



# Barnard Bulletin

## Referendum Determines Fate of National Clubs

### Const. Point Precipitates Unique Vote

The issue of national adult affiliated clubs, complex and often misunderstood, has a short history. It began last fall when Student Council, upon careful perusal of the Undergraduate Constitution, discovered that the Constitution did not provide for the special problem of nationally affiliated clubs which had no policies restricting membership.

To deal with this omission, President Millicent C. McIntosh and Ann Lord, former Undergraduate President, set up a Student-Faculty Committee on Definitions. The main task of the committee was to clarify the clause in the constitution which stated: "No fraternities shall exist in Barnard College, i.e., no element of secrecy, no national fraternalistic affiliations, no membership on an exclusive affiliation basis."

#### Committee Report

After careful consideration of the matter, the Definitions Committee recommended that the clause be changed to read: "No nationally adult affiliated clubs are to be chartered by the Barnard Undergraduate Association."

Early in March, the freshman class passed a resolution asking "that nationally affiliated clubs with the exception of secret organizations or organizations with limited membership be chartered on campus." Fifteen Barnard students who were not affiliated with a particular organization, presented a petition to Representative Assembly asking for a referendum.

The referendum on nationally adult affiliated groups will be held today and tomorrow on Jake. Voting will take place between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. today and between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. tomorrow.

Soon after the petition was presented, President McIntosh, on behalf of the Faculty Committee on Student Activities, wrote to Representative Assembly. This letter stated that the Committee "could find no reason for setting aside the decision of the Definitions Committee." It pointed out that "a trustees' regulation which is strongly supported by the Faculty Committee on Student Activities, could be changed only by the Board of Trustees."

#### Open Meeting

On Wednesday, March 20, an open meeting of Representative Assembly was called to discuss the question of nationally affiliated groups. At this meeting, President McIntosh listed as reasons for barring these groups, the problem of limited space and pressure on Student Council. She also pointed out the policy of these groups is decided upon by adult leaders.



### Editorial —

## Let's Vote Together!

From the time the Definitions Committee report brought the issue of the national adult affiliated organizations to the foreground, *Bulletin* has pledged its editorial support to the principle of granting these groups charters on campus. We have continued this campaign to appeal the ruling of the trustees as the issue has grown from a Representative Assembly concern to assume school-wide interest. Now that the question is faced with its "final" judgment in the hands of the student body today and tomorrow, we can only reiterate our previous stand on the question and ask that you vote with us to allow these organizations to be chartered at Barnard.

That the decision of the trustees arouses valid opposition is evidenced by the very size which the issue has attained and by the decision to poll the students in a referendum.

In fact, the issue has assumed such immense proportions that it has become removed from the immediate principle involved and projected onto more specific and remote ground. The desirability of national adult affiliated groups is no longer considered from the point of view of the groups that are familiar on campus such as the N.A.A.C.P. and the S.D.A. Instead, our opposition has centered its arguments on the desirability, or undesirability, of Marxist study groups and anti-religious organizations. These, they claim, would be the inevitable result of allowing affiliated groups on campus.

By concentrating on these specific organizations, our opposition loses sight of the principle of allowing such groups on campus. We feel that Barnard students should not be prohibited from either organizing or joining any groups they choose. If students choose to initiate clubs, whether they are adult affiliated or not, they should be accorded this privilege—and on their own campus.

Since those groups which are initiated at Barnard are student organized, prohibiting charters to adult affiliated organizations would certainly result in clauses in club constitutions especially tailored to meet the demands of chartering on campus. This would lead to a strange blend; a club which in reality remained adult affiliated and yet was not nominally affiliated.

Unfortunately, the referendum coincides with the pre-Easter vacation. We foresee a grand exodus of students from school on Thursday and Friday thus lessening the chances of obtaining a majority on the issue. We propose, in order to ameliorate this situation, that the student referendum be continued after Easter vacation and that the ballots not be counted until Monday evening, April 22.

We ask you students to vote for national affiliated adult organizations on campus. We will continue to object as long as principle of allowing students freedom to organize groups of their choice is undermined.

### Students Debate Affiliation At All-College Convocation

The issue of national adult affiliated groups will have its final airing today at the required all-college assembly scheduled for 1 p.m. in the Gymnasium.

Members of the student body will present opposing views on the question of allowing these clubs to be chartered on the Barnard campus. Barbara Coleman, former editor-in-chief of *Bulletin*, a representative of the proponents of chartering, will

### Clubs Issue Necessitates New Ruling

There is no precedent for the type of vote which will take place today and tomorrow at Barnard. Because there is no provision in the Undergraduate Constitution for an appeal of a trustee ruling, Student Council has had to initiate a new kind of referendum.

The clause in the Undergraduate Constitution pertaining to referendums considers only amendments to the College or class constitutions. Thus, Student Council has had to deal with this referendum procedure in an extra-constitutional manner.

The Council has ruled that a majority vote of the entire student body will constitute a mandate for Representative Assembly to refer the question of nationally affiliated clubs to the Trustees. The decision of the Board of Trustees will be final.

The only other referendum in the history of Barnard was held in the 1920's on the issue of whether or not to allow sororities on campus. The result of this referendum, however, was a constitutional amendment and, unlike the current situation, was provided for by the Undergraduate Constitution.

#### Student Views

##### Pro

Personal observation of the operations of nationally adult affiliated groups at Barnard and of other college campuses leaves no doubt in my mind that these groups perform distinctive and beneficial functions as official members of an undergraduate community.

These groups are college units of national organizations in which undergraduates are officers and set group policies. Groups have in the past altered existing regulations to comply with Undergraduate Association policies.

These facts, and my belief that an undergraduate college is the most desirable place to come into contact with what has been termed "propaganda" and "slanted policies" prompt me to cast my vote in favor of the chartering of national affiliated adult groups.

Yvonne Williams, '59

##### Con

The Definitions Committee is convinced that affiliated clubs do not belong on our campus, inasmuch as they are not student initiated and organized. These groups are not willing to reorganize their set-up, and dissolve their national ties so that they may be chartered. They insist that a fixed percentage of their dues is to go to the national organization without the approval of the club members and the Undergraduate Treasurer.

It is apparent that clubs whose focus is from without, whose purpose is pressure, and whose leadership is professional, are not, in fact, undergraduate organizations. They are ultra-campus, and, as such, may enjoy the participation and membership of Barnard students who join as individuals, not involving their college and their fellow students in what they do.

Mimi Kurtz, '57