



BARNARD BULLETIN

VOLUME CI NUMBER 10 FEBRUARY 1, 1994

Body image at Barnard

THIN

DIET

FITNESS

Power

Inside

Barnard suffers through the cold

Movie reviews

A look inside the arming of Iraq



BEAR ESSENTIALS

REMINDERS FROM THE REGISTRAR:

If you put Columbia music lessons on your program and are unable to take them, you must file a drop slip.

You are billed for the number of points on the program filed January 28. There is no refund for dropped courses.

Programs without the adviser's signature are not accepted. If you filed an unsigned program, it will be returned to you and you will be billed a late fee when you file it properly signed.

FIRST-YEAR STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

If you need help with note taking, time management, test taking and paperwriting, this course is for you! Fridays February 11, 18, 25 and March 4, from 12 - 1:30. Please call Dean Webster to sign up x42024.

TUTORING INFORMATION

If you need a tutor or if you are interested in being a tutor for Barnard College students, please see Dean Webster in 105 Milbank.

JUNIORS who are interested in applying to Barnard's 5-year joint degree program with Columbia School of International and Public Affairs should speak with Dean Rundsorf x42024 prior to March 1, 1994.

BEAR IN MIND THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES: The last day to drop a course (for deletion from transcript) or request pass/D/fail is Thursday, March 24.

FINANCIAL AID

APPLICATIONS for the 1994-95 academic year are now available in the Financial Aid Office (14 Milbank). All current financial aid recipients must re-apply for financial aid. The deadline for submitting completed forms is Monday, April 15.

The **COPING WITH LOSS GROUP** will meet every Friday at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in 108 Milbank. Call the Office of the Dean of Studies x42024 or Health Services x42091 if you have experienced the loss of a loved one and wish to participate.

SENIOR CLIPBOARD

The deadline for ordering caps and gowns is Friday, February 25. Seniors who took Incompletes in fall 1993 should be sure to submit all outstanding work by March 25 if they hope to graduate in May. After submitting the work, they should fill out a "Work Completed" form at the Registrar's Office.

LIBRARY

The library will offer a number of demonstration sessions for CLIO Plus (a variety of online/electronic services) in addition to the online catalog) and NEXIS (a full database of newspapers, magazines and newsletters). See the schedule below.

Also remember that throughout the year, students may schedule individual consultation sessions with a reference librarian on a specific topic or area of research. Call Ms. Karen Dobrusky at x48595 for an appointment.

NEXIS and CLIO Plus demonstrations for interested faculty

and students will take place in the Library at the following times:

NEXIS CLIO Plus

Tues Feb 1 at 4pm	Wed
Feb 2 at 4pm	
Wed Feb 9 at 4pm	Tues
Feb 8 at 4pm	
Tues Feb 15 at 4pm	Wed
Feb 16 at 4pm	
Wed Feb 23 at 4pm	Tues
Feb 22 at 4pm	

Meet on the second floor at the Reference Desk. Please contact the Reference Desk if none of these times are convenient.

phone 854-3953
e m a i l
refdesk@barnard.columbia.edu

ESSAY CONTEST

The Sunkyong Group of Korea is proud to present its second annual Essay Contest for registered undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of science, government/law and business. The top three essays in each of the three areas will be chosen as the winners of Sunkyong's "Global Leaders of Tomorrow" Essay Contest. Winners will receive \$5,000 and a one-week trip to Korea. For more information, please call 212-906-8138.

BARNARD BULLETIN

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The *Barnard Bulletin*
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News

Details on search for new BC president remain confidential 5

Features

Frigid weather causes aggravation 6
Paradise lost: the minority struggle for identity 7
Genocide: panel tackles causes and responses 8

Women's Issue

Barnard women: Not immune to the *Fear of Fat* 10

Arts

Movie Review *Philadelphia* 12
Blue men land on Earth 13
New literary magazine begins production 13
Movie Review *In the Name of the Father* 14

Music

Can Doggy Dog do the hype? 15
Blur and Drop Nineteen at Irving Plaza 16
My CMJ music marathon 17
John Hiatt is perfectly good 18

Commentary

E-Mail opens door to communication revolution 19
Uncovering the truth about Iraqgate 20
Meal plan: convenience or pain in the ass? 21
The Heart of the Matter: Surviving Barnard registration 22
I can't get no respect: lamentations of an English major 23

An E-Mail addict confesses

from E-Mail, pg 19

Microsoft Corporation, Bill Gates whose address I had gotten from a recent article in the New Yorker I thanked him for pioneering the remarkable world to which I had just been exposed. As I walked home that night, consumed with the warmth of my newfound knowledge, I realized that I had missed a class. I missed another the next day, having lost track of time as I gazed into the azure depths of the IBMs in the ACC.

It took me about a week to realize that I had a serious problem. I vowed to limit my e-mail consumption. It was a difficult decision to reach and a nearly impossible goal to realize, but it had to be done.

I went through a short period of withdrawal. Occasionally my urge would get so strong that my fingers would quiver uncontrollably, and friends would have to physically restrain me as I lunged for the door of the ACC when on the way into the library. But I'm OK now. I've learned to take advantage of the joys of e-mail without abandoning the rest of my life. As I stride into the Acc, I look around and see people afflicted with the same virus that I once had. Hunched over their keyboards, their faces bear glazed expressions, dust accumulates on the tops of their heads and spider webs root the up turned heels of their Docs to the floor. I know their plight, am confident that eventually, they will overcome their addiction.

I check my mbox. A message from the President (or is it an imposter?), one from Ellen (Yes, we have resumed contact), and one from her little brother who somehow got a hold of my address. Nothing from Bill Gates yet. Oh well, he's just a stupid computer nerd anyway. Right?)

Claire Brinberg is a Barnard College Junior and a Bulletin Editor in-Chief

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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.

Letters to the Editor must be submitted no later than the Thursday preceding the publication of the issue.

Signed articles, letters or editorials represent the views of the writer, they do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire *Bulletin* staff.

Details on search for new Barnard president remain confidential

by Dory Dabrowski

Help Wanted: New president needed for women's college in New York City. Must have strong commitment to women's undergraduate education. All interested please apply to Helene L. Kaplan, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee.

Okay, so this is not for a real ad. But the search for a new Barnard president, which began in September, is going strong.

And what is the latest news on the search? Not much, really. The key word seems to be confidentiality. The nineteen members of the Presidential Search Committee, which includes Barnard trustees, faculty members, and students (as well as a Columbia University representative) are keeping quiet. Associate Dean of the Faculty and secretary of the Presidential Search Committee Flora Davidson was reluctant to say even how soon they expected to find a new President. However, she did say that they hoped to have one by the '94-'95 academic year.

Whoever they choose will have her work cut out for her in filling former president Ellen Futter's shoes. Futter, who had served as Barnard's president for 13 years, left her office on October 1 of this year to become president of the American Museum of Natural History. Currently, serving as acting president is former Barnard General Counsel and Vice-president Kathy Rodgers.

Meanwhile, the Barnard community eagerly awaits to see who will be chosen. Will the new president be accessible to students? Will she successfully uphold Barnard's fine tradition of women's undergraduate education? Is there a big, splashy inauguration like that of Columbia University President George Rupp? Where will they put the tents? Will students be invited? Stay tuned for details.

Book offers new light into the arming of Iraq

from *IRAQ*, pg. 20
and promote law.

In the 80s, our top government officials were supporting a dictator with a history of belligerence and human rights abuse a mile long. The costs were thousands of lives and regional stability. Will we read a paper ten years from now following another world crisis, only to discover, after some investigation, that the seeds had been sown during these years? It kind of makes you wonder: what is going on right now?

Sasha Soreff is a Barnard College Senior

Alan Friedman "Spider's Web: The Secret History of How the White House Illegally Armed Iraq and "The President was very, very mad", 11/7/93 NYT p 13

PLANNING TO BE IN NEW YORK THIS SUMMER?

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BARNARD

The Office of Summer Programs administers summer housing and provides support for a variety of Barnard-sponsored programs and special events. We are looking for outgoing Barnard and Columbia undergraduates to fill the following positions.

Summer Office Assistant:

- Work days and some weekends in the Office of Summer Programs.
- Supervise and free summer housing at Barnard.
- Assist with summer housing application process and bookkeeping.
- Provide public relations assistance.

Summer Program Assistant:

- Research and arrange with schedules leave days free for summer classes, internships and jobs.
- Supervise and free summer housing at Barnard.
- Coordinate preparation of residence halls for guests.
- Implement all aspects of Barnard's summer holiday program.
- Work on conferences and special events.

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW

Office of Summer Programs
Barnard College
11 Lakeside Hall
654-8021

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE FEBRUARY 4, 1994

Frigid weather causes aggravation

by Tara Griffin

I was standing in line at the Columbia Love s today tightly gripping my Midol in anticipation of pre menstrual blotation, when the rather short and plump woman in front of me began sneezing violently. In an effort to avoid spraying the man in front of her with an abundance of

Why
do
people
sneeze
on
me?

mucus she whipped her body around and sneezed on me instead. After ghoulish thoughts of water and electrocution torture dissipated, one word came to mind: WHY? WHY THE HELL DO PEOPLE SNEEZE ON ME? See this is not the first time someone has sneezed on me (read deliberately sneezed on me). There was the man on college walk who turned in my direction as he was casually sauntering by and let out a raucous sneeze. In the name of revenge, he slipped on

the ice, fell face first and probably broke his nose. HA take that you you sneezer you. I will also never forget that damn 6'4" jock in the crammed Altschul elevator who not only sneezed on my hair, but then wiped his puggish nose with his bare hand and knocked me out of the way as he exited the elevator with said hand. WHY? WHY ME? I DON'T WANT TO BE SNEEZED UPON. IS THAT SO WRONG?

With the amount of germs that have been sprayed in my direction it's a miracle I haven't gotten sick. In fact I'm rather thankful that I'm not dead. If this article is going to be a true grape session I might as well go all the way and point out that for the past two weeks I have spent many a cold night shivering under my comforter simply because Barnard College has outrightly denied me heat. I live in Hewitt and have complained to Facilities about my heat problem for two weeks. First I tell them that I don't have heat and would like to have it fixed immediately. They tell me that they'll get someone "right on it." I know that they're lying so I tell them that I'm from Hawaii and that

my body isn't used to the sub zero temperatures of this Winter Wonderland O Hell. They chuckle a bit, point to me, ask me why I'm not tan and tell me, once again, that they'll get someone "right on it." As desperation kicks in, I try unsuccessfully to bring a tear to my eye. They don't fall for it and essentially kick me out of their office.

This brings me back to the same question that has been plaguing me since I got to this dump: WHY? WHY do people sneeze on me? WHY do my parents pay \$25,000 a year when they're not even sure if I'll live through the night? WHY am I here and not in Hawaii with a pina coloda in one hand and my sun tan lotion in the other? WHY am I a Medieval and Renaissance Studies major (we'll save that for another article)? My friend Tanya expresses similar concerns. Although people don't sneeze on her as readily as they do on me, she is currently suffering from the common East Coast cold. A fellow Hawaiian Tanya begs to know WHY a "cure for the common cold has eluded the medical community for so long.

I might have an answer to these questions. Life on the east coast, especially New York, is one big obstacle course/melting manipulation pot. I'm a big Frank Sinatra fan and when I was little I would listen to his ultra popular New York New York song "You know the one 'If I can make it there I'll make it anywhere.' I have taken those words to heart and am determined to beat New York at its own game. I will conquer this place even if you sneeze on me, withhold my heat, make me walk on ice to get to class, or try to run me over with your maniacal yellow cabs. I will be "[Queen] of the hill, top of the heap." So the next time you see me, I dare you to sneeze on me. I'll be waiting. I'll just sneeze back tenfold and we'll see who starts complaining.

Tara Griffin is a Barnard College Sophomore.

Paradise lost: The minority struggle for identity

by Lavonne Leong

Hawaii. The word conjures up images of paradise—clean air, clear water, sun, sand and surf. Lately though it's been getting attention for other things. An issue long important to native Hawaiians is receiving more and more attention as similar questions are raised throughout the United States: minorities receive special treatment? The answer, according to several vocal Hawaiian groups, is clearly yes. Native Hawaiians (and it's difficult to decide who's native and who's not, since by some counts there are no pure blooded Hawaiians in existence anymore) have begun a movement for Hawaiian Sovereignty, but very few can agree just what the term entails. The word Sovereignty embraces everything from extremist views that everyone without native blood should be booted out of the state to the vague but admirable sentiment that native Hawaiians should be given more recognition and racial pride.

Hawaiian history has repeated itself again and again in myriad forms in Western history: discovery, colonization, oppression, Westernization. The population of native Hawaiians sank precipitously when Western diseases against which the Hawaiians had no tolerance were introduced. The established monarchy was toppled, native dances were banned, native dress was transformed, native religion was suppressed. Eventually Hawaii became the overdeveloped tourist curiosity you see in the newspaper's travel section advertisements. In other words, the same old story playing out in the same old way—at least until recently.

[What happened to the Hawaiians] was unjust, says Tara Griffin (BC '96), a member of the campus Hawaiian Club, Ohana. It's just like the Native Americans, but it's hard to know what to do. I could see myself taking a moderate approach, but I think if NAFTA is implemented, then Hawaiian sovereignty would be a little bit more appropriate. Sugar is the mainstay of the

Hawaiian economy next to tourism, and NAFTA would cripple the sugar industry. It's not just about economics though. It's about culture.

Culture indeed. Sovereignty raises the issue of cultural identity in a big way. How does one preserve cultural identity without shutting out other influences completely?

How does one preserve cultural identity without shutting out other influences completely?

It's impossible, say some. Not so say others—it's simply a matter of giving respect to many viewpoints. Cynical native Hawaiians are understandably wary of the latter approach, but ultimately it may be the only answer possible.

They're going to attract tourism no matter what, says Griffin, who was born and raised in the state, because it's Hawaii. You can't get away from that. Hawaii must struggle not only with what it was, but what it has become—a Mecca for those from around the globe who are fleeing dreary weather and shorter days. Even if Sovereignty were to be granted, barring tourism would be out of the question. Hawaiians would undoubtedly be stuck with the same problems they have always had, not the least of them being economic dependence on outside sources.

Sovereignty for a native minority group five thousand miles away—what does it have to do with the other end of the United States? Everything. It's a universal problem, concludes Griffin. Everybody is thinking about identity.

Lavonne Leong is a *Bull* in Features Editor and a senior at Barnard.

Genocide: panel tackles causes and responses

by Nicole Hala

'For two or three days, they tortured my father again and again. First, they tortured his skin, then they tortured his back. They burned him with cigarettes on his arm, his chest. In fact, they did this three or four times a day. They burned his beard with matches. Every day, 15 or 16 persons died as a result of the torture. They took women from their families. It's said that they were raped and many never returned. You could see traces of the blood in many places throughout the fort. They tortured and killed many people in front of women and children.'

This is the testimony of one Kurd who was held captive with countless others by the Iraqi government from 1987-1988. Elisabeth

Benjamin, a lawyer specializing in human rights for the Mitterand Foundation, has gathered hundreds of other similarly chilling stories in her work to set up a Commission of Inquiry to hold a special tribunal to prosecute the Iraqi government for its campaign of genocide against the Kurdish people. Joining Benjamin in a panel discussion entitled "Genocide: Causes and Responses", was David Hawk, a human rights specialist on Cambodia. The event was part of the 1993 Human Rights Relations/Race Relations Week at Columbia, was co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Human Rights and the Whitney M. Young Jr. Program on Race Relations.

'Genocide is the worst case violation of human rights,' proclaimed Hawk, the director of a non-governmental organization investigating the atrocities waged by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. (Formerly Hawk served as the executive director of Amnesty International in the US, as well as a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia.) Genocide is not just the political murder of an individual by a government, but murder and other sorts of violence and torture conducted by a government on such a scale and in such a proportion as to possibly threaten the continued existence of a particular group. Hawk added that, by the time the

situation reaches that level of violence or degenerates into that terrible situation, it's actually the hardest for the international community to deal with, as opposed to something like miscarriage of justice or mere political imprisonment or other things which are more easy for one country to talk about to another country.

Genocide is not just the political murder of an individual by a government, but murder and other sorts of violence and torture conducted by a government on such a scale and in such a proportion as to possibly threaten the continued existence of a particular group.

What was the cause of this massive violence inflicted on the people of Cambodia and the Kurds in Iraq? The participants' comments revealed that the reasons explaining these two particular situations of genocide are quite different. In Cambodia, millions were massacred in the

name of ideology: the communist totalitarianism of the Khmer Rouge. From 1975-1979, the Cambodian government attempted a 'super leap forward' from semi-feudalism to communism, skipping over capitalism and socialism. Fighting on behalf of what they claimed to be the 'world's greatest revolution,' they set about to eliminate the portions of the Cambodian population that they deemed irremediably tainted by associations with feudalism, capitalism or imperialism, said Hawk. In the end, Hawk believes that over one million people perished.

Though ethnicity purification was certainly a factor, Benjamin believes that much of the violence conducted by the Iraqi government against the Kurds was motivated not by conceptual principles, but for material reasons. After plans for an interim autonomous region of Kurdistan in the lower Southeastern Turkey were deserted, the Kurdish people were divided up and settled into four states: Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. The Kurds in Iraq found their new territory in the Northern crescent of Iraq a relatively fertile and prosperous region. This resettlement was not met with much enthusiasm in the Iraqi government, which initiated huge campaigns of repression involving the relocation of entire villages from the mountainous area of the North down into the South, explained Benjamin.

Then they put Iraqis up into the North. To achieve this re-location, the Iraqi military set up prison camps without due process, systematically destroyed villages, directed mass executions, killing somewhere between 15 and 18 000 Kurds.

Though documentation has been collected which Elisabeth Benjamin feels can prove that the Iraqi government had engaged in a systematic campaign of terror in 1987-88 to eliminate the Kurdish population in Northern Iraq, as of yet no formal case has been made against the authorities in Iraq. This is a process which takes years, Benjamin explained. So essentially the same leaders remain in power.

The situation in Cambodia has been equally dismal. For a decade, UN agencies led, housed and clothed the Khmer Rouge, Hawk said. Reluctant to detract attention from the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, a majority of the United Nations member states refused to try the Cambodian government for the genocide of the Pol Pot

regime. Again, this was in the face of extensive evidence and personal testimony concerning massive acts of violence perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. Hawk lamented that "Deplorably perpetrators of the Khmer Rouge genocide are still around."

The genocide in for two years in Iraq and four in Cambodia. As it had during the Holocaust, the world stood by and watched. Cynical geo-politics is what Hawk called it: irresponsible, callous and inhumane might be other words. Still even today it seems that the age of cynical geo-politics lingers on as we continue to turn our backs on the death and misery inflicted on innocents. One need only look as far as the former Yugoslavia, East Timor, or to the various military dictatorships of Latin America to find the latest victims of global indifference.

Nicole Hale is a Harvard College Senior and a Bulletin Staff Writer.

CMJ provides opportunity to hear different bands

from CMJ, pg. 17

I've showcased new material at this show with the exception of Operation Spirit and Pain Lies on the Riverside. I always thought vocalist Ed Kowalczyk had a unique voice. Judging from this recent show, it is apparent that he has spent too much time listening to Pearl Jam. Not only did his singing style resemble Eddie Vedder's but he even grew his hair long. Even in his stage movements, Kowalczyk suspiciously replicated the Pearl Jam frontman.

The other let down was Kowalczyk's attitude. This was my third time seeing Live and I've always liked them. I'm sorry to say that I've lost some respect for them due to the unwarranted inflation of the vocalist's ego. Despite these negative aspects, the band did have some decent new songs. Their music is a bit heavier than it was on the last album.

Overall CMJ provided people with a means to see up and coming bands, whether signed or unsigned. Aside

from shows, there were various music industry panels held at the Waldorf Astoria that dealt with college radio publicity, marketing, etc. It's doubtful that people learned much from attending panels, particularly this year with the rehashed issues of feminism in rock, music journalism and journalist identity. However, CMJ can be an interesting adventure into the world of music and a great way to make connections if you are interested entering the music business.

Hillary Reder is a Harvard College First Year and a Bulletin Staff Writer.

Editor's Note: A few more bands worth checking out: Heatmiser, Silkswarm, Halcyon, Jamblox, St. Johns, and the ever disturbing performance of the Jim Rose Circus. Sideshow: For singer/songwriter fans David Grey, Patty Larkin, and Lisa Germano should not be missed.

Barnard women: Not immune to the Fear of Fat

by Margarida Jorge

Societal demands on women do not stop at Barnard's main gate. Expectations, qualifications, and standards of

from a negative body image. The time that they spend worrying about the size of their stomach and thighs,

Eating disorders may also be common to Barnard campus because of the women here: they tend to be white, upper and middle class women, the type most susceptible to anorexia, bulimia and/or compulsive eating.

counting calories and exercising incessantly varies, but the propensity for a large number of women to engage in these activities is shockingly uniform.

feminine beauty pervade our campus, warping our perception of ourselves and our bodies. Where do they come from? From media, capitalism, our parents, our educators, our peers, in short, from every direction until, finally, and disturbingly, they lodge within ourselves. Although it is often difficult to recognize these conceptions while actually immersed in them, a trained observer or an outsider can not help but notice Barnard women's preoccupation with body image and weight control nor the surprising adherence to society's rigid portrait of what is considered "beautiful."

Ironically, despite all our awareness about male domination, discrimination, structural roots of sexism, and gender construction, we continue to remain slaves to narrow definitions of beauty and femininity and to therefore participate in our own abuse. We punish our bodies for not shaping themselves as we have been brainwashed to believe that they should be shaped. Women's magazines and consumer sales strategists conspire with us, and against us in a mad race to attain a prescribed perfection at the expense of our time, our health, and our happiness.

Many of the women who read this piece will argue that I am fabricating a problem where none need exist. However, Giselle Harrington, psychologist and program coordinator for Barnard Health Services, suggests that as much as ninety percent of Barnard's population may suffer

Let there be no misunderstanding here: no one is suggesting that attention to diet and exercise are negative or unhealthy pursuits. On the contrary, they are very healthy when done in moderation and when the participant's attitude is not compulsive or self-deprecating. Yet too often, this is the case. Current studies indicate that as many as ten percent of college women suffer from bulimia, an eating disorder characterized by bingeing (compulsive eating) and purging through excessive exercise, laxatives, restrictive eating and induced vomiting. Another five to ten percent experience anorexia nervosa, a disorder in which the individual is plagued by a negatively distorted body perception and harbors an intense fear of weight gain. The victim's weight may fall to fifteen percent below the normal level and she may begin to miss menstrual cycles as a result of self-imposed starvation.

Often times, the person who is involved in starvation does not see her behavior as self-destructive or does not realize that she is under the influence of a genuine psychological illness. Those around her often praise her for her thinness and the images of thin media figures, etc likewise provide a positive reinforcement for her behavior. This may be particularly true of Barnard women for the simple reason that our location in a fast-paced, glamorous city that encompasses many image-oriented industries like fashion, modeling, dance, etc actively promotes thinness

Eating disorders may also be common to Barnard campus because of the women here: they tend to be white upper and middle class women, the type most susceptible to anorexia, bulimia and/or compulsive eating.

In fact, however, the bulimic, anorexic, or compulsive eater is usually grappling with serious issues of control in which she feels that she has little jurisdiction over her life save in her dietary practices and body size. Often, the individual adopts the strategy that if she loses another few pounds, everything will fall into place in her life as a whole. She thus displaces her impotence in some matters by focusing exclusively on food and feeding, something she can control.

Susie Orbach, author of *Fat Is A Feminist Issue* argues this very point: fat is about control and self-acceptance, indeed, it is a state of mind as much as a physical condition. She proposes that compulsive eating and dieting actually constitute a feminist issue. Fat, which she calls "an adaptation to the oppression of women," signifies a rejection of the limitations of women's role in a patriarchal society that seeks to control their bodies and minds. In light of her discussion, it is not very surprising that the emphasis on fat is so extreme in the 1990s. Women are finally coming to power in many respects and simultaneously challenging the male (patriarchal) domination

that characterizes our society. Waif-like models, impossible proportions and the gargantuan

diet industry are contractive defenses of that society: it wants to keep women under control. It is largely succeeding.

Many women defend their obsession with body image by suggesting that in the "real world" women are judged on the basis of appearance. Giselle Harrington notes that this is a common attitude at Barnard. Although she willingly concedes that appearance plays some role in

finding a job and such other activities, she also argues that women worry disproportionately about this and often see it as their paramount recommendation in seeking employment, ignoring their academic, intellectual and personality attributes almost wholly.

In general, the amount of energy diverted to the pursuit of the "perfect" body is astounding and distressing. A neglected understanding and acceptance of the fact that bodies come in all sizes and shapes and cannot be dieted or exercised to fit a precisely prescribed model seems lacking. We are therefore condemned to watch our friends, families and peers waste away before us while we are powerless and frustrated to stop a mindset inflicted on them by socialization and internalized in their thought processes. We are a traumatized audience, buried in our frustration with ourselves and with the victims we often feel powerless to help. Eating disorders are especially trying because there is such a refusal to acknowledge that a problem exists and a confusion about how to approach the individual without alienating her.

Yet we must certainly not give up. A new group on campus, Women's Health Images and Self-Esteem (WHISE), is one of the many options available to people with eating disorders and those who are trying to help. The group is affiliated with Barnard Health Services and

A neglected understanding and acceptance of the fact that bodies come in all sizes and shapes and cannot be dieted or exercised to fit a precisely prescribed model seems lacking.

hopefully will prove a useful resource for the whole community.

Margaida Jorge is a junior at Barnard and a Bulletin co-editor-in-chief.

Philadelphia explores AIDS and homosexuality

by Chiu Huey Hsia

Philadelphia—the new movie that explores prejudice against individuals with AIDS—explores Homophobia in the Age of AIDS depicts the story of an AIDS afflicted



Philadelphia director Jonathan Demme and star Tom Hanks discuss a scene

homosexual lawyer played by Tom Hanks of *Big* and *Sleepless in Seattle* stardom. He is very convincing as he embraces his lover Antonio Banderas of *Mambo Kings* fame. Hanks has the HIV virus that most often develops into full-blown AIDS as he conceals his homosexuality and symptoms from his colleagues at a prestigious law firm. He is a hard worker and true to his art—defending justice. His hard work leads to a promotion, but on the glorious day a co-worker notices a lesion on his forehead. A few days later, Hanks is fired for supposedly neglecting to hand in paperwork for an important trial. Hanks believes that he is wrongly accused and is really being fired as a result of the firm's fear of AIDS. He seeks xxxxx played by Denzel Washington to file suit against the firm for discrimination against AIDS-afflicted workers. Washington famous for *Malcolm X* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, is slick and powerful as he negotiates the

screen with his lively acting. He is so appealing because he convincingly represents the fear of AIDS and homosexuals with which many viewers can readily identify. As one observes Washington's apprehensiveness when Hanks shakes his hand and touches his desk and cigars, one is reminded of the general paranoia of AIDS that many people feel. Washington even goes to the extent of consulting his doctor and asking if he can transmit AIDS to his child after Hank's visit.

Washington's character is not only afraid of AIDS but also of homosexuals. His homophobic jokes in the movie's first half and his violent reaction to an invitation to a bar from a homosexual are Hollywood's version of generalized behavior of most heterosexual men. The uneasiness and bias of Washington's character against AIDS and homosexuality are effectively conveyed not only by the actor but also by camera close-ups further revealing the actor's emotions. The director Jonathan Demme, academy award winner for his *The Silence of the Lambs*, effectively manipulates many camera close-ups throughout the film to intensify the actors' emotions.

Although the movie is a Hollywood version of AIDS—the main character is an upper middle class Caucasian male working at a prestigious law firm, there is some truth to the plot. Hanks' character suffers from lesions spreading, like a plague all over his body with dizziness, vomiting, fever, and eventually blindness—all true symptoms of full-blown AIDS. He remains true to his art defending justice until the end—his end with the guiding supportive hand of Washington's reformed character.

This is the first major mainstream movie with popular film stars that attempts to deal with AIDS and homosexuality. Not only does this movie question, probe and answer it simultaneously, unlike people's deepest fears and taboos.

Chiu Huey Hsia is a student at the First Year of a Bull in

Blue men land on Earth

by Chiu-Huey Hsia

Charlie Chaplin was world famous and he never said a word on screen. Now three bald blue men who are speechless on stage dazzle their audience with Captain Crunch cereal, Cheeze Whiz, water tornadoes and DNA. What is the secret of their phenomenon? Is it the audience participation? You get to bombard people with toilet paper as flashing fluorescent lights apparently blind you. KL's 3 AM Eternal pulsates so loud that it replaces your heart rate. The show appeals to all of your senses simultaneously that you are lifted on a flying roller coaster of pure fun.

Do the Blue Man Group's unique manipulation of human ears with drumsticks attribute to their spectacle? How about gumball air-brushed paintings? Do you find these yummy ingredients of a dynamic show to be convoluted? Nothing makes sense in their performance. The show shatters all the laws of theater concerning plot, acting and scenery: it is performance art. The blue men are having a party and you're invited.

Blue Man Group Tubes is a long, running show. The show began two years ago at the Astor Place Theater, 434



Lafayette Street in the East Village. For more information call the box office at 212 254 4370.

Chiu-Huey Hsia is a Barnard College First Year and a Bulletin Arts Editor.

New literary magazine begins production

by Jeanine Utell

Writers and artists at Barnard College have been silent long enough. Their words and visions have gone unheard, unseen. Students have been deprived of a forum for creativity for too many years. The students need to be heard.

The Barnard Literary Society is planning to publish its first ever magazine in the beginning of April. The deadline was February 1, and submissions from both Barnard and Columbia students were welcomed. Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and all artwork have been encouraged, and the university-wide response has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. The magazine's editorial board recently commenced the selection process and published their list next month.

This is the only literary magazine to have been published first in decades. Karen van der Blink, Executive Editor, Society and Editor in Chief of the magazine, expressed high hopes for the project. She firmly believes that literary students need to have their work seen and read by the world, and a literary magazine would be the perfect medium. She would like the magazine to reflect the college's diversity and has stated that students' many different perspectives

would enrich the the magazine.

The literary magazine will be available on both campuses, free of charge. This year, only one issue will be published. However, plans are being made for two issues next year, one each semester.

The Barnard Literary Society will publish the first issue of the magazine, *Sun Days*, in March. It will be published by the Barnard Literary Society, 1100 Broadway, Room 1015, New York, NY 10036. The magazine is available for purchase at the Barnard Bookstore, 1100 Broadway, Room 1015, New York, NY 10036.



The Literary Society president Karen van der Blink.

will be published through it. The magazine will be published by the Barnard Literary Society, 1100 Broadway, Room 1015, New York, NY 10036.

In the Name of the Father lives up to its expectations

by Jessica Houghton

As my friend and I approached the Chelsea Theater carefully taking little baby steps and holding on to each other for dear life, I was prepared for disappointment. We were going to see the new Daniel Day-Lewis flick *In the Name of the Father*. I had heard that this movie has it all: injustice, outrage, great actors, and great music. I was convinced that the movie wasn't going to fulfill our expectations. I had recently seen *The Remains of the Day*, expecting something wonderful and only getting something mediocre and too long. I had also seen *The Pelican Brief*, and having read the book I was anticipating a fast paced thriller, but got a carelessly directed



Daniel Day-Lewis and Emma Thompson create memorable roles in *In the Name of the Father*

disappointment. So I braced myself for another failure, figuring that at least I'd get to salivate over Daniel (the man of my dreams) for a couple of hours.

For the first time in a while I wasn't let down.

The film is set in Belfast, Ireland and London and Guilford, England. It centers around the life of Gerry Conlon (Daniel Day-Lewis) and his father, played with wonderful elegance by Pete Postlethwaite. It begins in Belfast with Gerry, a petty thief, who gets into some trouble. His father sends him to London, where he proceeds to get himself into even more trouble. He

manages to be at the wrong place at the wrong time and gets arrested for bombing a Guilford Pub.

The scenes in which Gerry is interrogated are very frightening. Just before the bombing, England had passed a law that allowed the police to hold terrorist suspects for up to seven days without making an arrest. This law gave the police an entire week to get their suspects to sign a confession. Gerry was mentally and physically abused repeatedly, because he refused to sign.

Lewis has an incredible range of talent. He has played a homosexual in *My Beautiful Laundrette*, a stuck up prude in *A Room With a View*, and a lecherous doctor in *Unbearable Lightness of Being*. And until now, his most memorable performance has been a cerebral palsy victim, Christie Brown, in *My Left Foot*, which Jim Sheridan also directed. Now, in the performance of his career, he shows us what a true actor is. He blends humor, cruelty, and tenderness into a performance that is probably the best of the year.

Emma Thompson also stars in the film, and while she is as charming as always, she seems to be underworked. It was a role that a lot of people could have played well. An actress as fine as Thompson seems wasted in this part.

The most astonishing performance in this film comes from Pete Postlethwaite, as Gerry's long-suffering father, Giuseppe Conlon. He is very effective as he holds on to his peaceful principles in the face of tremendous adversity. He portrays a beautiful picture of a father loyal enough to his son to join and fight with him in prison, while longing for his beloved wife at home.

Sheddan brilliantly illustrates Gerry's conversion from violent to peaceful protester. Everything about this film was fresh and exciting. There were no disappointments. Sheridan reminds us that nothing is certain and that any government that considers ruining our lives has the power.

Jessica Houghton is a Barnard College First Year.

Can Doggy Dog do the hype? Can you?

by Asah Solomon

Snoop Doggy Dogg *Doggystyle* (Death Row Records/Interscope)

Naturally, *Doggystyle*, the debut album by Dre protégé and the true star of "The Chronic" LP, Snoop Doggy Dogg does not live up to the frenzy of anticipatory hype. How could it? But in its own way it is brilliant. On this latest chronicle in the Death Row Records/Dogg Pound saga Snoop's nasal voice catches your ear and grabs it. His gunmetal hard, singsongy L.A. drawl makes up for what the album lacks in lyrical range (*Doggystyle* is no braggin', mo' weed, mo' hos, and no, drawing the word "bitch" out to BFF-ITCH is not an innovative twist on old tired subject matter). Also showcased are the rhyming talents of other Dogg Pounders: Kurupt, Dat Nigga Daz, RBX, female MC, The Lady of Rage (thank God, she rips s--- up!), the newly-recovered D.O.C. and Dre, of course. Also, the Dramatics pitch in their harmonies in on "Doggy Dogg World."

Musically, *Doggystyle* is more of what super-producer Dre does best: synth-heavy improvisations on George Clinton funk and seventies soul gems smoothed out over laid-back driving beats. Despite this, *Doggystyle* captures a completely different flavor than "The Chronic." Right down to the cover art cartoon and the high drama blaxploitation and R&B DJ skits between songs, this album is not so much about the hard reality of g life as it is caricature, parody, and camp. Snoop's remake of mid-eighties classic, "I a Di Da Di," (now "Iodi Dodi") with a few word changes (nigga, bitch, indo) and the addition of eerie, hypnotic funk tracks, brings Weird Al to mind almost as fast as Snoop's idol, Sick Rick. Ain't No Fun (If the Homies Can't Have None), a standard we hate-women romp is a wicked satire of R&B with vocalist Nate Dogg singing an entire verse about the female object of his lust/contempt and Snoop emitting "Whoa!" during his rhyme—all on top of an early 80s hit soul sound. In "Murder Was the Case (Death After Visualizing Eternity)" Snoop draws a nightmarish cartoon of his imagined death and divine encounter. Chilling lyrics ("Pumpkin on my chest and I'm screaming")

stopped breathin' / Damn I see demons) are accompanied by church bells and the voice of God (or Satan), who if you didn't know has an L.A. drawl and curses. As far as I'm concerned, "What's My Name" is a parody of Snoop himself with the over-the-top ad libbing by female vocalists (but perhaps this wasn't the intention). All in all, *Doggystyle* is a well produced exercise in jagged edge gangsta satire. Question is: can you laugh?

Asah Solomon is a Barnard humor and a Bulletin Staff Writer



Blur and Drop Nineteens at Irving Plaza

by Hilary Reiter

Anyone who adheres to the belief that opening bands are supposed to warm up the crowd for the headliner would have been pretty disappointed by the Drop Nineteens, who opened for Blur on December 3 at Irving Plaza. If anything they made the audience mellow out just barely managing to squeeze out an applause from the young Blur fans. Their songs lacked imagination and creativity which made their set rather unmemorable. Jumping on the girl-in-the-band-bandwagon, the little girl Megan Gilbert screamed a lot about bad boys and

Greg Aekell, leader of the band and rock star wanna be tried to be her sympathizing savior. "Gag Me!" It was annoying from the start and only got worse.

Blur finally hit the stage and clearly lived up to everybody's high expectations. They are one of a few bands that are able to write excellent pop songs without sounding mainstream. They also happen to be a refreshing departure from the countless number of aggressive alternative bands that are springing up everywhere. Blur is full of energy without being angry

and political. These guys obviously love performing and respond positively to the crowd's enthusiasm.

The British group played several songs from their latest release *Modern Life is Rubbish* (EMI Records). The audience sang along on each song which was impressive being that the album has only been in stores for a couple of weeks.

Blur's current songs should definitely increase their popularity. They are impossible to ignore with catchy, intelligent tunes such as "Coping" (advert and personal favorite), "For Tomorrow"

Hilary Reiter is a Barnard College Junior and a Bulletin Staff Writer.



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My CMJ music marathon diary

by Hilary Reiter

Every Year the music trade magazine, College Music Journal, hold a week long convention for college radio, publications and music industry-types. During the day, there are panels to see and exhibits set up by record labels. At night there are many many bands of all kinds playing at just about every down-town club available. Here is one CMJ'er's account of her travels through the hit or miss world of college music.

At first glance I wasn't terribly excited about the shows that CMJ had to offer this year. However, once I started hitting the clubs that first night I discovered that there were great bands to be seen after all.

Seattle's Green Apple Quick Step performed a tight and energetic set at The Grand On November 3rd. With their unique punk / rock, they proved that Seattle has more to offer music fans than standard grunge. The lead vocalist kept the audience enthralled with his outstanding voice and sexy stage presence. Green Apple's debut, Wonderful Virus, is out on Medicine records. Green Apple was followed by Bark Market who seem to play during every music convention. I didn't stay for most of their set, but their new songs are much better. They've definitely improved since 1992's New Music Seminar.

After The Grand I moved on to Irving Plaza, just in time for Girls Against Boys. This is a band I've heard much about recently, and they definitely lived up to the buzz. They feature both male and female vocals and crunching guitar melodies.

Late that night Groove Collective jammed at SOB's. I can't think of a better way that my night could have ended. Groove Collective is part of the Giant Step ensemble. They are an ethnically diverse band that plays a unique style of acid jazz and hip hop. They have some of the greatest horn players around, and the crowd was definitely loving every minute of the group's set. Look for their debut release, produced by Gary Katz (Steely Dan) due out in February on Warner Brothers.

November 4th was the night of the most highly anticipated show. Rage Against the Machine and Quicksand at Roseland. Quicksand played a powerful, no frills set which included most of the songs from Slip

The room absolutely exploded from the very second Rage Against the Machine stormed the stage. It was chaos for the entire hour they played. Lead singer Zack De La

Rocha was aggressive and angry as he sang favorites such as "Know Your Enemy," "Bullet in the Head," and "Take the Power Back." He gave an unnecessary pro choice speech which led the band into "Freedom." I'm getting really tired of bands who use their live performances as a political forum. It disrupts the pace of the show, and after all no one is really interested in what Zack De La Rocha has to say about politics. Just play the music!

Obviously, Rage was called back for an encore and played "Killing in the Name" to nobody's surprise. This song, as well as all the others, sounded just as excellent as it does on the album. The entire crowd (predominately adolescent males) was screaming "Fuck You! I won't do what you tell me!" along with the band.

On November 5th Therapy? played to a packed house at The Grand. Their music is hard and noisy while the chorus of each song is really catchy. It's hard to believe that a three piece band is capable of creating such a thick sound. Therapy? performed songs from their latest release Hats Off to the Insane such, including my favorite, "Screamager." The Irish group writes songs with fierce images: "You want to know what grows / inside my head / You make incisions with a rusty can," ("Speedball") \ Therapy? was a tough act to follow and the next band, Tad just couldn't do it. I left after a couple of songs.

Saturday, November 6 was the final night of CMJ. Imago Recording Artist, Plan B, performed catchy pop tunes with imaginative dance samples at Don Hill's. I was a bit surprised that they covered "Somebody to Shove" by Soul Asylum. That wasn't very cool. I haven't heard Plan B's new album yet, but if it's anything close to the caliber of their performance, you shouldn't be disappointed.

Later that evening Irving Plaza was packed for Dig and Live. Over the summer I saw Dig open for the Ramones, and I thought they were a promising new artist. The triple guitar band had a well-textured sound, but this time around I was bored by their performance.

Up next was the headliner, Live, who left the music scene for a while to record a second album. The young band from York, PA received a fair amount of success with their debut album which featured the song "Operation Spirit."

cont' CMJ, pg. 9

John Hiatt is perfectly good

by Carrie Lieberstein

John Hiatt *Perfectly Good Guitar* (A & M Records)



John Hiatt's new release entitled *Perfectly Good Guitar* offers upbeat songs consisting of easily detected, uplifting grooves and comfortable tempos which Hiatt works to his advantage in producing a somewhat unique sound. Hiatt plays with several musical genres including country, western and blues which all add to his dynamic style.

A few songs are particularly noteworthy including the first single "Perfectly Good Guitar" which is reminiscent of early Neil Young. The song features an assertive, heavy guitar rhythm played in moderate tempo.

"Perfectly Good Guitar" is a song about Hiatt's dilemma with the younger rock n rollers performing to him. "It breaks my heart to see the superstar smash a perfectly

good guitar/ I don't know who they think they are/ smashing a perfectly good guitar

"Angel" features overt country/western nuances in addition to heavy rock. The guitars tend to play in a whiny/ twangy manner while Hiatt sings with a twang.

"Old Habit" which sounds similar to Robert Cray's music is a moderately slow song slightly more aggressive than the sound of many contemporary blues/rock guitarists.

On the ballad "Straight Outta Time" Hiatt combines the sounds of acoustic and electric guitars and a mandolin.

The down side to this album is Hiatt's voice. In some instances, one can hear his voice crack and he tends to sound atonal and unnatural. His attempts at a falsetto do not work to his advantage. A few of the tracks are musically dynamic yet the tempos are rather banal and boring as on "Buffalo River Home".

"Perfectly Good Guitar" is a clever, at all times, unique rock and roll album. Hiatt comes much closer to his roots than most of the younger artists today. Thus for some, will make Hiatt's music more than perfectly good.

Carrie Lieberstein is a Barnard College Senior

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E-Mail opens door to a communications revolution

by Claire Brinberg

Three weeks ago I took my first tentative step onto the information superhighway. I opened my computer account at the Academic Computer Center, and learned my e-mail address. I had put off my initiation into the modern age for some time, but it had to happen eventually, and as the first days of the new year slipped away, it did. Tarry not, my fellow computer illiterates who have yet to venture forth on the road to technological proficiency: E-Mail is cool—and easy to learn, and it opens up a whole new world for you. It did for me.

My friend Ellen went to Vienna last semester, and I promised to write faithfully every week. After I received Ellen's first letter, I sat down at my desk, pulled out a piece of stationery, turned on the music, and began to compose my response. In minutes, the day's events spilled onto the page: an "A" in Economics, a fight with my mother, a tumble down the steps. A half hour later, I was done. Carefully folding the paper, so the ends matched up perfectly, I slipped it into a clean white envelope. In bold letters, I began to write Ellen's address on the front. I mis-spelled her last name, ruining the pristine appearance of the letter. This was inexcusable! Ripping open the envelope, I withdrew the paper. The next three envelopes met a similar fate until finally I emerged victorious, having put the final period on the return address. Still, the letter was a long way from the mailbox. I had yet to find a stamp, a herculean task. I searched through drawers that had not been opened in weeks, I asked my room mates and neighbors, I tried to peel a stamp off of a bill I had received, all to no avail. "Oh well, I thought. I'll pick one up on the way to class tomorrow.

A week later, the letter still lay on my desk, and was beginning to gather dust. I had finally found a stamp, but I had new things to say, and my poor old letter seemed hopelessly passé. I never sent Ellen a letter, and she never sent me another one. Apart from a birthday phone call, we did not communicate for the entire semester.

"So what's the point?" You may be wondering. To

illustrate the purpose of this charming anecdote, I will employ another, a short one though. My friend Kara, also a friend of Ellen's, kept in close contact with our friend overseas without writing a folding a page, addressing an envelope or licking a stamp (and her three dollar phone bill enabled her to lead a much more active social life than I did). She used e-mail, something that I should have done.

Well Ellen is back in the States now, but she goes to school in Pennsylvania, almost as far as Vienna for my purposes since calling is too expensive to become a regular practice. But as of this month, Ellen and I need not go more than a few hours without communication, for I too got online. The first day of my travels into the Internet, I sent her three messages and she sent me four. The next day, however, I began to fear that my introduction to e-mail might actually decrease the frequency of my correspondence with my far-away friend. You see, there are many



people online whose insights are sometimes more interesting than the tidbits Ellen sends me: what she had for breakfast (which class she dozed off in, etc. (take no offense, my friend) and getting in touch with them is easy. For example, I was going to tell her about a recent fight with my boyfriend, but on a whim, I e-mailed President Clinton (president@whitehouse.com) instead, expressing my congratulations on a well delivered State of the Union Address. I also offered my position on healthcare reform, my reflections on the situation in Bosnia and my suggestions of books for him to recommend to Chelsea (Maybe just maybe Bill won't read my message, but I heard that some one in the White House Staff always responds to e-mail). Having completely forgotten my romantic woes, and the friend I had planned to dump them on, I leaned closer to the screen and pondered who the next recipient of a Brinberg e-mail would be.

That afternoon I sent another message to the President, two to the Vice President, and one to the founder of the con't E-Mail pg. 4

Uncovering the truth about Iraqgate

by Sasha Soreff

This article was written three months ago after the publication of the book, *Spider's Web: The Secret History of How the White House Illegally Armed Iraq*.

A favored word describing the sentiment of the majority of the American public towards its government is cynical. Cynical after years of corruption, broken promises and a lack of ability to solve hard problems. Cynical after the Vietnam war, Watergate, the Iran Contra Affair, another ugly revelation has begun to emerge. Same, in the reductionist genre with which we refer to epic national crises or sentiments, call it Iraqgate. According to Alan Friedman, a correspondent with the Financial Times, has just provided the proof of yet another round of covert operations in *Spider's Web: The Secret History of How the White House Illegally Armed Iraq*.

The title goes a long way towards explaining the contents. Through analysis of countless documents and interviews with officials in the United States, Italy and Britain (for the United States was far from alone in this endeavor, although it was certainly taking the lead), including then Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy and numerous White House officials, Friedman was able to piece together years of clandestine, illegal activity perpetrated by the executive branch. For years the United States was arming Saddam Hussein (the same Saddam Hussein who became the Middle Eastern equivalent of Adolf Hitler) and the Iraqis via the disbursement of \$5 billion in loans to help fund their war against Iran. Iraq was favored as a way to check the Islamic fundamentalism of Iran, and US businesses benefited tremendously from trade with this oil rich country (now isn't James Baker the guy deeply embedded in the Reagan-Bush administration doing business in Kuwait these days?).

Among the reams and reams of information and otherwise undisclosed documents Mr. Friedman presents is clear evidence of the Reagan administration's involvement in the weapons transference, which was being planned and carried out at far higher levels than the Atlanta branch of the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, the source of US loans to Iraq and the focus of Justice Department investigations to date. Incidentally, the manager of that bank is now serving time in a federal penitentiary, where he is being held without bail and

recently testified before the House Banking Committee. The transactions described in the book (known only to high administration officials, the CIA and a select few in the Departments of State, Commerce, and Defense) occurred from 1982 to 1987 in clear violation of the law. President Reagan himself, though not involved with many of the details of the arrangements, personally requested the help of the Italian Prime Minister in arming Iraq. George Bush was not left out of the fun and games either. A visit to President Mubarak of Egypt offered the opportunity to convey a message to Hussein about the arms deal, and Bush was apparently aware of and involved in the operations. The list of facts is unyielding, detailing a shipment of NATO weapons sent to Iraq directly from, among other places, a US base in Frankfurt.

The weapons and funding supplied by the United States greatly contributed to the development of Iraq's chemical and nuclear arsenal. Without them, it is doubtful that the Iran-Iraq war could have been sustained as long as it was, consuming the lives of 1 million people as it did. Without the influx of US material, it is questionable that Iraq would have invaded its neighboring Kuwait, prompting a massive retaliation instigated in part by a man involved with the arms transfer in the first place. As late as early 1990, well after warnings of growing nuclear capability in Iraq had been issued, Bush and Baker encouraged the continuation of arms transfers, finding that the fear of nuclear weapons had to be weighed against the needs of US exporters who could right our trade imbalance with Iraq.

Not only were these transfers flagrant and dangerous violations of the law (Congressional intelligence is to be informed of secret operations, and there is specific arms export control legislation) but Bush and Brent Scowcroft, his National Security Advisor, engaged in substantial cover-up endeavors in the face of a Congressional inquiry following the Gulf war. Attempts by the Justice Department and Congress to investigate the funding and arming of Iraq have thus far not gotten very far. Mr. Friedman has called for a new and more far-reaching investigation, preferably with a Special Prosecutor. Perhaps this would lead to the public unveiling of the lawlessness operating in the offices designed to enforce
cont IRAQ pg 5

Meal plan: convenience or pain in the ass?

by Chiu-Huey Hsia

Imagine this after a grueling day of classes, exams, and pounding stress, you sit down and relax—one of the very few free moments of your academic life. You eat. You have two choices if you're on the meal plan: Hewitt or McIntosh (or John Jay, but from 5-7 PM). What if you're health-conscious? The fried chicken burgers, pizza, and french fries are perfect candidates for future arteries.

is convenient. The place is close to my dorm and when one has an evening Calculus class and ten minutes to spare for dinner, going there is inevitable. One time, I managed to go earlier, but my meal plan "wasn't activated yet," explained the woman at the register. The student handbook states that McIntosh pizza begins at 3 PM, so I assumed that I could relax and finally eat a meal in peace.

First-Year students, living on campus, are required to pay about \$5,000 a year for the full meal plan, yet are offered synthetic ravioli and mystery beef.

However, the woman said that the meal plan isn't activated until 4:45 PM. So there I was, standing in front of a line buzzing with impatience, with a slice of pizza and milk—at 4:40 PM. Agitated eyes, hurrying to

clogging. So Hewitt is the answer, right? Hewitt has a health-oriented salad bar, yet I question the freshness of the food. I remember seeing left over tofu to main from lunch at the salad bar for two days. Also, several people have told me that they've experienced gastrointestinal problems (i.e. diarrhea) from eating the fruit salad. Were lack of freshness and cleanliness the culprits?

leave McIntosh were burning holes in my back as I let my points be further depleted. Do you ever feel that McIntosh relishes the swindling of your points? Some people don't even know that their points are being depleted because some cashiers don't even bother to inform them when they're removing points at the register.

Are your taste buds desensitized by the frequent Italian dishes at Hewitt? First Year students, living on campus, are required to pay about \$5,000 a year for the full meal plan, yet are offered synthetic ravioli and mystery beef. You can tell by the blandness of the ravioli cheese and dough that they're cheap, generic products. The beef has the colors of a chameleon. However, Hewitt does attempt to offer other alternatives: vegetarian dishes and the popular fat-free Colombo frozen yogurt.

Why does McIntosh charge \$8.25 for dinner? The cashiers charge you the limit for dinner, no matter how little you eat or drink. Some people are perturbed because they can't use the remaining meal plan cash the next time they eat there. What if you're not hungry one night, but famished the next? It would be convenient to use last night's leftover money to buy more food with the meal plan the next day.

Are you disheartened that Snapple, canned soda, ice cream, and bottled juice are off the meal plan? Snapple is a favorite at Barnard, yet it was removed from the meal plan. Why? One of the checkers told me that the students were "taking advantage" of the Snapple by taking the bottles too frequently. What's wrong with taking the Snapple? It was on the meal plan, paid by our hard-working parents and ourselves, so why the conversion to points or cash? If nobody bought Snapple, a wallet wrenching \$1.50 (most New York City groceries charge a maximum of \$1.25 and a minimum of \$0.69) it would be collecting mold in the coolers. Canned soda and bottled juice are so convenient, especially if you're in a rush between classes or in class. Meal plan ice cream was a transient delicacy—the McIntosh managers probably realized that ice cream was too delicious to be on the meal plan while points and cash would reap more money.

If you're disgusted with the meal plan, why not drop it after First Year? One Sophomore whom I spoke with has no regrets about dropping the meal plan. Although cooking is time-consuming, she enjoys her dishes and cooks with her friends, thus creating an enjoyable activity from an otherwise tedious chore. Cooking can be fun when you're with the right people. However, others view cooking as a nuisance in the middle of their busy academic schedules. Can you imagine having a paper due the next day with a night's worth of work left, yet having to spend valuable time to cook? You could order out and eat prepared food.

Time slips through our fingers so rapidly that we can never grasp it. Our first year will be over soon so the meal plan doesn't have to be a recurring nightmare for those who dislike it. For those who don't mind the meal plan, you can choose a full or partial meal plan next year.

Chiu-Huey Hsia is a First Year.

The Heart of the Matter...

Surviving another Barnard registration

by Amy Leavey

Congratulations fellow Barnard students: you have made it through another semester's registration! I know that if your registration experience was anything like mine, midterms are beginning to look less stressful. Registration puts our nerves and patience to the test. We the Barnard

Happily the matter was subsequently cleared up in a few hours. However, not without frustration and confusion on the part of my parents and myself.

From this upsetting experience I have discovered a few flaws in the Barnard registration process. First, if there is

Registration puts our nerves and patience to the test.

student body lie at the mercy of the very institution we employ. From step one, pick up your packet until we are finally able to validate our IDs, we move from line to line hoping nothing goes awry.

My registration can be labeled anything but calm. My emotions over those several hours ranged from intense annoyance and frustration to overwhelming anger and disappointment. When I first took my place in the pick-up-your-packet line, I looked over at the enormous Bursar line and prayed that I would not be standing there in a few minutes. Well, guess I wasn't praying hard enough because there I stood and stood and stood for 70 minutes waiting to hear what huge problem was preventing me from registering and receiving my fall semester grades.

Finally, I reached the front of the line. An extremely rude woman took my card and handed me a balance sheet. According to this sheet I could not register until I paid her \$17,866. Let me repeat myself for those of who are skimming this: SEVENTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY SIX DOLLARS! I stared at that figure and began to shake. The student behind me whispered "It can't be that bad." If only she knew. Wanting to resolve this problem as quickly as possible I asked the woman why this had happened. This could not be possible. I knew that my tuition had been paid. Unless someone was playing a horrible practical joke on me I knew that this figure was wrong. So, as politely as I could, I asked the woman what I should do. She told me that I could not register until I paid the bill and that she had no alternative for me. That's it. No good bye, no I'm sorry, not even a "See the man in the green suit, he may be able to help you." Just a bill for more money and tons of aggravation.

With teary eyes and shaking hands I called my father's office in Baltimore to ask him what I should do. Luckily my father records everything. He gave me dates, amount-phone numbers, and names to present to the Bursar

going to be a hold on a student's registration, the Barnard Registrar should inform the student through a memo in her McIntosh box of that hold and why it has been imposed. If I had known the problem had existed, even one day before I registered, I could have called my father and gotten it cleared up in advance. Why should students wait hours in a line only to be told that they cannot be helped?

Secondly, why can't Barnard students receive their fall grades at the end of the fall semester? The problems I was having register involved spring semester, I had already paid for and completed my fall classes. It is not fair to withhold those grades as punishment for troubles with spring registration. Both Columbia College and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences are able to receive their grades over the telephone! Additionally, all of my friends at other institutions get their grades either in the mail over their break or over the telephone.

Lastly, and this is a big one, the men and women working for the Bursar's office and the Registrar need to be more friendly. Now, I understand that hundreds of anxious college students are not always the most congenial of characters. However, some courteous manners could ease our anxiety level and possibly make working with us more pleasant.

When I was complaining about this situation to my mother she retold me her stories of waiting in registration lines for hours. This was before the days of computers, Amy. You should be glad that you don't have to go through what your father and I did. Well, Mom, you're right. I am glad I am not going to college in 1968, but I am sure that my children will be glad that they are not in school in 1994. Mom, they will ask me, you had to use computers?²⁰

Amy Leavey is a Barnard College Sophomore and the Bulletin Commentary editor.

I can't get no respect: lamentations of an English major

by Jennifer Zahn

So, what's your major?

The above question is much more than just a bad pick-up line, it can open up a whole can of worms for some of us. Like me, for instance—when I tell someone that I'm majoring in English, they inevitably ask, "But what are you going to DO with it?" It's not the question that bothers me so much as the tone in which it is asked—which ranges from amusement to mild disapproval, as if English isn't a bona fide major. Then there are the people who already have my career mapped out for me, the ones who say, "Oh so you're gonna teach, huh?" or "Planning on going to law school, eh?" as if those are the only options for someone majoring in English. It gets very frustrating to have to constantly explain that I have no interest in either of the above fields.

Sometimes I wish I'd been a Bio or an Econ major because they get respect. If you tell someone you're majoring in Bio, they either assume you're going to Med school and are therefore impressed and leave you alone or, if you happen to tell them that you're not planning to be a physician, they still think you're the greatest thing since sliced bread because you're majoring in science, of course you'll be in high demand when you go to look for a job. And Econ majors are all assumed to be either going into an analyst program or to business school. But once again if the person isn't planning to do either she still gets respect because Econ is ranked up there with the sciences. The thing is, every college student gets harassed with questions about what they want to do with their lives etc. but we non-science/non-Econ people always end up doing a lot of unnecessary explaining, and even apologizing, for majoring in subjects that aren't considered as "hard" as the aforementioned ones.

But, how is a person in her early twenties supposed to know what she wants to do for the next forty something years of her life? Isn't there some statistic that claims that most of us will change careers six or seven times anyway? And how many people do you know that have jobs which have nothing to do with their majors? A quick glance through the alumnae contact files at Career Services reveals that English majors at Barnard have gone on to such positions as Second Vice President at Chase Manhattan Bank, Budget Analyst for the City of New York

Office of Management and Budget, and Assistant Professor at NYU School of Medicine. Likewise, a former Econ major is working as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education, a Binpsychology major as a lawyer for the Environmental Protection Agency, and a Chemistry major as a patent agent.

My point is that college life is full of uncertainties and is stressful enough without remarks from thoughtless people who think they are making polite conversation by asking the above questions. I myself am practically getting an ulcer worrying about what I'm going to be doing next year, and the situation is only exacerbated when someone insinuates that, unless I go into teaching or to law school, my English major is going to be useless. The flip side of this is that there are probably a lot of science and Econ majors out there who are just as confused about what they want to do.

Maybe there should be a support group on this campus for people who love their majors but aren't necessarily planning careers around them. We could meet once a week and exchange words of support and encouragement, such as "You're majoring in English? That's great! You probably have terrific writing skills and the ability to organize your thoughts well," or, "You're a Bio major who's interested in entomology? That's so cool, you must have great memorization skills to be able to remember the names of so many different insects." In this positive environment we would learn more about each other and get rid of the stereotypes that surround the various majors.

as well as acquire the confidence to stand up to those obnoxious people who insist on hearing your life plan and how it relates to your major.

At least since I'm a senior, my days of enduring the interrogation about next year and the rest of my life are almost over.

Jennifer Zahn is a Barnard College Senior.



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