As she came upon the admissions office, she sat down and waited outside near the door. "Well, I mustn't walk in there," she thought to herself. "Never barge into a room unless you're invited," was the etiquette she had been taught in her private school upbringing. And so she sat for almost 45 minutes, envying the impressive Barnard women as they skirted past her on their way to and from classes.

Eventually an admissions officer opened the door, looked at her, and asked, "Are you Agnes Cassidy? Well, come in—we've been waiting for you!" And that is how my grandmother (my Nonna, as I know her) began her time at Barnard almost 65 years ago. "[It] prepared [me] for all the events in [my] life," Nonna said.

Today, my Nonna still lives on the Upper East Side, which enables her to remain active in Barnard alumnae activities, including currently serving as an officer of her class—the class of 1940.

You may be wondering what it was like to attend Barnard in the 1930s. The most significant event at this time was World War II happening overseas. Fortunately, though, students felt much like they do today. "We were protected from depression and the clouds of war," my grandmother said. Within Barnard's beautifully landscaped grounds, college activities carried on as they do today.

My grandmother, who majored both in Italian and music recalls being Vice President of the Italian Club, a member of Representative Assembly (similar to today's Honor Board), a soloist in the Columbia Orchestra, and even playing the lead role in a theater performance in her first year. "I was always busy-busy-busy with something!" says Nonna.

Perhaps busy, at times, reading the *Barnard bulletin*? Why yes, indeed! In fact, she read it faithfully, and even went so far as to declare it "the focal point of academic life." Just as it does today, the *bulletin* covered activities happening at Barnard, as well as news items. It seems as though students never cared too much for the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, however. My grandmother remembers a particular headline printed in the Spec one day—"Barnard is Lousy with Peachy Teas." "Can you imagine!" she laughingly exclaims to me, still stunned that such nonsense

could ever have been conceived.

Not surprisingly, a friendly rivalry existed between Barnard and what was then an all-male Columbia College. As we do now, Barnard students shared classes with the boys then, too. According to Nonna, "The Columbia men were very much a part of our lives. We would hold dances, for example, and they were always invited."

One particular dance stands out in her memory. It was called the Harvest Hop, a dance that was held every October. To demonstrate how times have changed since then, she pointed out to me that at these dances there were always chaperones from different academic departments who would sit on the stage

and make sure everyone behaved himself. (Of course, allowing boys into the dorms in those days was out of the question entirely!) The ladies were recommended to invite a date to the Harvest Hop, and when I asked if this was ever a problem for her, she responded, "Oh no, I had a date—I always had a date. In fact, I used to get dates for all of my friends!" And although my grandmother was always a hip, happenin' Barnard chick to the boys across the street, she did not choose to marry any of them, although many of her classmates did. Instead she married my grandfather (my Nonno), a hip, happenin' American soldier during the war, whom she later met while both of them were pursuing their opera-singing careers in Rome.

So what does Nonna think when she pays a visit to Barnard's campus these days? What crosses her mind when she is surrounded by Barnard students of the 21st century? "My first impression is how differently they dress from when I attended," Nonna tells me. College women of the 1930s dressed much more formally than they do today. Practically everyone wore a stylish hat of some kind, and many, including my grandmother, wore white gloves on a daily basis. "Oh yes, dear," Nonna said. "There was always a pair of white gloves hanging up in my bathroom to dry!" These days there may be no more white gloves to be seen at Barnard, but one thing still hasn't changed for her. "Darling," she has advised me many a time, "Barnard has it all!"

That first day in 1936, as my (then) 18-year-old grandmother stood before the Barnard gates, watching a trolley car make its way down Broadway, she had no way of knowing that she had just made one of the best decisions of her life. Quoting Edmund Spenser Nonna said to me recently, "Oh goodly usage of those antique times," while reflecting upon her time at Barnard.

Adrienne Serbaroli is a Barnard senior.

courtesy of Adrienne Serbaroli



Adrienne with her grandmother Agnes



# Two generations discuss life at Barnard

By Rachel Ginsburg

When the bulletin staff began to design the 100th Anniversary issue, I remembered my grandmother, Geraldine Carson, telling me stories of her summers at Barnard. Interested in learning more about her experience, I decided to formally interview her.

When did you attend Barnard College?

I was at Barnard for two summer sessions in 1943 and in 1944, the summers before my junior and senior years at Goucher College (the school she attended during the academic year).

Where did you live while you were at Barnard College?

I lived on seventh floor of Brooks.

What was your major?

I studied Economics, but I took most of my courses at Columbia.

Who attended Columbia and Barnard at that time?

The only young men in school were either 4F (not taken into the service because of disability) or service men being sent to school by the government. Columbia had the midshipmen from the navy. Medical and dental students were permitted to remain in school to complete their education and then were drafted into the service.

What did the streets look like? What was the neighborhood like in that time?

The area was very safe. I used to go down to Riverside Drive and study on the grass in the park. Broadway was dimmed or dark, but the theater went on. Streetlights were dimmed. I also remember the men at Columbia who were in the navy marching down

116th street, outside my dorm building, singing "Anchor's Away" during the day.

What did you do for entertainment?

We went to the theater often because the tickets were so cheap from the Depression. We also went to the movies. Movies and theater had patriotic themes like *Watch on the River*. We also went discount shopping, cooked, went on ferry rides, had picnics in the park, and went bicycling and horseback riding.

across Russia.

What was the students' reaction to the war?

It was hard to believe that the world was in such turmoil and danger was ever present. All of a sudden, there were no men and, as a result, the education opportunities opened for women.

What was it like in wartime? How did a woman's role change?

Everything from meat to fuel was rationed during the war. We all felt very close to the war. It was a total immersion, one hundred percent involvement.

Contribution to the war effort was a major goal. The war also opened up opportunities for women and gave women a new sense of freedom. It was the beginning of the women's movement.

This was a transition point for women because there were no men. We helped run industries and manage our own lives. Canteens were established all over for soldiers and servicemen where young women volunteers served coffee, donuts, and conversation 24 hours a day. In women's colleges, we had the power. We didn't have to defer to men. We were allowed to have our own ideas and pursue our own dreams. I always had dreams of working. Attending a woman's college gave me a different view; everything now seemed possible. Women's colleges definitely encouraged you to be ambitious and reach for your goals and aspirations.

Rachel Ginsburg is a Barnard first year.



courtesy of Rachel Ginsburg

Rachel Ginsburg (top), '05, and grandmother, Geraldine Carson (bottom).

What were the major newspaper headlines or big news during those two summers spent at Barnard?

Radio announcers and newspapers discussed the siege of Stalingrad. At that time, Germany was sweeping

# excerpts from the *bulletin* archive

Compiled by Kelly McCoy

When we sat down to reminisce over old Bulletin issues, we realized that the writings of our past sisters are too insightful, engaging and silly to stay silenced in cabinets in Lower Level Mac. Bulletinas have been sounding off about life at Barnard and beyond for 100 years—from politics to etiquette, one thing is constant—BC women love to rant. Here are the highlights, old impressions for you to mull over between finals and parties, fun anecdotes about life before internet, instant dinners and equal rights, and some sure testaments to the progress we've made. While the pages have been yellowing and font styles change, we hope you'll find a familiar strain in these shouts from the past. Enjoy this peek into our school's heritage—and if you can't get enough, stop by the office. There's plenty more where these came from. You won't believe where we've been

## *Sex and the Barnard Girl, Campus Males Comment*

Columbia men gave varying responses to an bulletin poll asking them to describe their impressions of the Barnard girl and her sexual behavior. One comment that many shared, however, was that the Barnard "type" is hard to pin down.

The reaction of one graduate student was representative of a large number of observations: in general, "more girls here are sexually enlightened; they don't seem to care about the mores of society." He also noted, however, the presence of a sizeable number of "amazingly innocent girls" at Barnard. The student explained the discrepancy in terms of the diverse personality complexes reflected in the College's social community.

Other men offered such comments as

"immature" and "not very promiscuous except for a few 'horny' ones"; one Columbia College student said he classified Barnard girls into three categories; the "fast" ones; the "pruders", and the "normal" ones, defined as the kind he would want to marry or father.

One student said he had a "great deal of respect for the mature attitude of many Barnard girls, and for their refusal to be bound by the outdated remnants of a puritan society." In opposition to this, another student – a native New Yorker – declared many College women to be "sexually inexperienced, at least more so than the average girl at City or Brooklyn Colleges."

—March 8, 1967

## An Evaluation of the Barnard Suffrage Club

The Suffrage Club here at Barnard is a chapter of the larger organization known as the New York State Collegiate Equal Suffrage Association, and was organized for the purpose of interesting college women in the extremely vital and much disputed question of Woman Suffrage.

It has been trying, all this year, to do just what it was organized to do: to keep the question before everyone so continually, that no one may forget that such a problem exists. And what is more, it has been trying to make people realize its tremendous significance, both to women and to society as a whole.

Has it succeeded? It must be admitted that, despite ardent efforts, most Barnard people are still almost entirely indifferent. When Mr. Aylesworth, of Colorado,

was kind enough to come and speak on what the suffrage has done in his State, not more than twenty girls were sufficiently interested to attend the lecture. Why, just think of it for a moment! In a college of over 600 women the question of woman's place in society—this very personal question does not seem to interest even 5 per cent of them!

Woman Suffrage is not a question which is going to affect others only. It is going to affect each individual, and, moreover, it is going to come. Should the Suffrage Club succeed in making all Barnard people the most rabid anti-suffragists, it would feel that it had fulfilled its missions.

—February 9, 1910



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# reveal a very different Barnard

## Thank Goodness for Engagement Announcements

To the Editors of the Barnard Bulletin:

May I assert the opinion that you are quite right in announcing the engagements of Barnard students? The statement that the higher education unfits women for domestic life is thus refuted for Barnard College at least. Why should not other women rejoice unselfishly with one who has fulfilled a woman's highest destiny? The writer, a case-hardened bachelor, feels that marriage is a great sacrifice made for the welfare of the State and honors those who bravely undertake it. As Barnard is not a monastic establishment devoted to the perpetuation of celibacy, it may well find that a little nonsense now and then is the best refuge against pedantry. May Barnard always offer a kindly welcome to the pink and white and frivolous.

Sincerely,

An Un-leap-year'd Bachelorette

—February 9, 1910

## Bulletin Staff Cries Out for Appreciation

This is almost a last will and testament from the Barnard Bulletin. Don't think we haven't heard the whisperings. People are saying, "Bulletin's not as good as it used to be." When it was as good as it used to be, there were lots of live ones working for it. No skeletons in the closet. Well, things have changed. Frankly, when the whole is in the office, it looks like the reunion of the Class of 1893. Not that we're a bunch of stiffs, but you get to feeling kind of funny when people start sending your flowers. If you want Bulletin to look alive, contact your soul mates. Tell them they have more than a ghost of a chance to revive our pulse. We will treat you very well. We're not dead yet.

—October 4, 1965

## Assembly Resolves Pants Controversy

The following resolutions were passed at the special, open meeting of Representative Assembly last Friday noon:

A: Student Council Resolution: "We, the students of Barnard College, hereby resolve that, Whereas upon entering the College we recognized the jurisdiction of the Administration over the affairs of the student body, but, Whereas, the administration has also accepted us as mature, responsible members of an academic community in the functioning of our honor system, in the choice of our elective courses, and in general conduct of student activities, therefore, We believe that it is paradoxical on the part of the Administration to reverse its previous acceptance of our responsibilities and that such a policy is a contradiction

of Barnard's liberal tradition. Furthermore, we believe that such a contradiction in tradition is, in itself, a detriment to the prestige of Barnard College. Therefore, we request that the Administration rescind its memorandum of April 27, 1960 and we state that, in the future, in recognition of our responsibilities, we shall take greater cognizance of the physical appearance of the College.

B: Resolution From the Floor

"Dress in Barnard classes should not be legislated.

C: Skirts should always be worn on all parts of the Columbia campus, including all classes, unless one is merely passing through, in which case a coat should at all times be worn over any type of sportswear."

—May 2, 1960



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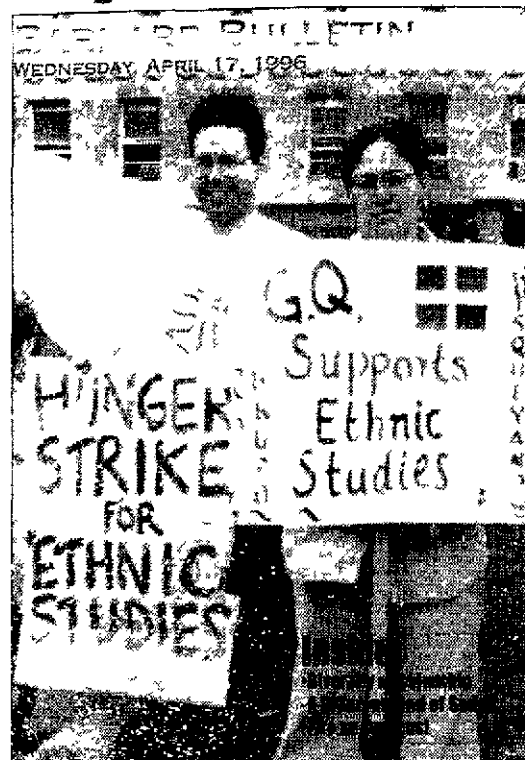
*Think Ahead!*

These are the days when care of your figure will count as the years go by.

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# Barnard students protest



*Stand up for your rights (clockwise from top left) Barnard students link arms in protest against the university building of a gymnasium in Morningside Park in 1968, students in 1996 protest for broader ethnic studies departments and find themselves on the cover of the Barnard Bulletin; and students in 1999 march to Columbia Campus, protesting for a responsible sexual assault policy.*

By Thea Tagle

There has been a long tradition of protest here at Barnard. While the most easily recalled protest is the 1968 anti-war movement that effectively shut down both Barnard and Columbia campuses, there have been many other social movements that have occurred on our campus. While many of these protests have dealt with pertinent campus issues, Barnard students have taken an active role protesting for and against larger national and international causes. In an increasingly globalized community, it has become more difficult for students to insulate themselves from outside events.

the growing amount of protests dealing with non-scholastic initiatives is testimony to our awareness of more universal problems.

While the range of protests at Barnard and Columbia are too numerous to mention individually here, it is guaranteed that all of them were documented in the *bulletin's* very pages. Commentary, editorials, and news reports have highlighted student protests, demonstrations, and activism. Here are a few of the most memorable student protests at Columbia and Barnard, and their effect, if any, on the greater college and global community.

After the events of September 11, we may be inclined to believe that this is the

worst time for American security and safety. However, Barnard students of yesteryear also had world—and life—altering events to worry about. With World War II threatening the American homefront, Barnard students spoke out against the continuation of war. As early as 1933, the *bulletin* documented anti-war movements occurring on Barnard and Columbia's campuses. The first Columbia Congress Against War was held on October 31 and November 1, 1933, and, in a time of chauvinistic attitudes, women were included in the process. Barnard was asked to send an authorized representative to the congress; by the time of the third student congress, there were many

# throughout the century

more. A group, calling themselves the Veterans of Future Wars, held a peace strike in April 1936, with over 4,000 Barnard and Columbia students participating. It was the culmination of what was deemed "Barnard Peace Week," a valiant attempt by the student body to raise awareness of the need for peace. This time, along with distinguished academic speakers presenting their anti-war views, a Barnard student was able to enumerate her views on the war to the audience. Agnes Leckie, a 1937 Barnard graduate, gave a speech she called the "Significance of the Student Movement, the Position of the ASU, and the Tactics to be Used by the Students." In the *bulletin*, writers were giving their own opinions on the matter, with an April 21 editorial urging readers to "sacrifice something which is of value in the cause of peace."

What was to come from the Barnard efforts to restore peace? The end of the war would not be seen for another eight years, with the bombing of Hiroshima. Perhaps the students were not able to make an actual difference, but they did make their voices heard.

The protests of 1968, which are most often connected to the phrase "protests at Barnard and Columbia," was one instance where students made a definite and lasting impact.

The events of 1968 had roots in many causes: the agitation over the Vietnam War, the assassination of Martin Luther King and the problem of racial integration at Columbia, and the general treatment of Barnard and Columbia students (such as the trial of Linda LeClair, the Barnard student accused of "housing violations" when she chose to move in with her Columbia boyfriend). When Columbia decided to build a gymnasium in Morningside Heights, despite the protests of

the Harlem community, the inherent problems bubbled to the surface, and havoc broke loose. For nine days, Columbia campus was shut down, as protesters took over Hamilton Hall and other buildings, demanding for the resignation of Columbia President Grayson Kirk. During this period, there were over 712 arrests, 150 reported injuries, and 372 reported cases of police brutality. As the largest campus demonstration in the history of higher education, Columbia and Barnard students joined together to work for active change.

The *bulletin* had an active role in this protest, as students and professors for and against the movements spoke out in its pages. Professor Maristella Lorch wrote an open letter to all students in the May 1, 1968 issue of the *bulletin*, encouraging those who were "sincerely motivated," and having for them "particular respect and sympathy." Students, such as weekly columnist Faye Silverman, tried to make sense of the protest in *bulletin* articles; Silverman predicted that "until stu-

dent resignation of President Kirk that August, Columbia could begin its way towards reform.

While the protests of 1968 were quite contentious, more recent demonstrations have been effective without being violent. The 1996 protests for the implementation of ethnic studies in the university curriculum saw 150 students conducting a sit-in on Low Library. A hunger strike by the protesters added to their message, which called for a creation of an ethnic studies department at Columbia. Students' voices were once again documented in the *bulletin* in the April 3, 1996 issue. The participation of Barnard students, such as 1996 graduate Heather Starr, in the Columbia strike was documented. This time, the message of the protesters truly hit home; today, Columbia and Barnard boast Asian, Middle Eastern, Jewish, and African-American studies departments. Perhaps these protesters learned a lesson from their predecessors and realized that through public contestation they could possibly get what they wanted.

Lara Crook

What is the future of protests at Barnard? Clearly, we will continue to rally together when we want to make our needs met. Effective rallying led to the implementation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy last year, and protests continue to raise awareness of issues as diverse as Barnard's involvement with environmentally damaging corporations to contestation of current war efforts in Afghanistan. Through it all, the *bulletin* has been a forum for discussion



students march to the University senate in 1999

dents and faculty are given a meaningful voice in decisions which affect them, the violence and bloodshed will inevitably continue." Perhaps the administration finally began to listen with the help of publications such as the *bulletin*. With the

and a source for news, and will continue to be as long as Barnard women make their voices of dissent heard.

Thea Tagle is a Barnard sophomore and *bulletin* music editor.



# a century of history as told

1901 Roosevelt elected, Wright brothers fly plane

1903 Einstein's theory of relativity

1908 Ford sells Model T

1910 NAACP founded

1912 Titanic sinks

1913 Woodrow Wilson takes office

1914 WWI begins

1915 US enters war

1917 Russian Revolution


1918 Germany surrenders

1919 Prohibition begins

1906 "The great sweep of self-consciousness has caught a very considerable group of educated women, and they determine to live their lives according to their own sense of power, even though they violate tradition."

1915 "Where is our enemy? Japan? Germany? We do not propose to dis-arm today, but we do protest the policy of arming the nation heavily against an imaginary foe"

1920 "Two hundred and fifty-seven out of the three hundred Barnard students polled favor either the repeal or modification of the national Prohibition Act."



1920 Women gain right to vote as 19th amendment passes, Hitler forms Nazi party

1923 Harding dies, Coolidge takes office

1925 Scopes trial shows controversy over evolution

1925 Lindbergh crosses Atlantic

1929 Stock Market crashes

1922 "The influence of students in the support of sustained efforts of the US Government for continued reduction of armaments was assured by President Harding."

1923 "He gave us the perspective of the Russian business man who has suffered from Bolshevik changes. He resented particularly the attack on private property."

1924 "Cats and dogs hate each other. Dr. Goldenwieser pointed out, in much the same way that races may be said to hate each other. They are emotionally antipathetic; they see only differences between the two groups."

1929 "Yesterday Herbert Hoover took his oath of office. Hoover has, as few other predecessors have had, the necessary factors to make the presidency devoted to the country's welfare."

1930 US signs naval disarmament treaty

1931 Empire State Building opens

1933 Roosevelt takes office, begins New Deal programs


1935 WPA and Social Security begin

1938 Orson Wells War of Worlds causes panic

1930 "Barnard has joined students all over the country in sending petitions to the American Delegation at the London Naval Conference, urging it to meet American expectations."

1933 "President Roosevelt has every possible opportunity for worry when we consider the banks, the budget, the unemployed. If our next executive offers only a working solution to the problems, he is a great man."

1938 "Predictions as to whether or not war is imminent are made with much trepidation. There is one group which declares Hitler will not attempt any invasion."



compiled by KB Torgovnick and Karen Shoum, with photo research by Rachel Ginsberg

# through bulletin excerpts

## 1940s

1941 Pearl Harbor bombed, US enters WWII	1942 Japanese Americans interned	1943 Race riots in major cities	1944 Germany surrenders, ends WWII	1945 US drops atomic bomb on Japan	1946 Iron Curtain speech begins Cold War	1949 NATO established
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1940

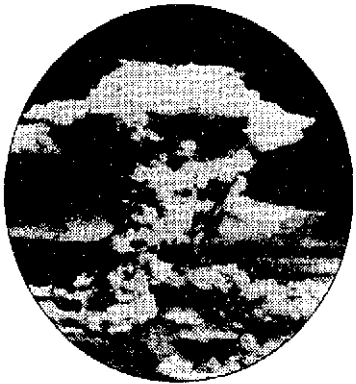
"Many citizens of democratic countries look upon the people of Russia as their chief enemy," Dr. Butler declared. "They are wrong. There are other forms of despotism that are even more menacing than communism."

1941

"The period of speculation and doubt is at an end. There is now a direct cleavage between the forces of fascism and of democracy."

1945

"September 1945 finds Barnard opening in peacetime. We can be sure that the National Service and the War Policy will be changed. We hope it will not be hasty."



## 1950s

1950 McCarthy hearings begin	1951 Korean War begins	1953 Eisenhower takes office	1954 Brown vs. Board of Education	1955 Warsaw Pact	1957 USSR launches Sputnik
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1950

"Dean Millicent McIntosh accorded full backing to the Crusade for Freedom, describing the movement as 'at least one positive gesture in the face of the destructive propaganda disseminated by Soviet Russia.'"

1951

"A battle blazes in Korea, and fear that it may mean total war—with all that the word implies today—has tightened the world's nerves to the breaking point."

1951

"Columbia University President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in a formal statement on Monday afternoon, disavowed any intentions of running for the presidency in 1952."

1953

"The blame for [low African-American enrollment in colleges] does not fall on the colleges who would welcome more applications from qualified Negro students," said Harry Carman former Dean of Columbia College.

## 1960s

1961 JFK sworn in	1962 Cuban Missile Crisis	1963 JFK assassinated, Johnson takes office, March on Washington	1964 Civil Rights Act legally ends segregation	1965 Vietnam escalation	1968 Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated, Democratic convention riot	1969 Nixon takes office
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1961

"A new year, a new President, a new semester—all these mean fresh starts. Nothing could be more inspiring than President Kennedy, who has thus far justified the confidence placed in him by the electorate."

1961

"The darkness of the cell makes me know that I can no longer live in the darkness of segregation," writes a Negro student.

1965

"I would rather be dead than have someone deprive me of my rights." So spoke Malcolm X when he appeared at Barnard last Thursday, three days before he was shot to death in the Audubon Ballroom.

1967

"Is the war in Vietnam an international 'chess game' with human beings as pawns, or a highly calculated power play with international stabilization as the goal?"

# 1970s

1972

Watergate break-in, Equal Rights Amendment proposed

1973

Vietnam war ends. Roe vs. Wade legalizes abortion, Ford swears in

1974

Nixon resigns

1977

Carter takes office

1979

Iran Hostage crisis, Israel and Egypt sign Camp David Accord

1975

"The argument used by those against the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment tomorrow seems to be no more than a game of semantic dodgeball."

1973

"Group movements at Barnard (the woman's movement, the black movement) have been concerned with promoting change. The general feeling is that tensions have diminished at Barnard."



1979

"Partial insurance for abortions will be included in the Barnard Health Insurance due to a unanimous vote taken by the Health Service Committee."

# 1980s

1981

Regan takes office, hostages freed, first AIDS case reported

1982

Equal Rights Amendment rejected

1984

Ferraro runs for vice president

1986

Challenger explodes, Iran Contra Scandal

1987

Stock market crashes

1989

Bush takes office



1984

"In a time when the women's suffrage movement is a relatively recent phenomenon, why would any sane feminist choose to support ideologies which traditionally discriminate against women?"

1985

"I want first to establish myself in my occupation, to define my own individuality. I don't want to be dependent on anyone until I've had enough time to prove that I can make it in it on my own."

1988

"The first wall I came upon read in large print, 'By 1991, AIDS is predicted to be the leading cause of death among Americans aged 24 to 44.'"

# 1990s on

1991

Iraq invades Kuwait, USSR falls

1992

Cold War officially ends

1993

Clinton takes office, World Trade Center bombed

1998

Monica Lewinsky scandal, terrorist attacks on embassies

2000

Election controversy, Bush elected

2001

World Trade Center and Pentagon attack

1991

"Approximately 400 people gathered at Low Plaza to show their support for the troops fighting in the Gulf. The rally was interrupted by members of the Anti-War Coalition who staged a die-in on the Low Library Steps."



1994

"Barnard students may not be threatened by an Iraqi SCUD missile, but possible incidents of terrorism are a concern across campus."

2001

"On Tuesday, September 11, the whole world changed. The New York skyline was obliterated. We lost over 5,000 innocent people. Our conceptions of good and evil were forever altered."

# Barnard alumna and *bulletin* writer publishes first book

By Kiryn Haslinger

In 1988 Lori Cidylo, then a Barnard senior, submitted a commentary piece to the *bulletin* for a regular column called "Viewpoints." "It was a whimsical piece about getting your senior thesis done on time," she told me. Thirteen years later, Cidylo contacted the *bulletin*, announcing that she had just published her first book. It is called *All the Clean Ones Are Married and Other Everyday Calamities in Moscow* (Academy Chicago Publishers) and is a collection of short non-fiction accounts of her six years spent as a freelance journalist in Moscow during and after the fall of the Soviet Union.



Lori Cidylo, class of 1988.

I met with Cidylo to hear about her post-Barnard life, and to find out more about her book. She was extremely enthusiastic, relating her real-life anecdotes in a colorful manner. She told interesting tales, everything from interviewing the Prime Minister of Israel at a Middle Eastern Peace conference in Moscow, to moving in with her neighbor because the government-run news agency ended her contract and told her to move to the train station. The most memorable was her story of being in dire straits: living on 77 rubles—the equivalent of about twenty American cents—without water to wash her clothes. With nothing else to do, Cidylo stayed indoors in a slip and a Barnard sweatshirt—her only clean clothing—writing articles and hoping that someone would publish them so she could get paid. Fortunately, she hit gold with an article for the *Financial Times*, which earned her nine hundred dollars, but she almost went to pick up her pay in the same outfit.

Cidylo, practically fresh out of college, wanted to be a journalist in Moscow. She pursued jobs with several major American newspapers, all of whom turned her

down; she was too young and inexperienced, and they said they didn't need her. "Maybe in twenty years you'll get sent to Moscow," the editors told her. She thought, "No, that's not for me. I'm not waiting twenty years." So, she left for Russia, with hopes that her writing would pay for itself with or without a contract. Fortunately, Cidylo arrived in Moscow when the dollar was very strong and it only cost one dollar per month for rent.

About two weeks after her arrival, the Soviet Union collapsed. In the first chapter of her book, she remembers writing her first article after the event, not knowing what to call the country. Nobody else knew, either, and told her to make it up. She settled on "the former Soviet Union," unable to think of

anything better.

Cidylo sent stories to the *Boston Herald*, which editors loved but could not afford to purchase. "History was happening and they were saying 'We don't have the money to pay you,'" she said. Just to break in to the business, she accepted a third of the going rate for freelance articles. Once she was published, other papers began to take notice, and she wrote on a regular basis.

Now published, she hand delivered article clips to the Moscow bureaus of all major American and European newspapers. They thought she was a courier, not the writer, and she said nothing to dispel the idea. "They didn't have to meet me because that's irrelevant," she said. "You in person are irrelevant; it's what's on the page." What was on the page impressed an editor at the *Financial Times*, who soon hired her to write features stories. Through that job, she got an inside track with *The Economist* as a sub-

stitute Moscow Bureau Chief for a month. This job was both gratifying and nerve-racking, because with the state of Russian politics in 1992, there was no way to know when the next dramatic news story would break. "It was a lot of stress because if Yeltsin died it would be all on my head," she recalled.

"Any thing could happen at any moment there," Cidylo said. "I lived and breathed Russian politics for the first two years that I was there." But she soon wanted to work on extended feature stories: "There were so many things that happened to me on a daily basis that were so incredibly interesting and there was no venue for that." Cidylo realized, with encouragement from a friend, that she could write a book with stories that were not fit for daily newspapers.

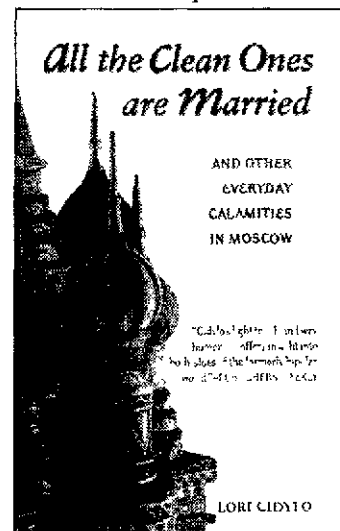
Cidylo's new book is now available in hardcover. *The New York Times Book Review* on Sunday, December 2, selected *All the Clean Ones are Married* as one of the year's best travel books. Now that she is a published author, Cidylo is consider-

ing writing her second book and hoping to begin teaching creative writing on a college level.

Cidylo recalled her own college years as a time of confidence building, which would prove important in her future career. "Barnard helped give me the confidence to be a writer. I really believe if I hadn't gone to

Barnard, I wouldn't have become one," said Cidylo, who graduated with a major in English. She specifically recalled a professor, Frank Brady, who affected her personally. He once told her, "Always remember you're a good writer." Her book is now a test of that confidence.

Kiryn Haslinger is a Barnard senior and *bulletin* co-editor-in-chief.



First book published 2001.

# Barnard's Take Back the Night

by Liliana Segura

The year was 1988 and in the April 4 issue of the *bulletin*, a letter to the editor read:

"Perhaps the most important thing to come out of this year's Seven Sisters Conference was the idea for a Take Back the Night march protesting violence against women. It is planned that the march will be held on all of the Seven Sisters' campuses on the same night. A Take Back the Night march is a group of women getting together and marching through an area where they would feel unsafe walking alone."

Entitled "An Open Letter to the Barnard Community" and written by Leah Kopperman, Class of 1989, who now works in the Office of Development and Alumnae Affairs, it announced that the first University Take Back the Night march would take place later that month, marking the beginning of an initiative that would become a Columbia and Barnard tradition. This was not a news story or a feature. It was a call to arms.

"Women, show your convictions and march with us on April 20. Men, show your support and rally with us."

The time, it seems, was ripe. In a decade that saw the sluggish tapering of the radical feminist movement and a reactionary political climate, a growing concern over sexual harassment was

present. In the pages of the *bulletin*, news stories and editorials reported and deplored specific incidents of sexual violence and intimidation, unnerving to read even years after the fact. On November 5, 1986 the front page of the *bulletin* reported the abduction and rape of a Barnard student at the Lucerne Residence Hotel, an building at 79th St and Amsterdam that served as off-campus Barnard housing. If reader were not already horrified to see

such news in the *bulletin*, an editorial, which ran on page 3 of the same issue, gave Barnard students reason to be angry as well.

"Am I the only one that is outrage by the fact that the Barnard administration did not bang this news over its students' heads the second after it found out?"

is Sexual Awareness month at Columbia?" *bulletin* editors mused in March of 1988.

If campus-wide apathy regarding sexual harassment perpetuated its invisibility, as a 1987 *bulletin* article "The Quiet Crime" suggested, something was about to change. Two weeks after the Open Letter was published, a full-page announcement for Take Back the Night ran in the *bulletin*, alongside an article on the upcoming march and rally. The article included a text box describing the route of the march, as well as a description of the proportion and publicity for the event, which included posting statistics about women and sexual assault on posters around campus—posters that got mixed reactions.

"Some have been tearing the posters down as fast as they go up" the article read, quoting students who felt that people are often resistant to messages that "hit home in places people don't want to know about."

The article also covered the issue of male participation, a controversial and much-discussed factor in planning the march. Ultimately, the symbolic weight of a group solely comprised of women reclaiming a space often hostile to them was deemed essential. "The point of the march," Kopperman was quoted as saying, "is women walking together somewhere they can't walk by themselves. Having men will look like they're

protecting us." The issue was dated April 18, 1988.

Two days later, the first Columbia University Take Back the Night march was held. In the April 25 *bulletin*, the lead read, "United they stood." The march had attracted over 400 women, several of whom would tell the *bulletin* that they had never experienced such a strong sense of solidarity. "I have never felt so comfortable on the



students gather inside the gates anticipating the start of the 1999 Take Back the Night march

wrote Deborah Pardes. Perhaps almost as disturbing as the rape itself was the sense of an inadequate handling of the incident by the university administration—an unwillingness to spread the word, which resulted in anger as well as the observation that it is such university-wide complacency that fed students' seemingly ignorant attitudes about such crucial issues.

"Did anyone even know that February



# inspired by article in bulletin

Columbia campus," one student said.

But all was not applause and exhilaration. Despite the supporters that gathered on the street to watch the marchers as they passed, there were reports of antagonistic reactions, notably of water being thrown out the window of a building on 114th Street, and of protesters being pelted with eggs. The incidents sparked debate in the *bulletin* pages over fraternities' support (or lack thereof) of Take Back the Night. In fact, the march itself was getting attention and coverage from multiple viewpoints. Editorials would provide analysis. Letters would respond. People were starting to talk about it.

The second year of Take Back the Night saw a slight dip in participation. But in 1990, the march almost doubled in size, boasting 750 women. Students were aghast at the experiences their classmates would recount into the microphone on Lehman Lawn during the rally after the march. Hours of testimonies would wake people up, clue them in, force them to hear what they perhaps didn't want to.

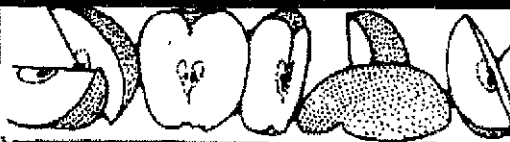
And so it went.

Today, Take Back the Night has evolved into a university tradition that has not only gained acceptance, but has become the largest annual event on campus. An integral part of Barnard's student culture and activism, last year's march peaked at 2,500 people, including men, who now rally alongside their female classmates. Over the years, the *bulletin* has documented the growth of this tradition, the beginnings of which have their proof in the dusty archives that are crammed into the filing cabinets in our office in Lower Level Mac. To read the letters and articles about Take Back the Night that have been published in our pages over the past decade and a half gives the bulletin a renewed sense of purpose. To preserve the voices of those students who first took the initiative to rally around the fight against sexual violence is to ensure that their message will be passed on. To preserve the voices of those who continued to talk about it will ensure that its urgency does not dissolve.

This year's Take Back the Night is scheduled for April 18 and, as always, the *bulletin* will be there. But more importantly, it will continue to provide a forum for students to speak out on the issues that affect us all. Whether the format is news or features or a call to arms, these voices will never fade.

Liliana Segura is a Barnard senior and bulletin office manager.

A year and a half before the first Take Back the Night rally, this letter sparked the rising sentiment of students who would no longer sit and watch their classmates become victims.



**No Preservatives**

**Deborah Pardes**

A Barnard woman was attacked by three neighborhood kids at the gates of our campus, and then pushed down across the Barnard Hall steps. Security was not there to assist, so when the attackers finally ran away, she went—with gym shorts ripped—inside to not-so-calmly inform them. She says they told her: "We were on dinner break."

A Barnard woman was raped less than two weeks ago down at 79th Street. One of her friends was pulled into a car in front of her dorm and raped. Is this matter so delicate that it only can be handled with euphemisms in some after-the-fact official statement? This calls for urgent AWARENESS. The safety of the enrolled Barnard student is far more important than the appeal of Barnard to prospective students.

Now what? Should I rehash the thousands of angry statements printed in this very paper crying out for justice? Should I moan about the vulnerability of women? (Oh yes, and men too. Men are indeed subject to harassment and rape. I just don't feel like talking about that right now.) I can rant and rave for pages. I can hold a candlelight vigil to stir up some solidarity. I can hide in my room and write angry poetry. I can join the police force. Are these things constructive? Can they channel some of this emotion? Damn it! Am I the only one who is outraged by the fact that the Barnard administration did not bang this news over their students' heads the second after they found out? This happened over a week ago. Don't you think that Dean X's daughter, who may live by 79th Street, got a phone call that night? And what is this selective stuff? Why should residents of only the Lucerne be called to an 'information session'? My

God! Somebody was raped. The transfer student on 106th should know too, and not 5 days later.

We are so complacent. It makes me sick. Let me get on my soap box now. The only possible way that we can do justice to the violation of this woman is to call attention to her sufferings, and with enough force so that the rape's impact upon the community will start to reach the level at which it will *always* reach and effect her. She should never, ever feel alone in her fight to confront the miseries of this society. We should all be afraid of things like rape, but we should not be afraid to talk about them. Let's educate each other a little bit.

But I'll bring this out of talk and into action. Did you know that both of the incidents that I mentioned can be described as involving tough, self-sufficient women? Now, if a guy said that, it would sound patronizing. But I'm a woman. Please listen with an open mind. Having a strong inner and outer self image is important, but we must couple that with maybe a small can of mace. The point is, whether it be in the careful hours we keep or in the way that we walk, we must be more AWARE, and we must make those around us more aware. SAFETY MUST NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

Cliches like this one come about because we hear them so much—they are repeated so much. They are repeated because they involve lessons that are never fully learned. Maybe someday there will be a cliché dealing with rape, or the media's inability to properly deal with the existence of rape. But I really hope not, because once a fact becomes a cliché, it quickly becomes a blind spot, and the vital awareness is lost.

*A candlelight vigil will be held to express support for the raped student and to promote safety awareness.  
Thursday, 6:00 in front of McIntosh*

# Mary Gordon, still on fire after all these years

By Courtney E. Martin

*How did you end up at Barnard?*

It was my dream school and the way that I chose Barnard is so different from the way your cohort would have chosen a college. I was from a working class family in Queens, you know, and my mother had never been to college, nobody I knew had parents that had been to college. I went to a Catholic school that didn't want us to go to Barnard because it was a non-Catholic school. They wouldn't send our transcripts there. The way I got the idea to go to Barnard was by reading *Frannie and Zooey* because Seymour Glass went to Columbia, and I wanted to meet Seymour Glass. So I decided to go to Barnard—that was the entire scientific method—there was no interviewing. I thought I would meet Seymour Glass, and I sent an application.

*Were your parents supportive?*

My father was dead, but my mother was appalled. I had to get the parish priest to come to the house and say that I was going to be safe at Barnard. I stayed in my friend's basement for three days, and I said I wouldn't come out unless my mother let me go to Barnard.

*What was it like when you first got here?*

I thought I had died and gone to heaven. I really did. I had gone to such a bad school, such an academically low-grade school. Everyone here was just so smart. The professors were so smart. I was a little bit overwhelmed because it seemed like everybody else was so much better prepared than I was and they were. But the English department—Anne Prescott was my freshman English teacher—and the minute I met her, I just felt totally taken care of, totally special.

*What was it like socially at that time?*

Well, it was the late 60s—I came here in '67—and my freshman year was the Columbia strike. So I went from this Catholic school to the strike in about six months. It was very wild. It was a very wild time. It was very exciting. You really felt like you were going to change the world.

*Did writing feel like it made a difference?*

I was so on-fire with the need to do it. I was a poet at that time and being a poet was really counter-cultural. Even though I wasn't writing directly about the war—you know it wasn't about money, it wasn't about success, it wasn't about, what we called, the military industrial establishment—I never questioned what it said. I was very politically involved but I didn't write about it.

*Were most Barnard women involved?*

As a whole Barnard women were really involved. I came here with my two best friends.

*Did they come here because of you?*

Yeah, I was a dynamo. I mean we all did it together but I was the driving force... I just met women who were so wonderful, wonderful and exciting, and so smart, and daring, and courageous. And they didn't seem like good girls. Although there were good girls. Ellen Sutter, the former president, was in my class and she was a total good girl. I would have never talked to her. I came to class in a night gown and jeans; she would have been in pumps.

But the teachers here were just wonderful. And I felt so nurtured which is why I feel like I have an enormous debt to Barnard that I can never repay. They made me feel very taken care of. They took me seriously. One of the most amazing things that happened to me—I had had a summer job since I was 15—and after my junior year I got a grant from Barnard. It was one of the most amazing things that happened to me. I had never had a summer where I wasn't working. I could write all the time.

*What were you thinking when you graduated?*

I thought I was going to write and just get a job, but then I got so panicked that I would just end up being a secretary that at the last minute I went to graduate school which was very silly. I was just so scared that I would get off the track and I would never be able to get back on again. It was very working class.

*How did you ever end up back at Barnard?*

Anne Prescott got me back. I came back in '88 and I immediately felt like I had come back home. This has always felt like the very best place to me. These students are just the kind of students that I like to teach. I just think that Barnard attracts the best writers. A woman's college attracts women who have a comfortableness with being a woman. I don't think Barnard students think they hung the moon and the stars in the sky, but they are very accomplished.

And just being in the city... I mean it is not like being in Amherst or something where you think your writing workshop is the center of the universe. Barnard students know that their workshop isn't the center of the universe. I think it makes kids savvy and humble and plugged in.

*Do you see yourself in the Barnard students you teach today?*

Sure. I really do... I'm often just so moved by what my students can teach me. It is very easy to believe <<page 21>>



Mary Gordon in her senior picture, 1971

# Professor Szell shows loyalty to Barnard

By Tara Coleman

The weekend before September 11, Professor Szell, an English professor at Barnard, recalls a conversation with three Barnard women: her sister, who graduated in 1978, her niece who is currently a first year, and herself, Barnard class of 1975. "It was interesting to have three such different perspectives of Barnard sitting there. Personally, I felt like I had never left. Even though my sister has not been back for years, she felt like nothing had changed either. Then there was my niece, who was looking at Barnard for the first time. The way you see the school really depends on your own experience."

Professor Szell has taught at Barnard since she finished graduate school in the early 1980s. She has seen Barnard grow and change both as a student and a professor, yet in her opinion, changes in the school are difficult to recognize and point out specifically. "It is kind of like a child," she says. "During the first year the changes are very noticeable, but between, say the seventh and eighth years, you don't notice them so much."

The first thing she pointed out, however, was that the students are, in her opinion, academically stronger today than they were in years prior. The expectations that the students have of the school are also higher, she says. The students might not be as political as they were in the 70s, she adds, but even that is hard to generalize. Students are so involved in community service and other causes that even that has not really changed.

As far as the institution itself is concerned, Professor Szell says it is quite noticeable how much student services have improved. Specifically, the student advisor ratio is much lower than she remembers when she attended Barnard, and she feels that is important to feeling the support of the faculty here. "In

general, Barnard is moving towards taking students more seriously," she said. She cited the improvements in the English department, such as the establishment of the Writing Fellows and the way the creative writing program has become less chaotic and more pooled together since it began to be directed by one person.

Professor Szell has a lot of memories from Barnard. She remembers first returning here as a young professor. "I suddenly felt two inches tall," she said. She continued, "I will always have a great deal of loyalty to Barnard, though." That loyalty is due to all the encouragement she had from the institution both when she was an undergraduate and as a professor. When she came to Barnard, she had only been in this country for a year since she arrived from Hungary knowing no English. With the encouragement of the college, she graduated as an English major. Even when she returned, she said that her fellow professors were encouraging and supportive, even the ones she had taken classes with only a few years before.

Since her original adjustment, though, she says that any changes have come so gradually that she hardly takes notice. Some things never change, though. For one thing, she says, "the faculty has always been distinguished. It would be a thousand pities if that were lost."

She also prides the school on the long list of successful alumnae that have graduated from Barnard over the years. "The alumnae are an amazing group of people, truly, and they keep getting more impressive," she adds. Overall, however, she asserts that she is glad to see that the good things aren't changing. "Except the fashion," she adds, "that is one thing that I wish would change."

Tara Coleman is a Barnard first year and bulletin staff writer.



Tímea Szell in her 1975 yearbook picture

<<page 20>> that people don't care about literature and writing anymore, that it has become anachronistic like opera or ballet, but when I see my students as on-fire as I was, that's really important to me as a writer, like the torch isn't quite going out with me. I think that the women's movement has made life a lot better for women students. I think students are a lot less paralyzed by their femaleness. My generation had so much anxiety, you know, 'Do I dare to do this?' I think your generation does a lot less battle with your parents so there isn't so

much energy siphoned off in that direction. I think your saner.

Why?

I just think you've grown up with a lot fewer lies than we did. I mean what makes me sad for your generation is that you don't have any political faith; you don't have anywhere to go with your larger moral concerns. We did. When we saw something was wrong we knew there was something we could do. What upsets me for your generation is that you seem to have lost some faith and hope. You've seen too many things not work. My daughter

says that too me, 'Your generation was supposed to transform the world and now you're all yuppies.' You know that Marx doesn't work. There is no alternative to capitalism for your generation. I guess I feel sometimes distressed that women your age say feminism didn't work because I think it did. I really think if you look at the things that women of your generation take for granted...we never did. And feminism made that happen.

Courtney Martin is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor-in-chief.

# inside the minds of the fall 2001

If you could go to Barnard during any era, what would it be?



**Courtney E. Martin, co-editor-in-chief**  
(senior political science/sociology double-major)

I think the 20s would be pretty amazing—just to be able to be involved in the suffrage movement. On the other hand, we are pretty damn lucky to go to school at a time when so many opportunities are open to us. My mom, one of the least domestic people I know, declared a major in Home Economics her first year in college. That alone tells me that the 60s made people crazy.



**Eliza Bang, photography editor** (junior psychology major/education minor)

I would choose Barnard as it is right now. In present time, the opportunities we have are amazing.

**Kiryn Haslinger, co-editor-in-chief**  
(senior chemistry major)

I can't imagine wanting to leave this era. We're at an incredible juncture of technological knowledge and liberty, which both allows us to understand the world and expand our minds more so than in any other time. I would, however, like to have a job when I graduate, so I think I would choose 2000 as an optimal year to graduate.



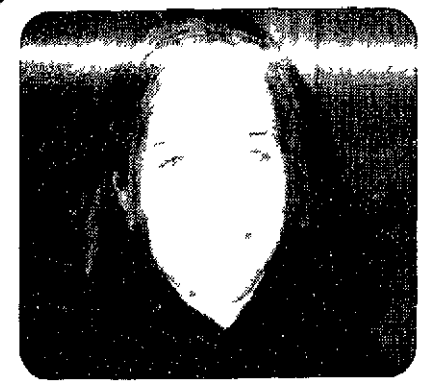
**Allison Baker, NYC living editor** (senior comparative literature major)

I always feel like I take my liberties as a woman for granted, and although I wouldn't necessarily want to sacrifice them by living in the 60s, I would like to have the experience of covering the events that transpired.



**Thea Tagle, music editor** (sophomore political science major/human rights concentration)

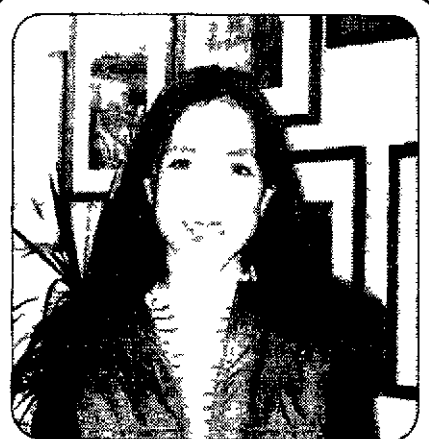
The 60s: sexual revolution, baby! Bra burning, marches, and all that good stuff. Plus, they had the best music (I love George Harrison), pre-Britney era.



**Isa Loundon, managing editor**  
(sophomore English major)

The 1920s—it was a time when women were beginning to realize their potential, moving out of the home and into the world.

photos by Jami Berk and Eliza Bang



**Liliana Segura, office manager**  
(senior English major)

I would have liked to be here during the 60s to live out my hippie activist fantasies.

# bulletin editorial board...



**K8 Torgovnick, news co-editor (senior sociology major)**

I can't believe I'm saying this, but I would have liked to go to Barnard during the 80s. Just imagine discussing the meaning of hair bands in a gender class. Or seeing people in pink, layered lace skirts walking around campus. And the mullets. It would have been amusing.

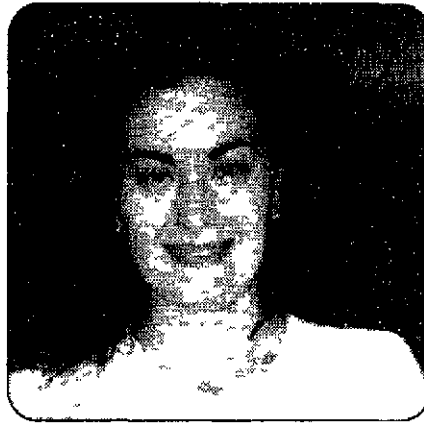
**Karen Shaum, news co-editor (senior psychology major and sociology minor)**

If I could go to Barnard during a different time period, I would love to go during the 60s so I could be a part of all the protests. I just think that being a part of such intense student organizing would have been an amazing experience.



**Alison Wayne, features editor (sophomore History major)**

If I could attend Barnard in any era, it would be from 1923-1926. Superstar anthropologist and human rights activist Margaret Mead spent her time at Barnard then, and as I found while perusing the old archives, domesticity was way in circa 1926. There was this great series of ads from GE that extolled the virtues of electric appliances. Where would my cooking exploits be without that electric mixer, eh?



**Renata Bystritsky, commentary editor (junior English/comparative literature double-major)**

The 1910s, I think. Glamorous clothing, fun hairstyles—and pre-Twiggy figures! Not to mention that being a College Girl (nay, NOT women, back in those issues) was just sooo special, and Barnard girls were the be-all and end-all of intellectual femininity. (Well, we still are. Some things never change.)

**Kelly McCoy, arts editor/ad manager (senior philosophy major/art history minor)**

I would love to be a Barnard student 20 years from now—I can hardly wait to see what the future Barnard will be like, and the implications of our energy today. I think this school's got something good going—an engaged community of faculty, students and staff that's ready for what's around the corner. "The world was never so ready as now to give birth to its full potential." —Robert Musil



**Yoogin Yang, art director (junior economics major/art history minor)**

I wouldn't want to be here at any other time than now (except maybe the future). Barnard keeps improving as time goes on and I'm curious to see how it will change in the future.

