



BARNARD BULLETIN

Volume XCIX

Number 11

September 28, 1992



**Women in
Performance**

Art

Women

Composers

Festival

**on WKCR
89.9FM**



Class of '88 You must end the academic year with a minimum of 24 completed points and passing grades in First-Year English (if you have not been exempted), First-Year Seminar and one P E course. For financial aid eligibility, the 24-point minimum does not include AP credit. If you scored below 11 on the Basic Math Skills Test, you must also pass QUR BC1001 (see Catalogue, p. 230) this semester, you will not be eligible to enter Environmental Science BC1001/1002 or any of the QUR-qualifying courses on pp. 33-34 until you do. Please note that Environmental Science BC1001/1002 has not been approved for the Q R requirement. **Transfer students** should note that the above also applies to you. **Class of '95:** You must complete your P E requirement this year, otherwise a grade of F will be recorded. In order to better inform your choice of major, continue to diversify your program. If you have decided on a major, consult with the major department on the most advisable sequence of courses. If you can, complete the Foreign Language, Science and Q R requirements by the end of the year, or at the very latest by the end of your junior year. This is especially important if you are considering study abroad in your junior year. **Class of '94:** Read the information above for guidelines. You should already have declared your major and have a tentative plan for fulfilling your major and other degree requirements. If you entered as a transfer student, you must complete the P E requirement (1 semester) by the end of the year. **Class of '93:** If any of your general requirements remain unfulfilled, your program must contain courses that will ensure their completion so you can graduate on time. Be sure that you do not exceed the 18-point allowance for studio, performing arts, and professional school (including film) courses. To do so might result in your ending the year with fewer than the requisite 120 points! If you have questions, consult with Dean Schneider or Dean Bornemann, 105 Milbank. Seniors are reminded to read the **Senior Guide**, taking particular note of information on the Marshall, Rhodes, and Fulbright Scholarships, which all have very early deadlines. See below for more details. **DEGREE CREDIT CAVEATS** You will not receive degree credit if any of your courses duplicate course work or A P credit that has already been applied toward the degree. Although academic policy is clearly set forth

in both the Catalogue and The Student Handbook, every year a few students forfeit credit because of overlapping enrollments. Particular caution must be taken with courses in the sequential disciplines (i.e., mathematics, the sciences, and foreign languages). For example, if you have completed an intermediate foreign language sequence, credit for the second enrollment in such a sequence either at Barnard or at another college cannot be granted. Although this may be obvious, a few instances of such enrollments with the expectation of credit continue to surface. If you have any questions, see Dean Denburg, Dean Schneider, or Dean Bornemann, in 105 Milbank.

SENIOR CLIPBOARD

Important information will be given at the **Senior Meeting** on Thurs., Oct. 1, at noon, in 306A Barnard Hall. Come to this meeting to learn about the services and activities for seniors provided by the Office of the Dean of Studies, the Office of Career Services, the Alumnae Affairs Office, and your class officers. The deadline for filing **Marshall Scholarship** applications was Fri., Sept. 25. **Fulbright applicants** are reminded that the deadline for submitting applications is Mon., Oct. 5. **Senior Scholar applicants** should see Dean Schneider before the Mon., Oct. 12 deadline. If you are applying to a graduate program in one of the humanities which includes History, and have a GPA greater than 3.50, you might qualify for a **Mellon Fellowship**, see Dean Schneider for details. The deadline for filing the **Rhodes Scholarship** is Mon., Oct. 12. **Diploma Name Cards** for Feb. '92 graduates should be turned in to the Registrar's Office by Fri., Oct. 9. Don't forget the **Graduate School Fair** on Mon., Oct. 12, see Career Services below for more information.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE RED HALL PROGRAM IN PARIS

are due, Thurs., Oct. 1, in 412 Lewisohn. Applications, which are available at the Registrar's window, require the approval of your adviser(s) and the chairs of the major and French departments. Remember that you must file two applications: one for Columbia and one for Barnard. The completed form should be returned to 107 Milbank. In addition to filing an application, make sure to schedule an appointment with Dean Schneider, 105 Milbank.

EDUCATION PROGRAM applications and information are now available in 336 Milbank. Applications for juniors are due Mon., Oct. 5. If you have any questions, please call x42117 or x47072.

INTERVIEW WORKSHOPS FOR PRE-MED STUDENTS applying

for admission to medical school for September 1993 will be held on Oct. 2, 16, 30, and Nov. 13, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. **Enrollment in each session is limited.** Sign up in advance by contacting Jayma Abdo, x42024. A panel of medical students and Dr. Polly Wheat, the Director of Health Services, will speak on "How to Choose and What to Expect," on Wed., Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Deanery.

PRE-LAW STUDENTS should plan to attend a lecture given by James Milligan, the Dean of Admissions at Columbia Law School. Dean Milligan will speak on "Application to Law School: Substance and Strategy," on Thurs., Oct. 8, 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., in Wien Lounge. This is a general information session not related to Columbia Law School.

CAREER SERVICES INFORMATION

Come to the **Graduate School Fair** and meet representatives from the Arts and Sciences, Journalism, Architecture, Communications, Public Health, Education, International Affairs, and Divinity Schools. The fair will take place on Tues., Oct. 13, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., in Upper Level McIntosh. A **Graduate School Professor's Panel** will be held on Mon., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., in the Jean Palmer Room. A **Graduate School Admissions and Financial Aid Panel** will take place on Tues., Oct. 13, at 4 p.m., in the Jean Palmer Room. If you want to participate in the **Recruitment Program**, you must attend an Orientation session. Sessions are scheduled from Sept. 25 - Oct. 26 and sign-up sheets are posted at the front desk in Career Services, 11 Milbank.

A MANDATORY STUDY SKILLS MINI-COURSE taught by Dean Denburg and sponsored by the First Year Focus will be given on Mon., Oct. 5, 8 p.m. and Wed., Oct. 14, 8 p.m. The course will focus on note taking, time management and study strategies. Sign up in the Quad office or with Joy Coleman in 39 Claremont.

ALUMNAE OF COLOR MENTORING PROGRAM provides African American, Caribbean, Latina, and Asian/Pacific Islander students with a chance to make early contact within their academic/professional fields of interest with a Barnard alumna. There are presently over 200 alumnae who are willing to serve as mentors. **PEER MENTORING PROGRAM** for students of color. Be a Big Sister to an underclass woman at Barnard or get yourself assigned to one. Interested in either program, contact Francesca Cuevas, x43583.

DANCE AUDITIONS dance work by Francine Landes will be held on Sept. 29, at 1:30 p.m. in Studio 1, Barnard Hall. These auditions are open to all dance majors and minors.

BARNARD BULLETIN

Editor - in Chief
Janie Iadipaolo

News
Stephanic Staal
Carol Sung

Features
Cheryl Prince

Women's Issues
Abigail Pickus

The Arts
Jeri Johnson
Lisa Kumar

Commentary
Kinn-Ming Chan
Vanessa Vandergrift

Photography
Rebecca Layton

Associate Editors
Elham Cohanim
Batyá Grunfeld
Urmila Ranadive

Layout Assistant
Wendy Kreinen

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 the Bulletin are those of the authors, and not necessarily of Barnard College.

The Barnard Bulletin
3009 Broadway
105 McIntosh Center
New York, New York 10027
(212) 854-2119

Voices

Editorial.....4

News

Dr Wheat is New Health Director.....6
McIntosh Dinners Become Memory.....6
Barnard Recycling Increases.....7

Features

Murphy Brown: Fact or Fiction?.....8
Why Transfer to Barnard?.....8

Women's Issues

Interview With Mary Thom.....10
Word on Women.....12

Commentary

Sunday Morning Wanderings.....13
Traditional Values or Republican Ploy?.....13

Arts

A Slice of Blue Heaven17
Festival on WKCR.....19

cover: Carolee Schneemann *Interior Scroll*

If You Seek Among the Chaos You May find Some Help Out There

As many of us know and some are about to discover, attending Columbia University and living in the heart of the Big Apple can be a rather exciting adventure. There are places to see, friends to make, relationships to have—and, of course, papers to write. But whether you're a first-year student making the thrilling and sometimes rocky transition from high school to college life, or you're a senior itching to get out into the world but terrified to be leaving the nest, day to day life can be rough.

Perhaps it's your first time away from home and you feel lonely.

Maybe you're confused about your sexuality. Or maybe you just want an answer to that nagging "so-what are you doing-after-graduation" question. Of course, we're all bright, resourceful, independent young women. But every now and then, we all need just a little bit of help with life. Whatever the problem or concern—fortunately for all of us—there are a variety of services and people right here on campus who are here to listen, to help and, most of all, to remind you that you're never alone.

Below is a listing of some of Barnard and Columbia's student services:

1) Barnard Health Services (X42091) located in lower level Brooks, offers routine medical examinations with a physician by appointment (except for 11AM-12Noon, when you can see a doctor without an appointment). The Barnard physician on call all nights and weekends can be reached through an answering service at 524-5140. Also, in the mental health department, students can sign up for short term therapy and get referrals for long-term treatment.

2) SCOPE (Sexuality, Self-Care, Contraceptive Options, Peer Educators) is like a student-run branch of health services located on the first floor of Hewitt (new location, for those

that went last year). The group holds education sessions for students who have never had a gynecological exam and want to learn about the process and they have drop-in hours when students can come in to talk about sex, contraception, sexually-transmitted disease, and other gynecological issues. Additionally, there is a hotline number students can use for further confidentiality.

3) The RAPE CRISIS CENTER (X4HEIP), located at 509 Butler is a place for students to talk one-on-one with counselors about anything from rape and incest to feeling uncomfortable with a sexual experience. Remember, you don't have to be either a rape survivor or in crisis to visit the center—all students are encouraged and welcome. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 6-10PM.

4) Feeling a little down? Like you need to talk, but no one is around? Pick up the phone and dial X47777 for NIGHTLINE, Columbia's strictly confidential peer counseling hotline open nightly from 10PM-3AM.

5) It's late at night and you feel uneasy about walking alone. Well, thanks to 4-SAFE, Columbia University's student-run escort service, you don't have to. Just dial X47233 from all buildings from 108th to 122nd streets between Riverside and Morningside Avenues and two escorts will arrive to walk with you.

6) CAREER SERVICES (X42033), located at 11 Milbank Hall, offers individual and group counseling on career-planning, job seeking skills, a library of job and internship opportunities and more.

So, a hearty welcome (back) to all of you from the Bulletin staff. We hope this is a productive and exciting year for everyone and we encourage you to work hard, have fun, and be smart—take advantage of the services available. They're here for you.

Editorial Policy

In order to be considered for publication all letters to the editor from an individual must be signed by that individual and/or from a Barnard SGA and/or Columbia Student Council recognized campus organization. Signed editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bulletin.

Interested writers and artists, contact Janie at x42119.

Write for Bulletin

You Know

You Want To

Barnard Bull

The Barnard Bull roamed , asking students if they believed Woody or Mia and why?



Bernadette Thomas (BC '95)

"To tell you the truth, I don't know a thing about it."

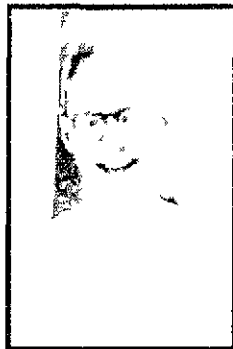


Simone Ferdinand (BC '95)

"I believe Mia, because an artist like Woody has to put some of his own experience and knowledge into whatever art he creates."

Josh Schwartz (SEPAH '93)

"I believe Woody because I know someone who knows Soon Yi."



Alphonse Soued (SEAS '95)

"No one can ever really know what happened."



Kim Matthews (BC '95)

"I really don't care. It is a situational thing and none of my buisness. If America would mind its own business maybe we wouldn't have so many problems as it is."

Photos by Rebecca Layton

Dr. Polly Wheat Becomes New Health Director at Barnard

The start of this academic year heralded the advent of a new health director, Dr. Polly Wheat. Aside from her credentials as a general internist and experience in preventive medicine, Dr. Wheat brings to Barnard Health Services a strong desire to explore issues of women's health.

"As a woman myself, I'm obviously interested in how health issues affect women...not only in areas of reproductive health, but in the equally important area of diseases that we

might not think of as gender specific," she explained, citing research about

hypertension and cholesterol levels, "All too often our database is generated by studies done on men."

Previously at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, where she was involved

in outpatient services and instructing medical students, Wheat was drawn to Barnard by her interest in the link between lifestyle behavior and health, noting that "college life is where you can address these issues." While maintaining that the students are "extremely bright," Wheat conceded that "there are some issues that [Barnard women] are not well-informed on."

Stressing the importance of health education revolving around common conditions, sexual assault, and other issues such as HIV, Wheat further emphasized the need "to explore a whole lot of other areas [in health education]...eating disorders, smoking, healthy lifestyle choices." In addition, one of Wheat's objectives is to educate the student body on

how the health system works, both inside Barnard and out." is important that we explain why we do certain actions," Wheat asserted.

Wheat lauded Barnard Health Services for its accessibility to the student body, comprehensive gynecological care and excellent mental health and counseling services. "Our goal is to optimize the health of all Barnard students...physical, mental and spiritual," she pointed out, adding that "at college

there is a bias to rate the mind ahead of the body and soul...we often forget that mind live in bodies and that the mind-body connection is very real."

October marks Women's Health Month, which carries the theme "Nature and Nurture." A schedule

of events has already been planned, including massages, Tea and Topics lecture series aimed at specific health issues, stress reduction workshops, and a smoke-free afternoon. "By getting to know who we are as women, we'll know what kind of things will be nurturing," commented Wheat, expressing her hope that more activities will be set up in dorms and residences as the year goes on.

"I'm counting on Barnard students to continue to let us know the weaknesses as well as the strengths of Health services," said Wheat. "In an academic community, it is important to learn about health issues that are important to you."

Stephanie Staal is a Bulletin News editor and a Barnard college senior.



Polly Wheat photo by Rebecca Layton

McIntosh Dinners Become Memory

During these first few weeks of classes, students have walked into McIntosh, ready to take advantage of its full dinner selection. But, instead of business as usual, they have been greeted by a lone pizza window and lots of empty tables. What has happened to the great institution of dinner in McIntosh?

Well, according to Food Service Director Stan Hynoski, dinner in McIntosh never was a great institution. He explained that last year the dinner crowd was very light. "Between 5 and 7:15 pm, we'd get maybe 50-100 students, and most of them would want pizza." The pizza window is still open during dinner hours. To Hynoski, it didn't seem economical to keep McIntosh open as a full scale operation for dinner. But what about the students who want to buy dinner on points? Hynoski suggests that they "use the Quad Cafe." He admitted that he hadn't given much thought to those students before, but that he would consider adding a point system to Hewitt during the evening meal.

This thought, however, was not enough to appease all students. Mythili Rao (BC 94), who is a vegetarian, says that she goes out instead of going to Hewitt because "the vegetarian food [at Hewitt] doesn't compare to McIntosh. . . With all the money we pay, we should get all the services we're entitled to." She is also displeased with the shift of Saturday brunch from Hewitt to McIntosh. "It's just not as convenient."

Other students haven't been affected by this change at all. Mary Jacobi (BC 94) "wasn't even aware" of the change in services because she does not usually eat dinner at Barnard anyway. She added that if they had dinner at McIntosh with the same variety they have at lunch, she would eat there occasionally.

As a comfort to those who dream of McIntosh dinners long past, Hynoski offer words of hope. Plans are already under consideration to expand McIntosh dinner services to include sandwiches, and, "if people start coming in, we might reopen for full service, full time."

Urmila Ranadive is a Bulletin Associate News Editor and a Barnard College sophomore.

Recycling Participation Increases As a Result of New York State Law

The Recycling program at Barnard began two years ago with the We-Can program and a plan for an effective white paper recycling program, as initiated by the current co-heads of Recycle Now. As recently as last year, Barnard was actively recycling only three days a week. Since September 14, when the New York City Recycling law came into full effect, much more participation is anticipated, especially because the City plans to fine heavily for violations with fees increasing for each infraction, reaching a ceiling of ten thousand dollars per person.

The reasons for the delay in activating aggressive programs on both the City's and the College's part were due to a lack of funding and poor administration. Although New York City's recycling law initially went into effect in April of 1989, according to Raquel Centeno (BC '93), due to unanticipated and severe budget cuts, the City was unable to actualize the program. It was the City's responsibility to provide containers for recycling, which is a costly initial outlay. At first, the cost for all the containers was the City's main obstacle, then Rubbermaid whose three to five year

1990 INFORM fact sheet.

American solid waste in general is causing quite a panic. From a fact sheet compiled by Recycle Now (1991), it is noted that every three months the United States throws away enough aluminum to build a commercial airfleet. From New York City's Department of Sanitation "Forty Seven Good Reasons Why You Should Recycle," they reveal that it takes 500,000 trees, and entire forest, every week to supply Americans with the Sunday New York Times. All of these facts, combined with the very real question of where to put all this garbage when there are no more landfills prompted the newly energized City Recycling program.

This long overdue law which requires the separation of glass, metal and paper from the rest of the trash, will further aid the Barnard Community in its endeavor to understand its own environmental responsibility. Although many students voice their support of these programs, both Co-heads of Recycle Now, Jeannie Barnes (BC '93) and Amy Amols (BC '93) noted, there still remain the many students whose apathetic attitudes become destructive forces. There remains an

inexcusable presence of food wastes in the cans-only containers in McIntosh. The We Can program was terminated because people were using the boxes for toilets, vomiting and sometimes even urinating in them. Many people ignored the "no glass" signs that the volunteers would repeatedly get cut. These minor

set-backs aside, the Recycle Now women plan to coordinate informational floor meetings to clarify each situation. The situations for each woman on campus will vary according to her place of residence. As of yet, Allegro continues their pick-up and separation service, which includes the buildings bound by Broadway, West 116th Street, Claremont and West 120th Street. These areas are classified as industrial, whereas the other residences are treated like any other apartment building in the City. Each of these halls should provide drop centers in the basement, and at least one container to facilitate transporting these recyclables. The women of Recycle Now separately voiced the same hope that we all, as highly privileged women in a position to effect so much change on our world, take that challenge and that responsibility which we implicitly claim by being here.

Kinn-Ming Chan is a Bulletin Commentary Editor and a Barnard College sophomore.

There remains an inexcusable presence of food wastes in the cans - only containers in McIntosh.

recycling-bin orders kept the program from happening. Likewise, Barnard was in no financial position to underwrite the purchase of all of its own containers, so both the College and the Municipality were forced to wait. The Barnard administration did, however, make an effort to support the new law with the purchase of the McIntosh "cans only" containers, and a few other containers on Campus. It was not the spontaneous reorganization of Rubbermaid or the Department of Sanitation that finally revived the law, it was the dire projections for Manhattan's near future due to irresponsible solid waste management. All ready, Fresh Kills of Staten Island, the only remaining landfill servicing Manhattan is the highest point on the eastern seaboard, south of Maine. This landfill, absorbing 84% of New York City's garbage, will probably close by 2002. Fresh Kills discharges one million gallons a day of leachate containing toxic chemicals into the Arthur Kill waterway, thus violating city, state and federal water pollution laws according to an April

MURPHY BROWN: FACT OR FICTION?

Is Murphy Brown an example of a "poverty of values" in our country today? The question was provoking enough to fill the FBH TV lounge with tens of students gathering to watch the season premiere of the Murphy Brown TV series on Sep 21. The event was sponsored by the College Democrats and it seemed a better turnout could not have been expected. Along with the students were WINS radio and channel Eleven covering the event. Finally, the nation would have a chance to hear Murphy's rebuttal to Vice President Dan Quayle's assertion that the Murphy Brown character was wrongly glamorizing single motherhood", and that she regarded her decision to bear a child alone as "just another lifestyle choice."

It almost boggles the mind to think how the story line of a sitcom can evolve into the center of a national debate. For months it has seemed difficult to avoid a newspaper without a headline alluding to the Quayle comment. Still, many are not surprised by the attention Josh Pepper, a GS student at Columbia who watched the program at FBH, is

among them. He said, "I think Dan Quayle probably should have guessed that this would have happened. Since Murphy Brown is a very popular show, people will have a lot of opinions, particularly since he's talking about an issue that evokes strong feelings on both sides." He seems to think it was a calculated move on the part of the Republicans. He commented that they stood to gain politically "from the Radical Right which believes that TV programs and films should be promoting more traditional family values." Caroline Sawyer, a PhD candidate at Columbia, also was not amazed by the controversy the event has stirred. She maintained that, "Especially in American culture, TV plays an important role. It's part of the fabric of our democracy. It's fundamentally American." Emily Carmel, a first-year at Columbia College, put it most succinctly when she said, "I guess the more serious the politician, the more serious the issue he or she attacks. Dan Quayle qualifies for a sitcom." The episode seemed to live up to most's expectations. It featured a sizeable

share of Republican bashing, as well as attention to the anxiety the fictional Murphy faces in raising her child singlehandedly. If the pitch of laughter was any indicator, the audience at FBH seemed quite pleased with the show. Most thought it was clever and included an important message about what really constitutes a proper family. Still, others who watched the program at different locations were not as impressed. Some said it wasn't as bad as they expected it would be, and some more or less agreed with Dan Quayle in that it was "just another Hollywood campaign contribution to Bill Clinton." For better or for worse, one thing seems unanimous. We live in the age of pop politics. Though this particular case is fictional, it has focused our attention on the millions of single parents for whom this dilemma is all too real. Whichever side one is on, it seems clear that this incident has at least the potential for doing some good. It has already sparked new discourse on a subject too long ignored.

Nicole Hala is a Barnard College junior.

Why Transfer To Barnard?

Easy come Easy go

The old adage has long been applied to situations ranging in topics from failed relationships to lost bets. And now, contend several of the 90 new Barnard transfer students, the phrase can be applied to one more situation coming from one college and going to another.

"Transferring to Barnard was easy—much easier than you might think," commented Laurel Holstein, a junior transfer from the University of California Santa Cruz. "I'm happy to be here and I'm impressed with the way things have gone." The personal attention of faculty members, Holstein said, deserves a large portion of credit for easing the transitional process. "I've gotten really good attention from my professors and advisors. They actually know my name. At my old school, it wasn't that way."

In addition to the personal attention factor, Julia Romero, a junior transfer student from Rockland Community College, attributes a simplified transfer process to the housing department. Thirty-five of the new transfer students were placed in Romero's dorm, Plimpton Hall, this year, making it easier for fast friendships to form. "It was nice because you met everyone and you knew you

were all in the same boat," said Jaenelle Porter, one of Romero's Plimpton-mates and a transfer student from Cabrillo College.

But even the best of new friends, Porter was quick to point out, failed to diminish the long lines and often-stressful moments involved in registering for classes. "Transferring is always so hectic because you have to have all kinds of transcripts sent," she said.

"Registering for classes is harder for us because we all have to get into colloquiums and seminars and we couldn't pre-register," added Rebekah Evenson, a junior political science major from Simons Rock College. "It's almost easier for the first years because they're walked through the whole process."

Registration stress and graduation requirement pressures aside, however, virtually all new transfers maintain that they have made a wise choice in choosing to follow in President Ellen Futter's footsteps. Futter was a transfer student to Barnard from the University of Wisconsin who, like this year's crop of transfers, was in search of a stimulating intellectual life in the midst of Manhattan.

continued on page 15

BARNARD FOUNDER'S DAY STREET FAIR!

Thursday October 1st

11:00am-7:00pm

116th Street between Broadway and Riverside

**LOTS of food,
entertainment & vendors**

12:30 pm. Founders Day Commemoration

**Sponsored by SGA, College Activities,
Campus Life, BOM, Student Life, and McAc.**

Ms. Comes of Age:

Ms Magazine, the United States' first mainstream feminist publication, turned 20 this past summer. Financial constraints, restrictions made by advertisers and changes in ownership forced *Ms* to fold in 1989 only to re-emerge as an advertisement free publication in July of 1990. Today, *Ms* maintains this policy by relying on subscriptions and newsstands sales. Despite doubts from the publishing industry, *Ms Magazine's* experiment has succeeded. Circulation is estimated at 150,000. Its journal format includes fiction, poetry, and domestic and international perspectives that have been enthusiastically received by individual subscribers, universities and women's centers.

Stephanie Doyle (BC '92) interviewed one of the magazine's founding members, Mary Thom. Thom, who has edited *Letters to Ms* (1972-1987), which was published by Henry Holt Press, is currently on leave from *Ms* to work on her own oral history of the magazine and of the women who created it. Following is an excerpt from an

"We would look at some campuses that had effectively organized to combat sexism and we would report on it, so that organizing experiences could be shared."

interview conducted in March and aired on WKCR's Oral History Project during Women's History Month.

Stephanie Doyle: How did the original *Ms* get to the newsstands in 1972—was there a preview issue?

Mary Thom: Various people in New York, including Gloria Steinem, Letty Pogrebin, and others had been meeting about having some sort of publication for the women's movement, which of course in the late 60's and early 70's was gathering a lot of momentum. They wanted something that would reflect this. Many of them, too, had been

working for women's magazines and wanted some new kind of organ that they felt comfortable writing for, something that they would choose to read. They themselves came together and talked about a newsletter or magazine, and Gloria, who had been working at *New York Magazine*, got an opportunity to do *Ms* as an insert in the year-end issue.

That is exactly what happened. It came out as a double issue of *New York*, and then that material and more that had been collected was published as a magazine on its own—*Ms*. It was labeled Spring Preview because it was supposed to be on the stands for the entire Spring of 1972, but it sold out in two weeks all over the country.

SD: What made Gloria Steinem and the others think the time was right to start *Ms*?

MT: Gloria had been doing a lot of speaking with various partners. Flo Kennedy, an activist lawyer in New York, and Margaret Sloan, a writer and editor, who eventually came to the magazine. I think it was the response to

her speaking around the country & it gave her confidence that this kind of magazine could be

started and sustained. But when she tried to explain this to the advertisers and business community and everyone else, no one would believe her. They said, you need market research, you need to show that people are going to read this. That is why the insert in *New York Magazine* was so powerful because we received 20,000 letters from people who wrote and responded to the articles and said they wanted to buy this magazine. We had those letters as well as the preview itself, an actual product that we could take around to advertisers and say here it is. If we

hadn't done that I don't think it would have started.

The group at the beginning was a motley crew. There were people, like Pat Carbine, who knew about publishing who had been at *Look Magazine* and most recently editor of *McCalls*. There were also various people who came at it as activists with backgrounds in the Civil Rights and Anti-war movements and involved in feminist activities. People were coming off the street as they had read the preview issue and were excited about it. They just sat down and began working and that is how the Volume 1 Number 1 took off.

SD: How did you perceive the original vision of *Ms Magazine*?

MT: I always thought of it as a magazine that would reflect feminism and the changes that women were making in their lives around the country. I took that very seriously. I worked on the "Ms Gazette" section, which reported on activist projects around the country and also sought out interesting ways in which people were changing their lives. We would look at some campuses that had effectively organized to combat sexism and we would report on it so that organizing experiences could be shared. I felt we were reflecting what women were doing.

It became a confused mandate because often people knew about *Ms* but knew nothing else about the women's movement. We were often called on by our colleagues in the press asking "what does the women's movement think about this?" We would have to answer, "well, the women's movement is a very diverse movement. I can tell you what I think about it. There was a way in which we became spokeswomen, but from my sense that wasn't the main mission of the magazine. For me, the magazine's mission was to facilitate communication among feminists around the country."

Interview With Mary Thom

SD: The original *Ms.* had advertisements unlike *Ms.* today. How did advertisers support effect the quality, the mission, and the editorial decision of the magazine?

MT: I think advertising pressure became more and more burdensome as we went along. If it wasn't the advertisers, it was the newsstands. Early on, we did an article on the national political ticket that might have been; Sissy Farenthold, a Texas politician, had come in second for Vice President in balloting at the Democratic convention and Shirley Chisholm, a congresswoman from New York, had run for President in 1972 and ran them on the cover as the ticket that might of been. Because we put a black woman and a white woman on the cover we had problems on some Southern newsstands, which is bizarre to think about today.

Some of our fiction used explicit language, and we learned not to highlight that explicit language in large-type blurbs, because there was no point putting up a red flag. At the beginning, when we went about trying to bring in ads, the biggest problem was to convince advertisers whose products that were not on stereotypically women's products that this was a market that they needed to reach. The advertising staff spent enormous amounts of time going to the automobile industry, to electronics companies and telling them that women make decisions about these products and you should advertise in *Ms.*

What helped us the most was that our readers were enormously responsive to the editorial and to the advertising. If they did not like something or if they did like something, they would say so. We could use that support to show advertisers what women wanted. We did make breakthroughs. We paved the way for other women's magazines.

SD: How does the original and new *Ms.* compare? Is there that same feeling of excitement?

MT: I think in response to a backlash that women today are really ready to get together over a series of issues. It was a shock to young women when it was clear that abortion rights were seriously being eroded. I don't think that lots of women envisioned that would happen. So the threat to Roe V Wade plus a new attention to violence issues such as date rape and harassment has made a big impact on people and how women look at feminism.

SD: Robin Morgan, the editor of *Ms.*, has encouraged a new international feminist perspective, a global feminism. How did that develop?

MT: Part of it began in the 70's with the UN meetings in Mexico City, Copenhagen, and Nairobi, honoring the Decade of Women. However much these were overlaid by international politics, they did provide a way for women to come together from grassroots organizations around the world. Many of them contributed to Robin's book, *Sisterhood is Global*. So, this has been a decade or two in the making, that you can now identify leaders in Africa and Asia and all over the world. The most interesting aspect is that women from the United States are so hungry for information.

SD: In comparison to the original *Ms.*, how has the magazine vision changed?

MT: The special feature on violence in the new *Ms.* (Sept./Oct. 1990) was very successful in treating an issue at a different level than we dealt with in the original *Ms.* In the September/October issue, we had pieces that talked about femicide or violence as a political weapon against women. So there was theoretical discussion, and there was a wonderful personal piece by Marcia Gillespie, who is one of our contributing editors. She had been editor of *Essence* and has been at *Ms.* for a long time. She talked about



Mary Thom photo by Joan Tedeschi

violence in her own life. This is a classic *Ms.* piece. She had not even recognized how severely violence from men had constrained her until she started thinking about this article. She looked back and realized that when she makes plans, she worries about where to walk and who to see. In so many areas of her life she must think about how violence can affect her. This is the kind of piece that readers connect with.

In addition, we did a survey and in another classic *Ms.* way used our readers as a laboratory so that we can learn more. We had an enormous response to that, we had 6,000-8,000 responses (without even providing a stamped return envelope); people were just so excited about being able to share their own lives and experiences with this community of readers.

SD: How has Gloria Steinem's book been received in the feminist community? Is the necessity for "self-esteem" as prevalent as Steinem suggests?

MT: We used an excerpt from her book in the magazine. She has been out continued on page 12

Word On Women

Barnard and Beyond by Abigail Pickus



Equal Representation... While there are only two women so far in the United States Senate, 11 females representing major parties are currently in the running. In Washington State, Democratic candidate, Patty Murry, who describes herself unassumingly as "just another mom in tennis shoes," won in the primaries against two well-known male politicians. Women running for Senate on the democratic ticket to watch out for (and support, if they live in your state) are Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein from California, Carol Mosely Braun from Illinois, Lynn Yeakel from Pennsylvania, and Senator Barbara Mikulski from Maryland, who is seeking a second term. The time is ripe for women to take more of an active role in politics.

Real First Ladies... What are American women waiting for? We've been in this country for over two hundred years and while we have a few influential women politicians, like Representative Pat Schroeder (D-Colo), we mostly abide by Abigail Adams's warning to her husband, John. Abigail urged John to "remember the ladies" for all men would be tyrants if they could. Three women in Nigeria seem to agree with Abigail - and they're willing to do something about it. In the

upcoming December elections in Nigeria, three women will run against 42 men for the nomination of the social democratic party. What propels these women to action? God knows that Nigerian men are not honest. *Ms Magazine* quoted one of the women running for president, Sarah Jibril, as saying "This time I am coming out as a woman to practically define the coming of women into politics."

Meet the Women's Center... Barnard's Center for Research on Women published its very first newsletter this semester. The newsletter, called "Center News," which will come out one time a semester, introduces readers to "what we do, who works here and to inform people of our program," said manager of the center, Valerie Green (BC '91). Center News was sent to 10,000 Barnard Alumnae in the New York Metro area, faculty and staff. Students can pick up a copy at the center which is located at 101 Barnard Hall.

Abigail Pickus is a Barnard College Junior.

Mary Thom continued from page 11

speaking about the book and has an enormous response. People are really hooking into this as an issue, the concept of self-esteem, and how they feel about themselves and about their lives, how education promotes it or too often, unfortunately, subdues self-esteem in women.

There has been some talk that this is a diversion from the politics of the women's movement. You know Gloria is an activist, she has always been that and continues to be that. I think that she sees this as a way of renewal and a road to continuing health for a movement that at its core is political and activist. And that is where the mission of *Ms* fits in.

SD: Gloria Steinem talks about how personal the political can actually be. How do you feel the feminist movement responds to that ideology?

MT: I think the women's movement will respond in much the same way that it has in the past 25 years in which I have been involved. Some will and some won't find a use for this concept of working on inner growth. The women's movement is so varied. Part of what we have been able to do in the new *Ms* is have a regular column on spirituality, a regular column on the environment. These are all part of what we see as feminism.

So already there is a part of the women's movement that is inner-focused. The whole area of women's spirituality and much of eco-feminism is very, I suppose, "new age." Then there are other groups involved in economic development or politics. There is an enormous breadth of activism. I think what *Ms* continues to do is to express that breadth of activity and try to connect these women up with each other.

SD: In conclusion, how would you describe yourself as a feminist?

MT: I suppose I am less apt to be introspective. The way I came to feminism was as an activist and that is what I am concerned about. I am enormously lucky that I have been able to make a living, as a writer and editor, in an organization that focuses on feminism. I have been involved in many of the political issues, campaigns, and struggles that have gone on for the past 20 years. If you had to label me, I would be in a broad sense more of a political feminist than a cultural feminist.

Stephanie Doyle (BC'92) studied English and now works part time at WOR radio in New York.

Sunday Morning Wanderings

As I flipped through the New York Times Book Review last Sunday over a warm bagel and a mug of hot coffee, my eye was hooked by the non-fiction best seller list. Thus, I thought, is the most tangible gauge of public opinion in a society glutted by a severe political atherosclerosis. No matter how faint and erratic the pulse of public opinion may be, every weekend in black and white are the books that people are buying (and writing for that matter). And in the unsure world we live in, where black and white is often obscured by the muddy gray of innumerable, conflicting opinion polls that is nothing to scoff at.

At the pinnacle of this bevy of telling consumerism, triumphs the book United We Stand by Ross Perot, self acclaimed architect for rebuilding America. Funny how Perot is able to map out a blueprint for catapulting the U.S. out of its economic funk when he can't even decide whether or not he is a presidential candidate. Come on Ross, do you really want television time that badly, or are you just following the trend of vacillating convictions that characterizes American politics today? Following the lead of President Bush himself, no doubt, who has proven to be the expert at campaign vicissitudes. Only now, after his staunch adherence to 'traditional' family values during the Republican National Convention effectively fractured his constituency, is Bush admitting that such radical rightist sentiments were perhaps a mistake. The same Bush, mind you, who formerly forced the public to read his lips concerning the merits of illegal abortion, only now, in the midst of backlash, are those lips strangely silent. It is no wonder that P.J. O'Rourke's

Parliament of Whores is bringing up the rear of popular reading at number 10. A man with absolutely no firm beliefs is leading our country.

The rest of the titles adorning the best seller list are fairly self explanatory. From the straightforward America: What Went Wrong? to the enticing indictments of excessive greed in The Government Racket, and Den of Thieves. At every turn, the majority of Americans are seeing, buying, and reading chronicles about the failure and corruption of the American political system. Politics in the U.S. is quickly approaching a danger level that will either force the public to undergo an ideological epiphany in the hopes of change, or cause such disgust that apathy and disillusionment will prevail. It is a matter of solution or escape.

Surrounded by such gnawing confusion, I often find myself drawn to the latter option. With my interest pierced by a feeling of helplessness, I easily fall victim to the overwhelming desire to never open another newspaper again. To ignore all the suffering and poverty and political manipulation that lays its veins open to the razor of the mind. Sometimes I want only to stare out my window and appreciate the throbbing beauty of the city in its entirety, marked simply by the stark elegance of skyscrapers. From the sixteenth floor, the maneuverings of politicians seem petty and puerile. But I brush away these cobwebs of despair, pick up the Sunday Times along with breakfast, and remind myself that a pulse, no matter how strangled by subcutaneous bullshit, is still a pulse.

Stephanie Staal is a News Editor and a Barnard College senior.

Traditional Values or Republican Ploy ?

Did someone forget to remind the Republicans that women like June Cleaver no longer exist? The Republican party's nagging and righteous emphasis on returning to traditional family values runs contrary to the growing independence and empowerment of women. This emphasis undermines the progress of women towards equality and harks back to a time that most women are glad to see long gone. The words 'traditional,' 'family,' and 'values' are extremely loaded and should first be defined. According to the Republican party, the traditional family consists of a married couple with children, all living happily under the same roof. However, this scenario applies to fewer and fewer people each year. What about women who have children

but are not married? Single parenthood, whether as a result of choosing not to marry or as a result of divorce, is a luxury that should not be criticized. Women, who are now more capable of financially supporting themselves (although they still do not receive equal pay for equal work), have more freedom and options in deciding how they want to lead their lives. If women are not happy or satisfied in a traditional family, it makes sense to try a situation that is nontraditional. And what about couples who live together but are not married? What about couples — consisting of two women — and their children? The Republicans seem to think that these people are responsible for the moral breakdown of our society. This false assumption brings us to the next word that needs to be examined

'values'. The Republican party thinks it has the right to dictate which set of values we should hold. Since when have the politicians transformed themselves into the moral models of society? The set of values a family holds applies only to that specific family, their set of values is as unique as the family itself. What is important is that there is love and commitment among the members of that family — regardless of the set of beliefs they hold or what kind of family they are. The lifestyles of non-traditional women such as single mothers are receiving the most criticism from the Republicans, who seem to be attributing the moral breakdown in society to one specific group of people. The lifestyle of fictional Murphy Brown has become a

continued on page 15

A Little Slice of Blue Heaven

Here On Earth

Imagine yourself enveloped inside an azure womb with suspended blue orbs overhead. Picture blue heaven, "Blue Heaven" that is, a new play by Karen Malpede. From the moment one enters the theatrical environment, an overwhelming sensation of walking into a tinted blue surrealistic dream takes hold.

Despite the title's reference to the ethereal, this off beat play actually chronicles nine people's lives in their personal, hellish realities. They are brought together by frequenting the Heaven Cafe on New York's lower east side—which is the

site of most of the action. The characters seek the cafe in hopes of finding a safe haven from the ravages of their lives. Director Leonardo Shapiro stages the action so that the audience literally becomes a part of the performance...so that the players' pains become the viewers' as well. "Blue Heaven" poses an apocalyptic view of today's America by exacerbating the pressing social problems threatening our country's livelihood. Each

of the characters is plagued with some debilitating social illness that restricts him/her from realizing true happiness. The characters' lack of peace of mind is echoed by televised carnage from Desert Storm footage.

Malpede's political cynicism becomes clear when Herbie, an insane elderly man who comes up with such words of wisdom as, "Last night I shit a snake...floating in a cloud of reddish phlegm," pretends to be the President of the United States. Herbie decides to end the war in the Gulf and to stop manufacturing arms. The point that a confirmed senile man such as Herbie is able to make more rational decisions about

war and weapons than the current man in the Presidency, provides the viewer with substantial food for thought. In addition to Herbie, the other characters have also become at least partially crazy due to the sad states of their affairs: Aria is a mistress to a man who murdered his wife; Sierra is Aria's daughter who gets no attention or affection from her mother; Sada is a demented, domineering woman who was raped and abused as a child; John is an AIDS-stricken man who wants to be treated as a healthy person; Jill is a teenaged prostitute who had her left leg amputated; Dee is also a

prostitute who is forever seeking ways to make money; Daniel is a self-absorbed artist who wants fame and everything that goes with it; and Mary is a nun with a warped perception of God. This unconventional motley works together to bring interesting series of events to the Blue Heaven Cafe. Even though the play allows viewers to feel more at ease with their own problems—since the characters seem to be going through so much—the



possibility of the collapse of the American infrastructure is quite troubling.

"Blue Heaven" is a terrific, thought-provoking social and political commentary, with its unique and effective approach to controversial content, impressively conveyed by a fine cast of actors. See it at 155 First Avenue through October 11. For reservations, call 254-1109.

Renee Ylisse Harrison is a Barnard College senior.

Women's Fest Airing On WKCR

WKCR, the undergraduate radio station of Columbia University, is presenting a six day long festival devoted to the words, music and wisdom of women performance artists and women composers. The festival began yesterday at 2pm and will run until Friday, October 2, at 10pm. The festival is a collaboration between the Arts and New Music Departments of WKCR. The origins of performance art lie in the integration of written text with the visual arts—especially painting. With its roots in Futurism, Abstract Expressionism, and 60's Happenings "performance art" became a working term for many artists in the 60's. Some of the early women performance artists such as Carolee Schneemann were painters who sought performance art as a means to use their bodies as canvasses and explore, among others, issues of sexuality. Today women continue to utilize body art, though the emphasis seems to be on a more refined, structured, written text, as with Karen Finley's work. Joan Jonas, Rachel Rosenthal, Lisa Kron and the Five Lesbian Brothers, Deb Margolin, Carmelita Tropicana, Brenda Hutchinson, Meredith Monk, Pauline Oliveros, and Diamanda Galas are some of the women to be featured.

Carolee Schneemann was featured on the first day of the festival. Schneemann is a painter, writer, filmmaker and performer. A veteran of the Happenings movement, she

began performance art in the early 60's. One of her first works was *Meat Joy*, which she performed with her group, Kinetic Theatre. *Meat Joy* "mungled blood, fish, chicken parts, and raw sausages with the naked bodies of the celebrants" ([Research No 13](#)). In an interview I conducted with Schneemann she said of *Meat Joy*, "I would get very huffy if it was ever described as a fertility ritual. Even then in 1964, it was a clear manipulation of sensuous pleasure in posing that I was about to have probably the first abortion so that I could pursue making this work occur in real time." In 1975 Schneemann performed *Interior Scroll* in which she unwound a scroll from her vagina. Written on the scroll were abstractions about the female body. Schneemann has said of women in performance art, "Performance in the hands of women is exceedingly transgressive. Not only because we're putting forbidden information and non-perfected forms into an aesthetic boundary, but because it betrays the initial permission that the culture allowed for women to inhabit performance so intensively."

Stay tuned to WKCR, 89.9FM for the remainder of the festival. Call 854-5223 for more information.

Janie Iadpaolo is a Barnard College senior.

campaign issue. Single mothers, however, should instead be praised for being capable enough to play the roles of mommy, daddy, the cook, the maid, and the breadwinner of the family while still retaining their sanity. The reasons for the moral breakdown lie not in the nontraditional families but in the Republican's twelve-year reign over the economy. The lack of money is often a major factor in causing family problems and the erosion of a family's values. As we are living with an unemployment rate that has not been this high since 1984, how can a family survive if the head(s) do not even have a steady income? Conversely, how can there be time to establish a strong sense of family and family values if the head(s) of the household must keep multiple jobs in order to pay all the bills? How can there be any semblance of a family if financial difficulties prevent members from spending any time together? The growing imbalance of wealth in this country can be attributed to the Republican party themselves. With these conditions, the Republicans should be glad that people can still keep families together, and not be so concerned whether or not they fit into the traditional view of what a family is. By continuing to focus on "traditional family values" in their campaign, the Republicans are alienating themselves from a significant part of the voting population—liberal, non-traditional women. If they lose the upcoming election, they may finally realize their mistake. They cannot impose the past on the present.

Katherine Chen is a Barnard College junior.

Continued from page 8

And, it would seem, a stimulating life is just what they've found.

"I love New York," gushed Holstein.

"I love being able to yell at people at crew practice in the morning," said Nicole Griggs, a transfer from North Hampton Community College.

"I love that people want to learn here," commented Christine N.

And I've gotten to like those tunnels and the Beverly Hills 90210 Club—after getting over the initial clog overdose, that is," laughed Cat Howard, a sophomore transfer student from the University of Maryland.

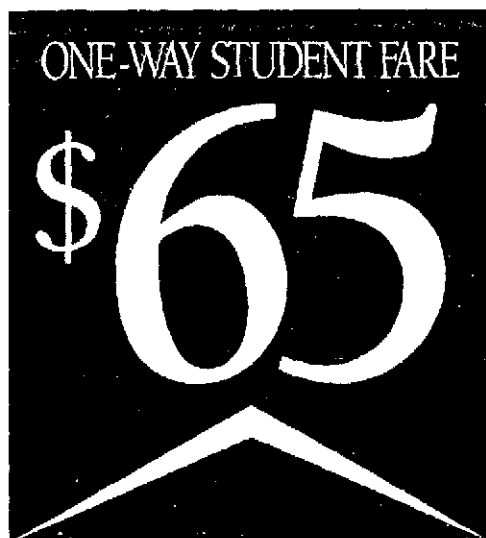
They may have to grow accustomed to Hewitt food and Harlem surroundings. They may be busy readjusting to Barnard vocabulary (first year—not freshman!) and alternative clothing styles.

But, for the most part, the '92 transfers agree that "easy coming and easy going" is all in a day's work.

"It's not like we're first-years anymore," said Holstein. "We're no longer trying to blend in. We know what we want now—a good education."

Mary Pflum is a Barnard College junior.

Leave school without upsetting your parents.



At this rate your parents would probably be ecstatic if you left school. Especially if you came home to visit.

You can take advantage of this \$65 one-way fare to fly between New York's LaGuardia Airport and Washington DC's National Airport, or New York and Boston's Logan Airport.

The student fare is valid Monday

through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays you can use them anytime you want.

If you find you want to travel frequently, you can also take advantage of the Delta Shuttle Flight Pack™ which is a book of four one-way tickets for just \$219 or a book of

eight one-way tickets for just \$399.

And just by enrolling in Delta's Frequent Flyer program you can accumulate valuable mileage for future travel.

For more information, call your Travel Agent or Delta at 1-800-221-1212. And remember, study hard, eat all your vegetables, and leave school whenever you can.

 **DELTA SHUTTLE** READY
WHEN
YOU ARE

Conditions of travel: Valid for youths 12-24 years of age. Proof of age required. Travel at non-designated youth times is permitted upon payment of the difference between the fare in effect at the time of travel and the value of the Delta Student Fare or Flight Pack ticket. Flight Pack travel valid for one (1) year from date of issue. Books and coupons are non-transferable to different individuals. Entire book must be presented at time of travel. Coupons are invalid if detached from book. There are no refunds for lost or stolen Flight Pack books. Refund and cancellation penalties will apply. Passengers' liability charges may apply. Fares and rules are subject to change without notice.