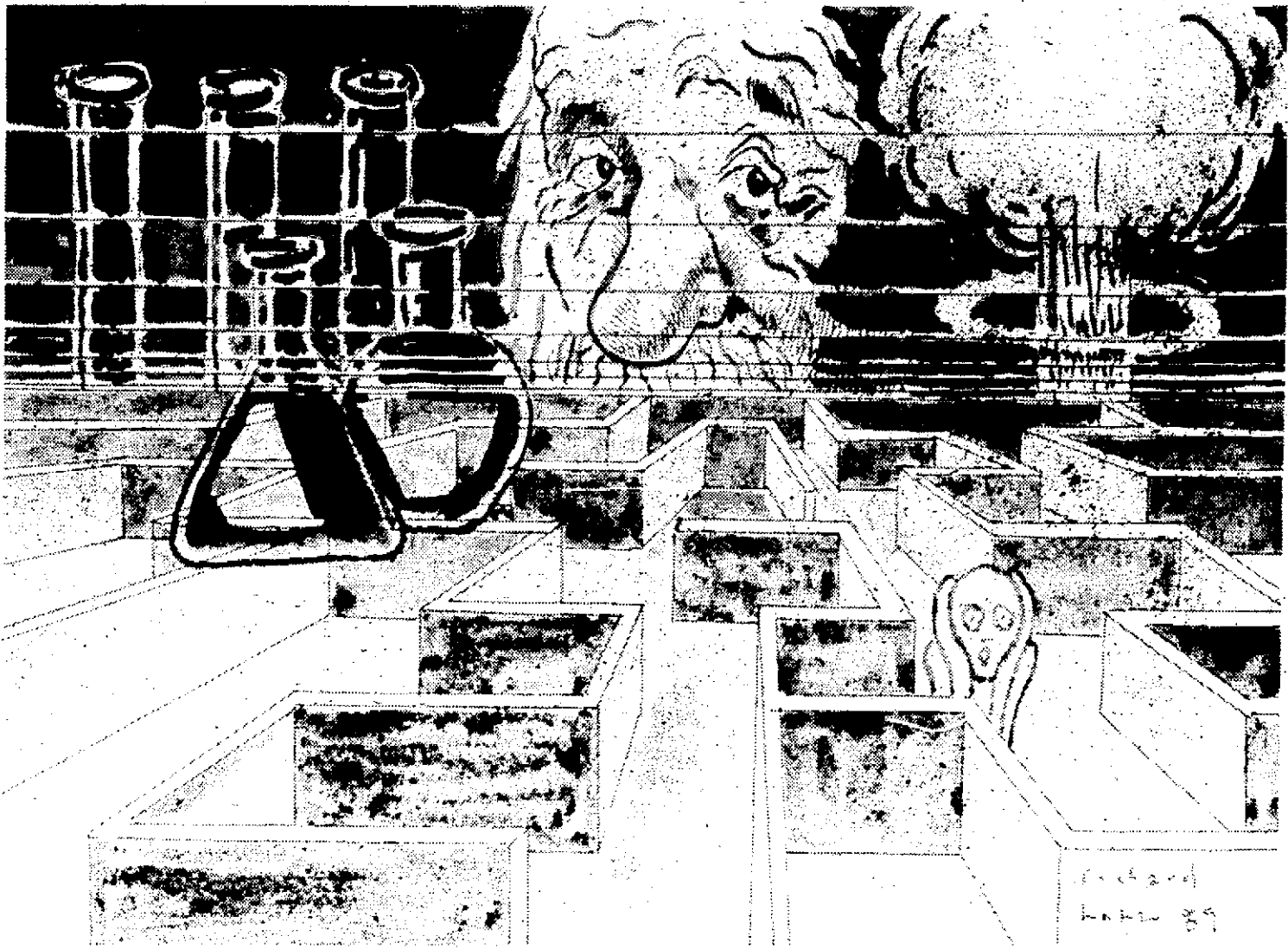




BARNARD BULLETIN



Barnard Battles Myths about Women and Science

◆
Women's Colleges
Experiencing a Political
Renaissance

◆
Appealing to One by
Attacking Another:
Where's the Logic?

◆
Can You Say "Review of
Rover" 10 Times and Fast?
Revorovr, Revvrory,...

BARNARD BULLETIN

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Barnard prides itself on providing an education that will help women "make it in the real world." Yet Barnard lags behind in its efforts to make that world — both on and off campus — a better place for women.

Despite women's many newly gained rights, women find that there remains a need for learning institutions that focus on their needs and concerns. Several years ago, Barnard publicly recognized this by rejecting Columbia's offers to merge into one coeducational college. Barnard's existence thus rests on the political reality of our times.

It is this inherent political dimension that makes Barnard unique, yet oftentimes Barnard attempts to deny this aspect of its identity and attempts to avoid any significant commitments to the political empowerment of women.

This attempt to feign political neutrality does not stem from Barnard students' lack of awareness about or commitment to political goals. In fact, Barnard students prove strongly dedicated to various political efforts, as illustrated by the numerous student organizations on campus that support political causes and particularly feminist aims — BCSC, Project Help, the Women of Color Group and so on.

Student organizations are not the only political impulse on campus; many different course offerings further introduce stu-

dents to political issues. The implementation of a strong and growing women's studies program, as well as the courses in other disciplines which deal with issues of gender, race and class in indicate greater political awareness in academia. Even the requirement that all Barnard students take two semesters of lab science is an attempt to address women's traditional exclusion from the physical sciences.

As a women's college, Barnard creates a space for women to work, live and learn together. In a society that discourages or neglects this experience, Barnard takes a political stand by maintaining this space, and the students who come here inevitably begin the process of political awareness. This clearly sparks political dialogue on campus. The administration needs to recognize this and must begin to play a more active role in this dialogue. As an institution, Barnard must move beyond a commitment to educational and social opportunities toward embracing a fuller commitment to the political empowerment of women.

Barnard should start by publicly acknowledging its support of a woman's right to choose. A public administrative announcement in favor of choice would signal confidence in women's power to make autonomous choices and would affirm Barnard's commitment to the politics inherent to a women's college.

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Correction: The October 30 issue of the Barnard Bulletin mistakenly stated that the Reid Hall was suspended for the 1989 fall semester. Bulletin regrets the error.

Prepare for Your Future: Learn Self Defense

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the October 23 *Bulletin* editorial concerning campus security issues.

According to the editors, security would be improved if security guards walked a beat or gave a few workshops in self defense. They are mistaken. Security guards are there to act as a deterrent to crime. These individuals are not trained in martial arts.

Barnard Security has offered "self-defense" workshops in the past that have stressed such basic tenets of self defense as increased awareness, "street smarts" and the importance of getting a good description of an assailant. Yet, even though these workshops are helpful, they are not enough. Members of our community must learn to take responsibility for themselves.

College is a place for learning and preparing for our future roles in society. Self defense is a part of this preparation. That is why I must take issue with the statement that "a women's college should assure us of a level of security that our society as a whole doesn't provide and a type of protection that I don't normally receive." On the contrary, it is the responsibility of educators to reveal our society's problems and to provide instructions on how to deal with them.

The Barnard Physical Education Department has offered

self-defense courses in the curriculum for years. While students do sign up for these classes, they are not exactly banging down the doors to get in — I should know because I teach them. Also, under the auspices of our Wellness Program, we offer self-defense workshops to interested groups throughout the year. In fact, the Office of College Activities offered a "mini-course" in self defense and only 10 students signed up last year.

We all know we live in a dangerous environment — "This is New York City. Right!" If we consider security to be such an important issue, we should encourage students to learn how to function in this environment, to ensure their own survival now and for the rest of their lives.

The best self-defense learning is ongoing. Enroll in a class; practice as many times a week as possible. Make it a lifestyle. Certainly you can't learn many skills in an hour-long workshop, no matter who's giving it — a security guard or a trained black-belt mercenary, but attending a workshop can help develop awareness. The more you know the better off you are. Take advantage of the many classes in martial arts that are available both on and off campus.

Priscilla Gilmore
Coordinator of Health/Wellness
Physical Education Department

Singing the SGA Budgetary Blues

To the editor:

Does Barnard's Student Government Association (SGA) discriminate? Absolutely, positively and undoubtedly, yes.

According to a member of the SGA Executive Board, quoted in an October 2 *Bulletin* article, "SGA addresses a great deal of important issues for the country and the nation and the world." If you believe that, you believe that Giuliani is pro-choice. How can the nation and world benefit when Earth Coalition cannot get independent funds and the Postcrypt Art Gallery receives \$650 when they requested \$5,000, but McAc is allocated \$20,000 and Springfest (a one-day celebration of spring for goodness sake) is allocated \$5,000?

I don't think the world is going to be a better place because we celebrate spring, but SGA does. The one and only criteria they have for giving funds to an organization is that the organization throws parties.

Oh, but let us not forget the \$250 they gave the Barnard Columbia Gospel Choir for robe cleaning. SGA found it in their hearts and pockets to give \$250 to a choir that is not popular on the Barnard campus and needs the money to clean

robes, or so one board member said in the October 2 article. How sweet of them! The only problem is that as BC Gospel Choir President, I have never seen any of these funds. Her statement was a blatant lie! SGA Executive Board members also failed to mention that of the \$1200 requested by the choir for musicians, space allocation, audio/visual, publicity, security and robe cleaning, the choir received a mere \$275, bringing our massive yearly budget up to \$400. I can assure everyone that none of that money will be used for robe cleaning, because the choir could not afford to clean robes on a \$400 budget.

SGA claims to be fair, allocating money to those who need it, so we must assume that Gospel Choir and Earth Coalition are just not as important as celebrating spring. Therefore, beware students who wish to receive support from SGA, because unless you can "party", your issues do not "address the country, the nation and the world."

Gloria Gadsden (BC '90)
Barnard Columbia Gospel Choir President

Women of Color Building Cross-Cultural Coalitions



BULLETIN/Kate Zimmerman
Assoc. Dir. of the Center for Research on Women Ruth Farmer

For the last three years Associate Director of the Center for Research on Women Ruth Farmer has participated in the Cross-Cultural Black Women Studies Conference, and last Wednesday she spoke about her experiences at this year's program in a lecture entitled "Building Coalitions in International Perspective."

According to Farmer, the conference, sponsored by the International Institute for the Coalition of Women, was started three years ago, with a focus on "consolidating concerns and reacting as one political voice as women of color, which include African, Asian, Latin American, Pan-American women and others."

"Coalitions are very important, because often racism stifles women as strategists and leaders. The institution promotes exchange by holding international activities," said Farmer.

This year's program, held in Zimbabwe, was entitled, "Women and Food in Cross-Cultural Perspective."

According to Farmer, the conference chose this topic based on the belief that "Food is a bonding mechanism — it affects everyone, either from the lack of food or too much of the wrong kind."

"We also looked at how agricultural laws have an impact on women. For example, in Zimbabwe, there are new land reform

laws that give land to families, but they discriminate against women — only the legal heads of households, the men, get the land," she added.

The conference lasted three weeks and included poetry readings, travel to towns and farms outside the city, as well as singing, dancing and other activities. In addition, there were three days of intense workshops.

One workshop entitled "Ecology and Food Production" focused on "deforestation and destruction, which has a direct impact on the quality of life, especially for women of color," said Farmer. Even in America, Farmer said, Afro-American families have the shortest life span.

Farmer also talked about the women she met while at the conference and the government's censorship and repression of women in Africa, especially women writers. To combat this repression, the International Resource Network for Women of African Descent has been established to publish the works of women of African descent in their original language.

Farmer said that after this conference the participants felt "a tremendous organizational pressure to develop international meetings. When we negate our commonalities and focus on our differences..., we deny ourselves rewards."

Farmer's presentation included not only a speech, but slides of Zimbabwe women dancing and working, as well as sculptures and murals found in Zimbabwe.

— Jessica Malberg

Oct. 30 Rep Council In Brief

At the October 30 Rep Council both the Student Government Association President Leora Joseph (BC '90) and the Vice President of Student Government (VPSG) Lisa Rotmil (BC '90) submitted progress reports.

President's Report

Joseph announced the formation of a new committee that will address student health issues such as nutrition and physical fitness. According to Joseph, Student Physical/Personal Awareness (SPA) will be associated with Barnard Health Services and will concentrate on everyday health problems.

Joseph also relayed a message from Barnard College President Ellen Futter asking Rep Council to help her achieve a closer relationship with the students. Joseph said a number of intimate social events designed to give students a chance

continued on page 6

Rep Council

continued from page 6

to meet with Futter are currently being planned.

After receiving complaints from commuters about both the condition of the commuter lounge and a sense of alienation from the rest of the college, SGA has established a task force to look into the issues raised, said Joseph. Joseph also said the annual leadership dinner has been set for April 2.

VPSG's Report

Rotmil then brought up students' growing concerns about campus security. She said she recently spoke to Dean of Student Affairs Barbara Schmitter who reported that the school is working with local police to determine ways to improve security. The school also has hired the Morningside Area Alliance, a neighborhood watch group, to help patrol the area surrounding the campus.

Rotmil and Columbia College Senior Class President Paulette Light (CC '90) currently are organizing a campus security forum intended to enlighten students on security issues and to develop ways for students to work with security.

Rotmil also said that SGA is currently updating the bylaws for tri-partite committees, which have not been updated since 1974. The revisions will go into affect in 1989.

Other News

Columbia College Liaison Leah Leeder (BC '89) reported that at the last Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) meeting students who had attended the Boston College Conference on Recycling suggested that all campus correspondence be printed only on white paper. ♦



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*Meet the SGA Executive Board and
other members of Rep Council at an*

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McIntosh, on the Wednesday
preceding publication



BULLETIN/Kate Zimmerman
Anita Desai

Desai Speaks on Literary Tradition of Indian Women

Anita Desai, author of eight novels, visiting professor at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts and this year's Gildersleeve lecturer, spoke about the Indian social infrastructure and how it has inhibited women writers in her address "Women and Indian Literature" given on Tuesday, October 31 at Barnard College.

BCSC Mobilizes Forces for Rallies at Columbia and Washington

Barnard and Columbia Students for Choice (BCSC), organized to keep the Columbia and Barnard community abreast of the latest policies and decisions made regarding reproductive freedom, held a pro-choice rally on the steps of Low Library last Friday.

According to coordinators of the rally, the rally was intended to increase student awareness of issues concerning abortion and reproductive freedom, as well as to spark enthusiasm for the November 12 rally in Washington DC.

"We [wanted] to get the interest of students who don't think that this is a national issue. They may not realize that this is occurring right in front of them, on this campus. In addition, this [was] a chance to get people excited about the march, as well as an opportunity to hear interesting speakers

During her lecture, Desai said that although women in India have been able to express themselves artistically through an oral tradition, which includes storytelling, poetry and song, they have no written tradition. She cited vast illiteracy and poor education among women in India as two reasons for the lack of a written literary tradition among Indian women, adding that a sense of privacy is necessary to produce literature, and women in Indian society typically have not had such privacy. However, according to Desai, recent social changes offer more privacy to women in India.

Throughout her lecture, Desai said that regardless of the lack of a long-standing written literary tradition among women, Indian women have been able to maintain a strong community among themselves through gossip, as well as other aspects of the oral tradition.

Desai also discussed the historical development of the literary tradition among women in India. She said that in the early 20th century, a "rigid" time for literature, men tried to write about action, experience and achievement, while women generally turned to themes of thought, emotion and sensation. Later in the century, some writers crossed these boundaries, said Desai, citing Henry James and D. H. Lawrence as examples of men who wrote in a feminine manner according to such standards. After India gained independence in the late 1940s, women began to look outside of themselves for inspiration, said Desai. However, this trend stopped by the sixties, when a period of soul-searching set in and fewer external influences shaped writing.

Recently however, writing has become an escape from the confines of the social world as well as a means of integration within the overall fabric of life, said Desai upon closing her lecture.

— Daniela Amiri

who were really eager to come," said BCSC Action Chairperson Becky Michaels (BC '92).

The seven speakers at the rally were Dean of Columbia College Jack Greenberg, Dr. Kenneth Edlin, a Columbia University graduate who was convicted for performing two illegal abortions, Meredith Tax, one of the founders of Coalition Acting for Reproductive Rights and Sterilization Abuse, and Charlotte Sheedy, a feminist literary agent who had two illegal abortions in Cuba in the 1950s.

The rally in Washington DC was held to call attention to three upcoming Supreme Court decisions on reproductive rights.

— Elana Fox

Editor's note: Bulletin went to press prior to both rallies. See the Nov. 20 issue

Barnard Battles Myths about Women and Science

and comes out on top

— by Renana Meyers

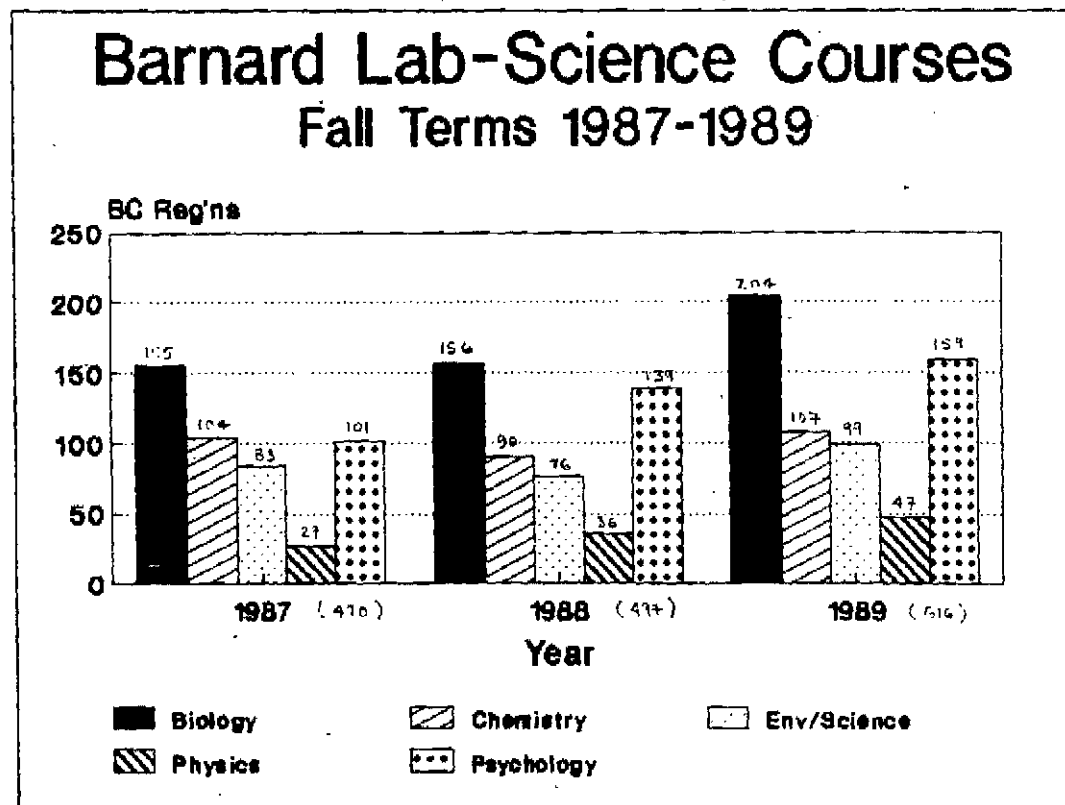
"Science is very poorly taught in high school," says Barnard College Biology Department Chair Paul Hertz. "Strange images of the science nerd or the evil mad scientist cloud our view of what science is really all about."

And prior to high school a process of socialization begins in which little boys are encouraged to play with toy hammers,

saws and screws, and little girls are told to avoid "rough" things, he says. So by the time students reach Barnard, most of the "damage," according to Hertz, already has been done.

It is in reaction to this process of socialization that Barnard's science departments support a lab-science requirement, says Hertz. According to Chair of the Chemistry Department Leslie Lessinger, the laboratory experience is crucial in educating women in science. It builds women's confidence in their abilities, as does the presence of women science professors.

"We stress a real hands-on role in the laboratory and allow students more time to become adjusted if they have not had favorable lab experiences before," said Lessinger. And sometimes, students discover that a scientist has been buried inside of them all along.



Apparent Success

Whether it's the presence of women scientists or the added encouragement or a combination of the various efforts of the science departments at Barnard, it appears as if Barnard is following through on its stated commitment to promoting the integration of women into the sciences. The 1985 Oberlin Study on The Future of Lib-

Half of the faculty members of Barnard's Chemistry Department are women, a far greater number than one would find "at any research university or at any small liberal arts college in general," said Lessinger.

"Part of our goal is to let women know that it is no big deal for a woman to be a chemist," Lessinger said.

In order to build confidence destroyed by many years of hearing negative messages about women in science, the Barnard Physics Department offers extra office hours, recitations and added encouragement, said Professor Leslie Root of the department.

"[Women] Students don't believe that they can do well in science," said Root, "I find that students do better than they think they can. They have to realize that this is a hard subject for everyone and you just have to stick with it."

eral Arts Colleges ranked Barnard "at or near the top of all American institutions of higher education in the training of scientists," said Dean of Faculty Robert McCaughey.

From 1977 to 1986, Barnard ranked fourth among United States colleges and first among women's colleges in the number of graduates per capita who later obtained PhDs in some form of science, including social sciences.

Nineteen percent of this year's graduating class are science majors, compared to approximately 12% at Columbia College. And, according to McCaughey, Barnard's percentage reflects a three-year upswing in the number of science majors at Barnard.

A decade ago, however, one quarter of Barnard's graduating classes consisted of science majors, said McCaughey, leading some to believe that interest in the

sciences at Barnard has decreased. But compared to national trends Barnard College is ahead, he said. In 1975, a national poll indicated that 10% of all first-year students intended to major in science, by 1984 that figure had plummeted to 6.6%. Barnard felt the effects of this decline but is recovering more quickly than many other schools, said McCaughey.

Regardless of a drop from 30 biology majors at Barnard in 1988 to 25 this year, Hertz believes there is an increasing interest in biology at Barnard. Last year 180 students enrolled in Barnard's introductory course in biology, this year the number increased to 250, signalling a renewed interest in biology, said Hertz, Chair of the department.

According to a recent grant proposal put together by the various science departments at Barnard, "Barnard's science departments continue to attract and retain students in numbers."

In the Environmental Science Department, typically six or seven students have registered for the course "Measurements and Cycles," a class with a primarily scientific orientation.

This year enrollment is up to 15, according to Environmental Science Department Chair Richard Bopp. Enrollment in "Environmental Case Studies," a more socially oriented course, has skyrocketed from 12 students last year to 45 students this year.

And in each of the last three first-year classes, over 40% of the students have indicated their intention to major in science. Hertz said you can expect half of those students to graduate as science majors.

Accommodating the Growing Interest in the Sciences Expansion in Barnard's biology,



BULLETIN/Kate Zimmerman

Barnard student doing bio lab.

chemistry, physics and environmental science departments has accompanied the increasing numbers of students interested in science.

Expanding the Curricula

One way in which the science departments are accommodating students'

growing interest in the field is by restructuring the curricula and increasing the number of courses offered. In response to the increasing enrollment in the introductory biology course, for instance, the department is restructuring the course's curriculum. Until now, there has been one introductory biology course offered to both students with strong science backgrounds and to students merely trying to complete their science requirement. Now students will choose between two tracks. One track will be designed for non-science majors and will stress science's relationship to daily life. The other track will be geared toward science and pre-med majors.

However, Hertz said, "[the first track] is not the baby science track...it's not watered down; it's just not geared for whizzes in biology."

Although there currently are only two physics majors and two astronomy majors, the Barnard Physics Department also is expanding its offerings — perhaps in an effort to attract more students to the major. Both Professor Root and Professor Timothy Halpin-Healy are the latest

additions to the physics department, and according to Root, the department currently is searching for a third full-time professor.

Until this year, all physics courses, except introductory courses for non-majors, were taught at Columbia College.

◆ *"Part of our goal is to let women know that it is no big deal for a woman to be a chemist."* ◆

Barnard Chemistry Department Chair Leslie Lessinger

FEATURES

This year the department added an introductory physics course for science majors to its offerings.

"We want to develop an expanded program here," said Root, "and so we started teaching the introduction to physics course for science majors here at Barnard this year."

Both the chemistry and the environmental science departments also are expanding their programs.

The chemistry depart-

ment, which has 16 majors — six more than it had last year, but within the expected number of 12-18 majors — has just implemented a year-long senior honors thesis program. Chemistry majors must be invited to participate in the program and it does not substitute for the required independent research project. Of this year's chemistry majors half have been invited to participate in the new program.

In the environmental science department, where increased interest in the major reflects "an increasing interest in environmental problems," approximately one class has been added to the offerings every third semester, said Bopp.

Seeking Grants

Another way in which the various science departments are responding to renewed interest in the sciences is by seeking grants for research, guest lectur-

ers, workshops and conferences.

In 1988, the biology department received a three-year grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to subsidize student participation in summer research programs and professors' participation in teaching conferences. Hertz and Professor Philip Ammirato, for example, used some of the money to attend workshops where they developed more modern ex-

ercises for biology lab instruction. The money also enabled Barnard to invite guest lecturers. This year there will be four lectures on science and mathematics.

Pew is a Philadelphia-based trust that has organized colleges into "clusters" working together to get grants. Barnard is part of the New York cluster and Hertz is Barnard's representative to the cluster. According to Hertz, as part of the cluster system students work with professors and

can attend programs from other universities in the cluster. Last summer, Rebecca Boxer (BC '92) went on a dinosaur fossil dig in Montana sponsored by Union College, a member of the New York cluster. Recently, Pew awarded Barnard another \$20,000, enabling students to do a ten-week summer research program.

The chemistry department too has re-

Science and Engineering Bachelors Degree Recipients by Field and Sex

| MEN | *Total Science & Engineering | Physical Science | Engineering | Mathematical Science |
|-------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1970 | 195,244 | 18,582 | 44,434 | 18,593 |
| 1975 | 201,578 | 17,058 | 39,205 | 14,729 |
| 1983 | 191,614 | 17,036 | 63,235 | 22,746 |
| WOMEN | | | | |
| 1970 | 68,878 | 2,969 | 338 | 10,516 |
| 1975 | 93,342 | 3,838 | 860 | 8,656 |
| 1983 | 115,611 | 6,461 | 9,719 | 14,489 |

Study done by Michael Crowley and Melissa Lane from the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. Jan. 1986. *Includes the social sciences

received a number of grants. Most recently, the National Science Foundation awarded Barnard \$70,000 to be matched by a grant of equal value from the AT&T Company. With this money the chemistry department plans to update its equipment and purchase a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) machine.

Although at present there are only four environmental science majors, due to increased enrollment in departmental courses and the fact that it costs approxi-

Although at present there are only four environmental science majors, due to increased enrollment in departmental courses and the fact that it costs approxi-

Although at present there are only four environmental science majors, due to increased enrollment in departmental courses and the fact that it costs approxi-



BULLETIN PHOTO

Dean of Faculty Robert McCaughey

mately \$200,000 a year "to stay in business," Environmental Science Department Chair Richard Bopp spends much of his time writing grant proposals to obtain research opportunities for students.

But, he, along with the other faculty members of the science departments, such efforts are worthwhile when pro-

moting the integration of women in the sciences."

And, according to Bopp, their efforts have been successful. "I have seen women come out of Barnard's program and compete very well in masters programs at Duke, Johns Hopkins, and Stanford," he said. ♦

Pew Lectures in Science and Mathematics

29 January

Carl Hopkins, Neurobiology and Behavior, Cornell
*"Passive Electrolocation and Electrical Communication:
 Two Functions for the Electric Sense in Fish"*

26 February

Germaine Gogel, Chemistry, Colgate
"Growth Factors and the Development of the Nervous System"

26 March

Karen Johnson, Physics, St. Lawrence
*"The Waltz of the Nucleons: The Scientific Life
 of Maria Geoppert Mayer"*

23 April

David Gries, Mathematics/Computer Science, Cornell
"Mastering the Programming Task Using Proof-of-Correctness Ideas"

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 you are what
 you don't eat.**



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Women's Colleges Experiencing a Renaissance

—by Stacey Rees and Beth Weiner

After the loss of 134 women's colleges in a 20-year period, many educators declared the women's college a dying breed. Women's colleges are no longer needed, they said. If women can attend almost every institution of higher learning in the world, for what do they need women's colleges?

But despite this projection, women's colleges in 1989 are experiencing a renaissance that extends beyond an increase in applications. It involves the evolution of a new identity — one no longer based on the exclusion of women students from colleges and universities. The emergence of this new identity is characterized by student interest in establishing their colleges as representatives of the distinct political voice of women.

Barnard Dean of Student Affairs Barbara Schmitter used to think that women's colleges would disappear once women were allowed to enroll at formerly all-male institutions. Now, she says, she doesn't "see the day [of their demise] coming fast." Indeed, many Barnard students vigorously affirm that women's colleges are here to stay.

And current statistics confirm that interest in women's colleges is growing. Although the number of women's colleges in the country has dropped from 228 to 94 since

1969, for three consecutive years the number of applicants has risen. In 1989 alone, the number of applications submitted rose 5%.

Statistics alone, though, don't explain the character of this renaissance, in

voice is growing ever louder. Last year the students of Mt. Holyoke College, one of the Seven Sisters, became the first in the country to force their administration to respond to the Coca-Cola Company's involvement in South Africa by removing Coca-Cola products from their campus. According to news editor Gretchen Crary of the *Mount Holyoke News*, one reason Mt. Holyoke students were motivated to take up the cause is that as women, they, like Blacks under apartheid, feel the oppressive effects of discrimination.

Often the issues taken up by women's college students directly address the rights and concerns of women. Today Barnard provides many examples of feminist student activism. Over the past three years several new women's groups have emerged on campus, including Women-Oriented Women, Barnard and Columbia Students for Choice (BCSC), and the Women's Cooperative.

Growing Pains

The nurturing of a new identity is not without its difficulties, however. Many students say that the administrations at the women's colleges have been slow to recognize and accept the political identity being forged at their schools. Tensions between students and administrators frequently arise over the nature of women's colleges' role in society.

◆
In 1989, women's colleges are experiencing a renaissance that... involves the evolution of a new identity -- one no longer based on the exclusion of women students from colleges and universities. The emergence of this new identity is characterized by student interest in establishing their colleges as representatives of the distinct political voice of women.
◆

"The administrations of women's colleges are, of course, sympathetic to women, but they are not always clear about their relationship to feminism," said Director of the Barnard Center for Research on Women Temma Kaplan. According to Kaplan, feminism is not always a fully integrated part of women's colleges' identities. In fact, she said, women's colleges often are not among the first to create women's studies programs.

"The Center [for Research on Women] has been referred to as the 'feminist arm' of Barnard," Kaplan said, rather than as one department of a feminist campus."

Kaplan said she would like women's colleges to define themselves through a more active and complete feminism..

"Why should women's colleges hide their attributes?" she asked. "They have a special knowledge of women and their issues; I wish they would proclaim this and take leadership roles [in feminism]." Barnard itself has been criticized by some students for playing down the fact that it is a women's college. They say Barnard's admissions publications stress the college's relationship with Columbia University and opportunities in New York City, de-emphasizing its identity as a women's college.

According to President Ellen Futter, "It would be misleading to present Barnard as an isolated place. That is not an accurate representation of who we are.

Our identity is more complicated and wonderfully unique."

Forging the New with the Old

In some respects, women's colleges have always been politicized. In order to produce successful graduates, women's colleges have performed what remains an inherently political act; they take women seriously. Women's colleges are the only institutions with a male-to-female faculty ratio that reflects the ratio of males to females in the population. On the average, 50% of faculty members are women at women's colleges, compared to 15% at coeducational schools. This has been traditionally the case, and thus, is one aspect of the original identity of women's colleges that has not changed. They continue to provide women role models, which are often not present at coeducational colleges.

Futter underlines the importance of such models. "They offer encouragement to women in non-traditional fields such as science and economics, and make leadership available to women." This encouragement is clearly effective. Helen Renney, for example, the only woman ever to head a hospital department, graduated from Barnard. Women feel affirmed, valued, and valuable at women's colleges.

Lisa Kremer, co-editor-in-chief of *The Mills Weekly* at Mills College, a small women's college in Oakland, California,

explains, "Most of us feel that we would never have gone here if it were coed, and that we would transfer if [Mills] went coed. For some reason, women can grow here in ways that we feel they can't grow anywhere else."

Is This the Real World?

Doubting the value of the environment of respect and affirmation present at women's colleges is common. The question persists: is this the real world?

"Many people say women are nurtured at women's colleges," President Futter responds. "Frankly we don't coddle, we don't nurture. We take you seriously. This is the real world."

Yet, women's colleges do provide an environment that attempts to be more free from sexual discrimination and male domination than what would be found at a coed college.

According to Ilomai Kurrik (BC '93), "The real world up until this century was only male. Was that real? Just because men don't dominate doesn't mean it's not reality."

Women's colleges attempt to shape a different reality, a better reality for women, and are therefore constantly involved in the task of redefining themselves, whether along feminist, academic or political lines. The role they will take in the future of shaping that reality remains in the hands of the students, the faculty and the administration. ♦

ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF THE

SCOPE* WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

A student-run health clinic providing GYN care
(by staff physician) with peer education and counseling.
One Tuesday evening a month, starting:

December 5, 1989 4:30 - 7:30

Information sheet and Appointment scheduling available at Barnard Health Services.

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*Sexuality, Self Care, Contraceptive Options, Peer Education

Common Oppressions Unite

The personal is political: this statement is one of the most well-known contributions of feminist writings. It is not hard for a woman to accept this statement — a single discussion with other women about relationships, concepts of self, sexuality... quickly illustrates that an individual woman's problems often have larger socio-political counterparts. Yet, it has taken me longer to realize that the political is also personal.

For a long time, I have been interested — and often passionate — about many political issues, but I relegated these thoughts to discussion at the seminar table or the kitchen table. The political rarely entered my most personal thoughts — the thoughts, for example, that drift through my mind as I fall asleep at night, forming my dreams. Recently, however, this has changed. Perhaps it is my search for an environmental science thesis topic or the recent barrage of media coverage of the environment, but more and more of my thoughts have focused on the disastrous state of our environment. In the last month, I have had two nightmares about nuclear explosions and, in a discussion with my father, I broke down in tears arguing over the waste disposal issue. The political clearly has become intensely personal.

Why is the environment the political issue that has become so personal for me? Is this simply a random individual connection or does it represent a broader political closeness of women and the environment? Historically, connections have been made between women and nature. For example, some speculate that the

organic process of bearing children brings women close to the earth. Personification of the earth as a woman also reveals the time-honored connection between women and nature. We thank "Mother Earth" or "Mother Nature" for bearing fruits and vegetables, and when "she" does not produce, "she" is barren.

Some women protest the analogy between women and nature, saying that it demeans women by reinforcing the idea that women are controlled by their bodies and nature, while men — free of such controlling forces — are rational, logical beings. Other women, however, feel that accepting an affinity with nature can be empowering, allowing them to openly

embrace all of women's capabilities.

Whether or not we believe in an inherent intimacy between women and nature, we cannot deny that they share an analogous oppression. It is increasingly clear that "man" has completely altered the future of the earth. On an unusually warm day in November, we cannot think only of how nice the sun feels on the back of our necks, but also about the long-term consequences of the Greenhouse Effect.

Although today women's issues do not receive as much media coverage as environmental issues, women are also in crisis. At the same moment that acres of land are strip-mined for coal, thousands

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Women and the Earth

— by Michelle Gottlieb

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*As feminism and environmentalism
come together, we will all start to
realize that our personal survival
depends on greater political solutions.*
◆

of women are raped — both exploited by a patriarchal society.

Still, accepting this woman/nature connection can be dangerous if we stop at simply recognizing the similarity of domination. We need to move beyond this recognition toward an analysis that can help us identify the patterns of a common oppression.

For instance, to achieve their goals both feminists and environmentalists must address issues of class and race. For women, it is imperative to build sisterhood across class and race lines. For environmentalists, it is imperative to recognize that certain classes and races pay a larger price for our environmental irresponsibility. Toxic waste disposal areas and sewage treatment plants too often are placed in neighborhoods of working-

class people and people of color. It is also working-class men and women who are most likely to suffer from environmental hazards in the workplace.

In addition, both feminists and environmentalists need to address the issues of an economy that favors short-term profit over long-term planning. For example, feminists have realized that they must not only guarantee women's presence in the workplace, they also must work to ensure equality and stability in the workplace by demanding day care. Similarly, environmentalists need to question an economy that threatens our present climate by favoring the cutting down of rainforests for immediate profit.

As the goals of feminism and environmentalism both clearly entail a fundamental restructuring of society, these

movements need to look toward one another to work to create such comprehensive changes. Communication between environmentalists and feminists would enhance both our understanding of a shared domination and our efforts to overcome it.

One ripe meeting ground for feminists and environmentalists is the issue of women in science. Science has long been dominated by men. From the day a girl is born, she is geared systematically away from the empirical world of science. Yet, this knowledge is essential to understanding the state of our environment and what reparations and precautions are needed. Until women play an equal role in the development of science, our ability to understand or help the environment will be negligible. Only as women enter the realm of science can we begin to forge the alliances necessary for ecofeminism.

Even if a woman personally does not feel connected to nature in a spiritual way, she cannot deny that her future is tied intimately to the future of the earth. As feminism and environmentalism come together, we will all start to realize that our personal survival depends on greater political solutions. ◆
Michelle Gottlieb is a Barnard College senior. She is president of Earth Coalition and a member of the Barnard Women's Coop.

The Politics of Poster-Making

— by Lainie Blum

There is something very wrong with the attempts to politicize the students on this campus. Many political groups, whatever their cause, correctly recognize the need to constantly address issues of sexism, racism, classism and homophobia as inherent factors in any complete political picture. Included in the agendas of many campus political groups is the destruction of these hurtful barriers. The irony, however, is that despite every genuine effort to be inclusive, the result is frequently bitter and antagonistic alienation.

Countless examples over the past years have shown that campus political groups, in order to reach out to certain segments of the population, attack others. Just about every time I am touched by a cause on this campus, I am quickly turned off by a pervasive and persistent attitude problem. The theory is that in order to appeal to, say, homosexual students, a group must harshly lash out at heterosexuals. This, the theory goes, proves that the group is not homophobic and therefore welcomes the participation of gay men and lesbians. The same tactic can be applied to students of color and white students, wealthy and poor students, and so on.

The most recent example of this misguided and divisive political strategy is on a poster designed to encourage participation in Sunday's Pro-Choice rally in Washington. The text: ABORTION WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE FOR THE WEALTHY AND WHITE. DON'T BE RACIST AND CLASSIST LIKE THE U.S. GOV'T. JOIN BCSC. MOBILIZE FOR WOMEN'S LIVES THIS SUNDAY, D.C. TIX: COLLEGE WALK, MCINTOSH TICKET BOOTH \$16/20\$.

These words, printed on bright chartreuse paper, glared at

me from the wall in the John Jay stairwell. It was as if they jumped off the poster and physically attacked me, inflicting that familiar pain which I have felt so many times before. Again, I felt betrayed by another cause that is profoundly important to me. Because I am a white woman, I have been told that I don't have to worry about myself. No matter what happens to my rights as a woman in this country, no matter how brutally my rights are attacked, I have nothing to worry about. I don't need to go to the rally for myself, but if I don't go I am racist and classist scum.

Luckily, I had already bought my tickets. But what about the people who hadn't? Wasn't the poster intended for them? Certainly the appeal wasn't to anyone who has faith in the United States government, and surely there are many pro-choice people who have such a faith and are therefore, by implication, racist and classist. Certainly they wouldn't jump at the chance to join BCSC. And what about the people who believe in women's rights, but hadn't yet made up their minds. It's doubtful they would join a group that points fingers and calls them racist and classist. Clearly, this is not the way to get as many people as possible

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to a rally of support.

Last year BCSC was criticized for being a group appealing only to white women and ignoring the interests of women of color and the poor. The criticism was indeed a fair one, for after all, "choice" is a right of all women of all ethnicities and economic status. So BCSC has been making a concerted effort this semester to be more inclusive. But again, in a group's effort to show it is not racist, classist, sexist and homophobic, it

assumes a stance of attack.

BCSC's poster is simply a symptom of the bigger problem plaguing Barnard and Columbia. It is true, and I would never deny this sad fact, that most (all?) white people are racist, that most heterosexuals are homophobic, that most people are sexist, that most upper middle-class people are classist. Any radical analysis of society will attest to the fact that these issues are interconnected and intrinsically related to political reality. These issues demand serious attention. Constant attention. Constructive attention. People must be made to understand and confront these things in themselves and their society. But there is so much anger on this campus that I'm beginning to feel that this can no longer be done in a positive way. Everyone is attacking everyone, even those joined together in a common effort. Confrontation is different from attack, and I don't think

anyone remembers that anymore. People respond to confrontation, but never to attack.

I am sick of being attacked. I am sick of being judged so harshly for being myself. I am dealing with the issues as best I can. But there is only one way to be if you're politically aware on this campus, and for those of us who don't fit the mold, there is nowhere to go but out. A lot of allies are being alienated. We're recoiling from political involvement because we can't deal with relentless whippings by those more righteous than we. We're cut off before we can even begin. Soon everyone is going to be so fed up and so angry that no one will be able to talk to anyone anymore. That is where we're heading, and a lot of good that will do. ◆

Lainie Blum is a Barnard College senior



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The Office of Student Life is seeking highly motivated and responsible students to serve as Resident Assistants for the '90-'91 academic year. RA's assist in building community and fostering a stimulating environment in the residence hall. Candidates must be juniors or seniors as of Fall 1990. Remuneration includes housing and stipend.

**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE
at the following locations:**

- *Office of Student Life, 210 McIntosh*
- *Special Academic Programs, 8 Milbank*
- *Barnard Resident Directors' Offices*

APPLICATIONS DUE:

Dec. 22nd by 5pm. *Candidates going abroad
MUST submit applications by Nov. 17th at 5pm.

RESIDENT ASSISTANT:

SUMMER IN NEW YORK 1990

Pre-College Program (PCP) RA's help create a community spirit by providing guidance, supervision and assistance with night and weekend activities for talented male and female high school students who live and study at Barnard in July. Sophomore-Senior status. Remuneration includes housing and stipend.

RA Information Fair!!

Thurs. Nov. 9th; Noon-2pm

Lower Level
McIntosh



Sex and Power: Same Thing, Different Era

A bawdy and fast-paced comedy, Elizabeth Swain's production of *The Rover*, by Aphra Behn, succeeds in taking a step beyond all the revelry of comedy, and looks honestly at the nature of sexual convention in Western society.

As the director, designers and actors focus incisively on the dark side of the seemingly harmless love-and-power-games of the play, they reveal the continuing oppressive and hypocritical nature of sexual convention. Though set in seventeenth-century England, in the chaotic time before Charles II's restoration to the throne, much of the play's teachings concerning imposed sexual mores, women's inequality and the cruelty of class divisions still ring true in today's world.

Aphra Behn, the first professional woman writer, is one of several women playwrights of the Restoration and seventeenth-century whose work is now being discovered, retrieved and deservedly performed. Virginia Woolf wrote of Behn in *A Room of One's Own* that "All women together ought to let flowers fall on the tomb of Aphra Behn. . . for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds."

Elizabeth Swain, Barnard Theatre faculty member since 1985, pays her tribute to this legendary woman in her fine rendition of *The Rover*. Firmly entrenched in the genre of Restoration theater, *The Rover* is made up of a series of amorous pursuits and exploits. Whether it is the four cavalier exiles roaming Europe intending some mischief and "whoring," or the two sisters who escape the plans of their father and brother who want to marry one off for

money and want to send the other off to a convent, many separate story-lines form the whole of the play, tied together by their common themes of love, sex, money and autonomy in seventeenth-century England. What distinguishes Behn's play from other period pieces, however, is the empowerment of female characters: they stand up for what they believe in and eventually they win the right to make their own choices. As Swain expands on this theme, this production of *The Rover* becomes an achievement not to be missed.

Especially commendable are Jessica Givelber (Florinda) and James McCauley (Belvile) for their portrayal of "the lovers" that aptly avoids insipidness—achieved by Givelber through a sense of strength and by McCauley through a sense of humor. Melinda Eades stands out from the beginning in her role as fusty Hellena: her comic timing and deft delivery set a challenging pace for the play from the very first scene. Her counterpart, Forest Williams as Wilmore—the "Rover"—manages to be dashing and lovable without losing the "edge" of his character that makes "the Rover" a real, flawed person. Gregor Paslawskyb is also a realistic character—at the same time pitiful, sympathetic and a bit frightening. All of the actors are technically quite polished, comfortable with the language and, fortunately, able to navigate at high speeds.

The most exciting performance of the evening belonged to Jennifer Lebowitz as Lucetta, a "jilting wench" who shows us a devastating transition between the stereotypical whore she is forced to play and the victim she really is. Lucetta's

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*Barnard Theatre's
production sends its
message home with
a force that
probably wasn't
allowed in 1677.*

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monologue at the end of the first act is an innovation of the director—but it is wholly in keeping with the “asides” all of the characters share with the audience, and is necessary to focus the play on the plight of women in the limited roles society offers them.

The most dramatic scenes of the play belong to another “wanton woman,” Angellica (Nina Landey), who suffers from what should have been nothing more than romantic diversions. The staging of Angellica’s revenge is particularly powerful, well-acted, and central to the feminist message of the production: as all the heroines do in varying ways, Angellica literally turns the table.

In the background of all of these adventures and maneuvers, the audience literally sees the writing on the wall.

Graffiti proclaiming endorsements for and rebellions against society’s sexual conventions—including inspiring words of Aphra Behn and the words of some of her rather misogynist contemporaries—set the stage for the exploits of *The Rover*. This may at first seem a bit heavy-handed, but with the brick-walled, industrial set (designed by Christopher Barreca) it in fact proves an effective tonic to the luxurious period costumes (by Elizabeth Covery), dances, music and amorous pursuits that make Restoration theater so entertaining.

And don’t let me scare you— this production is very entertaining. Comedy played by actors who understand Ms. Behn’s idea of light-heartedness, live guitar (by the multi-talented Robert H. Williams), glittering masks, costumes

and carnival lanterns, athletic (even gymnastic) staging, exciting choreography, and exquisite lighting (by Stephen Strawbridge) all combine to make this a spectacle worthy of its genre.

The genius of Aphra Behn and the innovativeness of Elizabeth Swain and others of the Barnard Theatre Department combine in full glory in *The Rover*. Keeping with the feminist spirit of the play, the production represents the brilliance of women’s combined efforts.

Final performances of *The Rover* are scheduled for November 15, 17 and 18 at 8:00pm, Thursday November 16 at 5:30pm and Sunday November 19 at 3:00 pm. Contribution: \$6, \$2 with Columbia University identification and for Senior citizens. ♦

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1990
Orientation Coordinator
FOR

Columbia College
& SEAS

Barnard College

Applications available
from 202 Hamilton Hall
(CC students); 540 S.W.
Mudd (SEAS students); 206
Ferris Booth Hall (CC &
SEAS)

Applications available
from College Activities Of-
fice, 209 McIntosh Center

Any Current sophomore or junior
is eligible to apply.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1989 AT 5 PM.
CC & SEAS STUDENTS RETURN TO 206 FERRIS BOOTH HALL.
BARNARD STUDENTS RETURN TO 209 MCINTOSH CENTER.

WEDNESDAY 7PM
105 MCINTOSH
RECRUITMENT MEETING

BARNARD BULLETIN

*Last Chance This Semester To
Become One of the Few, the Proud,
the Too Tired to Think of Something
that Rhymes with Marines.*

*"The Image of Women in Current
Latin American Female Fiction"*

Tuesday November 28 at 7PM in the Deanery

Centennial Scholar Jane Schuchinski

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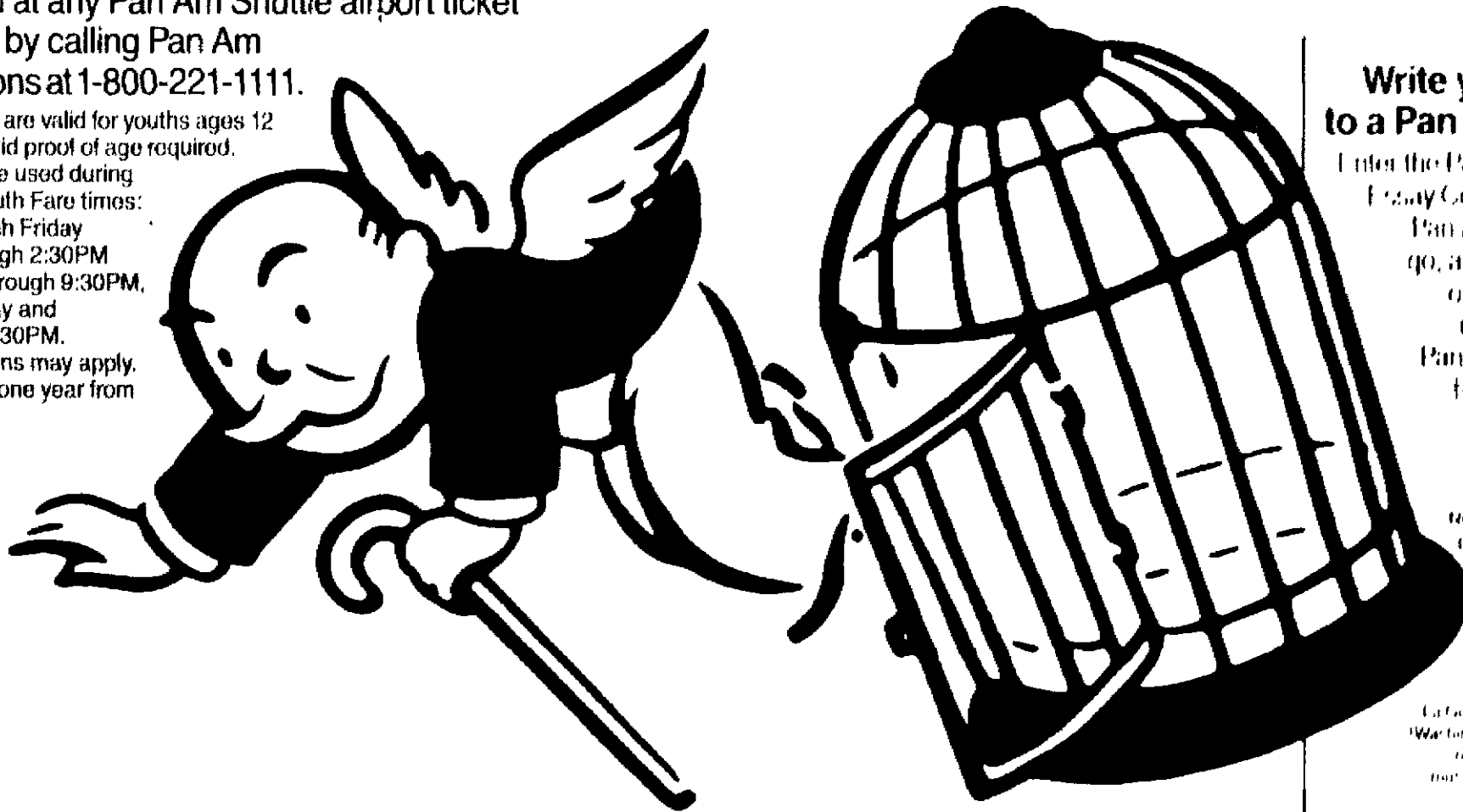
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