



Volume XCVI Number 1

February 5, 1990

BARNARD BULLETIN



Peering Into the Nineties: What Do Women Expect To See?

◆
Attack on Panama:
America's Repeat
Performance

◆
Clerical Workers
Striking Out

◆
Muse News:
'The Arts' Mini-Column
of the Nineties

BEAR ESSENTIALS

SPRING TONIC—NIP PROBLEMS IN THE BUD: All students, but particularly those who experienced difficulties last semester, are encouraged to consult their advisers and instructors regarding any problems that might arise on the fulfillment of course requirements. Timely action can make the difference between success and failure. You may also want to consider joining the following: Beginning WED., FEB. 14 Dean Denburg will give a four-week mini-course in 203 Centennial Hall (above the cafe) from 5-6 pm. It is intended for students who are in need of assistance with note-taking (FEB. 14), time management (FEB. 21), organizing papers (FEB. 28), and techniques for studying and reviewing course material (MARCH 7). Sign up in the Centennial Hall Office, room 109, the week of JAN. 30. Deadline: FEB. 13. On THURSDAYS from 2-2:50 pm, beginning FEB. 8, Dean Silverman will conduct a support group called "Reaching Your Academic Potential." If you feel that you are not achieving the academic success of which you are capable, this may be for you. Rescheduling is possible. Sign up for the support group at any time in the Health Service Office. Call x42024 if you have questions.

IMPORTANT DATES with which you need to be familiar are listed on pp. 6-7 of the Barnard Catalogue. Consult these pages to avoid missing opportunities and critical deadlines. The calendar in the Handbook and *Student Guide* also provides a handy means of referring to them.

SOURCES OF VITAL INFORMATION: Listed on pp. 122-123 of the *Handbook and Student Guide* are the names and numbers of people who can answer questions regarding your academic life here.

FINANCIAL AID: Applications for financial aid for the 1990-91 academic year will be available in the Financial Aid Office, 14 Milbank on FEB. 14,

1990. You must come into the office to pick one up. **REMEMBER** that all current financial aid recipients **MUST RE-APPLY** for financial aid. The deadline for submitting completed forms is **TUES., APR. 18.**

AID FOR PART-TIME STUDY for New York residents. Barnard College has once again received a small grant from New York State in this program. To be considered for an award a student must: be working toward a degree as a part-time student (enrolled for at least 6 credits, but less than 12), be a resident of New York State (for the 12 months preceding the application), and meet the income limits (for dependent students family net taxable income cannot exceed \$22,000 and for independent \$15,000). If you think you may qualify you must see Susan Lee of Financial Aid by Wednesday, FEB. 14, 1990.

JUNIORS interested in applying for the 1990-91 **SENIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM** or for the **JOINT SIPA-BARNARD PROGRAM** (see Catalogue, pp. 34 and 38, for details) should make an appointment with Senior Class Dean King in the Office of the Dean of Studies, 105 Milbank, x42024, by mid-February. Applications for both programs must be filed by WED., MAR. 1.

COLLEGE WORK-STUDY JOBS: Funds are still available for work-study jobs. Students who are interested in obtaining work-study jobs and are currently receiving aid from the College should go to the Financial Aid Office to apply.

MAY '90 GRADUATES should have filed their Diploma Name Cards with the Registrar by FRI., FEB. 2. Consult

Dean King or Mrs. Appel in 105 Milbank x42024 if you have not received a letter in your campus mailbox concerning Commencement.

SENIORS: Remember to R.S.V.P. for Senior Dinner scheduled for WED., FEB. 7, to 224 Milbank or call x42005, Office of Alumnae Affairs. (Let them know if you have not received an invitation).

ALL 1991 PRE-MEDS are invited to meet with Dean Rowland WED., FEB. 21, from 12-1 pm or 1-2 pm, in the Jean Palmer Room (upper level McIntosh) to review procedures for applying to health professional schools (medical, dental, veterinary, optometry). MCAT applications will be available at the meeting.

SCOPE: Health Service is offering a Women's Health Care Clinic on Tuesdays, starting FEB. 6, 4:30-7:30 pm. Sign up in Health Service, Lower Brooks. Visit includes information session with a peer educator.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the College may release, at its discretion and without prior authorization from the student, the following information: name, class, home or college address and telephone number, major field, date and place of birth, dates of attendance at Barnard, degrees, honors and awards, and previous school most recently attended. The law also gives the student the right to place limitations on the release of this information. A student who wishes to do so must file a special form with the Registrar by TUES., FEB. 20. In practice, the College does not indiscriminately release information about individuals.

It is time to do something for your neighborhood:
tutor for NYC public school students in the area!

Students Helping Students

General meeting: Tuesday February 6 in Brooks Hall living room.
Guest speaker: Karen Heller, BC graduate, Director of Volunteer Resources for the American Red Cross

FROM THE EDITOR

BARNARD BULLETIN

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The Barnard Bulletin is published on Mondays throughout the academic year. Letters to the editor are due in our office by 5pm the Wednesday preceding publication. Opinions expressed in "Point of View" and "Women's Issues" are those of the authors, and not necessarily of this publication or Barnard College.

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Engaging in dialogue spurs discoveries about ourselves and the ways in which we interpret issues. Through classes, campus visitors, McAc, poetry readings, student theater productions, SCOPE, Student Personal Awareness (SPA), campus publications, new voices, new Barnard voices speak.

In our writing and our thinking here at the *Bulletin*, we strive to scratch deeper, search longer, employ sharper techniques for

analysis so as to uncloak fears or anger or truth.

There are a host of voices on our campus which go unheard, and we aim to capture them so as to better represent the concerns and interests of the students here at Barnard. The diversity of our voices spark discoveries about our individuality, community, equality, inequality, happiness, stress, knowledge.

We commit ourselves to dialogue and invite your input to catalyze new thoughts.

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Broadway Comes to Barnard

The Kathy and Mo Show will appear at Barnard as part of a week-long kick-off for Student Personal Awareness (SPA), a new Barnard organization focusing on student health and "wellness."

According to SPA Student Coordinator Jeanne Rhee (BC '92) SPA chose this comic Broadway show "because it deals with social commentary on women and their lives, and covers many issues facing women today."

This special performance will be held in the Minor Latham Playhouse on Monday February 5 at 8:30 pm. Tickets will be on sale at the McIntosh ticket booth.

SPA was started last year, primarily through the efforts of Giselle Harrington,

Program Coordinator of Mental Health Services. Priscilla Gilmore of the Physical Education department, Director of College Activities Lisa LoParco, SPA Student Coordinator Rebecca Galler (BC '92), and Food Services.

This joint staff and student project aims to focus on nutrition, body-image, and fitness.

According to Galler, the founders feel there is a problem with body-image and self-image among Barnard students.

Throughout the year SPA will hold mini-courses and activities stressing greater self-awareness.

—by Molly Bradley

◆ Winterfest, an annual celebration of women in the arts will take place from February 12-15.

Music and dance performances will be followed by various arts-related mini-courses in Lower Level McIntosh.

Highlights include an "improvisational dance jam" on Tuesday, February 13, co-sponsored by Richard Bull of the Richard Bull Dance Theater and Barnard's dance group, Orchestis.

On Wednesday, February 14, "Images of Women-Choices," a film festival, will feature representations of women as seen by both male and female artists.

Also, New York artist Susan James will create an environmental piece consisting of a walk-through sculpture here at Barnard. Her work will be exhibited in the Jean Palmer Room from February 12-15. According to Jennifer Nadelson (BC '90), student coordinator of Winterfest, James will "create different moods and feelings" using light and dark contrasts.

"SGA plans this event every year in the hopes that Barnard students become more involved in the arts through the resources of alumnae and fellow students" according to Nadelson. SGA has allocated \$4,000 to fund Winterfest, according to SGA treasurer Shannon Lafferty.

—by Geraldine Rowe

You're smart
enough to know
the difference
between perestroika
and glasnost.

And you're
still smoking?

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Mona Van Duyn whose latest collection of poems, *Near Changes*, will appear in April from Knopf Publishers

◆ Finalist and new poet Marcia Slatkin will begin the 5th annual New Women Poets Series at 8 pm on February 8 in Barnard Hall's James Room.

Established poet Mona Van Duyn will read with Slatkin. April Bernard, a New York poet involved with the series since its beginnings, will introduce the two poets.

Assistant English Professors, Christopher Baswell and Celeste Schenck, started the competition in 1986, two years after Baswell brought Bernard into one of his first-year English classes to read some of her work.

Bernard's classroom visit sparked such enthusiasm that she, Schenck, and Baswell began to discuss ways to bring the excitement of "live" poetry to an even larger Barnard audience.

The result is the series, which currently draws more than 500 book length entries each year. From the 500 manuscripts Baswell and Schenck choose three finalists. One of those is then chosen by an independent judge, and receives \$1500 and publication of her manuscript by Beacon Press.

The Village Voice noted with pleasure the appearance of *The World, The Flesh, and Angels*, by Mary B. Campbell, the latest book published in the series.

Marjorie Meyers (BC '35) and other Barnard alumnae fund the series, which continues March 8 when Marilyn Hacker reads with finalist Akua Lezli Hope, and concludes April 12 when finalist Dorothy Baressi will read with Molly Peacock.

—by Stacey J. Rees

◆The Centennial Hall Computing Center (CCC) opened its doors on January 24.

Ten IBM PCs are now available in the center, located in the basement of Centennial Hall. The center is open from 8:00a.m. to midnight daily. An Academic Computing Center sticker is not needed to use the new CCC.

The center represents part of a larger project to computerize Barnard's campus, said Toby Sharp, Barnard's Systems Administrator.

Printers, however, are not available in the OCC. According to Sharp, paper is too costly for the no-fee center. Also, trained staff people are not available to assist students who are unfamiliar with computer equipment.

Sharp said that he is considering a card-operated laser printer for the center. These machines are easier to operate than others, and are less likely to jam. Students would pay for paper with a card much like the copy cards used for library copiers.

Ten "dumb" terminals are also available. These computers cannot access software like WordPerfect or Lotus, but can call up CLIO and other information networks on campus. From these ten terminals users can log on to Columbia's computer network and send electronic mail.

Once Barnard is fully computerized it will be possible to send electronic mail directly from all "linked" campus terminals, without logging on to Columbia's network.

—by Stacey J. Rees

◆The first National Teach For America Day will take place at Barnard, and at 100 other colleges nationwide, on February 10.

Barnard and Columbia students interested in teaching will have the opportunity to practice their skills on fifty fifth-graders from local elementary school PS 145. Each "teacher" will present a 20 minute lesson.

The "teach-in" kicks off Teach For America's national campaign to recruit enthusiastic non-education majors into the profession.

Teach For America is the brainchild of Wendy Kopp, a 1989 Princeton graduate. In her senior thesis Kopp proposed the creation of a teaching organization modeled after the Peace Corps, incorporating active recruitment, a two-year time commitment, and intensive training.

Teach for America aims to place carefully screened college graduates in paid positions at rural and inner city schools that are typically in need of bright, dynamic teachers.

The group plans to select a corps of 500 teachers who, after eight weeks of training, will be ready for placement by September, 1990.

To find out how you can teach on February 10th, or for more information regarding Teach For America, contact campus rep. Maryanne Mazzeo (BC '92) at 853-7613.

—by Stacey J. Rees

Christian Fellowship: A New Kid on Campus

Looking for students belonging to the Christian Church/Church of Christ to organize a campus fellowship here at Columbia university/Barnard College.

Socials- meet new Christian friends
Special Events- retreats, trips, cookouts
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Contact: Joe O'Neal, Campus Minister
Christian Church/Church of Christ
at the Earl Hall Center

or
PO Box 1971
New York, New York 10025

Barnard and Columbia undergraduates are invited by Morningside Bridge Club to play duplicate bridge Monday evenings at 7:30 pm at CU Faculty House at special fee of \$2 per session. Come early and bring ID.

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Barnard and Clerical Union Come Face to Face in Negotiations

—by Paul Farber

Since mid-December, the Barnard administration has been engaged in contract negotiations with District 65-United Auto Workers, which represents the college's 167 clerical workers. Both sides remain at odds over such fundamental issues as wages, tuition benefits, and Barnard's contribution to the union's health plan.

The workers involved include the college's clerical support staff and library employees, as well as dormitory desk attendants. The Transport Workers Union (TWU), a separate organization that represents Barnard's security, maintenance, and cafeteria personnel, is not involved in the negotiations.

According to the union, Barnard entered the negotiations demanding "wholesale cuts" in pre-existing benefits. The administration's initial proposal includes:

- a 50% reduction in paid sick days
- substantially less vacation time
- an extension of new employees' probationary period from 45 days to six months
- a cut of nearly 25% in Barnard's contribution to the health plan.

Additionally, the college proposes cutting the number of tuition-free credits workers are entitled to from the current maximum of 18 to just 6 credits per year. Barnard also proposes two new requirements: all tuition-free courses must lead to a two or four-year degree, or be job-related.

Union negotiators acknowledge that the administration has "moved away" from several of these initial proposals in subsequent talks. Nevertheless, the union remains stunned by the severity of Barnard's demands, contending that they go far beyond what other local institutions, such as Teachers College, Union Theological Seminary, and Columbia University, have offered in recent con-

tract talks with clerical workers. According to District 65 organizer Maida Rosenstein, compared to these other schools, "Barnard really takes the cake, they've asked for concessions in everything."

Union officials maintain that accepting even a watered-down version of Barnard's proposals would lead to substantial reductions in the standard of living of an already underpaid work force. According to a union leaflet, the average District 65 member makes \$17,800 yearly, and those concentrated in the lowest pay grades, a full third of the union members, earn less than \$16,000 per year.

Approximately 25% of District 65 members are single parents with young children, who use their salaries to support families. Union Organizer Susan Lyon remarked, "For a full-time worker with a family to support, \$17,000 is very little money."

Comparable Pay for Comparable Work?

The union's initial proposals reflect District 65's view of the needs of this work force. More than anything else, they feel that these needs involve substantial pay increases. According to the union's public statement, Barnard has offered a 1% pay increase if District 65 withdraws all other demands from the negotiating table; however, District 65 hopes to obtain raises that would bring its members closer to parity with Barnard's better-paid maintenance and security staff. According to the union's figures, the annual salary of the lowest-paid maintenance worker—calculated to compare with the 35-hour week of the average clerical worker—is \$18,000. The lowest-paid full-time District 65 member earns \$15,500 yearly. The average District 65 member makes \$17,800, or \$200 less per year than the lowest-paid

maintenance worker.

District 65 officials maintain that the large discrepancy between the salaries of clerical workers and maintenance workers reflects the common practice of paying those in traditionally "female" clerical jobs substantially less than those in comparable, yet traditionally "male" jobs. At least 75% of the members of District 65 are women. The gap between the average salary figures, according to Rosenstein, makes Barnard hypocritical: "They're progressive on women's issues in the classroom," she says, "but when it comes to dealing with their workers, it's another story altogether."

The union's initial proposals include a measure that would raise the lowest full-time clerical salary to \$18,000 yearly, making it equal to the minimum maintenance worker's salary.

In response to District 65's hopes for pay parity with the maintenance and security staff, Barnard's Director of Public Relations, Ruth Sarfaty, claims that the two groups of workers enjoy "totally different sets of circumstances." The inferiority of the clerical workers' wages, she maintains, are balanced by the superiority of their benefit package.

According to the union, however, maintenance and security personnel enjoy better and more costly benefits across the board, with the exception of tuition exemption rights.

'Trade-offs'

Additionally, District 65 proposes large pay increases, ranging from \$500 to \$5000 yearly for long term Barnard employees. The union argues that these increases would not only reward senior employees, but would also serve as a strong incentive for newer workers to remain at Barnard. The union has also asked for day care benefits for its members.

Sarfaty, while unwilling to discuss the details of Barnard proposals, or the negotiations in general, states that the union's initial proposals would amount to a 35% increase over the existing wage and benefit package, an increase too costly for Barnard to bear given its present financial state.

Responding to these demands, Sarfaty characterizes the college's budget as a "limited pot," in which "there is not enough money to go around." According to Sarfaty, in order for the union to improve one aspect of its package, it must accept cuts in another aspect. "It comes down to trade-offs," she says. "If the union wants something, they have to give up something."

Who Pays and How?

Barnard's administration also warns that significant increases for clerical workers would have repercussions in other parts of the college's budget, including potential tuition increases for students. In a January 19 letter to students, Vice President for Student Affairs Barbara Schmitter stresses this point, stating that during negotiations Barnard needs to be conscious of "the need to support a superior faculty, to maintain and improve the plant and to limit tuition increases."

In an informational meeting for interested students held by District 65 on January 23, several students voiced their concern that the administration was attempting to prevent a possible alliance of students and workers at Barnard by threatening tuition increases.

Sarfaty denies any such intention, declaring "no one is pitting anybody against anybody."

Both sides in the dispute view student support as crucial for success. District 65, with the help of the Columbia University Ad-Hoc Strike Support Committee, a coalition of workers and students, asked Barnard students present at the January

continued on page 12

In order to provide a context for the current negotiations between Barnard's Administration and District 65, the *Bulletin* contacted several of the Seven Sisters Colleges, as well as Columbia University, whose 1100 office and clerical workers are also represented by District 65.

Wage information was not collected. In some cases sources would not reveal wage information, in others the information could not be accurately compared with Barnard District 65 wages due to the high cost of living in New York City, or because averages included salaries for jobs that are not included in District 65's bargaining unit.

COLLEGE	VACATION	SICK LEAVE	TUITION
Barnard (under current contract)	24 days/yr.	10 days/yr.	18pts./yr.
Barnard Admin. Initial Proposal	15 days/yr.	5 days/yr.	6pts./yr.
Columbia Dist. 65	20 days/yr.	20 days/yr.*	21 pts./yr.
Vassar Comm. Wkrs. of America Local 1120	12 days/yr.	9 days/yr.	no limit
Radcliffe/Harvard AFL-CIO	15 days/yr.	12 days/yr.	no limit
Wellesley non-union	15 days/yr.	12 days/yr.	8 pts./yr.
Bryn Mawr non-union	15 days/yr.	12 days/yr.	2 courses/yr.
Smith non-union	15 days/yr.	12 days/yr.	4 courses/yr.

* with 5 yrs. of svc.; other figures in table are same regardless of years of service, except where otherwise noted.

FEMINIST IDEALS PERSIST DESPITE A FALTERING MOVEMENT

—by Jennifer Leibler and Hilary Steinitz

"Is there a future for feminism?" Time magazine asked on the cover of its December 4, 1989 issue. In an article that ultimately claims to affirm the value of feminism in the past, present, and future, the author, Claudia Wallis, manages to minimize and implicitly attack both the movement and women.

The article initially defines the feminist as a woman who combats oppression by donning a business suit and striving to compete in mainstream society. Certainly, for many feminists who strove for reform in the early stages of the women's movement, equality with men and the freedom to compete for positions in the corporate world were primary goals. Freedom for women to enter the workforce has indeed been the most visible accomplishment of the movement. Yet, to define feminism solely on this basis obscures many of the ideas and questions that have sprung from the movement.

Women, the article asserts, feel that feminism offers them nothing; struggle for change is no longer necessary, for they have already been granted freedom to enter the workforce. But, after staggering up the corporate ladder, many feminists have come to realize that competition and corporation merely perpetuate oppression. How triumphant is the woman who adopts the hierarchical values she wishes to overthrow?

Though women have greater access to higher status and better paying jobs, they could not enjoy these privileges if not for some feminists who saw that struggle was necessary. The job market is still sex-segregated and women are predominantly in low-status and relatively

low-paying jobs. Women still experience verbal and physical harassment both within and outside of the workplace. If we consider that predominantly upper-

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...young women of today disassociate themselves from the word "feminist" even as they plan on becoming lawyers or doctors...
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middle class women earn MBAs; if we forget our past struggles and the continued struggles many women face, then perhaps we could label feminism as a silly and unnecessary whim. But we must dispel the notion that the power for a certain group of women to enter mainstream society constitutes the feminist goal.

We must also question the generalized definition of "young women" implicit in the article. Though the writer offers no qualification for the term "young women of today," she clearly does not mean all young women. The author says that young women of today disassociate themselves from the word "feminist" even as they plan on becoming lawyers or doctors and as they insist that

their husbands share the household chores. The woman of whom Wallis speaks is not only heterosexual but married; she is not only financially secure enough to afford law school but dismissive of the women who can't afford law school. These are the women for whom the most political and economic struggle is still necessary. The writer implies that "heterosexual, upper middle-class women" represent all women in general. The women who deviate from the writer's model, then, are unworthy of her definition of "women."

Several pages into the article the author finally acknowledges the existence of women of color and poor women who feel cheated by the feminist movement. Her point that these women have been ignored is valid. Yet, if she wishes to champion the rights of these overlooked women, then why does she exclude them from her definition of "women" in the first pages of the article? The author does not strive to correct the flaws that have plagued the feminist movement nor does she show the potential of feminism to embrace all women. Rather, she unquestioningly allows the movement to be blamed for the very negligence of which she herself is guilty.

Just as the feminist movement functions as the scapegoat for inequalities among women, the article also blames it for the sacrifices that women who participated in the earlier stages of the movement have made. Older women interviewed for the article feel betrayed by the movement. They now wish they had devoted more energy to starting families and less upon their careers. The

article notes that whereas 90% of men under 40 in the corporate world have children, only 35% of women under 40 are mothers. Neither Wallis nor the women interviewed blame this discrepancy upon the lack of adequate daycare or the assumption that women are responsible for childcare. Instead, the women implicate the freedom to pursue careers, a freedom awarded for their earlier struggles in the movement, for the problems that truly arise from the attitudes inherent in a male-dominated culture. By failing to question the real object of blame, the writer only condones this misplaced criticism.

In keeping with the notion that feminist goals threaten the family is the statement that feminism has lost its popularity because "motherhood is in." This assertion is absurd not only for implying that motherhood and feminism are two

mutually exclusive options but also for relegating motherhood to the realm of fashion. We are drawn or repelled by motherhood, the article suggests, just as we are by mini-skirts or shoulder pads. What happens, then, when motherhood goes out of fashion? Must mothers abandon their children? If we accept this analysis, we reduce our identities as women. Must we act as puppets, numbing all our own beliefs and feelings so that we may operate according to the dictates of Mademoiselle or Cosmo or Time?

We should note that the article devotes several pages to chronicling the accomplishments that the feminist movement has achieved. Yet the article's assumptions about women and its misplaced criticism of feminism point to problems present in an elitist society. Unwittingly, the article offers a prescrip-

tion for some of the feminist goals we need to pursue in the future. Perhaps we could begin by insisting upon a broader definition of "woman," a definition that abolishes the hierarchical structure that allows certain women to occupy dominant positions.

We must also insist that feminism is not simply a specific set of goals or legislations that can be neatly fulfilled, as though wrapped up and tied with a ribbon; instead, feminism is a way of thinking that allows us to continue questioning society even after certain goals have been met. By defining feminism as a process and not a sealed product, we grant ourselves the opportunity to effect change continually. Shoulder pads may come and go, but our various identities as women should change only as we confront new ideas, not as fashion prescribes.



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Panama: The U.S. Intervenes Again

—by Lilliam J. Alfaro

The United States has invaded Panama. Despite strides toward peace around the world, the U.S. began the 1990s with a seemingly new military offensive against Latin America that in fact stems from more than a century-long struggle for imperialist control of the entire western hemisphere.

The United States deems it permissible to invade foreign soil. This "right to intervene" —secured by the U.S.-authored Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine— has allowed the U.S. to justify invasions of numerous Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Nicaragua (1913-1933), Guatemala (1954), Cuba (1961) and the Dominican Republic (1965). As in Panama, the U.S. claims the right to determine who governs Latin American countries and how, and further claims the right to enforce these decisions, with brutality if necessary.

Since its emergence as a world power, the United States has wielded its "big stick" policy in order to ensure the economic and political well-being of its corporations and citizens. The U.S. economy has profited immensely from the cheap labor and government-sponsored incentives that Latin America has offered all too frequently; subsequent U.S. economic and political control of Latin America has helped bolster the United States as the super-power it is today.

The U.S. clearly has too many interests in the region to allow "unfavorable conditions" to arise in Latin America. Central and South America and the Caribbean thus have become the United States' "protected and cultivated" backyard. How else could a random "American" citizen invade Nicaragua in 1855

and proclaim himself President of an independent republic? William Walker did so and lost his life trying to defend his right to rule Nicaragua. This bizarre event heralded the eventual U.S. military invasion and occupation of Nicaragua from 1913 to 1933.

In 1944, the populace of Guatemala ousted Ubico, a long time dictator. Thus began the "Ten Years of Spring" that marked the only democratic experiment in the history of that nation. These ten

◆
U.S. military aggression undoubtedly has fomented the swaggering jingoist pride that convinces many U.S. leaders and citizens that America's intervention "down there" is in everyone's best interest.
◆

years were a period of nationalism, internal development and union activity. Yet this era came to a definitive close as President Arbenz sought to distribute land to landless peasants, a move that

threatened one of the largest landowners in Guatemala —the U.S.-owned United Fruit Company. Subsequently, the United States acted to destroy "the communist threat" that allegedly loomed from a country the size of Rhode Island.

When the United States invaded Cuba and the Dominican Republic in the 1960s, these nations' "strategic importance" and horrific "commie threat" became the battlecry for U.S. intervention. Once again, the United States arrived uninvited on foreign soil to pursue its own economic and political interests.

Now, as the face of Eastern Europe and traditional Soviet-block communism transforms dramatically, the United States continues to justify invasions of Latin American countries in order to maintain its domination of an entire hemisphere. As the "red threat" begins to fade into the distance, the "drug threat" quickly is becoming the new battlecry for U.S. control in Latin America and the Caribbean. Though drugs are truly threatening to contemporary U.S. society, the Panama invasion stands as one example of how U.S. interventionist policies in Latin America do little to attack the real problem of drug-consumption in the United States. We must question the true motives behind the U.S. attack on Panama.

The U.S. invasion of Panama facilitated the installation of the popularly elected government that Noriega had banned. Few would argue that Noriega acted for the good of his country. One cannot disregard the fact that some Panamanians greeted the U.S. invasion of Panama with relief. Yet, we must be critical of news fed to us from a clearly biased U.S. media. Considering the his-

tory of enforced U.S. superiority in Latin America, any operation that puts "American boys" on foreign soil must be studied meticulously.

The military familiarity that the United States has granted itself with Latin America has made the U.S. extremely unpopular with many Latin Americans. Not only has Latin America's consciousness been saturated with U.S. culture, but its political autonomy is threatened persistently by U.S. domination.

U.S. military aggression undoubtedly has fomented the swaggering jingoist pride that convinces many U.S. leaders and citizens that America's intervention "down there" is in everyone's best interest. Yet, over and over again, U.S. policies reveal only an imperialist drive for control of foreign lands and racist attitudes that disregard the well-being of Latin American peoples.

As students, we need to scrutinize U.S. actions and consider the effects they have on people throughout the world. Ethnocentric maxims of "what's good for the American white man is good for the world" must be challenged in international politics as well as on our own campuses. As the Cold War approaches its end, it is time for us to rethink how the United States can start to work toward peace in its foreign policy practices as well as within its own borders.

Lillian J. Alfaro is a Barnard College senior and is Chair of Alianza Latino Americana.

We Will Write
The Nineties!!!
Join Bulletin

Network News: The Changing Fate of Women and Broadcast Journalism

— by Molly Bradley

The 1990's have just begun and already dramatic changes are taking place throughout the world. We have witnessed the upheaval of Eastern Europe, the invasion of Panama and continued unrest in China. News breaks daily through conversation, in newspapers and especially on television.

Consequently, the public focuses more intently on the media.

Of particular interest is the chronicling of the numbers of women entering and "making it" in the fast growing field of journalism.

Using Columbia University's School of Journalism as one example, we see that the applicant pool consists largely of women.

According to Albert Manning of the Admissions Office of Columbia's School of Journalism, the school received roughly 1000 applicants. By comparison, it received only 872 last year, which may show a rising trend in interest in those pursuing careers in journalism.

Focusing on the issue of gender, Manning said that this year the number of female applicants exceeded the number of male applicants four to one.

Actual classes are comprised of approximately 60% women and 40% men.

According to Judy Serin, Director of Admissions and Placement at Columbia's School of Journalism, these numbers are reflected "in almost every journalism school across the country." She adds that these statistics have certainly

changed over the decade, noting that in 1980 the school admitted 91 women and 81 men, which is far more balanced than this year's 108 women and 65 men who were accepted. Fifteen years ago, Serin continues, "women were in the minority."

Reflecting upon the numbers of women who work in television news, we also note an optimistic improvement. In the past, dominant news personalities included such illustrious men as Walter Cronkite, Edward R. Murrow, and David Brinkley.

Today, network news is dominated by Jane Pauley, Maria Shriver, Tom Brokaw, Peter Jennings, Dan Rather, Connie Chung, Diane Sawyer, Sam Donaldson, Mike Wallace, Bryant Gumbel, and newcomer Deborah Norville. Women do constitute a significantly larger part of the group of celebrity news stars.

In fact, Barnard alumnae Dana Garrett ('87) who works for CNN, pointed out that she noticed very little gender discrimination practices at her company. She was "pleasantly surprised" by the company's standards. Garrett attributes this progressiveness to the fact that CNN was founded in the eighties and was started largely by women. "It began with the morals of the eighties, not those of the fifties," she explained.

Hopefully, the trend toward equality will be maintained in the nineties.

continued from page 7

23 meeting to help pressure the administration into granting what the union thinks is a fair contract.

While no formal strike deadline has been set by the union, a Strike Preparation Committee has been established to organize support in the event of a strike. The committee's future plans include organizing rallies, reaching out to students, community members, and to other unions in the area, including Local 1199, which is in the midst of negotiating a contract with Columbia University on behalf of library and cafeteria workers.

As of press time, negotiations remain slow, with some movement from initial proposals taking place on both sides. On January 24, the union and the college agreed to bring in a neutral mediator to speed the negotiating process.

In a January 31 meeting District 65 members voted unanimously to authorize a strike. Such a vote, however, does not necessarily indicate that the union will strike. Union Organizer Susan Lyon explains that District 65 members have merely "authorized the negotiating committee to call for any actions up to and including a strike." No official strike deadline has been set, although membership indicated that they want some kind of resolution of negotiations before mid-February.

The union has called for student support, and has scheduled a rally at Barnard's main gates on Tuesday, February 6, at noon.

Paul Farber is a Columbia College senior.

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The Coop Cannot Cooperate with All Women

—by Aimee Wielechowski

Barnard College has a women's cooperative. It is not a feminist's Coop. It is not a lesbian's Coop. It is not a white women's Coop. Ideally, Barnard has a Coop that belongs to all women. Realistically, the Coop is exclusively a white, feminist women's group. On Sunday, January 28, an open discussion attempted to figure out why. Of the twenty women who attended the discussion, at least fifteen were "regulars." The others were representatives from other feminist groups, a somewhat skeptical SGA president and one or two women who always wanted to visit the Coop but never had time.

The women of color were conspicuously absent. And where was Lainie Blum? Her daring article in *Sister* (the magazine of Columbia's Women's Center) last December labeled the Coop exclusive and said it had failed in its original goals to include all women in a non-hierarchical, non-elitist cooperative organization. Her words justified my own feelings of alienation not by the women of the Coop but by a feminist ideology that boasts sisterhood for all but seems threatened by the democratic thinking of its would-be subscribers — those women I like to call "reluctant feminists."

These reluctant feminists pursue the goals of feminism. (I am referring to the tangible goals of feminism which I loosely interpret as the advancement of women into responsible decision-making positions where they can effect positive change on our world.) These reluctant feminists are obviously pro-women but they chew the term "feminist" for its implication of irrational Plath-like women obsessing about their universal oppression by mankind. I am a reluctant feminist because I will not remain bitter at an imperfect world. Lately, I am em-

bittered only by a feminist ideology which seems to alienate the uncertain, poke fun at "unenlightened consciousness," and exclude half of the world's population (men) from a cooperative effort that can only fail without them.

Besides being a reluctant feminist, I am also a quiet member of the Women's Coop and have attended meetings regularly since I transferred to Barnard last semester. This may seem contradictory. I went to the Coop to learn about the glory of feminism. As I said earlier, I am pro-women and the Coop seemed a likely place to meet and exchange thoughts with Barnard's diverse populations. I was certain that I would be accepted in the group... and I am. But I remained a quiet member, truly anxious that my oftentimes "politically incorrect" opinions would be scrutinized by a rigid feminist interpretation.

Despite our varying degrees of allegiance to feminist ideology, Sunday's discussion proved that our goals for the Coop are similar: to provide women with a neutral zone — a room for meeting and sharing and, as one person said, "enjoying one another." Unfortunately, women can find a room of their own practically everywhere on campus — in their dorms or in any other women's group. Determining why the Coop is unique was difficult to articulate even for its most staunch members.

Ideally, the Coop hoped to attract every kind of woman from a diversity of cultural and ideological backgrounds. The most important feature of this group was its cooperative nature. Here was a group devoted to eliminating the routine of hierarchical order and establishing, once and for all, sisterhood. Perhaps the Coop and, indeed, feminism, overestimated women and their ability, or even their desire, to pursue sisterhood. A room

in Brooks Hall may be able to lock out men but it cannot accommodate all of the wonderful ambitions that are now allowed to women. Sisterhood seems reluctant to cut the cord that binds women to an all-or-no-one-at-all progression through life. It's time to cut the cord.

I've observed in my one semester at the Coop a concerted effort by all members to involve women of color, disgruntled feminists and, yes, even reluctant feminists in a myriad of activities. Through little fault of its own, the Coop has become a weekly rap-session for women of similar ideologies who are relatively familiar and comfortable with one another. The well-publicized open discussion last Sunday foretold that it will stay that way. ♦

THE BARNARD
BULLETIN
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BOLD
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BIZARRE
BREATHING
WOMEN
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BEDROCK
OF A BETTER
CAMPUS WEEKLY
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RECRUITMENT
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FEBRUARY 11, 105
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Hollywood Heroines, Take Two... Recasting Female Roles for the Nineties

—by Tamara Cohen

Sinking into a popcorn-crumbed ruby plush seat trying carefully to avoid yesterday's discarded gum, you're thinking, "Maybe this time I'll be surprised, maybe this time she'll be a real hero." Two hours later, you walk out of the theatre suddenly sure about who you want to be when you grow up. It's so easy to love Holly Hunter in her black polka dots and leather briefcase, so easy to laugh and cry along with her. It almost hurts to look deeper, to resist being swept away in a Hollywood dream. It's not easy to begin the almost inevitably painful examination of the hidden messages which are planted in our minds every time we sink into a movie theatre's darkness.

All the real struggles of our day — balancing family and career, defining our multiple identities, learning to challenge society's acceptance of poverty, discrimination and suppression of freedom — have been simplified by popular entertainment in an attempt to provide a respite from reality. What starts out as a progressive and hopeful new female character on screen — strong, independent, and self-sufficient — ends up as simply a well disguised 1940s heroine in an expensive business suit. Monday morning, the street, the classroom and the workplace are filled with the remembrance of the weekend movies' phantoms: men terrorized by psychotic bitches and macho heroes turning to sex and violence to suppress unnatural female urges for independence.

Hollywood plots and characters fortify stereotypes by presenting a glossy and more glamorous world which pretends to be within our reach. The larger-than-life images of the screen linger on in the mind like the soundtrack buzzing in one's ear, subconsciously reinforcing complacency with the status quo.

The eighties gave us major motion pictures with female heroines. Some even featured female characters. Women were given careers and sometimes even friendships. But how did these new "superwomen" end up? Married for Cher in *Moonstruck*, Melanie Griffith in *Working Girl* and Amy Irving in *Crossing Delancey*; isolated for Sigourney Weaver in *Gorillas in the Mist*, and Holly Hunter in *Broadcast News* and all the women in *Crimes of the Heart*. Both Barbara Hershey's character in *Beaches* and Meryl Streep's character in *Sophie's Choice* die in the end. All of these films are important for introducing credible female roles, but most end in disappointment. *Entre Nous*, *The Accused* and *The Color Purple* (though for those who read the book this one fails too) are notable exceptions.

Every career woman looks smashing in her knee-length suit skirt. But many of these women are consumed by their careers until they are unlovable and unhappily alone. Others allow men to convince them of the dispensability of their careers. This is a recurring plot from the forties. Usually, the woman's career serves simply as a secondary theme while the film actually probes the woman's struggles with her male relationships. The prime example of this often destructive relationship is *Fatal Attraction* in which Glenn Close's job as book editor leaves her plenty of time to catch and boil rabbits for torturing the Good Wife at home with the kids. Even in these films, the woman's career is still an acceptable one — an artist or performer, a book editor or teacher, with law becoming an increasingly popular choice. Even in *Gorillas in the Mist*, Diane Fossey's success with the animals seems to stem more from her "natural" motherly in-

stinct than from her clearly absent scientific know-how.

Women who make it are women who play by the rules and the few that challenge the basic hierarchical structure of the system are either undesirable or simply mad. In *Working Girl*, Sigourney Weaver plays the eighties superwoman headed for a fall. She is a manipulating investment banker who thought she could make it by playing "the man"; by lying and cheating to promote herself. She eventually loses both the hero and her job to a secretary who skipped the MBA but has plenty of glamor, gumption and shrewdness. The woman who makes it big is the woman who gets her business ideas from the gossip column of the Post and proudly proclaims that she's got, "a head for business and a bod for sin".

The movies warn us that women who want it all eventually will have to sacrifice most. Rather than acknowledging the complexities of being female today, the movies adopt a pro-marriage, anti-intellectual approach and completely bypass issues of racism, homophobia and discrimination. Life can be simple again, they suggest, if only we return to the values of the good old days. *Crossing Delancey* begs us to listen to Grandma, who knows best, and get married before all the good men are taken. In *Baby Boom*, Diane Keaton abandons her high powered Manhattan career for a happy life in Vermont with her husband. In *Beaches*, one of the women gives up her job at the ACLU to tend her dying father while the other gives up her marriage to continue life as a successful but lonely performer. In *Moonstruck*, fulfillment for the woman who thought she had it all comes only when she becomes pregnant. In *Gorillas in the Mist*, Si-

gourney Weaver, who seemed to have preferred animals to men, eventually falls in love. As soon as she refuses to give up her life in the wild for marriage, her project begins to fail and her previously impressive leadership decays into hysterical outbursts. The audience can't help thinking of the man she refused while watching the drawn-out shot of a pathetic crone kissing a black and white photo of an ape.

Women who succeed do so by default. They fail to get a man so they proceed with their careers. Women who find strength in female friendships do so when there are no more available men. *Crimes of the Heart* portrays the powerful relationship between three sisters trying to escape the Southern patriarchy which imprisons them. Though they succeed in bringing happiness and hope into each others lives, it is clear that they end up together because of their failed relationships with men. In *The Color Purple*, the strong relationships between women are weakened precisely because their alliances are limited and defined by their relationships with male characters. Women rarely speak to one another on screen. When they do, men are most often the subject of conversation. *The Accused* offered a real opportunity for unique female bonding between women of different social classes. However, the friendship between lawyer and client

clearly could not endure after the verdict was decided. Many strong and self-confident women have been portrayed as deeply disturbed. They continually reject the friendship of other women. In *Dangerous Liaisons*, Glenn Close plays a "man's game" and treats the "young virgin" with a contempt bordering on unbridled evil. In *Sex, Lies and Videotape*, the sister relationship falls prey to jealousy and rivalry for a man's attention. *Fatal Attraction* portrayed a woman whose instability manifested in violent attacks against men but whose cool hatred for women was taken for granted.

Films which present violence and sex as key components in women's relationships and lives draw large audiences. In *Crimes of The Heart* and *The Color Purple*, two very successful films, wives try to kill their husbands. *Fatal Attraction* was a box office smash. But the media is starting to pay attention to how women are depicted on film. The *Montreal Gazette* recently featured an article about the silent acceptance of movies that display violence against women. This article was published several weeks after the feminist massacre at the Ecole Polytechnique. On the same day, the front page article of the *New York Times* "Arts and Leisure" section discussed the lack of positive female relationships in major motion pictures. All this in the first week of a new decade.

Maybe things will begin to change. The eighties introduced a whole slew of new "working girls" — a first step. Perhaps the next decade will abandon the seemingly attractive path leading back to a fifties' ethos and go on to recreate the female main character as a credible woman whose impressive independence and success extends beyond her Ann Taylor blouse. It will take time until we encounter male characters worrying about the effects of their long work hours on family life; until we see lesbians and women of color and poor women as main characters in Hollywood films. But we must not be afraid to set these goals for the silver screen.

Think of that Monday morning, after-the-weekend-film psyche ten years from now. Fill it with images of strong and sensitive women struggling, succeeding and sometimes faltering with the dualities of their lives. Think of lingering images of women empowered by their relationships with other women. How less lonely the young women of the next decade would feel if the glamorous movie star was someone a bit more like herself; if the movies stopped being about who we are not and began to portray who we will continue fighting to be.

Muse News

Black turtlenecks exude what we are. We are frequently spotted at Burgess flipping through a dog-eared copy of Lacan...which we understand.

At the late show at Zooprax you can hear our whispers, correcting *Amarcord's* English subtitles. The waitresses at La Rosita never forget our orange juice, and bring us our cafe-con-lechen before we order. We are the ones who Started the Fire, who Pissed on Christ, who cut and dye Madonna's hair. We are the women beseeched on the back page of the *Voice* (...ahh that lilac scent at the end of the bar, in August of '79). We didn't have to check the list to know we got into Women in Film. When Dave can only think of The Top Seven, he calls us. For us, V&T's delivers. You might catch us playing pool for drinks at the Night Cafe...But on Thursday the 8th we'll be in the James Room, the hippest place to be .-

Women Poets at Barnard - Mona Van Duyn with Marcia Slatkin - we wouldn't miss it and neither should you. And if you want in on something real special, we'll see you at the hottest dance in Morningside Heights...
In celebration of Women - Feb.9th - Earl Hall.

You might just catch us boogying down to "I am Woman Hear Me Roar". Just a final word of advice: Write for us. About anything. Anyone who's anyone writes for the *Bulletin*.

Wanna know where your fifteen minutes of fame went? Guess.

Actress Cynthia Nixon '88

Monday, February 12
8:00 p.m.
James Room, Barnard Hall
Barnard College
Broadway at 117th Street



Star of countless theatre, film and television productions, Cynthia Nixon worked in two Broadway shows while a student at Barnard. She juggled roles in the hits *Hurlyburly* and *The Real Thing* and was last seen on campus at Commencement '88; she was the graduate who rushed off at the close of ceremonies to make it to the theatre before curtain time.

Winterfest!

February 12-15