

BARNARD BULLETIN

MARCH 29, 1995 VOLUME CIII NUMBER 7



BEAR ESSENTIALS

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETINGS

First Year students are expected to attend at least one of two program planning meetings to be held on Tuesday April 4 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday April 5 12:15 - 1:10 p.m. Both meetings will be held in Room 202 Altschul Hall. A notice regarding these important meetings has been sent to your mailboxes. Remember that **mandatory attendance** will be required for at least one of these meetings. (You will be asked to sign in.) If you have any questions please call the Dean of Studies Office x42024.

ATTENTION SOPHOMORES

Do not forget to schedule an appointment with your adviser before March 31 to discuss your choice of major and complete audit forms. You will be expected to declare your major and file your choice with the Registrar by Friday April 14. It is important to have completed the audit prior to that deadline.

MEETINGS FOR MAJORS AND PROSPECTIVE MAJORS

AMERICAN STUDIES Thursday April 6 6pm 416A Lehman
ARCHITECTURE Monday April 10 2pm 314 Barnard
ART HISTORY Wednesday April 5 12noon North Tower
BIOLOGY Friday April 7 12:15pm 903 Altschul
CHFISTRY Friday April 7 12noon Altschul Lobby
CLASSICS and **ANCIENT STUDIES** Friday April 7 12noon 214 Milbank
ECONOMICS Thursday April 6 12noon 422 Lehman
EDUCATION Tuesday April 11 12noon 324 Milbank
ENGLISH Tuesday April 4 4:10 6 p.m. the James Room
GERMAN Friday April 7 1:30pm 320 Milbank
MATH please make individual appointment

to see Professor David Bayer (chair) **MUSIC** Tuesday April 6 11am 307 Milbank
PHILOSOPHY Wednesday April 5 12noon 326 Milbank
PSYCHOLOGY Monday April 10 12:15 324 Milbank
RELIGION Wednesday April 5 12noon location TBA
THEATER Friday April 8 7pm 729 Milbank
WOMEN'S STUDIES Thursday April 6 5pm in 101 Barnard

THE DEADLINE FOR SIPA APPLICATIONS (Barnard's joint degree program with the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs) is March 31. If you have any questions please contact Dean Runsdorf as soon as possible x42024.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS

for the 1995-96 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 17.

SENIOR CLIPBOARD

Reminder: Cap and gown orders were due on February 24. If you have still not ordered yours you must do so at once in the College Activities Office 209 McIntosh Hall. All seniors whose degree requirements will not be completed by May graduation must seek Dean Schneider's permission to participate in the ceremony.

PRMFSD STUDENTS

The minority premed society at Princeton University will be holding a conference for minority premed students on April 7-9. If you would like more information or if you would be willing to serve as a Barnard contact for this conference please speak to Jayma Abdo in the

Dean of Studies Office x47599

PRELAW STUDENTS

There will be an important meeting for all students who plan to apply to law school next year. The meeting will be held on Tuesday April 11 12 noon - 1 p.m. in the Fila Weed Room. If you cannot attend at noon you may come at 1 p.m. for a summary. If you cannot attend at either time please see Jayma Abdoe (105 Milbank) sometime after the meeting. A panel of Barnard alumnae who are practicing attorneys will be holding a discussion session on Wednesday April 12 6pm - 8pm in Brooks Living Room.

ATTENTION TUTORS!

Please remember that both tutor timesheets and OCS timesheets must be submitted to the Dean of Studies Office 105 Milbank in order for you to receive your check. Also note that all timesheets must be submitted to the Dean of Studies Office in a timely fashion (that is every two weeks.) Failure to submit timesheets before the end of the semester will result in your forfeiting any entitlement to receive payment for your services. If you have any questions please contact Sharon Abrams x42024.

WANTED! ESSAY CONTESTANTS

The Sunkyong Group of Korea has announced its annual essay contest which focuses on globalization of business government/law science and journalism. First prize recipients (one in each of the four categories) receive \$2,500 plus a one week trip to Korea. Additional recipients receive monetary awards. The deadline to submit materials is April 7 1995. For more information call (212) 906-8138.

The Bulletin is now on line! Send comments and/or Letters to the Editor through e-mail. Please clearly state whether your Letter to the Editor is intended for publication and be sure to comply with our policy (as delineated on p. 4). Our e-mail address is BarnardBulletin@barnard.columbia.edu

BARNARD BULLETIN

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HEOP Cuts Hurt Us All

Since Governor George Pataki released his budget proposal in early February many students not just at Barnard but throughout the state have been protesting the potential elimination of funding for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). This program provides students from low income families access to funds, counseling, and guidance to insure that they have an equal opportunity to succeed in college. These students, most of them members of the program, have a vested interest in voicing their dissent in effort to prevent the extinction of these programs. However, their peers who are not in HEOP do not seem to realize that they too have an interest in preserving this program. Adding their voices to the protest can not only strengthen the scope of opposition to the budget, but contribute to the betterment of us all.

It is time for each of us to put into practice the knowledge gleaned from our undergraduate study. This fiscal attack on HEOP is not an isolated event, but is symptomatic of much larger issues in our society. HEOP is an equity and access program that grew out of the 1960s Civil Rights movement, which demanded the oppressed and the deprived to be allowed to share in the resources of a nation that promises equality and justice for all. For twenty nine years, despite repeated cuts to education funding, HEOP was never targeted for eradication. Now, under the guise of budget balancing efforts, it is attacked as part of a conservative campaign against hand outs and freebies.

HEOP is up for elimination as though its function is expendable, as though the program is not a necessity in this society in which racism, discrimination, and classism still prevail even after the struggles of the 1960s. Pataki wants to kill this program, which he claims is too costly, even though the graduates of HEOP contribute \$57 million in revenues to the state, even though on average HEOP students perform academically better than their peers, and even though most of the opposition to the program is predicated on misconceptions.

HEOP students do not receive a free ride. All HEOP program members take out loans, work, and must come up with parental contribution to help fund their educations. Many are first generation college students who have either been discouraged from going to college in the past, have been inadequately prepared by their high schools, and/or are seriously impeded by financial deprivation in a multitude of ways. A lack of money breeds many ills, not just economic ones, but psychological and social ones as well. It is hard to live in a society in which everyone desperately wants to erase class distinctions by insisting that there is only one class, the so called middle class. This denial has definite implications for the poor who are excluded from this grand delusion by necessity.

HEOP counselors provide their students with what most of us have received, perhaps unknowingly, our whole lives: encouragement, self esteem, faith in their ability to succeed, an example to follow, a goal, a purpose, a possibility. It is not a program that just allots funds, but one that offers hope to students who are willing to put in the work to accomplish their goals. These students are people who never had that hope before, who perhaps never thought of attending college, and who could not continue without the support, financial and otherwise, which this program supplies.

We all have a lot to lose here. Our campus leaders, peers of whom we are proud, admire, are in jeopardy. We are in danger of losing their talents, their contributions, and their example, all of which are vital to our academic institutions. In the year 2036, the groups we now call the minority will become the majority. It is everyone's interest to help them become the most well educated, well prepared majority possible, and to appreciate their talents at full value. To deny these students is to deprive our community of its vital diversity, students who come from a different situation economically and often ethnically. People who, through their accomplishments, will show others in a similarly difficult position that there is a chance for success and that hard work will get them somewhere. This ideal is supposed to be the fundamental basis of our society, what distinguishes us from the world.

To obliterate HEOP is to betray ourselves, to lay waste our future. To eliminate this program is to contradict everything we spend time studying in our political science and sociology classes, and to defy our commitment to equality, to fairness, to what we know and have been taught is right.

Editorial Policy

In order to be considered for publication, all Letters to the Editor must be signed by an individual or by a Barnard SGA and/or Columbia Student Council recognized campus organization. Letters to the Editor must be submitted no later than the Wednesday preceding publication. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors, not necessarily Barnard College.

News Briefs...

International Human Rights Update.

• According to Human Rights Watch a not for profit corporation which monitors and promotes human rights all over the world the Egyptian government has been detaining innocent family members and relatives of alleged Islamic militants. In a report entitled *Egypt Hostage Taking and Intimidation by Security Forces* Human Rights Watch documents incidents of kidnapping and intimidation (including torture and rape threats toward women) during a four year period (1991-1994) which were intended to coerce the militants to surrender. The organization also asserts that the Egyptian government has censored press coverage of these events as well as accused Human Rights Watch of publishing false findings on the basis of interviews with terrorists living outside of Egypt. Human Rights Watch however continues to attack what they believe are systematic abuses calling on the international community to denounce the practices and on the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak to begin immediate action to end the violence.

• In China Human Rights Watch has condemned the treatment of Tong Yi a woman who was sentenced to re-education through labor without trial for her assistance of China's most famous dissident Wei Jingsheng. She has been repeatedly beaten by groups of people reportedly for her demands that she work an eight hour day as specified by the law. Human Rights Watch argues that the violation of Tong Yi's rights contradicts China's own law as well as international human rights charters and called on the Chinese government to transfer the prisoner to a more secure facility.

• The Executive Director of Human Rights Watch Ken Roth recently approached Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to urge that the Secretary consider India's human rights abuses while he promotes US trade and investment there. In 1993 the Clinton Administration condemned abuses in Kashmir but in the interest of expanded trade the public declaration of disapproval has ceased. Human Rights Watch suggests that any further economic ties with India should depend on empirical evidence that human rights abuses have been decreased.

National News.

• This year Earth Day a twenty five year old celebration of the environmentalist movement initiated by former US Senator Gaylord Nelson will be held on April 22nd. An estimated 20 million people participated in

the first Earth Day and now twenty five years later the event is bigger than ever with events occurring all over the country as well as in Canada Mexico Russia China India the United Kingdom and Germany.

Education News.

• A recent annual survey of state college/university leaders conducted by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) revealed that the number of women university presidents is on the rise. In 1992 there were 13.7% women leaders of universities and the percentage jumped the following year to 15.3%. Similarly the number of minority college/university presidents is also rising. African American presidencies increased from 8.9% (1992) to 11.6% (1993). Latino representation increased from 2.7% to 3.1% in the same time frame and Asian Americans increased from 1.5% to 1.9%.

• According to the National Student News Service this year all institutions which participate in the Federal College Work Study Program must use a minimum of 5% of their work study funds in off campus community service programs. Although there are issues of liability contracts and institutional matching involved as well as philosophical disagreements with the concept of mandatory service proponents of the program argue that students will ultimately benefit. Such employment facilitates marketability in the job search and develops relationships with organizations that may be sources of employment upon graduation.

• The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) reports that legislators are shifting the cost of college education from state appropriations to student tuition. State and federal funds are increasingly being diverted from education into other sectors the cost of education is on the rise and larger numbers of students are denied financial access to college. State and local support for public higher education has decreased from 7.6% to 6.2% (of state tax revenues) in the last ten years according to John Hammang AASCU director of state and campus relations while the cost of higher education increased 113% between 1980 and 1990. Aggregate state grants rose by 92.1%. Pell grants by 39.6%.

• A report by the Washington D.C. based Economic Policy Institute found that hourly real wage of college graduates decreased by 7.5% from 1973 to 1993. According to the report hourly wages dropped from \$16.99 to \$15.71 during this period. Since 1989 entry

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Gore Speaks On Empowerment Zones

by Ritu Goswami

The Barnard Columbia Center for Leadership in Urban Public Policy hosted a national forum entitled Empowering America's Cities. The David N. Dinkins Leadership and Urban Public Policy Forum for those directly involved in the Empowerment Zone Program on March 2 and 3. Under the federal Empowerment Zone Program each designated city will receive \$100 million and substantial tax benefits from the government to create jobs and economic opportunity in poor and distressed urban communities. The forum was attended by representatives from the six major cities that won the Empowerment Zone designation — New York, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit, and Philadelphia (Camden). The purpose of the forum was to discuss new models of comprehensive neighborhood based community empowerment initiatives and the critical role of community organizations and other private sector partners in government's response to urban poverty.

Vice President Al Gore, who is chairman of President Bill Clinton's Community Enterprise Board, gave the keynote address on Friday afternoon, March 3. David Dinkins and Congressman Charles Rangel each gave their own remarks in introducing Gore. Dinkins targeted the Contract with America as the focus of his speech, deeming it an annoying distraction from the real task at hand. Although he admitted that the Contract could be useful with a great deal of discussion and revision, he declared it's trickle down economics all over again. He exclaimed that we must focus on reality and make real commitment to find people jobs, build strong families, and break the cycle of dependency. He commended the Empowerment Zone Program as

one that would give us a chance to rebuild cities and people the chance to rebuild lives. He expressed the need for expanding employment opportunities as well as finding available housing. Finally, he confirmed that the program is a way to invest in people. You can tell people that they must get jobs where there are no jobs. That's what empowerment is all about — preserving and enhancing our cities.

Congressman Rangel emphasized that we need to make people productive to make America win. He also commented on how everyone is concerned with the budget and that it is a disgrace that we pay more for prisons and cops than for teachers and schools. He begged that people be allowed to pay taxes and then live, compete and be productive.

Vice President Gore continued to explain how the Empowerment Zone program will bring together businesses and individuals at the grassroots level to create jobs in the community. He emphasized how this program was a bipartisan partnership of the government at all levels of national, state and local governments. He commented on how many approaches have been attempted to lift fortunes for all citizens, but this one is different. He described the program as one that will benefit the entire city by

lifting up the areas that need it while helping businesses with tax benefits.

He asserted that free market incentives are not enough to break the back of the problem. He continued by praising the program as a way to fight back in an organized and intelligent way. He endorsed the program as one that will ensure success for people who have been left behind too many times. He expressed his ideas about community by explaining that urban problems aren't of single causes and effects but rather that all problems are interrelated. He described how multiple factors generate patterns and how programs that are aimed at only one problem don't work. He feels that problems such as drug abuse, crime and teen pregnancy should be seen not as the individual's problem. He compared family policy with community empowerment policy. He stated that we must see the whole community as a living breathing entity.

He concluded by asking that we reaffirm our commitment to one another and work together for the future. He further requested that everyone communicate the need for continued commitment. He ended with declaring that we are soldiers in the fight for community.

Ritu Goswami is a Barnard sophomore.

Nightline

Trained peer counselors.
We are here to listen, every night
from 10pm to 3am.

X47777

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES...

Barnard's Scientific Dimension

Sustainable Development: What Does It Mean for Business?

by Sheila David

As part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on the Global Environment Richard Barth spoke in Schapiro Auditorium on Tuesday March 7. Barth a graduate of Columbia Law School is CEO of the American arm of the multinational corporation Ciba Geigy Ciba which employs 19,000 people in the US. has three main areas of operation pharmaceuticals agricultural chemicals and dyes. Barth was chosen to speak on the topic

Sustainable Development. What Does It Mean for Business? not only for his work with Ciba but because of his position a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

In forming the Council the Clinton White House attempted to be as inclusive as possible of the many different groups who have a stake in the health of the economy and the environment. There are representatives from business government labor unions environmental organizations and Native American tribes. Both the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are members as well as representatives from the Natural Resources Defense Council Environmental Defense Fund Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy reflecting the many facets of point of view within each category. Environmental organizations do not make up one monolithic group all with identical opinions. The same goes for government business etc. The agenda of the Council is twofold. First to monitor American progress

towards the goals set at the 1992 Rio Summit and report back to the United Nations. The second more elusive goal is to reduce the tension between the economy and the environment. The Council is broken up into committees such as Sustainable Agriculture Natural Resources Environment and Transportation and Ecological Efficiency. Each of these task forces chooses one or more case studies to focus upon assuming that any solutions developed can be modified and applied to other similar problems. Barth is co chair of the Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources task forces.

Barth spoke about applying the insights and knowledge he has gained from the Council to his work at Ciba. Barth feels that it is more effective to stop worrying over past infractions and concentrate instead on prospects for the future. His overriding concern is the health of the marketplace before any environmental considerations are enacted. We cannot do a good environmental job or a good social job if we are not economically successful. Others have argued that a marketplace that does not take into account the effects of environmental degradation and loss of natural resources is operating under a false sense of prosperity. Barth states that the marketplace is not forgiving yet neither is the environment when a species goes extinct when a natural resource is depleted when fertile land is eroded into a desert. Barth is not advocating a complete dismissal of environmental regulation however as he stated. We do not have the wealth that will allow us not to husband our resources. One of his concerns is the alteration of both the economy and the environment in the face of technology. Technology has created policy

perhaps by default. How do we manage technology? In the past humans did not have the capability to inflict so much irreversible damage so quickly. Now we can deplete fisheries and clear cut forests in mere decades. The problem lies in using less new power more judiciously in learning how critical it is to plan ahead states Barth.

Barth's speech and presumably his position on the Council emphasized the need to protect the economy from overly harsh environmental restrictions and provisions. How the CEO of the largest pesticide manufacturer in the world defines a healthy economy and what criteria he would use to categorize a regulation as being too harsh may be quite different from how a representative from an environmental advocacy group would do so. Which is of course the crux of the problem and the reason for the creation of the Council on Sustainable Development in the first place. The Council will finish its deliberations in the middle of this year. In response to a query from an audience member Barth expressed doubt as to the Council having any concrete lasting effects. This is disheartening yet even if the Council does not create any measurable changes the very fact that such a dialogue was instituted has created a change in awareness amongst those who participated and paves the way for the future.

Sheila David is a Barnard Senior and the Bulletin Science Editor.

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES...

Barnard's Scientific Dimension

Columbia Rallies for the Environment

by Sheila David

The Barnard/Columbia Earth Coalition and Green Corps campus chapter held a rally and press-conference on College Walk on Wednesday March 22. The rally was in response to the recent anti-environmental legislation passed by the US House of Representatives. It was sponsored jointly with the Fund for Public Interest Research and the Environmental Action Coalition (EAC). Students displayed a chart listing the votes of New York Congressional Representatives on a series of bills passed during eight days (February 24 through March 3, 1995). These bills collectively called

"Scorched Earth: Eight Days of Environmental Destruction" are considered the most notorious of these is H.R. 9, *The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act*. This innocent sounding piece of legislation is actually a combination of several other bills including H.R. 1022, *The Risk Assessment and Cost Benefit Act*. This requires federal agencies to conduct risk assessment and cost benefit studies before most new public health and environmental protection programs can be enacted. According to the EPA, over 1,000 new bureaucrats and \$220 million will be required to complete these studies. The completed study must then be reviewed by a panel of scientists, including representatives

from corporate funded laboratories. Another bill was H.R. 450, *The Regulate Transition Act*, which established a moratorium on federal rules to protect public health and environment. It is retroactive to November 20, 1994 and expires on December 31, 1995. The final bill was H.R. 925, *The Private Property Rights Act*, which requires the government to compensate

The main criticism levied against environmental restrictions is that they cost too much and undermine the ability of the US to compete in the global economy. Goldstein asserted that environmental regulations do not hurt the economy. Goldstein also applauded the success of the return to grassroots when it was announced that Earth Coalition and Green



Green Corps Campus Organizers at Rally

landowners whose property is devalued by 70% or more from wetlands or endangered species protection laws. All of these bills passed.

Speakers at the rally included Neil Goldstein, chief of staff for New York Representative Jerry Nadler and one of the founding organizers of the original Earth Day in 1970. He expounded upon the need for environmental regulation.

Corps had exceeded their goal of 1,200 signatures from the campus on the Environmental Bill of Rights petition to Congress by 300 signatures. Cheryl Espelta, Earth Day Campaign Coordinator for the EAC, detailed the many pre-existing laws that are now being threatened by Congress, including the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The last superpower in the world could be expected to at least provide its citizens with safe drinking water, stated Espelta.

The rally also launched the campaign Earth Day, which will run until July 4. A Green Corps Campus Organizer speaking at the rally called upon her fellow students to assist in local efforts to free Earth Day from corporate sponsors. She wants the Columbia community to prove that we don't value money more than the place we live.

Sheila David is a Barnard Senior and the Bulletin Section Editor.

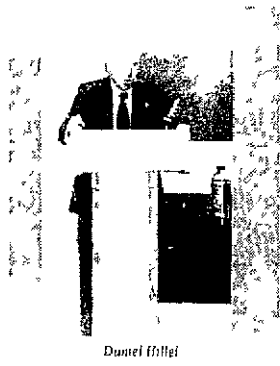
Rivers of Eden: Daniel Hillel Speaks on Water in the Middle East

by Sheila David

Water is a scarce resource in the Middle East. It contributes to the pre-existing tension between nations because natural features do not align themselves along political boundaries. The state of water policy in the Middle East was the subject of a lecture given by Daniel Hillel on Thursday March 23 as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on the Global Environment. Hillel, an expert on soil physics and soil water dynamics who has published over 200 articles, has just published his most recent work *Rivers of Eden: The Struggle for Water and Quest for Peace in the Middle East*. Following the lecture was a panel discussion with Cynthia Rosenzweig, research agronomist at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Melanie Staassny, Assistant Curator of the Department of Ichthyology of the American Museum of Natural History.

According to Hillel, "The Middle East is in the throes of an environmental crisis. At the core of the environmental problem lies the issue of water. The key to any possible solutions is regional cooperation. No country can utilize its resources without encroaching on its neighbors. One nation cannot divert water from a river without affecting all of the other downstream users. Rivers supply most of the agricultural water in the Middle East, due to the low amounts of precipitation. Agriculture in the region is done by irrigation, the flood irrigation technique being the most common. Channels are dug to divert water from rivers and allowed to flood over the fields. This method is cheap, requiring little more than the labor to build the channels. It is also the most wasteful and most harmful in the long term. The soil is

waterlogged, putting natural salts into solution. Because the region receives so much insolation, evaporation rates are high and the salts are left behind in the soil. Increasing amounts of salt decrease the soil's yield until finally the soil can no longer grow anything. So much of the water of the Middle East is used inefficiently, competitively, irrationally.



Daniel Hillel

Hillel briefly touched upon the major water issues currently facing the nations of the Middle East. Turkey impounds the water of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, much to the disapproval of Syria and Iraq, which are downstream from Turkey. Lebanon has a great deal of water, but precious little arable land. Only land in the inner valleys, and a small portion along the coast, is fertile enough to make agriculture feasible. Libya is using water from underground aquifers, which will not be replenished within a human time frame. Essentially, they are using fossil water resources. Jordan wants to build a canal from the Yarmuk, a tributary of the Jordan River. In order to be able to do so, Jordan must gain the permission of

Syria and Israel. Jordan is already diverting some water from small side streams. Israel, according to Hillel, is a model of water efficiency. Instead of the traditional flood irrigation, drip irrigation is prevalent throughout Israel. This technique, while capital intensive, is the most efficient method of irrigation. Pipes are laid out with spigots beneath each plant, allowing the water in dripout in carefully monitored amounts, precisely where it is needed.

One plan for the region is to build canals from the Mediterranean Sea and/or the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, which is 400 meters below sea level. A reverse osmosis desalination plant would have to be built to make the water usable. Jordan and Israel are looking at the possibility of the Red Dead Canal. An audience member questioned the wisdom of such a plan in light of possible environmental consequences. Hillel responded that there were indeed risks involved, but that with careful planning and the use of the best technology it could be done without harm.

One of the panelists, Staassny, called this the ultimate human arrogance: to suppose that such a massive disruption of different ecosystems could be done without serious consequences, particularly for the aquatic life of the region. Hillel questioned Staassny's basis for being able to make such a statement without having looked at the case in detail, without having studies or statistics to cite. An audience member, rejoined by asking Hillel what his basis was for asserting that there would be no consequences.

Further south in the Nile Valley, Sudan wants to build a canal from the White Nile, which flows through eastern and central Africa. The

(Continued on page 16)

SCIENCE

Rivers of Eden continued from page 9

southern Sudanese oppose this plan and in the 1980s resorted to violence to destroy a waterworks erected by the north. The conflicting views on water allocation contribute to the civil strife in the Sudan. Another major tributary to the Nile is the Blue Nile, 80% of which lies within Ethiopia, a country with few resources and little capital. Egypt and other downstream nations threatened to declare war on Ethiopia if that country attempted to utilize or sell its water rights along the Nile. Egypt's own attempt at using the waters of the Nile, the Aswan High Dam, has been an environmental nightmare. Fourteen percent of Lake Nassar, the reservoir formed by the Aswan High Dam, is lost to evaporation each year. The loss of water but not salt to evaporation only increases the salinity of the remaining water.

In the discussion following Hillel's speech, Rosenzweig touched upon two main points: possible options for reducing water demand and the effects of climate change upon the region's agriculture. Agriculture, accounting for 80% of water demands in the Middle East, offers "the greatest opportunity for improvement. Flood irrigation as Hillel mentioned is extremely wasteful. It has an efficiency of only 30-50% whereas sprinkler irrigation is 70% and drip irrigation is 90%. Better monitoring of crop conditions only providing water when it is needed as opposed to a fixed schedule of water delivery independent of soil conditions would reduce waste. Another option is progressive pricing where water usage for each crop and soil type is calculated and used as a standard for pricing water allocations. If a farmer wants to take more water than their crops should need they will be charged for it. In examining the effect of climate change on the Middle East, the need for implementing better agricultural standards becomes more critical. While accurate scenarios for climate change are unobtainable on the

regional level, some general predictions do point to a need for long-term planning in agriculture. The types of crops grown today include sugar cane, rice, and cotton, all of which are water-intensive. The increased temperatures and evaporation rates expected in the region will require crops such as vegetables, flowers, spices, and medicinal herbs, all of which require less water. Crops that are more salt tolerant will also be required. The countries of the Middle East have long been guilty of subsidizing water in order to make themselves more self-sufficient in food production. But these subsidies undervalue the water, and allow unsound agricultural practices to continue.

Strassny, who studies biodiversity and conservation in fresh water ecosystems, pointed out that if all of the Earth's water filled up a bathtub, the amount of drinkable water would amount to less than a teaspoon. That teaspoon was no different when the population was smaller, and will not increase no matter how large the population grows. Strassny's concern is that humanity remembers that "we are sharing that teaspoon with aquatic life." Freshwater ecosystems are 65 times richer than saline ecosystems. The habitat modifications that take place when damming and diverting rivers for agriculture pose a threat to that diversity and should not be undertaken lightly.

The lecture and discussion ran for over two hours, yet the speakers barely touched upon the many components of the issues of water policy and agriculture in the Middle East. When referring to the prospects for the future of the environment of the Middle East, Hillel stated, "I wrote the book with the conviction and the knowledge that much can be done towards judicious husbandry of land and water resources."

Sheldi David is a Barnard Senior and the Bulletin Science Editor.

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The Religious Front: Women and Religion in America

by Elizabeth Johnson

As part of Women's History month, a forum on Women in Religion, sponsored by the Religious Diversity suite was held last Thursday in Salzburger parlor.

The forum consisted of a panel discussion in which five women of different religions each spoke on her personal religion and the role of women within that religion. First Jacqueline Draper an alumnus of Barnard, spoke on the Church of Christian Scientist, giving an excellent overview of the history of the church and its beliefs and foundations.

What is striking about the Church of Christian Scientist is that it was started by a woman, Mary Baker Eddy, who wrote the book *Health and Science* which is the basic text of the Church along with the Bible. Eddy was also an advocate for women's rights and social reform. Christian Scientists find healing through prayer and believe that prayer works to heal people not only of physical ailments but also of problems in everyday life.

Women may (and do) hold any position within the Church and Christian Scientists view masculine and feminine distinctions as human concepts believing that people in the metaphysical realm have no gender. God is neutral and is defined as father/mother. It is also believed that love imparts the clearest idea of deity.

Following Draper Sharon Brous a Barnard senior spoke on her experiences as a woman in Judaism. Brous who was very sweet and personable spoke of her conflicts with being both Jewish and a feminist. Brous stated that her gut reaction in facing the exclusion of women in patriarchy of Judaism was to reject the parts of Judaism with

which she did not agree. Brous considers this a mistake, believing that there is a reason for what is written.

Instead of dividing herself between feminism and Judaism Brous is studying Judaism which enables her to more clearly address issues of women within Judaism. In her words Judaism is more than a religion it is a peoplehood a nation. She now believes that it is very possible to be a feminist and a Jew and is planning to study to be a rabbi.

After Brous Marcia Bhan also a Barnard senior, spoke on her position and beliefs as an Evangelical Christian. Bhan stated that within Christianity men and women are equal but complementary they have separate roles to play. Bhan also spoke of her belief and acceptance that in certain roles of religion and marriage the male is dominant over the female.

This comment created tensions and controversy. Bhan explained her position by relating the male's position in family and religion as parallel to the hierarchy of God, Jesus and the church body. She also stated that the leadership role is that of servitude to those one leads. The man as leader of the household therefore has a duty to serve the other members of the family.

After Bhan Manna Illich spoke about Buddhism. Illich first came in contact with Buddhism when she met with Tibetan monks in exile while working in India. Illich was impressed by the belief and practice which stresses nonviolence and the preciousness of beings. Illich was also deeply moved by the strength of the Tibetans who could still uphold and work for the ideal of nonviolence even after being imprisoned and tortured.

Illich stated that Buddhism is a moral science which teaches a mind

body continuum that gives a person space and perspective. Buddhism is just beginning to be established in America and Illich believes that women can work to shape their role in Buddhism. Although there have been some abuses of power and cases of sexual exploitation (though probably no more so than with other religions) women have a strong place within Buddhism.

Presenting an overview of Islam was Aisha Al Adawiya who explained Islam as a complete way of life. Islam is the direct word of Allah as spoken to Muhammad. In Islam it is believed that everyone is born a Muslim. Al-Adawiya was raised a Christian but she reclaimed being a Muslim as a young woman after reading and exploring other religions.

Al Adawiya describes the woman's position in Islam as that of mother. Giving birth and nurturing is the first school from which the entire nation of Islam arises. When asked about the significance of the veil Al Adawiya explained that the basic premise behind the veil is that it protects and recognizes Muslims.

The forum ran smoothly considering the variety of viewpoints presented. One of the few times when there was an air of tension was when the issue of homosexuality within religion was addressed.

Although in all the religions the union between a man and a woman is the only that is officially recognized, both Illich and Brous stated that if there is love between two people that is what counts and that the union should be accepted regardless of sex. Brous stated that when she is a rabbi she hopes to address homosexuality and enable it to be acceptable within the religion.

Elizabeth Johnson is a Barnard First Year.

ASAP Mock Trial

New York NY A twenty one year old male college student has been charged with sexually assaulting a college sophomore in October of 1994. The student and the alleged victim both attend a local university in New York City. According to the female college student the rape occurred at the end of a date. Both students are reported to have been drinking heavily and it is believed that alcohol played a large role in the case. Ninety percent of all rapes on college campuses occur when alcohol is being used by the assailant the victim or both according to a two year study of college drinking reported by the Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. A neighborhood liquor store sales person who may be called to the stand to testify remembers refusing to sell alcohol to the alleged assailant because he was thought to be intoxicated at the time. The prosecution and defense attorneys have declined to comment. The court date is set for Tuesday April 4 1995 at 5pm in 304 Barnard Hall. Linda Feinstein of the Manhattan DA Office will preside and Leslie Gilman Director for the Center for Research on Women will lead a discussion immediately following the trial. The jury will be randomly selected from the audience.

The facts in this news article are false. The mock trial is presented by the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Program (ASAP).

Well-Woman Questions and Answers Empowerment + Knowledge = Choice

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If you found yourself answering 'yes' to any of these questions pick up an application at the Office of Student Life at 210 McIntosh or at Health Services in Lower Level Brooks or outside the Peer Ed Office at 135 Hewitt. Completed applications need to be returned to Health Services by Monday April 3 1995.

If you have any questions call the Peer Ed Office at X43063

To submit questions to the Well Woman column, leave questions in the slot of the Bulletin office door in lower level McIntosh or send your questions through campus mail addressed to the Bulletin, attention Women's Issues editor.

Oh, Conway...

by Taryn Roeder

And I was beginning to fear that my true feelings about attending Barnard might never be revealed! What a happy March day it was when I read Christopher P. Conway's article in the *Columbia Spectator*. Let's face it: how often does a Barnard woman see her hopes and dreams for the future articulated so eloquently by a Columbia senior? The thrust of Conway's article calling for the eradication of Barnard is two-fold: Conway wonders how, since Columbia is co-ed, Barnard can hope to attract a student body of the same "academic caliber." Then he explains how Barnard is the obstacle holding Columbia back from realizing an amazing untapped potential.

A delicious shiver traveled down my spine as I realized that this lone boy—wait, scratch that—this Columbia man, understood me! Rue the day I dubbed the phrase "Columbia man" oxymoronic! I was wrong. Christopher Conway has given voice to the hidden fantasy of Barnard women. Our silent cry can at last be heard. Oh, Columbia! Oh, please, great master wonderful university to which we are affiliated, do away with us! *Make us part of your greatness!*

Did Conway know how much of what he wrote was true? Especially the part where he explained my rationale for going to Barnard. Many would cite as reasons for my attendance here Barnard's wonderful departments, the choice to live and learn with independent, intelligent women, or the chance to be part of the prestigious, age-old Seven Sisters tradition. But Conway knows the truth! I want to say "I go to Columbia." For, God knows how highly the rest of the Ivy League regards Columbia.

I was confused when his article called Barnard classes "gutter." It has always my experience to fare far better (grade-wise) in the Columbia classes than in my Barnard classes. But now I realize I must have just been lucky. After all, I only go to Barnard. I can barely spell "Columbia." Do you realize the word "Columbia" uses every single vowel except an "E"? Yeah, the "A," "I," "O," and the "U." Overwhelming for a little East coast girl like me, I guess.

However, I suppose it is time for me to fess up. Conway is correct: Barnard is responsible for all of Columbia's problems. I let me explain: Barnard plays an active role in keeping Columbia from being great.

Not Barnard exactly, but ME.

I regrettably now must admit the truth.

Last year, as my jealousy toward Columbia mounted, I became increasingly hostile. So I took on a secret alias and made it my agenda to sabotage Columbia as best I could. Yes.

Taryn Roeder, humble Barnard sophomore, I lead a double life determined, ambitious, suppressed. Bulletin Staff Writer's day by night an intense, evil dark angel of Satan!

I live only to destroy CC property. I have set off bombs in FBH, Kent and Lewisohn. My friends call me Roeder the Exploder. I frame newspaper editors into compromising situations. I was the brain power behind the CV versus Earl Hall debate. I use my feminine wiles to seduce security and get into buildings without being signed in. On these occasions people call me *la femme Nikita!* I scold President Rupp's office looking for blackmail material (sorry, George!).

Do you know why Columbia is in debt? Because I reentered for Columbia! Yes, I spend my nights at the Telefund, only a few doors down from the Spec office where Christopher Conway writes his enlightened articles. I call up high donors and insult them! I garner no money for Columbia. Ha ha ha!

I smuggle out food from John Jay by concealing it in Tupperware, and I steal Provost Cole's brown bag lunches. I stage fights at the West End and sell beebee guns to members of Eta! I buy beer underage at the Pluck, and I moon tours of perspective Columbia students. "Stay away!" I cackle.

And so, single handedly, I have sought to bring about Columbia's downfall. I now repent dutifully for my illicit behavior. On his crusade to save Columbia, I'll bet Mr. Conway never realized that he would also save my immortal soul. The boy is so wise, never try to solve your own problems. Blaming someone else is much easier. (Taryn Roeder is a Barnard Sophomore and a Bulletin Staff Writer.)



After the editorial: How Conway answers the door these days.

GILDERLEEVE 1995

Elena Poniatowska: Writer and Rebel

by Heidi Nast

Elena Poniatowska, Barnard's 1995 Gildersleeve lecturer, spoke in Lehman auditorium on Tuesday, March 21. The Gildersleeve Lecture series was established by Virginia Gildersleeve, the President of Barnard College during both World Wars. The series brings distinguished visiting scholars to Barnard to discuss matters of importance both to Barnard and the larger community.

Elena Poniatowska lectured on the role of women writers in the Latin American literature movement in a witty speech liberally sprinkled with vivid metaphors and a plethora of literary references.

Poniatowska is an active figure both in the literary and political worlds of Latin America. She is a journalist, novelist, and social critic, and also plays an important role in the Commission on Human Rights. Her writing champions the politically and socially oppressed women of Latin America by raising questions about the double standard imposed on women regarding freedom of expression in general and freedom of political expression in particular. She aims to subvert the patriarchal order that in many Latin American women are taught to reveal to their own detriment. In her books, she explores what it is to be a woman by writing about women of different ages and social classes.

Barnard President Judith Shapiro introduced Poniatowska in

flowing terms, which Poniatowska's speech lived up to fully. She spoke about how women writers are often pigeonholed in literature, usually finding themselves constrained to either lock themselves away in a closet in the manner of Emily Dickinson or live wild lives and then kill themselves, like Sylvia Plath. As a society, we should not make this extreme distinction, Poniatowska points out, if it

Latin American women writers whom she compared to "honesties" licking an invisible thorn in their paws, crunched in the back of the cage like alley cats, that is to say hesitant to acknowledge their power and dignity. They need to acknowledge themselves, however, because especially in Latin America, it is often left to the women to be the voice to the poor of those who cannot read or speak out. To this end, Poniatowska seemed to support the

literature of aggression, pointing out that women who are restrained from freedom of expression often seek solace in giving their lives to marriage. In Latin American cultures, love is often considered a choice for men, whereas it is self-abnegation for women. A woman who considers her husband the center of her universe will not be able to fulfill her potential to accomplish other things, which can be a huge loss both for the woman and for society. It is also true that the qualities that are thought of as appropriate in a woman in Latin America, such as being innocent, sweet,



Elena Poniatowska, Barnard's Gildersleeve Lecturer. Photo by Mirrah Roberts.

women literature has evolved from the literature of confession exemplified in phrases like "Dear diary," he finally admitted he loves me today," to the literature of aggression of seizing the microphone and speaking out. Women writers don't have to put away or cover it. As Poniatowska said, there should be another way to be.

This need to find a middle way is especially clear in her novel

dependent on men, a trapped woman who is faced with her need

of both women from a certain time and male, and the pressure to not express themselves. The inability to use expression is the reason Poniatowska says that it is not just Latin American women's life that has not yet found its "I." She highlighted her claim by pointing out that she is

Gildersleeve

(continued from last page)

in the faces of Latin American women who have found freedom and importance such as the women in Chiapas, Mexico who work for the rebel commander Marcos. She says that these rebel women have a light in their eyes, a joy that shines out from behind the black veil like hats that they wear to protect their identities. This joy comes from the sense of being equal, the sense of self that they have gained, the knowledge that there can be more in their lives than their personal relationships, and it is omnipresent despite the fact that these women are hungry and living in bad conditions. Poniatowska implies that this sense of importance is what can liberate women and women writers from their rut of vacillating between completely subscribing a patriarchal based system or repressing themselves to win favor with men. She again pointed out that women writers should find a media way between these, a middle way that will prevent them from forcing themselves to be either single or suicidal.

Poniatowska is currently interviewing rebel commander Marcos and the women who work with him in Chiapas and she is also working on a new novel. She hopes to reduce her involvement in journalism eventually, but she will continue to speak out for women and keep raising issues which need to be addressed.

Heidi Naser is a Barnard First Year and a Bulletin Women's Issues Editor.

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Female Genital Mutilation Around the World

by Heidi Naser

Many Barnard students have only recently learned about genital mutilation. One can see them in the reserve room of the library and see the marked differences in their faces once they have learned about it. It is a topic that many women find difficult to talk about, not only because it is so personal, but also because its propagation through the societies in which it is sanctioned seems to grow unchecked.

This was the topic of Warner Marks, a movie and discussion panel sponsored by Amnesty International at McBain Lounge on Monday, March 20. The movie, narrated by Alice Walker, the author of *The Color Purple*, focused on why genital mutilation occurs and why it is not stopped.

Genital mutilation, an operation forced on many young women in parts of Asia, but especially in Africa and the Middle East, consists of removing a woman's vulva, the entire outer part of the genital region that includes the labial lips and the clitoris. Where it is done, this operation is almost never done with anesthesia or with the consent of the girl involved. Many young women have died from the bleeding alone, but the shock and trauma also contribute to their suffering.

The movie showed very disturbing images of young African women being led in a line to be genitally mutilated. They walked apprehensively through hordes of ululating women with no knowledge of what was going to happen. But the most shocking part was seeing the faces of the girls after the task was done. Their faces were empty, their eyes were vacant except for occasional furtive, shameful glances around.

The first question that occurs to the audience upon seeing this is "Why?" Unfortunately, the answers

to this question are so labyrinthine and amorphous that they really can't be pinned down. The supposed reasons for genital mutilation are that it promotes cleanliness in the vaginal region, that it promotes virtue in women (since the clitoris is the site of sexual excitement in women, once it is removed, their sex drive is reduced considerably), and that it is more aesthetically pleasing. Also, removing the clitoris prevents men from suffering the stigma of premature ejaculation. However, the actual description of genital mutilation belies these assertions. In many places, the vulva is sewn up after the operation, leaving only a small opening for the menses, and will not be opened until the time of the woman's marriage. If the woman's husband leaves, the vulva is sewn up again, and opened when the man returns. To many Western feminists, these actions seem to describe a society that treats women as chattel. They thus argue that the operation is clearly not done for reasons of cleanliness or blissful conjugal relations.

The most insidious part of it, though, is that clitorectomies are almost never performed by men. They are performed by appointed women in the society. It is only when one hears those women discuss genital mutilation that its continuum becomes clear: genital mutilation is so persistent because it is based on tradition. Logical arguments can be dissected and decimated, but the assertion of tradition is a social colossus that cannot be eliminated. It is a vicious circle of women repressing other women for the sake of a patriarchal order. It is the product of societies that, by making female sexuality taboo, increases their obsession with it.

Although genital mutilation is horrific, it brings to mind certain (continued on p. 16)

Genital Mutilation

(continued from p 15)

parallels in our own society. It is too easy to condemn these societies as primitive and ignorant before we look at our own for similarities. For instance, how much less offensive is what women in the West do to gain societal acceptance? Women destroy their hair with chemicals, starve themselves to the skeleton, cut off aesthetically displeasing parts of their bodies through plastic surgery and put silicon in their bodies to be thinner, happier, have better sex lives and ultimately to gain acceptance. And these things are all elective. Don't we see the same future desperation in the eyes of forty year-old women who have no skin left on their faces from innumerable face lifts as we do on the faces of the young women in Africa? The truth is, it is common in all parts of the world for women to undergo some sort of mutilation for the approval of men, and it is this entire concept that must be destroyed before the world can start eliminating such manifestations of it as genital mutilation.

Heidi Nash is a Barnard First Year and a Bulletin Women's Issues Editor.

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NEWS BRIEFS

(continued from p 5)

level wages fell from 7.8% for high school graduates with no higher education and 6.1% for college educated employees.

(Compiled from *Human Rights Watch Update* March 1995, the *National Students News Service* and *The Public Service Advertising Biennial* March-April 1995)

Barnard News.

• Last Thursday, March 23rd, Barnard held its annual reception for the winners of the Barnard College Essay Contest 1995. The contest was first held in 1992 for public high school junior girls and has continued since. Barnard awards cash prizes to the top four winners who write on the topic *A Woman I Admire*. Winners are chosen by a panel of judges including Quandra Prettyman and Elizabeth Dalton of the Barnard English Department, columnist Joyce Purnick of the *New York Times*, and author Rachel Brownstein. This year 436 students entered the contest. According to the judges, the essays were so impressive that Barnard awarded 28 Certificates of Merit in addition to the first four prize winners. This year's winners are Amelia Chamberlain, Margaret Huffman, Ivelisse Rodriguez, and Mihui Pak.

• Barnard's SGA (Student Government Association) elections will be held on Monday, April 3rd through Thursday, April 6th. Bebe She (BC '95) and Marty Berman (BC '96) will be this year's election commissioners. Candidates are required to sign a contract and meet eligibility requirements to run for positions. The following positions are currently open to candidates: Executive Board, President, Vice President of Student Government, Vice President of Student Activities, Treasurer, Officer of the Board, Junior Representative to the Board of Trustees, Senator to Columbia University Senate, Representatives at Large for Academic Affairs, for Commuter Affairs, for Community Affairs, Liaisons to Columbia College, to School of Engineering and Applied Science, to School of General Studies, Class Officers (for each class), President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Campaigning begins on Tuesday, March 28. There are some rules governing this process. Candidates are limited to twenty posters of specific proportions, no phone mail buttons, pamphlets, or gifts are permitted as part of a campaign. Faculty and administration are not allowed to endorse candidates.

On April 1st,
women will once more
TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
Be there.

The Death of Common Sense: How Law is Suffocating America

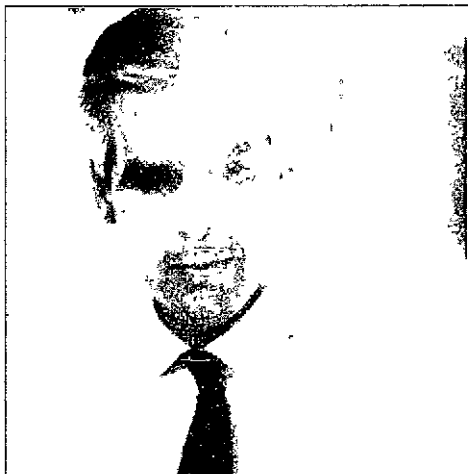
I Wouldn't Call It Suffocating

by Madeleine

Philip K. Howard's new book entitled *The Death of Common Sense: How Law is Suffocating America* takes a different stance on what most Bernard women take for granted as fair and right. He challenges the stringency of our laws and regulations and their inefficient, bureaucratic processes which he feels hinder our right to equality and fairness. Everything is done by the book. If the law says that a substance must be classified as toxic, it must be obeyed, although some firms are now burdened with labeling such things as glass cleaner and sand as hazardous.

This book confronts many important issues from homelessness and education to the bureaucracy of our local government. Howard makes an obvious point. Situations have to be seen as what they really are. A standard law cannot fit every one exactly or anticipate every contingency. After all, different problems require different solutions. The author argues that we have lost our ability to use our common sense where the law is concerned. Government officials go around confirming that all actions follow the guidelines established by our lawmakers. They fail to comprehend the various and specific needs and details of different people and firms. The current practice of writing hundreds and thousands of pages of laws, which no one reads or understands anyway, leads to a preoccupation with details and is so onerous that there is no room for mobility.

Howard believes in democracy, equality and freedom, just as we all do, but in abiding by the rules without question, compromise and common sense, and by using the absolute power of freedom to

Philip K. Howard, author of *The Death of Common Sense*

accomplish reforms of democracy and diminished our freedom (168). He begins his book with a pertinent and interesting example. In 1988 the Missionaries of Charity, headed by Mother Teresa, came upon two 'fire gutted' buildings on 148th Street and sought to renovate the buildings to shelter the homeless. The Missionaries had \$500,000 for reconstruction and New York City offered the two run-down establishments for \$1 each. Although the City owned these buildings, no single person had the authority to grant the Missionaries the buildings without bureaucratic process. It took the nuns one and a half years just to obtain approval. They went from hearing to hearing

to present their plans. They finally received the approval and began reconstruction. However, they faced a new confrontation. The New York Building Code required an elevator for every new or renovated multi-story building. A building equipped with an elevator does sound convenient and reasonable, but for the needs of the Missionaries, an elevator is unnecessary. The numerous pages and hours that went into making the New York Building Code though required that Mother Teresa and her order spend over \$100,000 on an elevator that they would never use. And there are bigger worries for the homeless than climbing up stairs. No common sense used for the Missionaries of

(Continued)

DEATH OF COMMON
SENSE *continued*

Charit's case. No one had the authority to grant or to consider an exception for them. It is the rigid law that prevented an establishment that would have been a gift to the needy. Instead Mother Teresa completely frustrated, stopped her plans and decided that the money used for the elevator would be better spent on other materials for the poor.

In the United States laws are made to create order and to prevent chaos. In Howard's judgement Americans give our elected officials the right to create laws, thus go on abiding by the rules without question. Granted the author makes some revealing, important, and necessary points about the inefficiencies of our laws and government through his various examples. However, he overestimates our unquestionable acceptance of these laws. In fact we question the meaning of laws constantly but our laziness and probably the greater hindrance, the unbelievable bureaucracy of our government get the best of us. We also cannot forget that sometimes these laws do make legal and logical sense. The problem is that bureaucrats sometimes establish laws without considering the consequences. Howard says that

[He] would have an easy mechanism for waivers (154) but of course like everything in life this is easier said than done. He believes that the laws have become so rigid so transfixed with establishing equality that we lose our sense of judgement and common sense. But then again common sense is not necessarily monolithic: who is to say that someone's values coincide with someone else's. Who has the right to say which judgement is best? Most things in life are not easily understood and we must be aware of both sides of an issue. Philip Howard's book does a good job in presenting what we need to fix in our laws and is helpful in gaining a better overall understanding.

Review: *The Paper Anniversary*

by Sheri Coburn

John Wickersham's *The Paper Anniversary* beats with a tick tick tick steadiness as it shows us two newlyweds, John and Maisie, struggling with marriage.

We first meet John and Maisie at Penn Station as they approach their first or paper anniversary. John has come from Maine where he owns an inherited french fry factory to visit Maisie, an editorial assistant living with a friend in Brooklyn. Wickersham leaves no traces of her presence as the author allowing her characters to speak and to act for themselves without commentary and without judgement. Through memories and snippets of thought, we learn of their past childhood, the college years at Harvard, their first meeting, the wedding. With the same voyeuristic appeal that comes from watching other people live their lives, as through an apartment window or perhaps a cafe chair, Wickersham writes so that we are always slightly detached witnesses to her story of a modern marriage. Unsentimental, Wickersham's writing has the precision and economy of a scalpel. The result is a very realistic study of the anatomy of a marriage.

The meeting at Penn Station is not to be the last time we will see the couple reunite, only to part again, the entire book beginning with the chapter, *Commuter Marriage*, and ending with *The Crooked Thing* (the last title a line from a poem in the chapter) records a series of reunions and separations as John and Maisie attempt to live both with and without each other. Slipping into the tempo of the novel if never into the skins of the characters, we see the pain that comes with distance, both physical and emotional. For example, during a separation that John and Maisie think will lead to divorce, John visits Maisie over a weekend. As John leaves, Maisie observes:

But this doesn't count. She

said hoarsely. It's like the Germans and Allied soldiers sending Christmas cookies back and forth between the trenches, Right?

Oh, Maisie, he said in the gentle voice she remembered but hadn't heard all weekend.

What?

I don't know. And then he left. Wickersham uses the same understated astuteness to inject humor into the novel, though it is like everything else in her writing, quietly contained. The humor is of the type that is in this dialogue:

I was wondering, I've told you about this camp I have on the lake? Well, I'm going over there this weekend and I was wondering if you might want to come.

He felt himself frowning at her.

It's very restful there. Silent, really. Nobody bothers you. You wouldn't even see another person the whole time you're there. Not even me.

That would be great, he said finally smiling, and then, when she left, he realized he'd said that it would be great not to see her.

Wickersham's strengths are her descriptions and dialogues which, like a match that flares for an instant, illuminate her characters so that we catch a better glimpse of them. One particularly detailed description reveals: He had long Buddha earlobes that swung like bell clappers when Maisie flicked them with her tongue. Wickersham can, however, surprise us with her lyricism. In one of the few passages where we are allowed to feel with the characters, she writes (a thought John addresses to his dead father):

There was a look you would sometimes get. Hurt but closed in, so I knew you didn't know it was showing, as though your fly were unzipped. I can't bear it, I can't, but don't go. By the novel's end, it is us, the readers, who must go. It is only with great reluctance that we do.

Sheri Coburn is a *Barnard Sophomore*.

A SPECIAL RELEASE IN TIME FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

by Naomi de Silva

In all the American history or women's studies courses I've taken I have yet to come across a book that even mentions cowgirls and their role in the American West. Being an American history major I was extremely curious as well as interested when I was invited to a book signing for Ronnie Farley, a photographer and painter who specializes in Native America and the American West. This informative as well as cathralling book entitled *Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West* deals with an important aspect of the American West that is often overlooked and ignored. Not only does Ms. Farley provide breathtaking photographs but she also ingeniously incorporates cowgirls' personal reflections on their life and role in society.

This book accurately depicts cowgirls' lives demonstrating the harshness and extremities women in the West face. The book is a

tribute to how strong women are. Cowgirls contribute to a larger social consciousness. They embody an image of the capable female. An important point to note is that one out of five people I questioned were unaware that cowgirls ever existed. Every person however, not only knew about cowboys, but also could name a few. One person questioned shirmed by her ignorance asked,

"Since when have you ever seen a female on the range other than in the standard domestic capacity?"

Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West was released at the perfect time in celebration of Women's History Month. This book had such a great impact on me that I picked up Ms. Farley's first book, entitled *Women of the Name Struggle*. Even though I have studied Native American history, I have never read a book that illustrated Native American culture so well. This book was equally as impressive as Ms. Farley's *Cowgirls* effort. Once again she combined her sharp eye with personal accounts to provide the reader with

an accurate depiction. The photos combine with the statements to provide a third dimension that can not be found documented in any other source. The photographs themselves have a life of their own and truly are breathtaking.

The book signing was held appropriately at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame Restaurant (on the corner of Hudson and 10th Street). This peculiar restaurant has various memorabilia from the American West dating from the 1820's to the current day including a vast collection of numerous types of barb wire.

If you would like to read something from which you're going to learn something that is as interesting as a John Grisham or Tom Clancy novel, pick up a copy of one of these two books. Guaranteed it will teach you about something you haven't learned about before.

Naomi de Silva is an Arts Editor and a Barnard sophomore.

The Quad Hall Council Welcomes...

**NOTHING BUT
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Technicolor Krunk

by Ann McCarthy

When Dean Moriarty asks William S. Burroughs's character in *On the Road* why he has a photograph of a decrepit old Cape Cod house hanging on his wall, he replies, "I like it because it's ugly." Considering his love of the unpleasant, maybe just maybe Burroughs would dig Arty Nelson's first novel, *Technicolor Pulp*, but it seems doubtful that anyone as well read as he could enjoy such poor writing.

Nelson gives us unbearable ugliness in his narrator Jim Banks, a man who slicks his hair back with Vaseline and who sees showering as mainly an opportunity to masturbate. The author does a really good job of immersing the reader in repulsiveness as much of the novel takes place in the bathroom, with full descriptions of Jim's excrement experiences. Also lovely are the paragraphs that focus on Jim's genital herpes. Nelson is good at making the reader's stomach turn, but that's really his only talent.

The plot is straightforward and simple. Jim has broken up with his girlfriend and one of his old friends has killed himself. Jim goes to London and sleeps on a friend's couch, eats his food, spends his money, and smokes his pot. Then he goes to Paris and does the same thing with a different friend. Throughout the book, Jim thinks for long periods of time about life, women, and the future. His observations are less than brilliant. For example, after thinking about the women to whom he has given herpes, he comes to the conclusion:

Growing up sucks. Nelson is apparently going for some kind of *Leaves of Grass* effect by breaking up sections of thought with ellipsis, but the narrator is no Walt Whitman, and his deepest commentaries run along the lines of this one: "The story escapes me, as does most of

college. A stop in time. A four-year freeze. A reading list. A bag of ecstasy. A month of therapy. Perhaps this is Nelson's idea of poetry, but it seems more likely that he just didn't feel like writing complete sentences. Also, Nelson is very liberal with exclamation points and capitalizes the oddest things, as when Jim's father asks him what he plans to do in Europe, refusing Jim a loan unless he gets a job, and Jim thinks to himself:

'Details! The BASTARD always wants details!' These simple grammatical details keep the book from flowing. The reader keeps getting caught off guard by capitalized words and out-of-place punctuation, and it doesn't help the story at all.

Then there is the misogyny. When comparing women by country, Jim decides he prefers the British because they are "Not brash and new hkt. American bitches, all attitude and no wisdom." After saying that Grace Kelly was the most beautiful woman ever, he elaborates: "I mean, I respect Cary Grant solely for the fact that I once saw him slap Grace Kelly." That sentence is actually kept from being that offensive by the fact that it is a complete non-sequitur. And Jim never meets a woman without describing and evaluating her body. Maybe that's a realistic observation by the author about men, but it makes for unnecessarily offensive and very tiresome reading.

An alarming number of critics hail Nelson as the representative of our generation. This is extremely silly for a few reasons. First, as Douglas Coupland, the writer people were calling the voice of our generation last year, said of the title, "I certainly wouldn't want you to speak for me, and I don't assume that I speak for you." In other words, nobody is really the voice of any generation. If a writer is

good, she says things to which lots of people relate. Truly universal things. But that does not mean that one voice, no matter how skilled, can speak for millions. Second, *Technicolor Pulp* deals in slacker stereotypes that are boring and ungrounded. How many Gen X kids could really sponge off people for months on end, offering absolutely nothing in return for countless beers and tons of pot? Finally, even if this book were some kind of masterpiece and did have the capacity to be the voice of a generation, it would still only speak for half of a generation, because its blatant misogyny makes it an unlikely voice for most women.

Bikini magazine says that Arty Nelson is destined to rule the literary world. It really really hope not.

Ann McCarthy is a *Barnard First Year* and a *Bulletin Arts* editor.

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March Is Women's History Month



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ARTS EVENTS CALENDAR

Film

Zooptax Cinema at Altschul Hall

Five Easy Pieces, a 1970 film starring Jack Nicholson as an aspiring musician, is showing Tues., April 4 at 7, 9, and 11. \$2

Film Forum I, 209 W Houston St. 727-8110

Ballet, a documentary about the American Ballet Theater, is showing from March 22-April 4, every day at 2, 5:30 and 8:35. \$7.50

The Studio Museum in Harlem, 144 W 125th St., 864-4500

Since it's Women's History Month, the Studio Museum is showing a series of films that celebrate African-American women. The series runs until April 8. *In Black and White: Three Women Writers*, a film featuring Alice Walker, Toni Morrison and Gloria Naylor talking about their experiences as women and writers will show on Sat., April 1 at 2. Call to find out about other films in the series. \$3 w/ student ID

Theater

Columbia Intercultural Resource Center, 116th st. between Broadway and Amsterdam

Bodega, a dramatic comedy about modern Puerto Rican culture directed by Columbia senior Maria Esponda, is showing from March 31-April 2 at 8 free

The Marion Victor Studio Theater, Milbank Hall, Barnard, 854-5638

The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine, a clown show starring Barnard senior Jessica Claire and Peter Smith is showing from March 30-April 1 at 8. free

Dance

Clark Studio Theater at Lincoln Center, 924-0077
"new work, new music, new video...New York," a performance choreographed by Linda Gold, said by the L.A. Times to have, "a hard-edged brilliance," is showing Thurs., April 6 at 8. \$8 w/ student ID

Music

Postcrypt Coffeehouse, in the basement of St. Paul's Chapel 854-1953

Pamela Means, who has opened for the likes of Neil Young and the Violent Femmes, makes her Postcrypt debut Friday, March 31 at 9. Also playing Friday Peter Mulvey, a "killer on guitar," Chuck Brydsky, and blues musician Hugh Pool. Performance Space 122, 150 First Ave., 477-5288

Chris Lochrane, Jesse Hultberg, Dudley Saunders and other musicians who are part of what the NY Press calls "the gay folk explosion," will perform April 21 at 10:30 pm. \$8

Wollman Auditorium, Columbia Campus

One woman acoustic punk band Ani DiFranco will play Thurs., March 30 at 9. \$5

Literature

The Miller Theater 280 Dodge Hall, Columbia, 854-7799

Poet, essayist and translator Robert Pinsky will read from his much-praised new translation of Dante's *Inferno* on Wed., March 29 at 8. A reception and book-signing at the Barnard Bookforum will follow. \$5 w/ student ID

Ferris Booth Hall, East Wing
 Sandra Cisneros, author of *The House on Mango Street*, *Woman Hollering Creek* and *My Wicked Wicked Ways* will discuss her work and experiences, Tuesday, April 4 at 12 noon

Exhibitions and Permanent Collections

Art in General, 79 Walker St., 219-0473

Split Level: a group exhibition about suburbia, will be on display from March 18-April 29. \$1 suggested donation

Visions of Home, a series of paintings by Natalia Kalnins will show from March 18-April 25. \$1 suggested donation

If you wish to publicize an event in our weekly Arts Calendar, please call Ann or Naomi at x42119.

Love Battery Proves to be a Straight Freak Ticket from Seattle

by Hilary Reiter

Hey, folks! Believe it or not I have returned from a long absence of music review land here at the Bulletin. A hectic school schedule and an even more demanding work schedule has greatly constrained my time. Nevertheless, I would claim that an even better explanation for my time away is my utter disgust with new music these days. I'd rather read every last work by John Locke than flick through the television channels for fear of so much as passing by MTV. What irks me the most is the whole Alice Pearl Sound Candle Pilots thing—enough to send chills up my spine—worse than chalk screeching down a blackboard.

Needless to say I am therefore repelled by any band whose biography boasts that they hail from Seattle. Who the hell cares anyway? I decided long ago (with the exception of a great little band called Green Apple Quick Step) that

I would never again listen to another artist whose record label promotes them by bragging that they're from that rainy city. I've heard that Seattle has a very high suicide rate. I wonder why? Frequenting a bunch of little clubs where one finds grunge that's more repulsive than what seems to be growing in my suite's bathroom and kitchen would certainly be enough to cast me over the edge.

This is exactly how I felt when I received a package from A&M Records that contained a CD and bio of the band Love Battery. I skimmed through the biography, and the word Seattle caught my attention. Another band whose record company is proud of the fact that they're from Seattle. A&M already has Soundgarden. Why do they need another?

Ultimately, there existed two factors that kept me from adhering to my grunge philosophy. I've been hearing quite a bit about Love Battery for a while now, and the

album title *Straight Freak Ticket* amused me.

I somewhat reluctantly took the disc back to my room. The fact that I was in the midst of dialing a friend's phone number when I popped the CD in proves that I did not have the honest intention of really listening to the music. All of a sudden I ceased dialing. Wouldn't you know it, the piercing first notes of the opening track 'Jazz Factory' made me want to listen up. Besides, I liked the title of this track. It reminds me of a nickname (that I dare not repeat in this forum) that someone created for me. What a refreshing change from Seattle; this band turned out to be no grunge, just unique sounding indie rock ala Trapping Daisy (one of my faves). Love Battery is the perfect kind of band that one might happily fall upon in a dark little East Village club—too bad bands like this don't really exist in New York. Love Battery has a great groove that would pack a club and keep people drinking. The music is even kind of danceable, too.

A psychedelic edge can be discovered on Drowning Sun. I especially like the jerky, irregular musical style on this track as well as singer Ron Nine's rambling delivery of the quirky lyrics. All they pray for is peace in Seven Eleven. Thank Heavens for Seven Eleven; has my disease. This reminded me of my spring break in Florida where I actually bought some items at a Seven Eleven store. The music becomes heavy and aggressive in the latter part of the song with a pounding drum beat while the vocals remain quite melodic. Drowning Sun must kick ass, live.

Another definite highlight on *Straight Freak Tickets* is Angelhead, which demonstrates the band's trippy side. Now, all of my friends, be well-wary of my hatred of



Members of Love Battery: Jason Finn, Bruce Fairweather, Kevin Whitcomb, and Ron Nine. Photo by Charles Peterson.

(Continued on p. 24)

Love Battery

(continued from last page)

diment, but this song made me love like no other has in a long time. The track features a hard edge but remains very catchy. The lyrics are representative of the group's wandering and confusing lyrical style. Not making sense is making sense to me. Not only do I wish I could summarize what Love Battery is about lyrically, but it basically characterizes the way my life seems to be going right now. Perhaps the singer wants to meet up with me sometime. I'm sure that if I extended an invitation to him we could share some more common experiences. Just kidding... sort of.

Luz Factory kicks the disc off with "Nine Singing." This could be the day that I've waited for. In a sense hearing *Straight Freak Ticket* was the day I waited for. Finally, a band was able to prove me wrong about Seattle. Love Battery actually does not infringe on the copy rights of other groups, if you know what I mean. We land & Co.

*Hitus Review is a Bulletin Must
List - into B's bars & ph. m.c.*

Fine and Fierce

(continued from p. 29)

Lipsed back into silence. In his characteristic way, however, he worried about the singer's details. Especially the stuff in my backpack that threatened to spill out of the freshman's closure. He removed the uppermost contents, some lotion, books, a box of tampons. He tended to arrange them all in the most comfortable in the bag, and then he did it. He secured it. I could feel this in the air, in the air, in the air. I could feel this in the air, in the air, in the air. I could feel this in the air, in the air, in the air. I could feel this in the air, in the air, in the air.

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Specifics of Rape:

Making It Real and Reclaiming Control

by Catherine Anne Pajak

She scribbles XX in a date rapist on a bathroom stall in a library. A blatant caution to other women. A warning from a woman who obviously feels she has no other way to be heard.

Women hear her but they do not listen. Someone writes a nasty response back about not being able to prove it and you did not get a conviction did you etc. Less than three percent of rapists get convicted.

Social psychology experiments document an inconsistency between one's general beliefs and one's specific experiences. We know assaults happen but a particular assault is difficult to comprehend if it can't happen to me. It wouldn't happen to her, it doesn't count she was drunk he would never do that. Inherently there is an unbelievable aspect to rape because society masks rape behind a cloak of secrecy. We talk in the general about rape but everyone is hesitant to give specifics. But specifics are needed to make rape real.

We need to know his name.

When she comes forward and she defends herself she fights for all women particularly those who have been attacked. Without specifics rape remains just a rumor, a bad rep scribbles on a bathroom wall.

Survivors who feel responsible to warn others make an enormous personal sacrifice. Their fight for all women goes unrecognized.

She's the last one to speak at the candle lighting ceremony. Her voice shakes and she apologizes to a group of twenty women. She apologizes for her rape. She says she's sorry if the attention and controversy surrounding her case made it

difficult for other women to come forward. She went national when administrators ignored her. She got a college's rape policies written and rewritten. She had a movie made about her case. She was on the cover of a national magazine. Everyone knew her name.

She was raped in her dorm room by a friend. No one knows his name. Women gossip about her and defend him. There was complete silence after she spoke. Someone should have told her not to be sorry but to be PROUD.

Proud to be raped? No. Proud to have taken a stand. Proud to have done something. Proud to have fought for herself—for all women. But she was not proud, she was sorry. (What did she gain from going forward? What does a woman possibly gain from making false accusations of rape or battering? But still, we do not want to believe her. Would she have made the effort for a false accusation?) She took control of her situation.

Feelings of loss of control are common repercussions of sexual assault and domestic violence. During assault, a survivor loses control over something she owns: her sex. The right to refuse is powerful, and when that power is stripped, she no longer has control over herself, her sex. Reclaiming control can be achieved by going forward and claiming the experience. A survivor claims her experience and speaks the fears of her entire gender.

Even when a woman speaks, language limits her expression. Our language is male centered and negatively connects women with sexual connotations. Conventions of language mark women as sex objects. Reports of violence against women distort the terror. The crime is that a deserving man has been

deprived of his woman. Deborah Cameron points to headlines that read: A man who suffered head injuries when attacked by two men who broke into his home was pinned down on the bed by intruders who took turns to rape his wife and.

A terrified husband was forced to lie next to his wife as two men raped her yesterday. The men are victims and the rapes are added only in dependent clauses.

The violence against the woman remains secondary. Even in situations of non-aggression language usage silences women: men act (screw) women receive (get laid). In order to make women the actors, women must speak for themselves and be proud of their voice. Only through vocalization can women develop a form of communication which recognizes and legitimizes women's experiences.

Annie Leclerc in her work *Women's Word* writes of this necessity: I must talk about it because only by talking about it will a new language be born: a woman's word. I need my own body. That is what I mean by living.

By pronouncing the aggressor, making the case specific and thus claiming experience, women begin to change the language.

Catherine Anne Pajak is a Barnard sophomore and the Bulletin Commentary Editor.

WRITE
FOR
BULLETIN!!!

Copy Situation Out of Control

by Margarida Jorge

Mundane worries contribute to general unhappiness. It is for this reason more than any other that I feel compelled to complain in the interest of therapeutic commiseration about those most hated of machines: the library copiers. Unlike most unknowing users, I do not blame the library workers for the failure of technology which I witness on a nearly daily basis. As a library employee, I realize that the staff has nothing to do with the copiers. In fact, we don't even own them! In reality, it is Office Services which is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the copy machines and it is with much empathy that I declare those employees have quite a task.

Many of my fellow students use the copy machines each day in the hopes that they can copy their reserve materials and take them home rather than remain trapped in the reading room for hours on end with a desk copy of a book that they don't even want to read. Much less read without the distracting comforts of home as consolation. Yet typically what seems like an easy enough operation grows ever more complex as copy users try to use the card vending machine (which has spent more hours in repair than actually functioning despite the fact that it is a new feature of the copy game at Barnard) get change for a twenty (which they can no longer obtain from the library Circulation or Reserve desks) or actually copying. Invariably the machines flash cryptic numbers or messages in a blunt refusal to function properly.

What can anyone expect from machines more than a score old and so frequently used? Certainly perfect performances are too far from the realm of possibility to be a reasonable demand. Yet one would think that some serious solution to the problem would arise at some point. An iron clad contract with the Oec company forbids the copiers owners from getting rid of the machines altogether. Therefore, they spend considerable time repairing the machines on nearly a daily basis. Meanwhile students and library staff grow increasingly frustrated that such a minor concern is so deep a thorn in the student's side.

Students however are not powerless in this situation. Although bringing in a favorite wrench and getting to work on the machine oneself is not an option, students can help fix the copy machine problem by following some simple directions. Most

(continued on next page)

An Open Letter to Barnard Students

by ZD

Imagine yourself for a minute in a place you've never been before: in the heart of it all, behind your mailbox, not in the middle of McIntosh. Behind the boxed walls, hides a different point of view and a hard work involved in an everyday routine. From early morning till the last minute of the working day there is always something to do: First Class Mail, Second Class Mail, campus mail, package slips, magazines, catalogues, never ending flyers from all possible departments and individuals, and so on. Tired after exhausting lectures and seminars and in hope to relax a little, to have a decent conversation to sit down and take it easy, the students working here can forget about it all. Standing all the time on our feet while delivering mail, moving fast from one section to another, this is our job.

Now put yourself in our shoes and listen to yourself talking on the other side of the box: sounds of joy and excitement if you got a letter or a package, curses and anger if your box is empty or filled with "This garbage again!" But the worst noises you're about to hear are the slapping box doors right onto your face or your ears. And it comes from all the sides, surrounds you and drives you crazy. But you still continue your monotonous routine until RING, saved by the bell. Questions, complaints, demands, reproaches, undescribed insults. And then you return to your spot and deliver mail to the boxes of your probable offenders.

Work gone by unappreciated, for four years I've been to Barnard. I have been behind the scenes of the mail life in McIntosh. We work hard, we do our job honestly, and we don't want unnecessary praises or fake glories. Just imagine yourself in there, try to guess what's going inside and behind, do believe that our services are useful and efficient!

ZD is a Barnard Student and a Mail Room Employee.

The Bulletin would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for Barnard's mail room staff for their diligent work in weekly distributing our periodical

Copiers Gone Crazy

(continued from last page)

importantly read the directions on the machines before tossing coins into the machine at the speed of a train. Also read the vendor card machine before half-hazardly inserting bills. Remember bring change with you to the library because the library staff cannot give change for copying since Office Services provides them with limited funds. The copiers may reside in the library, but there has been no financial merger as a result. The library and Office Services maintain separate accounts.

Abusing the library staff does not help the situation. The students and librarians who work in the Reserve/Circulation area want to help students, but are powerless since their training excludes technical copy-fixing skills.

Hostility never helps. Rather than yelling, students would do better to write their complaints on a slip and put it in the suggestion box or write them in the complaint log which the library staff keeps for that very purpose. Without documentation the library staff cannot approach Office Services with student complaints for no one will take the comments seriously.

Remember, the copiers are the enemy, not those who are forced to deal with complaints when the machines don't work. The library staff is as frustrated with the situation as the students who frequent the copy room. If students want to be direct, the best route is to take complaints directly to Office Services and let the staff there know that the copy situation is reaching ridiculous proportions and that something must be done. Otherwise, no progress will be made and there will be no assurance that those notes or readings which students will need for finals will be available.

Margarida Jorge is a Barnard Senior and the Bulletin Editor in Chief and has been a library employee for four years.

Keeping Theater at Barnard

by Margarida Jorge

The predicament of Barnard's student theater groups (STAB and Musical Theater at Barnard) provides a poignant opportunity for reflection on bigger themes. These groups are currently engaged in petitioning SGA for space in which to audition and perform, a legitimate request for any student group composed of members who work hard consistently and contribute to the student culture at this college.

STAB's (Student Theater at Barnard) very conscious apprehensions (as expressed by Treasurer Maggie Lino in a recent interview) about obtaining space at Columbia are valid. Not only is the process tedious, but the idea of co-sponsoring with a Columbia group is antithetical to the point of having a theater group with the phrase "at Barnard" in it at all. Barnard's relationship with Columbia is unique and despite kinks usually cooperative and productive in situations involving extra-curricular life. Yet Barnard is simultaneously an independent institution and it is understandable that groups want to keep their activities centered on our campus and targeted to our own community.

Theater groups perform for an audience and do not necessarily discriminate among the members. An allocation of space would be not only a pragmatic boon but would demonstrate to the members of these groups and to the community at large that Barnard supports its groups and that we as an institution consider their work valuable. Putting on a production is a massive task requiring considerable sacrifice on the part of those involved. The initiative and drive of these student performers are qualities which Barnard actively tries to cultivate in its students. These characteristics, however, cannot overcome physical obstacles like space and money. Barnard must meet these students half way and if not reward their efforts, at least not render their task impossible.

One possible solution involves a more equal distribution of

resources among student groups. There are some student organizations that receive funds for activities which constitute a far more dubious contribution to student life than the work of student theater groups, which requires long-term effort and frequent rehearsals. This is not to diminish the interests of any other group but to suggest that the troubles which student theater groups face are magnified by the contrast in proportions of financial support and attention they receive compared to other groups. More equitable allowances of money would help, though this move alone would not solve the problem.

Access to vacant rooms and general space is also an issue that affects everyone, but especially these groups. Rehearsal and space to perform is the absolute minimum required for their projects, without it they cannot exist. The constant irritations which many groups face in trying to schedule rooms far in advance only to discover on the appointed days of use that the paperwork has somehow been lost are frustrating and inefficient. Locking rooms in which all furniture is bolted to the floor to prevent theft, if indeed that is the motivation for locking, seems a bit superfluous. Concerns about safety are an issue for everyone and students must appreciate security's efforts to monitor it on their behalf, but perhaps a different system of scheduling could provide a compromise between safety and access. All possibilities must be discussed in the interest of mutual accommodation.

These groups are valuable features of our college community, specifically Barnard's community. It is time to invest in them and encourage them, if not for the simple fact that they deserve it, then to reinforce our strength and independence as an institution and as students who value what is uniquely ours above all else.

Margarida Jorge is a Barnard Senior and the Bulletin Editor in Chief.

The Heart of the Matter

by Amy Leavoy

Only Three Percent

When I applied to Barnard one of the least important factors in my decision was its status as a women's college. To be honest I did not think that it either added to or detracted from Barnard's attractiveness as a college. It was not until the first day of orientation sitting in Barnard gym surrounded by my fellow classmates did I realize that I was in a single sex institution. I distinctly remember looking around the room at the rows filled with students when it suddenly struck me I go to an all women's school. Suddenly I felt a wave of panic. Amy I asked myself what have you done? Are you ready to go through four years of no guys? At the time I was perplexed and slightly weakened by the prospect. However after almost three years of a Barnard education I do not think I could have made a better choice.

In the last few weeks there has been much commotion about Barnard its relationship with Columbia and the need for it to remain a women's undergraduate college. Rather than simply giving more superfluous attention to what I and most thinking people consider to be ludicrous obscene and embarrassing notions I want to explain why I think that women's colleges like Barnard are a necessary and vital educational option in today's academic society.

First a few statistics all of which by the way I learned because I am a tour guide for the Barnard's Admission office. Only three percent of undergraduates graduate from a women's college. However that three percent does proportionately better in the workplace than those who attend co-educational institutions. A 1967 study tracing women's college graduates found that compared to their co-educational counterparts women's college graduates earn an average of \$8,000 a year more. Additionally 40 percent of the women in the U.S. Congress graduated from a women's college and over one third of the women on Fortune 5000 boards graduated from women's colleges. The data empirically suggests that women's colleges offer superior preparation by specifically targeting women and fostering self-esteem confidence and motivation both intellectually and socially.

Personally I have experienced this firsthand. When I entered Barnard the thought of speaking in front of groups caused me to become sick to my stomach. I was unsure of myself and my future. I knew that I wanted a career but I did not think that I was smart enough or valuable enough to actually pursue my dreams. Now almost three years later I have developed a clear career path confident that while I may not get into Yale's or NYU's law schools I'll get into some law school. My knowledge about women's issues and concerns has increased tenfold. Because my Barnard classes have paid equal attention to women's contributions and influences in all fields of academia from religion to political science I have a better understanding of women's status in society. As for speaking in front of people I do that every week when I give my tours. Ironically speaking about Barnard has helped me to gain the confidence to give the tours.

Women's colleges are necessary institutions in this country simply because we have not yet reached the era in which men and women are paid equally for equal work in which women are no longer subjected to violence and harassment and in which double standards no longer exist. Women's colleges are vital in order to cultivate a population of females uninhibited by challenges pressures and stereo types. A male friend once asked me why we needed women's colleges. When I responded with some of the reasons I listed above he asked if a small co-educational school couldn't foster the same types of confidence and independence in its students. I said no it could not. A co-educational school could never primarily address the needs and concerns of women because by definition it must cater equally to all of its students.

I'm proud that I go to Barnard a women's college. Reading and hearing about others desiring to abolish it or questioning its validity saddens me. Not only does the thought of losing this beloved institution conjure feelings of sorrow but others' insensitivity and obvious failure to understand the purpose of single sex education suggests that we still have a long way to go.

Am Leave is a Barnard Journal Bulletin columnist

Fine and Fierce

a column devoted, but not limited to seniors

by Sae Yun Kim

Writers will lapse into French to capture just the right expression, for example, *joue de vivre*, *sangfroid*, *noblesse oblige*, and it all sounds so pretty, mysterious and *voilà!* instantly sophisticated, but I heard a wonderful, crisp, expression in Spanish that I have yet to see in print: *linea cruzada*. Literally, it means a crossed line, but the more nuanced suggestion is a crazy, zig-zagging line. So when you say someone is *linea cruzada*, he doesn't just eschew the straight and narrow — he has the kind of emotional temperament which is as unpredictable and disruptive as jagged lightning. Being in his company is like weathering a salvo of slugs that sap you because he alternately excites you and depresses you. He's a little crossed, a little crazy, a juggin' zig-zag. But the next time he comes darting your way with flashing eyes that turn solemn and weary just because you mention fur coats off-handedly, you can look at him in a critical, detached way and say, "Hmmm. . . *linea cruzada*." It should make him bonkers, and cause him to jag yet again.

Many of us are closet *lineas cruzadas* — actually, I don't know, but I say that for my own comfort, to provide myself with the illusion of partisanship. Well, I know I am, and so is my father. And between the two of us trying so hard to hide our ups and downs and our horizontal extremities, we come up with strangely spare talk: The phone conversations we have once a month all sound the same:

"Hi Dad. It's me."

"Sae Yun?"

"Hmmm-hmmm. The younger one."

(He laughs appreciatively.) "Oh, I miss you! How are you?"

I roar. "I'm Fine! I'm Good! How are you?"

"Oh. . . just fine."

"How's mom?"

"Oh. . . she's fine."

"Good. Hmmm. . . are you still going to sell the house?" (Or, did you forward my mail? Did you book my flight?)

"No, I don't think so, not right now. Do you need anything? How's your money situation?"

"No, I'm fine."

"Good. Well, I love you."

"I love you too."

"Okay, good-bye."

"Bye."

Only when I get off the phone do I frown at the rotteness of it all and I wonder about how much he neglects to tell me. Since I am literally part of his parcel, and was even born on his birthday, I have a lot of my father in me. By deduction, he must have huge ripping zigs and zags like I do, but what are they? Did he remember something he forgot today? Did Katina, his young employee and substitute daughter, tell him anything interesting? Is he worried about not being able to sell the house? He's neatly tucked away all the jaggedness, and as a result, so have I.

It's a bit different though, when we're in person, like the time when we drove for two hours up to Rochester so I could catch a flight from there. He can wax a little crazy. In his idiosyncratic way, he was terribly worried we would get lost, because he wasn't sure of the route from St. Paul to Rochester, despite the fact he was a highly competent, 53-year-old man who had never gotten a high school degree, but managed to support his two daughters so they could attend Seven Sisters schools. Still, I could tell by his furrowed brow and heavy demeanor that he was worried. What an idiot. But on discovering that we arrived in Rochester early, he breathed relief and relished the idea of sharing breakfast with me before I left. We must have talked about the future: he, about how much he hates winters in Minnesota and how nice North Carolina sounds in comparison; me, about remaining in New York City after I graduate.

As we approached the Rochester airport, we made merciless fun of its size — he laughed, and compared it to a strip mall. He held on to his unabashed delight with me as long as he could, as if momentarily, it was twenty years ago and he had just come home from another hard day's work and could play with the sweet-natured infant that he so adored. But as we sat side-by-side on the cold, plastic chairs, before I boarded, we

(continued on next page)

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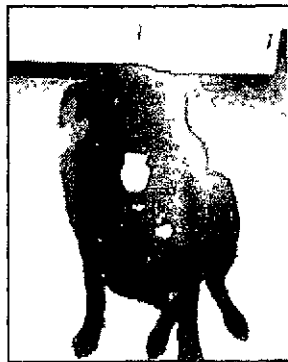
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