

The Barnard Neighborhood
Shopper's Guide - see page 6 & 7

Barnard



Bulletin

Vol. XCVI No. 9

Fifty Cents

November 27, 1985

Community Interaction

**“As members of the Morningside
Heights community, we can
contribute to its future
improvements, but as members
of only our university
community, we only threaten
its welfare.”**

Letter to the Editor

Living Dangerously at Lucerne

To the Editor:

I write in response to your article on security at the Lucerne published in the November 13th issue of the Barnard Bulletin.

I am a transfer student who was given last minute housing at the Lucerne. Though overall I enjoy living here, I am appalled that your paper could print an article on the Lucerne which was so clearly biased and poorly researched. Had Melissa Iteld taken more time to talk with more than three Lucerne residents or to view the Lucerne and its security measures herself, then maybe she would have recognized the serious security problems present at the Lucerne.

The only thing that Ms. Iteld was correct in saying about security at the Lucerne is that it is lax. Security has become so lax that it is apparent that Barnard has very little concern for the safety of students living at the Lucerne. The main security "guards" at the Lucerne and the front desk attendants (they are the only ones who monitor the entrance of people in the Lucerne from 6 am until 11 pm) yet these desk attendants are not hired by Barnard and their lowest priority is our security. There have been more than a few times when I have entered the building in the evening hours and there has been no one present in the lobby, not even the supposed 24 hour desk attendant. Even worse, I have entered when the desk attendant was not present but some strange men were! But even when there are desk attendants present, it makes very little difference: neither I nor any of my friends or

family have ever been stopped by a desk attendant or asked to show an ID (yes, even in the beginning of the school year when they were "getting to know my face.") Furthermore, what is the use of stopping people when any friend or acquaintance of a non-Barnard resident can enter the building without having to sign in? In addition, it seems that the sign-in sheet is there merely for appearances' sake. One day I glanced at it while I was waiting for the elevator, I found that Jimi Hendrix (for those who do not know Jimi Hendrix, he is either dead or living in Africa with Jim Morrison) was visiting one of our residents (how nice!)

In regard to the Barnard appointed guard who works from 11 pm to 6 am, he is of no comfort to me whatsoever. I have been down in the lobby during his hours and found him absent (yet the smell of his cigar lingered on). But, more importantly, the "locked fortress" system in which a billy club (policeman's club) is placed in the handles of the two front doors so as to "bolt" it shut is more detrimental to the Barnard student than helpful. If I am walking towards the Lucerne late at night and I am being followed by a possible attacker, this bolting of the front door cuts off any hope I have of reaching safety. In the time that it would take me to knock on the door and wait for the guard (who incidently cannot see me from the usual position which he occupies) to rise and open the door for me, the attacker could have already stuck a knife in my back or shot me and be running off. Or possibly, he could

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Bear Essentials*

PASS/D/FAIL DEADLINE: WED., DEC. 4, is the last day to file a request with the Registrar for P/D/F grading. You are reminded that unless a course is graded P/F for all students (e.g. Experimental Studies BC3001), the instructor records a letter grade on the grade sheet. If the instructor's grade is either D or F, it is D or F that is recorded and computed in your GPA. The P/D/F card, filed in duplicate, should be read with care before you sign. Freshman English and courses for the major and the minor may NOT be elected P/D/F. To keep governing conditions uniform, the DEADLINE IS ABSOLUTELY FIRM AND THE DECISION IRREVERSIBLE. (See p. 52, Catalogue, re Dean's List before filing.)

FINAL EXAMS, FINAL GRADES, INCOMPLETES: You should have received a copy of Dean Bornemann's memo in your campus mailbox summarizing College policy on all three,

vital information for which every student is held responsible.

PRE-LAW STUDENTS: If your GPA is 3.5 or higher and you will have completed at least 60 points at Barnard by the end of this academic year, you might be eligible for the Columbia Law School Accelerated Program in Interdisciplinary Legal Education (A.I.L.E.), a joint A.B.-J.D. program which starts in the senior year. The March 1985 LSAT must be taken. For further information consult Dean Rowland, 105 Milbank, or p.43 of the Barnard Catalogue.

SENIORS ONLY: ON-CAMPUS RECRUITMENT PROGRAM begins interviewing FEB. 3. Orientation/registration meeting MON., NOV. 25. Open to seniors graduating in January or May. Call Daphne Muscarella, x2033, if you are unable to attend at either of these times.

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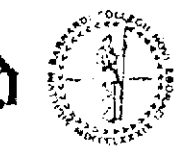
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CU Reaches New Heights

by Kelly E. Rogers

The boundaries of Columbia University do not end at the campus gates. Many inside the university are unaware of the significant role Columbia plays in the entire Morningside Heights Area. The university's "Mom-Pop Role" with regard to neighboring buildings, stores, and community members is extensive.

Columbia first moved into the Morningside Heights area in 1899 under the promotion of President Seth Low. The neighboring community at that time was not highly developed. Columbia was one of the forerunners in this area. According to the *Community Affairs Bulletin* (Nov. 1885), "Columbia University's presence in New York City has played a prominent part in making the city a major center of research and learning." Furthermore, "it has a major interest in the economic, civic, and social development of the surrounding community and city in which it dwells."

An important issue faced by the university is whether it should try to help the surrounding community to develop in a way which reflects the diversity of the student population and faculty. Larry Dais, Director of Community Affairs, says, "Yes, but not at the expense of the University's neighbors."

Columbia's "Mom-Pop Role" can be either active or passive, and until now it has been the latter, according to Geoffrey Wiener, Assoc. Director of the Office of Project Development. Wiener feels that

Columbia is passive in that it has a significant amount of store leasing power but has not filled the stores with any overall plan in mind. He adds "we are trying to change that to some extent and be more conscious of the community's needs, namely the needs of the residents, faculty, staff, and students." He cites the University Food Market as an example. "The creation of the market was geared to provide for a specific need that was articulated by the community according to a survey we did."

Presently Columbia is involved in numerous community affairs and services. The university is affiliated with six child-care centers which offer long range benefits to community youths. Also, much of the money raised at Columbia's fundraising events benefits various causes such as widows and children of N.Y.C. firemen and policemen, the United Negro College Fund and the New York Lung Association. Columbia's Law School clinic gives legal assistance to new immigrants from 42 countries. These few activities are only highlights of Columbia's contribution to the surrounding community.

According to "outsiders" such as Ben Raymakers, a Belgian first time visitor at the university, "My first impression was that Columbia brings a new and healthy spirit into the community as well as promoting serenity and unity."



All walks of life on Morningside Heights.

Bulletin Photo

A Walk on the Wild Side

by Jennifer Horowitz

For a private university in a large city, security is always a major concern, especially because the campus is always accessible to members of the community not affiliated with the university. Columbia University does not have a specific trespassing policy, but it has adapted the New York City private property laws to suit the needs of the school and the community.

Until 1954, College Walk was officially considered an extension of 116th Street, and anyone driving a car had the right to pass through between Broadway and Amsterdam. That year, in honor of Columbia's bicentennial, the city changed the status of College Walk to private property. The only cars permitted to drive onto campus now, says Tom Foley of Columbia Security, are those with official business there. The cars frequently seen parked along the walk are mostly the property of the Columbia Athletic Department, carrying athletes and equipment to and from off-campus practices and games. Some of the other cars belong to special guests of the school, who must obtain special permits to park there. These permits are available at the Public Affairs Office in

Low Library. Concerning admissions to the various buildings on campus, Mr. Foley says that identification is required only in dormitories and libraries, since these are where items of high value are most likely to be found, including many rare books. Other buildings are generally easy to get into, but this is done intentionally, since many non-university people have legitimate business there. For example, says the Public Affairs Office, Low Library is open to the public, which is often invited to see special exhibits. Security is always prepared for the eventuality that someone of a criminal nature may walk in, especially since the security office is also located in Low.

Although the University could legally stop pedestrians from crossing through campus, Mr. Foley says that security just doesn't bother to do so, since they do no harm and since checking every passerby's I.D. could get more than a little out of hand. However, pedestrians, for example, are not permitted to walk their dogs on College Walk for obvious sanitary reasons, and anyone creating a disturbance may be asked to leave. Mr. Foley describes a criminal trespasser as someone who disobeys a request to leave private property.



Pedestrians Stroll on College Walk.

Bulletin Photo

Morningside Tenants Federation: Tenants Fight Back

By Andrea Dove

This is the result of a talk with three of the members of the Morningside Tenants Federation (MTF): Anne Williams, Kenny Schaeffer, and Jane Hammond, all of whom are long-time residents of the Morningside Heights neighborhood. They spoke about their efforts to negotiate with the University. Eventually, they resorted to direct action as these attempts proved unfruitful. They also spoke about changes within the organization of MTF and especially about women's issues both in the organization and in the community at large. The importance of last spring's prodivestment Blockade of Hamilton Hall, in which hundreds of students, faculty and staff joined together in protest of Columbia University's (CU) investments in companies doing business with the Apartheid regime in South Africa, was seen by all as a crucial factor in changing the attitudes of people in the community towards groups such as MTF. Political involvement appears to be on the rise. But I'll let them speak for themselves:

ANDREA: So, lets begin with MTF's beginnings.

KENNY: Well, it was formed in the Spring of 1980, out of several groups, as well as individuals who were faced with the threat of displacement by CU. They were a lot of low-income and predominantly minority tenants who lived in SRO (Single Room Occupancy) housing. There was a block of tenants on 121st and 122nd St. who had buildings that had just been purchased by CU and CU was making strong moves to try to force these people out by hiring a notorious slumlord to harass people.

ANDREA: So the people who were being harassed came together and formed the Federation?

KENNY: Right. For mutual self-defense. The point was to stop the evictions and to try to change the rules. It was a question of empowerment.

ANDREA: Did you use direct action?

KENNY: Yeah, we did. We had demonstrations demanding that the slumlord be fired and also that Ronald Golden, who was then CU's housing director, be removed from that position because a lot of people in the community felt he was a racist. This was in the summer of 1980. We also worked in the courts to try and stop the evictions. In the past, the University was able to just go down to housing court and get people evicted.

ANNE: How many women were there in the organization at the beginning?

KENNY: Originally, there were not a lot of women in the organization, and the women who were in the organization were kind of excluded from leadership.

ANDREA: Did that eventually change?

KENNY: It certainly did. Women got involved in MTF in 1983 who were feminists and who knew how to deal with that type of situation.

ANNE: I joined the organization in 1983 and I can remember getting calls at 9:00 in the morning when I would be told to do the typing and various other chores, but I was virtually *never* included in anything like a policy decision. That's not so long ago.

JANE: I got involved in the Spring of 84 when CU sent up to a thousand letters to people, telling them that they had to leave their apartments. Then, MTF was an organization that had a name, but it didn't seem like MTF did anything, so I and some other people started, not a separate group, but an affiliate of MTF-TOTS, Tenants Organized To Stay.

JANE: Many of the people who were being evicted were women. And a lot of these women were middle-aged women who had the apartments because their ex-husbands had left. They raised the kids in the apartments and they kinda had chips on their shoulders about what life was doing to them and what Columbia was doing to them and they panicked when they got these letters. It was really only when Anne (Williams) got involved that we moved from just being a hand-holding organization for people who were being evicted to trying to do something in the neighborhood.

ANNE: I think one of the most important organizing efforts of TOTS, which you, (Jane) were an instrumental part of, was that TOTS very early on just sat down and wrote out what would happen when people got served with eviction notices—who would be there, what the process server's name was and that he had, in fact, no authority at all—he was paid a couple bucks to hand these papers to you and there was no reason to be intimidated. It just sort of demystified the whole process of getting an eviction notice.

JANE: We didn't start doing [direct action] we started talking about doing that. We scheduled a major conference in December 83. Instead of having speakers talk at you we were trying to get the idea of self-empowerment within the organization. So we had a workshop conference. Everybody said it was one of the best housing conferences that had ever taken place on Morningside Heights. And it was merely because we worked real hard to figure out a format that would involve participation of everybody there.

ANNE: Well, it was a long struggle. It was a lot of internal politics that year with a lot of jockeying for "the way it was" vs. "the new way". Another thing



that happened was that the issues shifted. Columbia got meaner and it became more apparent. They were zeroing in on women and minorities because these were the people who didn't have the money to get a lawyer or who Columbia thought couldn't get a political campaign together.

KENNY: I disagree a little bit about Columbia getting meaner. They had always been very mean and over the last 30 years they had forced out probably 90% of the minority population of Morningside Heights. When MTF got started, the targets were already women and minorities but it was a white male dominated organization. At least as far as the issue of gender, the Federation has come a long way.

ANNE: Well, I think the fact that the gender has changed is one thing, but it's the consensus decision-making and the genuine concern and the willingness to be more militant—to do direct action, to do guerilla theater, that's really important.

KENNY: I think that there is a real consciousness-raising issue involved in tenant organizing. Most tenants are really very terrified by their landlords—they think their landlord can do whatever he wants to them and it's really hard. I have found to get tenants to realize that they can fight back. But when you have people who have already confronted other forms of oppression and dealt with it, like women and minorities, then they're better able to deal with the tenant issue also.

ANNE: Or vice-versa. It works vice-versa too.

ANDREA: When did you begin to take direct action?

JANE: MTF, for a long time, thought that it could be very constructive to just engage in dialogue with Columbia and that at *some* point things might have to become militant. Becoming militant was

always put off. We tried to talk to this Tenant Advisory group they set up—that got nowhere, hours and hours were wasted. Lower-level people from Columbia met in the evening with representatives from MTF and said "We'll look into this". They were very cordial, they listened, they debated, they said they would do their best. That went on for months and months—and what was the result? Minority women during that summer got 72-hour eviction notices. So, we had to convince people in MTF that the only way to save homes was to get out there and do some actions.

ANNE: Also there were really important intervening things in that area—nobody can give enough credit to the students who sat down on the Blockade. Many of our tenants went by there—everybody knew about it. That was somebody going first, standing up to Columbia and not only surviving but winning. There was a big pick-up on willingness, after the Blockade, to do tenant actions it's absolutely clear to me. Also there was a huge synergism between District 65 (of the United Auto Workers), The Support Staff union (at CU), the Coalition for a Free Southern Africa (The CFSA—which organized the Blockade), and MTF, and it got to be a situation where we all had more strength because each of us individually were struggling.

One of the outstanding issues that Columbia asserts all the time is that they're only evicting people in order to make room for students. That is not, in fact, true. First of all, they deliberately keep apartments off the rental market. They have more apartments off the market than are off the market in New York City as a whole. Second, they charge *so much money* for their apartments that there's hardly a student here, I dare say, who could possibly afford their apartments. Which is something that

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Community Interaction

The Baby Connection



Sitters Checking Out the Babes

by Deirdre Fogarty

The Barnard Babysitting Service has been providing Manhattan parents with babysitters for nearly 80 years. Acting as a dispatcher between Barnard students and parents, it serves the community while offering students jobs.

Approximately 500 students use the Babysitting Service, and over 1,000 parents are registered. About two dozen parents use the service on a regular basis, thus receiving a different babysitter each time. Most parents use the same person consistently.

Parents tend to prefer Barnard babysitters because of the school's prestigious name

Any parent in Manhattan can use the agency, but most are from the Upper West and East sides. Most of the Upper West side parents are young urban professionals. They find that the service is great in providing them with dependable babysitters. They often count on it as a last minute resource. Most Barnard and Columbia professors who are parents use the service if they live in the neighborhood.

Some of the service's competitors are NYU's babysitting service and private agencies in the city. Parents tend to prefer

Barnard babysitters because of the school's prestigious name. Also, it's one of the least expensive babysitting services in New York. Charging \$3.50/hr (two hour minimum), plus cabfare after 9:00 PM, it's a bargain compared to most other agencies. Most charge from \$5-7/hr. NYU charges \$4/hr.

Most parents know about Barnard's Babysitting Service through word of mouth. If they need a sitter, they call a few days in advance. The Service performs a reference check, collecting information about the child. It is routine to ask for the pediatrician's phone number and to contact him/her. The information about the child is then recorded in the registration booklet.

A student who wishes to use the babysitting service must be a Barnard student. Barnard alumnae may only take live-in positions or steady jobs. The student visits the service, located in the lower level of Milbank, between 10AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday. She looks through the registration booklet, and chooses a suitable job. The service calls the parent right away, then allows the person to speak with the babysitter. They make all necessary arrangements in the office, and the receptionist records the information. If the student doesn't show up,

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CU Students Befriend Community Youth

by Mari E.H. Pfeiffer

One of the busiest, most widespread and active organizations on the Columbia University campus is the Columbia Volunteer Service Center, better known as CVSC. Offering both financial support, administrative assistance, office space, meeting space, and most importantly, volunteers to the various community programs, CVSC acts as a centralizing agent to the various volunteer programs it supports.

"We do not actually run the programs," said Ray Welch, the chairman of CVSC. "We act as an organizer for the programs as well as a financial supporter." Welch also mentioned that the funding for CVSC comes primarily from the Columbia College and Barnard Student Councils, Earl Hall, and various donors, as well as fraternities and sororities at Columbia. "Alpha Phi sorority donated one hundred dollars to us," Welch said.

CVSC began approximately two years ago, when Don Kent, the assistant Director of Programs at Columbia decided that a service center for volunteers at Columbia was needed. By bringing together

volunteer groups that already existed, Kent, along with several other organizers, drew up a constitution for the organization, citing its purpose and obligation to the community surrounding Columbia.

Although the organization is quite young, its value to the programs it sponsors is indispensable. With a list of approximately four hundred volunteers along with the necessary funding, the service groups it supports would possibly fold without CVSC. "The assistance we provide for the various programs would no longer be available. Some programs may even indirectly fold. CVSC is a much needed service in this community," said Welch.

A prime example of a program sponsored by CVSC is the Community Youth Program which sets up interaction between elementary school children from P.S. 145 and both Barnard and Columbia students. The CYP takes children between the second and sixth grades on weekly Saturday trips to places such as museums, the Bronx zoo, Central Park or rollerskating. This past Saturday, CYP leader Evan Tasch and his group of approximately ten volunteers took twenty-five children on a

rollerskating trip to Queens. "Most of the kids fall into the third or fourth grade, are from low-income families and look forward to spending their Saturdays seeing the various parts of New York," said Tasch. "But they have been begging to go rollerskating for awhile. They should be pretty excited today."

Tasch's prediction was correct. Upon arriving at the school's playground located on Amsterdam at 105th st., the children ran excitedly to meet the volunteers. "They are always excited to see us. The kids need a lot of love and attention and they are also very giving," said Monica Cohen, a Barnard freshman. Many children already had their skates on; others

"They are always excited to see us. The kids need a lot of love and attention and they also are very giving

jumped up and down with impatience in the hopes of soon leaving for the day's adventure. "I can hardly wait," said Jessica, an eleven year-old. "We always go to museums and that's boring. But I'm so excited to go rollerskating today!" Her pals cheered in agreement with squeals of delight.

and disciplinarians. It is not easy but it is definitely worth it," added Jennifer Bower, another freshman volunteer.

It is volunteers such as these that CVSC has and still needs. Through the various recruiting programs such as open houses, dormitory presentations, and


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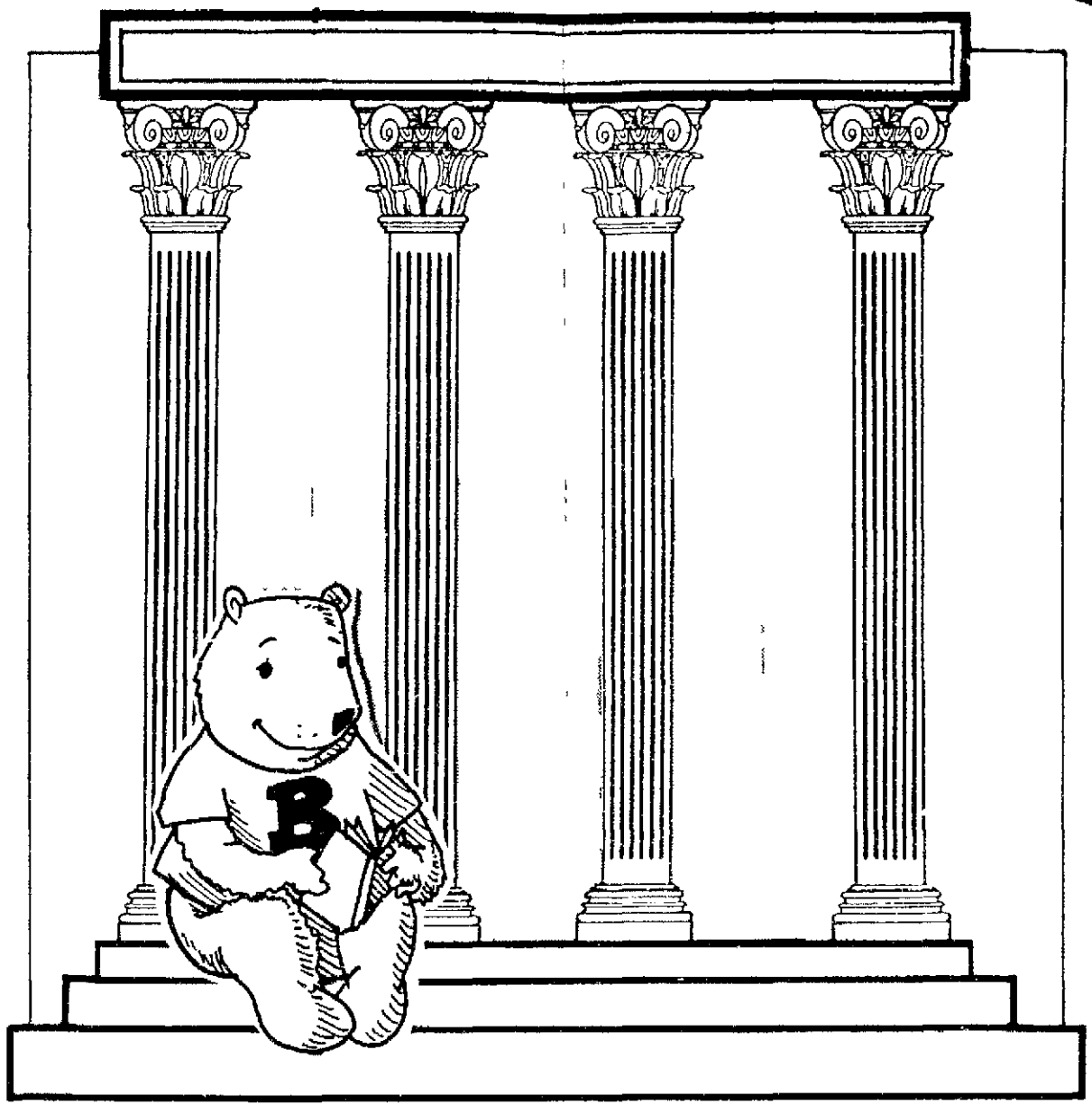
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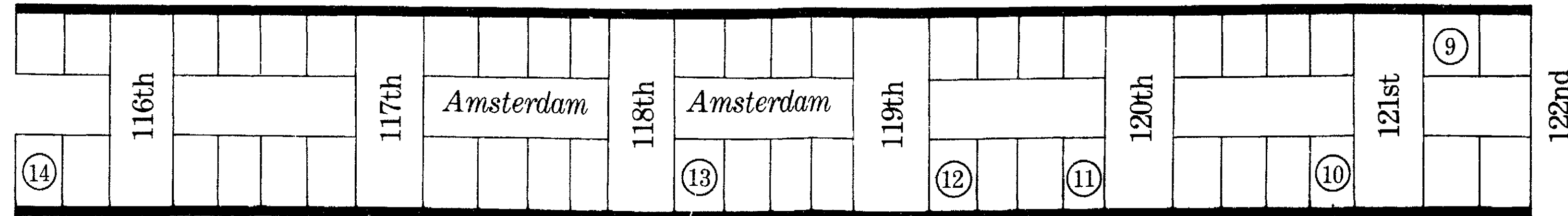
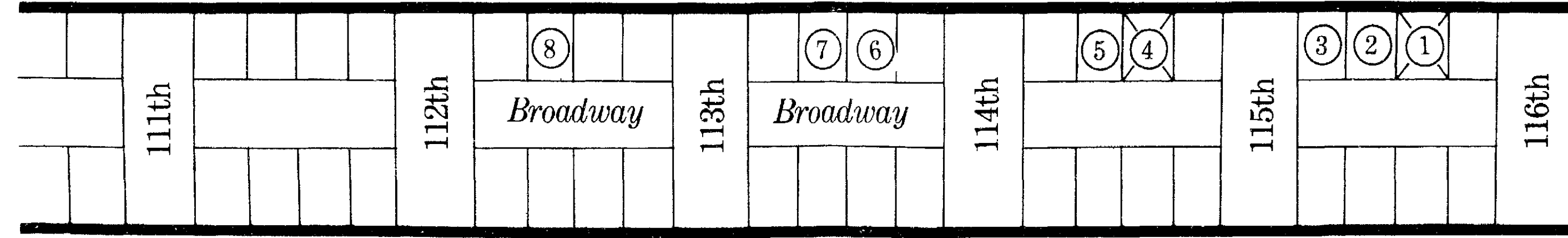
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The Barnard Neighborhood Shopper's Guide



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Community Interaction

Strong Fences Make Good Neighbors?

by Deborah Pades

Kids are people too, I suppose. We are the kids and the outside community members are the people who call us "the kids" who will soon turn into people. But while we are students at Columbia University, we are still members of our community and not theirs. I thought this point was a debatable one, but after spending Sunday afternoon walking down then up Broadway between 110th and 116th, I found that it was not. Of the people I spoke with, most believed that we are not one big family. We are many families, some happy and some not.

I approached store-owners, old men, young couples, and anyone who looked like they lived in the area. "How do you feel towards the students of C.U.?" I asked. "Do they contribute enough to the community?" "Do they make a difference in your life?" The lady at the candy shop said she "wasn't smart enough to answer that." I hope I didn't intimidate her. I tried to ask the owner of Party Cake and she told me to go down to their 89th street branch because she "can't say nothing without their permission." Between these two stores, I realized that specialty shops just do not want to jeopardize their reputation by saying anything that would be offensive to their customers.

I wandered through the aisles of UFM and met a woman by the frozen foods in the back. She was a retired Columbia professor who has been here since 1967. I was tempted to ask her how she cooked her eggplant but instead she began discussing

the past years of Columbia's involvement with the community. She remembered how our political activity in 1968 encompassed the entire area and *did* create a unity. The Blockade she felt, did not. She stressed the fact that today, there seems to be a different level of awareness by the students concerning the community's needs. The soup kitchens and shelters in the area are constant reminders that our lives are elite compared to the realities of the neighborhood. It was interesting to see how she, along with others I spoke to had trouble separating the student from the institution. Because of this, we both realized that the individual student has a great responsibility to act on her own accord and not expect the university to attend to the needs that she considers most important.

Just after I spoke to this woman, I talked with another who had a great deal of anger towards the students who did not put enough pressure on the administration to allocate "its resources to things other than itself." There are needs in our community that are not being provided for, but if they were, she believes that the community for all would be better. When I asked what she meant by "community" she said "Columbia is not its own entity!" As long as the administration gives off that attitude, the community will be divided at the students' expense as well as that of the outside members.

A woman who was reading the outside menu of Cafe Lumière (and laughing) felt that the University was an "infra-

structure." She felt that the separation between the college community and the Morningside Heights people are different and we shouldn't try to force anything. Who's forcing?

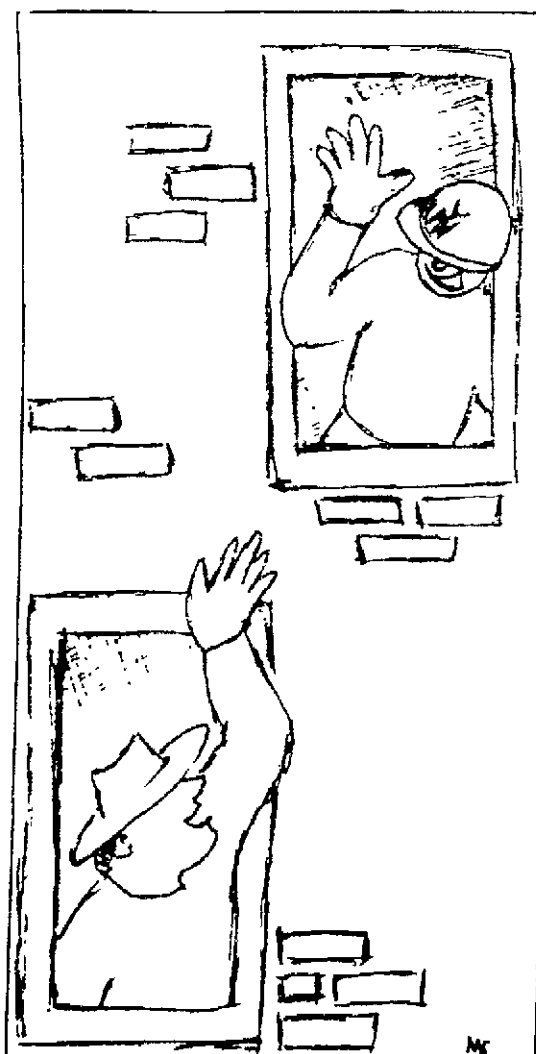
An old lady on the corner of 112th made me so happy and then so sad. "The kids go in and go out, go in and go out," she said. "They can be nice. They can be brats." I laughed at that and she did too and I wanted to hug her. Then she started telling me how she has been living in her building for "hundreds of years" and how "they" now want to kick her out. She told me that "the kids" know and they are as angry as she is but there is no way around it except to stand firm and not budge. "More power to you," I said, but as I walked away I realized that as a university student, I represent the institution that is kicking her out. So I'm not separate from my community, but I am very separate from hers.

When I set out to do some footwork for this article, I wanted the material to be funny. But the more I listened, the more I realized that the way the community feels about our institution directly affects their feeling towards the students who attend it. And there is nothing humorous about that. Sure, I received some positive responses like "I feel safer with you all around in my building" and "Without you, this place would be a ghost town." One man told me that the lines at the bank would be a lot shorter if we moved out. But from those who really took the time to talk to me, I got a feeling of urgency from listening to their words. There is too much that needs to be



done and too much to learn about in this community, for us to stand idle. There is possibility for decay and possibility for growth. As members of the Morningside Heights community, we can contribute to its future improvements, but as members of only our university community, we only threaten its welfare. One group cannot be exclusive of the other. A man at Bookforum told me that students were an asset to the community. Financially, he is correct. The store owners do well by us. But to be considered an asset on a social and service oriented level, the student needs to be more than a customer in the neighborhood, she needs to take stock in its survival.

★ ★ ★ ★



Know Your Neighbor

by Caroline Palmer

Among the various residence halls Barnard offers there are three in which students share the buildings with regular tenants. Two are on 116th Street, 600 and 620, purchased by Barnard in 1971 and 1966, respectively. The College Residence Hotel on 110th Street began its lease in 1980.

The Barnard students and the tenants seem to have a friendly relationship. According to Nancy Ludwig, Director of the "600's" and 110th Street, there have been "no problems." She feels that the students and tenants "coexist really well." Ms. Ludwig cited 116th Street as an example. The resident assistants in the building are planning to host programs that would involve both tenants and students.

Most of the tenants living at 600, 620, and 110th Street have been there over ten years. According to Sigmund Gins-

berg, Vice-President for Finance and Administration, there is no definite difference between the amount of rent paid by students and tenants. Mr. Ginsberg said that the rent paid by tenants depends on "the size of the apartment, how long (the tenant) has lived there, and rent stabilization." Concerning official policy for the tenants of these buildings there is one major concern—security. At the moment overall security issues that apply to the tenants and students are under discussion. According to Mr. Ginsberg, Barnard is "always trying to make (its) buildings as secure as possible." Jeannette Ruffins, Associate Dean of Student Life said the guests of tenants are asked to sign in to assure security. She says "(the guests) seem happy to do so." However, Mr. Ginsberg feels that some tenants may object to a guest "sign-in" procedure. This is one of the main issues currently under

discussion between Barnard and the tenants of these buildings. Mr. Ginsberg said that the goal of Barnard residence hall policy is to provide "the best possible security for everyone living in these buildings."

The students living in the "600's" and 110th Street have had no real problems with the tenants. According to Stephanie McAllister BC '89, a resident of 600, there is "never any noise." However, there is no real interaction between the students of the building either. Stephanie feels that 600 is "not very social . . . there's no dorm life." Tonya Newman BC '89, also a resident of 600, says "if you're shy you can just hide away," because of the apartment-like atmosphere. Both students feel the main problem with tenants and students sharing the building is that they can't decide whether or not it's a dorm or an apartment building.

Gift of Kindness

by Mindy Braunstein

Throughout my four years at Barnard, I've been very involved in extra-curricular activities. As a freshman, I joined the Columbia University Marching Band (bless those mischievous musicians!), worked as a mobility and accommodative aide for the Office for Disabled Students, broadcasted news summaries on the college radio station (89.9 WKCR), and helped with a reunion through the Alumnae Affairs Office. My participation in extra-curricular activities was always important to me as a diversion from my studies, and I learned how to juggle extra-curricular activities with school-work.

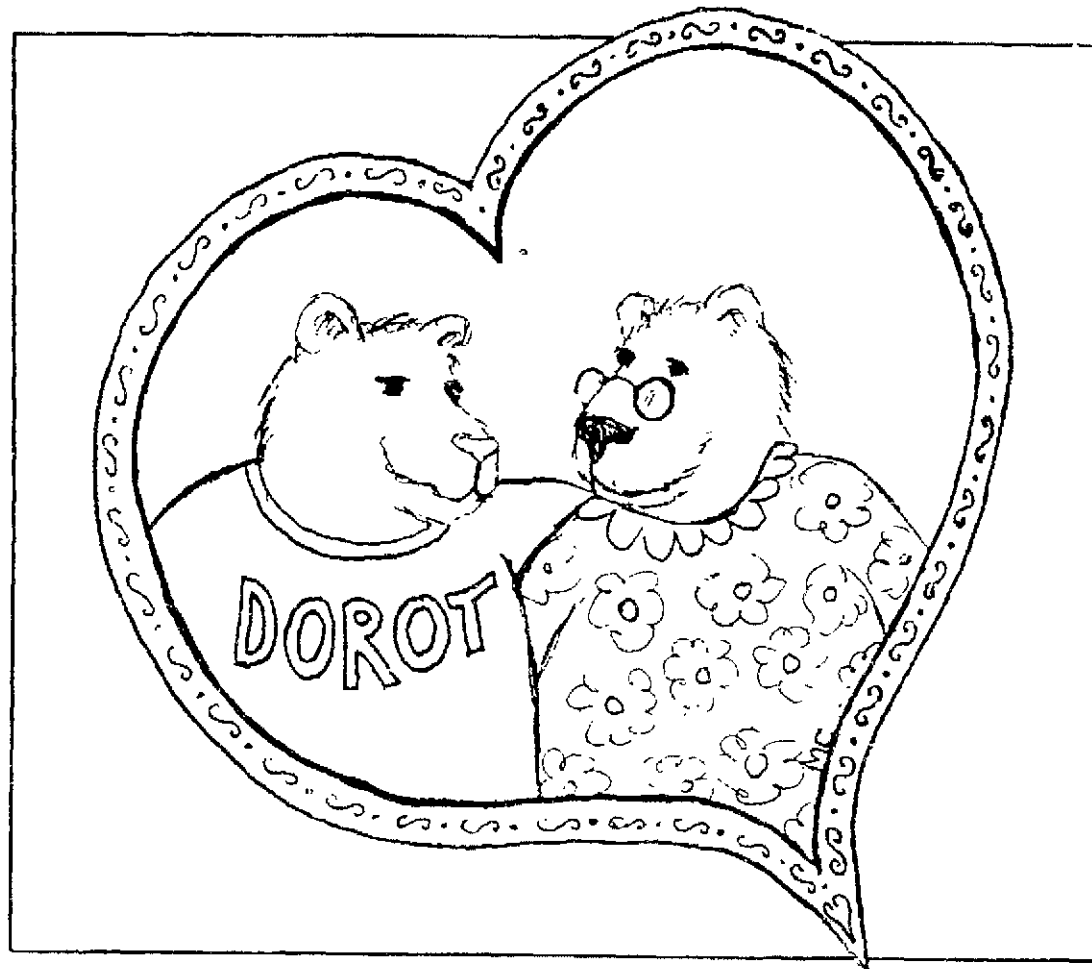
As a sophomore, I became interested in the Community Volunteer Service Center (CVSC), a coalition of about fifteen student volunteer groups on Columbia and Barnard campuses. After going to a CVSC Open House in Earl Hall, I became a volunteer for Project DOROT, a community service agency that provides a friendly visiting service and other social programs for homebound elderly on the Upper West Side. I started visiting an old Jewish woman, Anna, who lives a few blocks away from school, on a weekly basis for about an hour each week. For many of DOROT's elderly clients, the weekly visits by volunteers are their only sources of contact with the outside world, since many are either disabled or simply too afraid to leave their apartments. For Anna, my visits meant companionship and music (I play the flute for her). These visits have been mutually rewarding in that they have given me a different perspective on

daily living, on something as simple as climbing stairs to taking a test and dealing with a heavy work load, the bane of every college student's existence. In the long run, a single test or paper does not make a difference in the course of one's life. One must make choices and decisions and overcome inevitable obstacles to achieve a goal, whether it be graduating from Barnard or becoming a doctor.

I became more involved with Project DOROT, participating in holiday package deliveries and intergenerational programs, and was chosen to be the campus representative when the previous campus leader graduated. Through an excellent program at Barnard, the Experimental Studies Program, I was able to receive credit for working with Project DOROT on recruiting more college volunteers and informing students of the many elderly people in the Morningside Heights neighborhood.

Soon I became more interested in community service in general and became involved in the executive committee of CVSC. I agreed to become treasurer because I was genuinely concerned about the future of CVSC and its effort to promote student involvement in community service. Now I am a Senior (yay!) and I work with the leaders of many student volunteer groups on programming and budgeting events. Currently, the CVSC executive committee is working on linking group leaders with university faculty and administrative advisors.

After I graduate from Barnard College and become nostalgic about the



"good old college days," it won't be the classes *per se* that I will miss; rather it will be my extra-curricular activities that have complemented my course work and completed my education at Barnard College. I will remember coming back to young college faces after a visit with Anna; going with the Marching Band to the College library the night before the Organic Chemistry final to serenade frazzled students; staying overnight in a homeless shelter to return to school the next morning to hear students complain about their dormitories.

Attending college in such a dynamic

city as Manhattan offers the student the opportunity to go to the theater, the ballet, concerts, movies, and restaurants, as well as the opportunity to learn about people from all kinds of backgrounds, not only those from school, but also those who live outside our Ivy League haven. Becoming involved in social activism doesn't mean starting a campaign to end world hunger; it means first becoming aware of those people around you whom you pass on the street every day who are hungry and then taking the first step by serving lunch one day in a Soup Kitchen—it might just change your whole outlook on life. . . .

Letter

continued from page 2

have grabbed me, covered my mouth, and dragged me around the near corner and out of sight. The reality is that the guard is often at least five or more seconds (usually more) away from the door, and in the time that it takes him to open the door anything could happen.

I would appreciate it if Ms. Iteld had taken the time to think objectively about the security measures in effect at the Lucerne. Certainly it is something that the Barnard Housing office should be examining and re-evaluating. I honestly feel that anybody who had an interest in entering the building could easily do so. Safety is something that should not be judged in terms of the presence of "fancy ships" in the neighborhood or men termed "guards" present in the lobby. It is obvious to anyone who lives here that security is lax. The fact that the Lucerne is located in a safer neighborhood than the Morning-

side Heights neighborhood and that the Lucerne is so far away from the college, does not mean that Barnard should be negligent in establishing strong and intelligent security measures.

— Mithia D. Merryman
BC '88

Babysitting

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she is banned from using the service until she settles the problem with the parent.

Barnard's Babysitting Service is part of Career Services, but students have been operating it since last March. Career Services realized that its efficiency would improve if students ran it. Fatima Chavez, an economics major in her junior year, became student manager last March. She affirms that the service has improved as a result of this change. According to Fatima, students are best able to deal with their

peers. Besides, if something goes wrong, she can be reached at 3AM whereas an employee in Career Services cannot.

For even better efficiency, Fatima has proposed that the organization become a student-run enterprise, separate from Career Services. If her proposal is approved, the agency will charge parents an annual registration fee. The money earned would be used for administrative costs.

Barnard's Babysitting Service aids students in finding jobs during the summer as well as during the school year. Its hours are less frequent, because it isn't used as often. In the summer, students may take advantage of Au Pair jobs, both here and overseas, that are listed in the office.

Students appreciate the Babysitting Service because unlike other jobs, it can be fitted into an erratic schedule. One student remarked, "I love the kids I babysit for. And after they go to sleep, I can study or relax."

Volunteer

Continued from page 5

newspaper ads. Welch would like to see the university become even more involved. "I would be delighted if the dorms in particular would become more active. If each dorm on campus undertook one project to service the community, there would be that many more volunteers." Plans for increased dorm volunteers are in the making.

Nevertheless, it is an undisputed fact that CVSC is a necessity and a service widely respected in the Columbia community. With programs such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Columbia/Barnard Help for the Homeless, CYP, Nightline and many more, its presence goes well beyond the borders of campus and deep into the hearts of the needy. As one happy ten year old boy named John said on his way to a day of rollerskating: "I love the volunteers! And I love going places on Saturdays—it beats going to school!"

Reviews

Moving Drama in *Crimes of the Heart*

by Paige Sinkler

How many people would be able to handle their mother hanging herself along with her old yellow cat, their sister attempting to murder her husband because she "didn't like his looks," a dying grandfather who psychologically torments his granddaughters, and living in a small southern town next door to their snotty socialite cousin? The cast of *Crimes of the Heart*, directed by Frank Lombardi and performed last weekend at Barnard College's Minor Latham Playhouse, handled it all quite well.

The play was a study of a turbulent time in the lives of three southern sisters who have lived very different lives since they last saw each other. They are brought together when Babe Magrath, one of the sisters, shoots her Senator husband after living as an obedient and abused wife for many years. The Magrath sisters hadn't seen each other in approximately five years and during the few days they spend together all sorts of skeletons come out of the closet and cause changes in the women's relationships.

Meg Magrath, played by Kadina De Elejalde, is an aspiring singer at a stalemate in her not yet budding career. De Elejalde played her role somewhat inconsistently. As the rebellious sister who has always had men running after her, has a fixation on cigarettes and alcohol, and yet is often plagued by visions of crippled Poster Children. De Elejalde swaggered,

dressed, and flipped her hair appropriately. She delivered her biting or sarcastic one-liners with gusto, but when sentimental and thought-provoking speeches came around she seemed a bit stiff. Indeed, a character with such diverse facets of personality is difficult to play consistently. Fortunately as the play progressed De Ele-

jalde grew closer to the stage action and her fellow actors. Lenny Magrath, played by Valentina Fratti, is the spinster who has just turned thirty. She is nursemaid to their dying grandfather and responsible for taking care of his house, Babe's problems, and getting Meg home from her exclusive Hollywood life to comfort Babe. Fratti



NOT your ordinary happy family . . . the cast of *Crimes of the Heart*.

Bulletin Photo

was superb in her anxiety and strength. The memorable scene in which she lights some birthday candles planted in a cookie and excitedly sings to herself—three times—revealed her ability to maintain her character while alone onstage. In interaction with her sisters, her character grew and changed more markedly than the others in the play. Her facial expression and posture increased in strength as her character did throughout the play.

Anne Martins's portrayal of Babe Magrath, the attempted-murderess of her celebrated husband, was fantastic. Her account of the murder, "After I shot him, I went into the kitchen and made a pitcher of lemonade," was oddly poignant. She had the innocent good intentions of the Flying Nun with the same disastrous results. She had extremely good timing and expression in her remarks; the audience could believe it when, asked why she tried to murder her husband, she replied first that she didn't like his looks, and then admitted to having had a bad day.

The supporting actors, Lori Klainer as Chick Boyle, the sisters' cousin, Cliff Woods as Doc Porter, Meg's old flame, and Greg Tobias as Barnette Lloyd, Babe's young lawyer, were effective in their respective caricature-type roles. Although the story really revolved around the sisters themselves, these cast members were the catalysts for the changes in the sisters's lives. Klainer perhaps overacted

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Vladimir Horowitz on Film: *The Last Romantic*

by Eri Ikezi

Vladimir Horowitz, the most acclaimed pianist of the past half-century, appeared recently at Carnegie Hall . . . not on the stage but on the movie screen. *Vladimir Horowitz: The Last Romantic*, a documentary by Albert and David Maysles of performances and discussions by the artist, offers various levels of satisfaction to the audience. Filmed in his home, the humorous conversations between the virtuoso and his wife bring the audience closer to Horowitz-the-man, while still offering exciting moments for his devotees to relish in Horowitz-the performer who after all this time (he's 81!) has lost neither brilliance nor vitality.

Within an hour and a half, Horowitz plays pieces and excerpts of composers ranging from Bach to Scriabin, favoring pieces by those composers "who were pianists themselves," such as Mozart, Chopin, and Liszt. During the filming, he was asked to repeated certain pieces, to which he replied, "I never play anything exactly the same twice." Indeed, his performances vary from one recording to another, yet



A virtuoso's ear: Vladimir Horowitz in *The Last Romantic*.

Photo: Henry Corra

each of his interpretations conjures what Mrs. Horowitz calls "a magical spell." Unlike today's young virtuosos who rarely miss a note, Horowitz does make mistakes. Nevertheless, his music is beautiful even with the slight imperfections.

By contrast, the camera work allows glimpses of the discipline that is the basis of his technique.

The film, perhaps due to its insufficient length, does not fully convey Horowitz's genius. The conversations are limited to trivial details and to Mr. and Mrs. Horowitz's casual remarks about historical figures, such as their friend Sergei Rachmaninoff and Mrs. Horowitz's father Arturo Toscanini. Therefore, Horowitz comes across as somewhat frivolous. His antics add to this impression: while warming up for a Schumann Novelette, he suddenly bursts into hysterical giggles and exclaims, "I'm Mozart," (referring to the Mozart of *Amadeus* fame).

For those who missed the movie, Vladimir Horowitz will be performing in person at Carnegie Hall on December 15th.

Haunted Women: Short Stories Compiled by Alfred Bendixen

By Michele Rogosky

The supernatural tale can be overlooked as a genre serving an adolescent predilection for ghosts and goosebumps. Yet, as Barnard's Assistant English Professor, Alfred Bendixen, points out in his introduction to *Haunted Women: The Best Supernatural Tales by American Women Writers*, the supernatural tale is a central part of the body of American fiction, for it enabled writers to explore subjects they could not have addressed in any other way. Writers such as Irving, Poe, Hawthorne, Melville and James all wrote in and experimented with this type of fiction and produced classic works of American literature. Some of our most important works lie in the supernatural realm: "Rip Van Winkle," "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "The Raven," *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Turn of the Screw*. In these stories the writers explored ideas concerning America's independence, the belief in leaving the past behind and starting fresh

in America, authority and individuality, and repressed sexuality.

These men, as well as future American authors, are indebted to the supernatural tale for its versatility as a literary medium. However, some garnered more fame by it than others did, and a crucial era in fiction has often been overlooked. During a period of roughly 20 years (1890s to 1910s) American women writers produced excellent ghostly tales that dealt with feminist topics. Bendixen says that "supernatural fiction opened doors for American women writers, allowing them to move into otherwise forbidden regions. It permitted them to acknowledge the needs and fears of women, enabling them to examine such unladylike subjects as sexuality, bad marriages and repression." In their stories, the women focus on "psychological, emotional and sexual repression, the source of terror often lying within the traditional roles women were expected to fill and fulfill."

Bendixen does a service to this submerged period in our literary history by producing a fine volume of short stories, written by some well known and less known American women writers. Included in *Haunted Women* are stories by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Kate Chopin, Mary E. Wilkins Freeman and Edith Wharton, along with such less recognized authors as Harriet Prescott Spofford, Elizabeth Phelps, Grace King, Sarah Orne Jewett, Madeline Wynne and Gertrude Atherton.

Though the focus varies, many of the stories explore the power of women for good or evil. In "The Amber Gods" by Spofford, the central female character is powerful and evil and Spofford does a fine analysis of the woman. Though her florid style may put off some people, one realizes the effect is intentional for its sensuousness overpowers the reader just as the

emotions and sensual desires overpower the characters. "Her Letter" displays a Kate Chopin just before her breakthrough work, *The Awakening*. "Her Letters" is classic Chopin, restrained, yet simmering with repressed desire. Sarah Orne Jewett's "The Foreigner" is the kind of story that is perfect for a grey, rainy day. Her tale of a sea widow is written in style that makes you want to curl up with the book in a favorite chair.

The other works are varied. Some seem overly yield while others are surprisingly modern in their subtlety and insight. The collection is solid overall and is a must for students of American literature and feminist studies, but it also makes a great Christmas gift for anyone who loves a good book. It's a good sampler of fine works that leave you wanting more from each author.

A Talk with Bendixen

by Eve-Laure Moros

Where is Alfred Bendixen? This question was not uncommon this semester among Barnard students interested in American literature. Bendixen, an assistant professor of English who teaches "American literature since 1890," "American literature before 1900," and "American Fiction," is on leave this year from Barnard and is currently a visiting professor of English at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. The author of many articles on the topic of American literature, Bendixen has recently edited *Haunted Women*, a compilation of supernatural tales by American women writers.

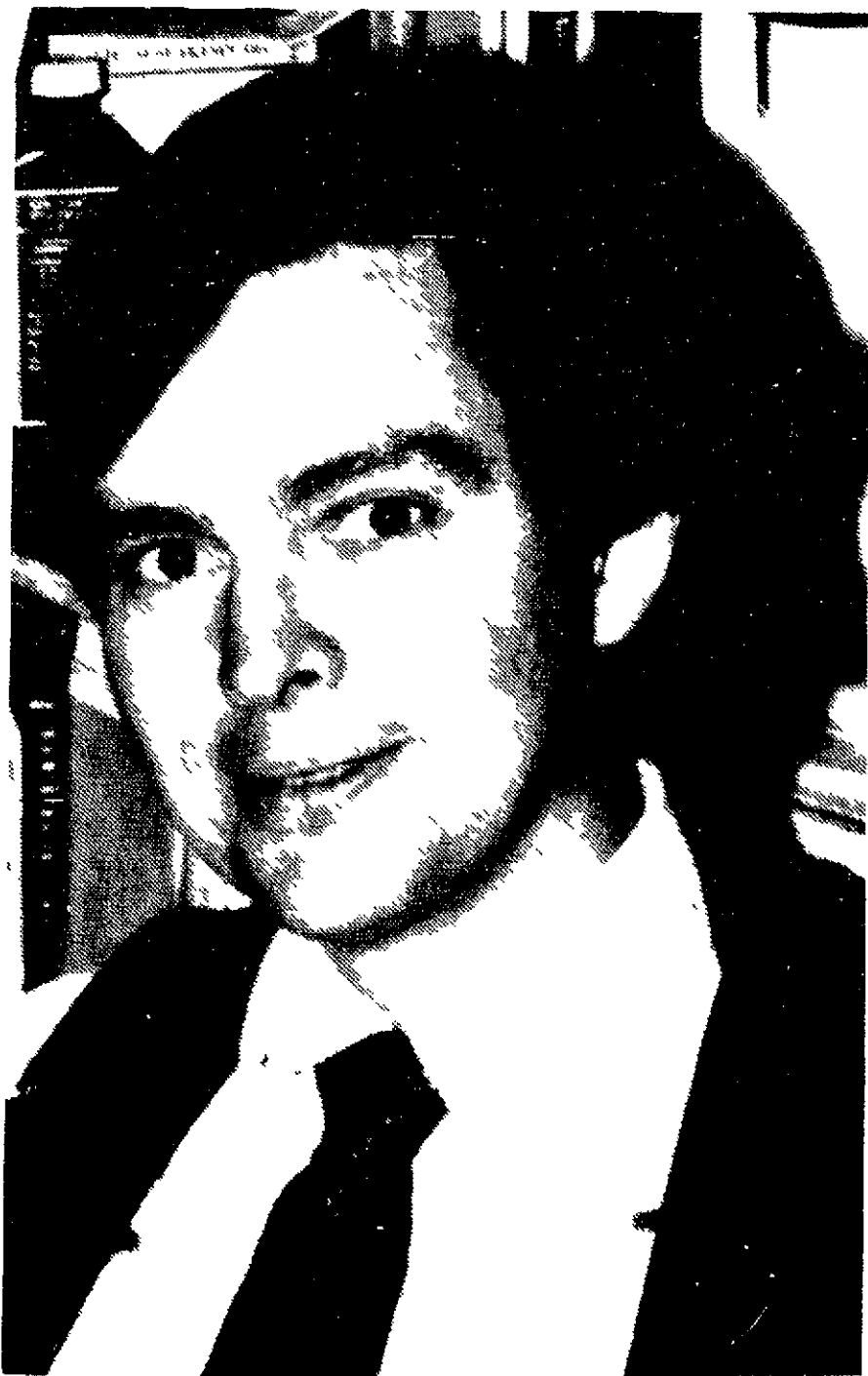
Young and soft-spoken, Bendixen discusses his latest project with enthusiasm. "What I've tried to do in this book is offer a range of works and to [bring back] a neglected literary tradition." While the first tale is highly romantic, "most of the best supernatural tales are in the back of the book. They're more polished, more compressed, and they represent psychological realism." The feminist themes found in most of the stories raise important questions about women's roles in American culture.

Why does the supernatural fascinate Bendixen? "In the nineteenth century, the supernatural tale was the major means of dealing with forms of repression, and was one of the few ways in which writers could deal with sexuality and raise troubling questions. It provided them with a range of metaphors . . . The real strength of the supernatural tale is that it defines the fears

of a culture." An example is Harriet Beecher Stowe's tale "The Ghost in the Cap'n Brown House," in which the New England mind is shown to be haunted by the fear of sexuality. But the single recurrent theme in American supernatural literature by women, explains Bendixen, is "the fear of women being reduced to the levels of ghosts, not being allowed to be fully alive."

"What is particularly exciting," continues Bendixen, are the "inversions or reversals of the expected conventions" that are found in the other stories. Gertrude Atherton's "The Bell in the Fog," for instance, is a feminist parody of James' *Turn of the Screw*. "One of the stories that I find particularly strong is Freeman's 'Louella Miller,' in which the Victorian ideal of the helpless, passive woman is converted into a vampire, the incarnation of evil."

Freeman's supernatural tales, Bendixen notes, had previously been neglected, even by Freeman's critics. Kate Chopin's "Her Letters," which appears in *Haunted Women*, is not in print anywhere else. "Most of the best works of the supernatural by women occur in the 1890's until about 1910." However, until recently, these works have been largely ignored. Bendixen feels that there is now a rediscovery of feminist authors and a resurgence of interest in literary feminism. In his book, Bendixen hopes to continue the growing awareness of feminist literature and its manifestation in the supernatural tale.



Courtesy Mortarboard

Assistant Professor of English Alfred Bendixen, editor of *Haunted Women*.

G&S presents Princess Ida

by Emily Elliot

'Tis the season for college theatre groups to perform the shows they have spent all semester rehearsing. Like the others, the Barnard Gilbert and Sullivan Society will present their own type of drama, but unlike the others, they will open their thirty-second season. Since 1953, the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, or G. and S. to its fans, has produced a fully staged Savoy Opera, or the occasional Broadway show, every semester.

This semester's operetta, *Princess Ida*, was last produced in the fall of 1981. The current, innovative production is sure to delight both G. and S. fans as well as those who have not yet seen the light. Appropriately or not, a women's college sets the scene for this humorous treatment of nineteenth century social roles. Come decide for yourselves whether or not man is only a monkey shaved, or that a women's college is the maddest folly going

Or, of course, you do not have to decide at all, but simply enjoy the attempt of Prince Hilarion to break into the Castle Adamant where this betrothed, Princess Ida, teaches young women in her own way. Find out whether the women students prefer their Bowdlerized texts to the rough chins of young men. See how a most disagreeable man suffers, and how his sons, warriors three, dress, or do not dress, for battle.

The cast of this entertaining production features both familiar and new members of The Society, so come see your old favorites and make some new ones. If you have never seen the Barnard Gilbert and Sullivan Society in action, do not pass up this delightful introduction to their exploits. The curtain goes up at 8 o'clock in Barnard's own Minor Latham Playhouse, Wednesday, December 4th, through Saturday, December 7th. Call 316-3939 for reservations or more information.

Crimes

(continued from page 10)

the part of the socially-conscious, nosy cousin, bringing that character too close to stereotype. Energy, however, was her compensating virtue. Tobias developed as the play went on, first stumbling a bit over his lines and playing a bit stiffly, but presenting more underlying personality later on. Woods continually had the same expression on his face, a broad, shy smile, and did not seem to be feeling too much of what he said. However, most of his script consisted of simply answering yes or no, there was not much time for the development of his character.

The best scenes in the play were from the middle to the end when the plot was rich with conflict and the main actors, the sisters, had tension to draw on in presenting their lives. The three worked together well, perhaps Fratti and Martin best, al-

though De Elejalde's character of Meg Magrath is intentionally isolated anyway. The energy in the performance was high and enjoyable, and by the end the actors had developed a continuity and intimacy which the audience felt wholeheartedly.

Fight

(continued from page 4)

they're very happy about, probably, because it enables them to put 8 or 9 students into very small spaces and get maximum profit. Third, they aren't subject to any of the housing laws in New York and they're incorporated as an educational institution and all the money they make on these very high-priced apartments is basically sheer profit.

KENNY: And when you couple that with very drastic tuition rises and the cuts in federal aid to students you're really selecting a very much more elite group of people who are the students.

JANE: Another interesting point is that among the people they're evicting, there are people who are still full-time employees of the University. And there's a tremendous financial waste going on, too, because the University is losing hundreds of thousands of dollars paying a private lawyer to keep all of these cases in housing court.

ANDREA: Why don't you talk about recent actions that MTF has done?

JANE: In the summer 85 we formed an Eviction Watch which was going to block any eviction that the University tried to pull off. It really got off the ground when, in July, Columbia gave 2 72-hour notices to 2 tenants, both women and both minorities, and MTF mobilized around their pending evictions and got about 300 people committed to show up on the day of an eviction and to physically block that eviction from occurring.

We also sent President Sovern a 72-hour notice saying that we demanded that the University declare a moratorium on the evictions of all the tenants whose cases were currently in court and meet with people from MTF.

ANDREA: So, did they respond?

JANE: No.

ANNE: So we had to act on that.

JANE: Based on that, we went one step further-130 Morningside.

ANNE: We were trying to highlight the fact that while Columbia was evicting people, they were keeping hundreds of apartments empty and off the market. So we occupied a building in which there were 18 empty apartments-130 Morningside Drive. And some of our long-term tenant activist leaders went in and stayed 24 hours. The building was an example of Columbia's benign neglect-it looked like it had been purposefully demolished. All of the apartments are in fine structural shape-this has been documented by an engineer-but that's one of CU's lines, that the empty apartments can't be counted because they're not habitable. We had a city-wide march to the site and highlighted that Columbia talks out of both sides of its mouth. We decided that there would be no more "constructive engagement" while Columbia was talking on one hand and evicting tenants on the other.

We still got no response from Columbia and at that time Columbia did make a big announcement that it would divest

from South Africa and rumor from administrative committees has it that they were going to settle with the South Africa issue, and settle with support staffers on the contract issue, but was going to hang tough on the tenant issue, because property is power, I suppose, and that's the bottom line.

Our next and latest action was a piece of street theater- we called it "Tenants take their homes to the street", and people moved an entire apartment onto a traffic island at 116th St. and Broadway, and occupied it for some hours while press interviewed us and took pictures.

ANDREA: When was this?

JANE: October 30th, a Wednesday (1985). The thing that was really neat about that was that we had 2,000 fact sheets, that we gave out at the gates of CU and basically we were received really well and everybody kept saying that they wanted more information. It was one of our first actions during the week, and the reason that we did do it during the week was because we wanted to get involved with students on campus, to get students interested in what's happening on Morningside Heights as well as organizing around their own housing situations if they live in Columbia dorms.

ANDREA: So are there many students involved?

ANNE: There are large numbers of students not only coming to meetings but actually sitting on the steering committee. We really welcome that kind of input. I think the fact that we have moved in a decisively progressive direction, a feminist direction, is something that has not only strengthened us but that has obvious logical appeal to the Columbia community. One of the things I noticed at our last action was that although there were men and women there, there was a predominance of women. The youngest tenant advocate was two and the eldest was 86 years old, and both were women.

JANE: The end!

ANDREA: Well, we didn't put too much in about the fact that when 65 went out on strike we mobilized ourselves to get tenants out on the picket line. That never would have happened-none of what we've done ever would have happened if, in the Spring, the Blockade hadn't happened. The Blockade allowed people to see that what was happening to them also was happening to other people, on other fronts-and that they were all interconnected.

KENNY: It was a tremendous mood elevator, it really changed the level of dialogue from Columbia's terms to our terms.