



Bulletin

November 2000

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Barnard Bulletin

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Need Spending Money Over Break? Go to SGA

The Student Government Association will hand out about \$3 000 to students during the next few weeks. Students will drop off a form, get a phone call saying they will receive a few hundred dollars, hand in their addresses, and receive checks in the mail. Period. Students will never be required to account for the money they receive. At least that's what will happen if Winter Grants 1995 are distributed and accounted for in the same manner as Summer Grants 1995.

Winter Grant? Summer Grant? A little confused? You are not alone. Unfortunately a majority of the Barnard population does not know what these grants are, what they are for, or who has and will receive them.

The recipients of the Summer 1995 grants have not yet been called upon to account for the money that they were awarded. Nor were the recipients asked to sign a contractual agreement when they received the money

SGA has allocated \$6 500 this year for Summer and Winter Grants. The money is distributed to students who design research or creative arts projects. According to the application, students who receive grants "are expected to read and sign a contractual agreement and adhere to all that is stated therein." Furthermore, after a student completes her project she is "expected to submit either a written report or to produce a creative work, and be accountable for the money allocated."

The recipients of the Summer 1995 grants have not yet been called upon to account for the money that they were awarded. Nor were the recipients asked to sign a contractual agreement when they received the money. Recipients just gave their summer addresses to College Activities and received a check in the mail a week after finals.

The idea of grants is praiseworthy, but the manner in which they have been run is irresponsible and embarrassing. SGA should not be announcing guidelines it does not follow

and grant recipients should have to account for the money that they are awarded. After all, the money for grants comes from our student activities fee.

Why haven't SGA or prior grant recipients been held accountable for this money? There are a few rationales. One is the lack of student group accountability (see "Student Groups Lack Accountability" in the Nov. 15 issue of the *Bulletin*). Another is the acknowledged incompetence of last year's SGA. But the most compelling reason that grant money goes unaccounted for is due to the structure of SGA itself.

It is the Officer of the Board's responsibility to publicize and account for grants. (The actual recipients of the grants are chosen by a committee of students.) The Officer of the Board is an elected Executive Board SGA position. Besides grants, the Officer is in charge of the SGA office and SGA student employees. Currently SGA has about fourteen office assistants and a publications office manager. Apart from these managerial responsibilities, the Officer performs secretarial duties (i.e. taking care of agendas and minutes).

In past years the responsibilities currently assigned to the Officer of the Board were split between the elected Officer of the Board and a paid student Office Manager. The reasons why the position of Office Manager was eliminated are unclear.

The reinstatement of an Office Manager for SGA must be seriously considered. The responsibilities currently assigned to the Officer of the Board are cumbersome and cannot be fulfilled by one non-paid student.

SGA needs to be more accountable for the money it spends. SGA cannot simply distribute \$6 500 a year to students and have no idea what the money was used for. If it is necessary to reduce the money allocated to Winter and Summer grants and hire a student to manage the SGA office in order for the grant recipients to be held accountable for the money they receive, this must be done.

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 and must include a phone number. All letters are printed under the discretion of the Editors; opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors, not necessarily Barnard College or the Barnard Bulletin. The editorial board reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

The Bulletin Welcomes Letters to the Editor

BEAR ESSENTIALS

LATE HOURS

The Dean of Studies office will stay open late the first and third Tuesdays of every month from 5 pm to 7 pm

ATTENTION TURKEY LOVERS:

Any student who is looking for a place to eat for Thanksgiving should contact Dean Silverman, x42024

PROGRAM PLANNING SPRING '96

has begun. Please be aware of procedures for limited enrollment courses and for filing tentative programs (check your mailbox for info.) Please remember to schedule an appointment with your advisor to discuss your program well before the November 30 deadline.

CORRECTION to Limited Enrollment

list CPL BC3101y, "The Myth of the Vampire," offered through the Comp Lit Dept., will be taught in English and is not limited in size. Also, please be aware that SOC V3250, Sociology of Jewish Life is limited to 50 students. Students should sign up on the sheet on Professor Nalshak Friedman's office door beginning November 9. For information on course offerings, consult the Catalogue (spring course numbers end in "y") and the Course Resource File in the Dean of Studies Office. The file supplements Catalogue information with details supplied by the instructors themselves. If you notice that a spring course in which you are interested is not on file, please notify the Department Office receptionist so that the information you are seeking may be secured before the end of this semester. In addition, be sure to check your status

on fulfillment of degree requirements (pp 33-39, Catalogue) and consider the electives you want to take. Remember that the second semester of elementary level foreign language (or a more advanced course if you qualify) must be satisfactorily completed if you are to receive credit for the first semester course, unless you request (in writing) a one time only exception to this policy.

CORRECTIONS TO EARLY EDITION OF PENCIL BOOK.

FRE BC3040y 20th Century French Fiction is meeting on Mon. and Wed. 2:40-3:55

ENG BC3190, Global Literature in English Mon. & Wed. 4:10-5:25 taught by Maire Jaanus and Elizabeth Stewart is being offered.

DEADLINE TO WITHDRAW FROM A

COURSE (W recorded) is Thursday December 7. Be sure to file the appropriate forms with the Registrar 107 Milbank.

ATTENTION TO NEW STUDENTS:

Your parents will soon receive a letter from Dean Denburg informing them of the College's policy on grade reports (i.e. grades are not automatically sent) if you would like a copy of your grades sent to your parents at the end of every term, please file a consent card with the Registrar. Although this policy reflects the College's preference, the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 allows parents who can establish their daughter's dependency (as defined by the Internal Revenue Code) to receive transcripts of her grades without her permission. Please discuss this

matter with your parents over the coming holiday weekend. Questions? Call x42024.

STUDENTS NOT RETURNING TO

BARNARD NEXT SEMESTER (& who are not February '96 graduates) are reminded to file a study leave or withdrawal form in the Dean of Studies office. Students seeking credit for study leave should see Dean Szell in the Dean of Studies Office. Course approval forms should be signed by appropriate department chairpersons.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Manhattan School of Music applications for the 1996-97 academic year must be filed with the Barnard Registrar by Monday, January 1, for auditions to be held from Feb. 26 until Mar. 1.

The Juilliard School applications are due Thursday, December 14, for the Feb. 26 to Mar. 1 auditions. Students planning to enroll at MSM or Juilliard must obtain Professor Gail Archer's signature (328C Milbank).

ACADEMIC HELP

The following tutoring programs are available to students who are seeking help for academic problems. Please take advantage of these programs.

Math Help Room: 404 Mathematics (M 10-11, T 12-3, W 4-6, Th 10-6, F 10-6, F 10-12) and 404 Altshuler (M 10-4:30, Tu 10-5, F 10-4). Hours are posted on the doors.

Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Economics. Go to your professor's office hours and schedule help sessions.

continues on page 5

Letter to the Editor

The Women's Co-op is a comfortable, accessible space on the first floor of Brooks Hall in the Quad. Within the past two months, this space has been reallocated to Quad Hall Council. The Women's Co-op has not been used in the last year due to lack of student management of the space, and the administration's failure to present this issue to the student body as a whole in order to solicit the leadership of interested students.

Barnard College must establish its own safe, permanent space for discussion of the political and social concerns of the student body. Barnard desperately needs a peer-run, peer-staffed feminist space explicitly for women to relax, discuss concerns about individual identity, sexuality, feminism, racism, sexism, homophobia, political activism, and social activities. This space will also provide resources such as books, brochures, and peers devoted specifically to these concerns.

This invaluable place will enable a variety of Barnard student groups to meet in a comfortable, accessible lounge rather than being forced to meet in classrooms or be relegated to student spaces at Columbia. The groups will also be able to meet together and discuss the specific needs of women and coordinate women-oriented programming. Furthermore, this space will create a sense of continuity which has been sorely lacking at Barnard, resulting in a large number of groups with infrequent attendance and existence from one year to the next.

This issue is particularly important given the approaching closure of Ferns Booth Hall and the subsequent relocation of Columbia College student groups throughout the Columbia University campus. Women at Barnard need to come forward and demand that a communal space be preserved and firmly established as an absolute necessity for the Barnard student body.

Over forty women have already signed a petition testifying to their disapproval of the administration and Quad Hall Council's reallocation of the space. Furthermore, these women recognize the necessity of this space and are interested in maintaining it. I'm writing to *The Barnard Bulletin* because I honestly believe that this is a pivotal issue for Barnard College, and I earnestly seek response from the student body as to their interest in a peer-run women's lounge, meeting, and resource space. More specifically, I am urging the administration and faculty to join with the student body in securing and respecting this space, and to students and student groups to come forward and demand what should be an established asset of the College.

Sincerely,
Heather Starr
853 1226
Barnard College '96

BEAR ESSENTIALS CONTINUED

Writing Room Open Sunday-Thursday

Sign up on the appointment schedule posted on the door of 121 Red Hall or call x48941

Wollman Library Consultation services available to students working on research projects. Schedule a conference with the reference librarian x43959

Individual Tutoring is also available through the Dean of Studies Office call x42024 for more information.

LIBRARY COMPUTER USE The library computers provide electronic access to local and remote databases of

information. First priority must be given to students using the computers for curriculum related purposes. However, in order to meet student requests, the library has designated two computers (with purple *E-mail Here* signs) to access Barnard and Columbia e-mail accounts ONLY when not in use for binary research. There is a 10 minute limit for all e-mail use.

HEALTH SERVICES WORLD'S AIDS DAY In commemoration of this day, Janice Burns who has AIDS and who is the author of *Sarah's Song* an autobiography will speak on Nov. 28 at 8pm in Suzanne Hall.

HIV TESTING is available now in Health Services. Call x42091 to make an appointment (you may use any name you choose). Pre & Post Test counseling is required.

SENIOR CLIPBOARD

Deadline to request an application for a Mellon Fellowship (for graduate studies in the humanities, including history) is December 11 and the application deadline is December 30. Interested students should see Dean Schneider in 105 Milbank ASAP.

JEWISH RALLY FAILS TO GAIN COMMUNITY SUPPORT



-Mordechai Levy fruitlessly attempts to incite anger at the Jewish Defense Organization Rally.

An excerpt from a letter from Johanna Fernandez, International Socialist Organization

A quick glance at the history of the JDO unveils the hypocrisy and bigotry that is at the root of this organization. The history of the JDO starts with that of the Jewish Defense League (JDL) as the JDO represents an ultra right wing split off from this organization. The JDL was formed in New York in 1966 to protect Jewish communities in Brooklyn from Black youth. The JDL acted upon the reactionary ideas of law and order consciously used by President Nixon to squash the civil rights movement and became a vigilante group that beat up on Black youth who dared to enter Jewish neighborhoods in Brooklyn. The question before us is how do we fight racism and anti-semitism. Were Jews then? face the same level of oppression as Blacks and Latinos in terms of jobs, education, housing and police brutality. This doesn't make anti-semitism any less wrong. And what of the Blacks like Sharod Baker, fail to see that Jews in this country have been allies in the fight against racism. During the union struggles of the 1920s and 1930s Jews risked their lives fighting against segregation and racism in the workplace. Socialist Jews joined Blacks in their struggles for decent housing and equal job opportunities for Blacks. And Jews played a key role in the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

This points in the real way to fight racism and anti-semitism. It is to fight against the attacks on welfare, affirmative action programs and the tax cuts. Exploiting politicians have tried to put them through. And only against the JDO's racism and their attempt to increase the level of social ZIONISM. It is fighting all's interests — Black Jewish white and all others — on the heels of a double demonstration against the JDO's November 19th march. A "With a D B" parade and show that reject anti-semitism. Jews not have to mean embracing racism. The new way to build an alternative to the racial polarization on campus and to fight bigotry is to show in a public hearing a multi-racial fight back against the JDO.

On Sunday the Jewish Defense Organization (JDO) attempted to hold a rally at 116 Street and Broadway. The rally called for the expulsion of Columbia College student Sharod Baker infamous for his *Spectator* column entitled "Struggling Blacks Don't Need Dirty Tricks".

The rally which intended to draw 400 JDO sympathizers attracted many more police officers and journalists than it did JDO supporters. In fact the counter-demonstration sponsored by the International Socialist Organization drew more supporters than the rally.

Only four people took part in the JDO protest. They held signs reading "Anti-Semite White Hater Sharod Baker Must Go". The head of JDO Mordechai Levy said that Baker's views "disqualify him from being a University student". Levy called the *Spectator* Editor-in-Chief a "Benedict Arnold Jew" for allowing the paper to run the Anti-Semitic column.

Baker's column has received much attention and has brought to the surface many controversial issues that often remain stifled. But moreover the publication of the column brings up the issue of free speech.

Levy criticized the Columbia Jewish Student Union for not organizing a protest condemning Baker. Disappointed that the JSU did not take action he approved of Levy's stepped in. Instead of inciting violent hateful riots, the Columbia community has instead engaged in a dialogue about the issues raised in Baker's column. Every day for the past month the *Spectator* has been full of reactions to the Baker column.

Levy's accusations that the JSU has not taken adequate action against Baker must be dismissed. It is obvious from the non-existent turnout to his rally on Sunday that Columbia students and New York residents dismiss Levy's hateful rhetoric.

Levy has a right to share his opinion about the Baker article, but he does not have a right to limit other's speech. Levy's comment of "Don't allow haters to speak" discredits what he has to say.

Forum Addresses... "What Kind of Community is Possible Today?"



Members of the Columbia community Charles Hamilton, Jonathan Reider, Ester Fuchs and Lynette Jackson discussed recent issues affecting the campus at a forum on Monday, November 13.

by Amy Boutell

Over 100 Barnard and Columbia students and faculty met in the James Room on November 13 to engage in a dialogue entitled "What Kind of Community is Possible Today?"

The event was sponsored by Barnard Student Government Association (SGA), Columbia College Student Council (CCSC), the Engineering Student Council (ESC), the General Studies Student Council (GSSC), the Committee of Race, Religion, Identity, and Ethnicity (CORRIE), and the East Hall Student Government Board.

The forum itself was a series of critical discussions on how to build a campus community addressed a series of issues such as alienation, the engagement of gay members, diversity, socialization, and the non-hegemonic confidence gap. The event was a very successful effort to bring these issues to the

attention of the campus—where a quiet vigil surfaced after Sharon Bakis' October 12 controversy article in the *Columbia Spectator*, "Sugglin' Backs Don't Need Dry Ticks."

Participants in the discussion also addressed national issues of a piece such as the O.J. Simpson trial, the Mani Mani, the summit began with opening remarks by SGA President Eurydice Kelly BC '90, concluding with short speeches from Barnard and Columbia professors and an invocation by a rabbi.

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This is our community. We act to have the privilege of a Jewish and a Jew like people.

Barnard Sociology Professor Jonathan Reider, a son of a Black Jewish relationship, spoke about how to talk about provocative issues such as a friend's rape. His message was that people should be essential to the political and social movements that we have as a process and a goal.

For example, people should be able to voice their opinions about the political and social movements that we have as a process and a goal.

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Judith Kaye:

Barnard Alum and Chief Judge of the State of New York

by Julie Ann Boas

At a special event organized by Barnard Women in Law, New York State Chief Judge Judith Kaye '85 spoke in the James Room at Barnard with an audience of alumnae and current students on Thursday, November 2. *Women in Law* is a Barnard organization that provides opportunities for alumnae and students to learn about the legal system from people with a similar college background. For students considering careers in law, *Women in Law* provides an avenue for insight and resources in the field.

In her speech, Kaye stressed to students that it is not imperative that they know now what their future will be. She commented on her own Barnard experience: "What I really got from Barnard was great ambition and the feeling that I could achieve my goal. You do not have to plan your whole life now, but have an idea of what you would like to do." As the first woman to hold the esteemed position of Chief Judge of the State of New York, Kaye is a perfect example of what Barnard women can and do achieve in their lifetimes.

Kaye's initial career aspiration was to be a reporter. In 1957, her senior year, she was Editor in Chief of the *Barnard Bulletin*. An article that appeared in the paper commemorating her departure provides evidence of her success as editor. Kaye said in her speech that she was honored to be quoted in the paper she had once edited. Kaye made significant contributions to college journalism; however, she changed her focus to law upon realizing that

journalism was still a chilly environment for women.

Law is another field that was traditionally not receptive to women, yet

Judge Kaye maintains that today "the doors are wide open." However, she added to her prior statement an admission that glass ceilings still inhibit access to top positions in the field. She offered a sign of hope for progress, however: federal courts are currently studying the situation and she says that the field is alive with questions on how to open up the top for women.

Before attaining her current position as New York State Chief Court of Appeals Judge, Kaye had

established an impressive resume. After graduating from New York University School of Law in 1962, she worked for a law firm and served on several committees and boards. Kaye's numerous achievements paved the way for her current position. She was appointed to the appeals court, the o-

Cuomo following her time at the law firm Olwine, Connelly, Chase, O'Donnell & Weyher. After ten years on the appeals court, Cuomo again appointed Kaye,

this time to Chief Judge. Kaye explained that although she did not "proceed in a straight line, I always pursued my ideals when making career choices."

Kaye spoke on the composition and activity of the New York State Court of Appeals, commenting that "Diversity of all sorts is desirable throughout the field and on the bench." The life experiences of the seven appellate judges are all different as far as academic study, prior judicial experience, and the regions of New York in which each resides. They come together in Albany for two weeks out of every five in order to decide the fates of appealed cases.

Kaye and her six peers share the remaining three weeks of each cycle in the nine districts preparing briefs before hearing arguments.

Two important cases were decided on just prior to Kaye's recent Barnard visit. The first of these, the jury reform program, is now ready to be

Judge Judith's Kaye Work in Law prior to becoming a Judge:

- 1962-1969: Worked for Sullivan and Cromwell, International Business Machines, and was an assistant to New York University Law School Dean Russell Niles.
- 1969-1983: Litigation Associate and then partner at Olwine, Connelly, Chase, O'Donnell & Weyher (New York City commercial law firm). Additionally she served as Vice-President of the Legal Aid Society, trustee and Vice-Chairperson of The Clients' Security Fund, United States Nominating Commission for Judges of the Second Circuit, member of the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society, member of various committees to the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the New York State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, New York State Women's Bar Association, and the Association of Women Judges.

implemented after two years of discussion. The purpose is to broaden the base of people who are selected to serve as jurors. Currently a list is kept of eligible jurors; these people are called in on a rotating basis and generally are asked to serve every few years. The new process recognizing that jury is a privilege but also a duty plans to abandon the lists as well as automatic objections so that more people will serve less often. Also, the new summons will be for one week instead of two in order to cut down on unnecessary expenditures of time.

A second decision recently reached by the court states that unmarried couples are eligible to adopt children providing the two people are capable of the responsibility. This measure includes both same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexual couples. Writing for the majority, Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye said that "the decision was consistent with recent changes in state law that encourage the adoption of as many children as possible regardless of the sexual orientation or marital status of the individuals seeking to adopt them." (New York Times 3/11/95 A1)

Both of these measures demonstrate the variety of cases that Judge Kaye and her counterparts deal with on a regular basis. Kaye's dedication to law and to women and her impressive work experience coupled with her Barnard education led her to her position and aid her far-reaching actions. Judith Kaye is an exemplary role model to all Barnard students that she has reached an esteemed position and is truly happy with her life experiences.



The Staff of the Barnard Bulletin in 1958

The following is an article that appeared in the Bulletin on April 10, 1958 when Judith Kaye then Judy Smith put out her last issue as Editor in Chief of the paper.

TIME Early Evening

This is an Annex Staff she said fervently as she watched us nibble various sandy goodies. Munching her own while reading orange cupeskes (that came from Ta-Roma, not the Annex) Bulletin editor in chief (ex now) Judy Smith surveyed her staff.

Her staff smiled meekly and continued munching.

TIME A little later, not much.

This will be a good issue. Judy encouraged her staff. Her is plenty of news. She piled her chair over with page one desk fobs, a cigarette from an annex newspaper, and said to me, page one editor for the day. Now what do you have?

The page one editor for the day replied, "I have a lead that's hot, hot, right? It's a lead. It's a hot lead." "I have a story," she replied.

There's just one thing, she said. I'll have to find out if it's true.

When she went to the phone, she asked us to pick up the phone. The time she called me, I had already prepared my own lead. I had a story on the staff of the Bulletin in 1958.

negatively and proceeded to draw a new layout. I have to do this, she remarked.

TIME Nearing Midnight

Well, be done early tonight, said Judy.

The phone rang. That must be Ian, she announced as she answered it. She took the phone out into the alcove. I'll be right in a few minutes, she returned. Looking intently at her staff, she quietly told them, "This is a true story. It will make a good right hand lead." The process began again. I had took the red pencil and cut out a married couple to do his and drew a new layout. She gave the page three four editor her old stories to look as the page one editor. I called "I have two leads."

TIME Midway in the night

I was a little bit busy, like I'll be a little bit busy. As they reached the Annex, I remarked, "I'll be right in a few minutes, she returned. She gave the page three four editor her old stories to look as the page one editor. I called "I have two leads."

Community Forum continued from page 7

ethnic racial or religious group. Reider urged not a "separatist frozen identity" but a "cosmopolitan humanism." Reider also reminded students that there is "no immunity on campus from the national anguish that is out there," pointing out that recent campus controversy reflects broader conflicts at the national level.

Reider concluded by warning against the "insidious game [of] competitive suffering" that if there is to be a community on the Barnard-Columbia campus, different groups—such as African Americans and Jews—will have to acknowledge each other's suffering and work together toward change.

Barnard Professor of History Lynette Jackson began by paraphrasing the late poet Audre Lorde, who said that it is not our differences that prevent community, but rather our silence.

"Silence is a really dangerous thing," Jackson said. She pointed out that it is only the most extreme voices that are heard, which are often "voices of intolerance."

Like Reider, Jackson urged for spaces of neutral ground that allow for a more open, honest discourse about issues such as gender, race, class, and sexual orientation. She also warned against the tendency of scholarly rhetoric to obfuscate the inherent complexity of race.

Professor Ester Fuchs from Columbia's Political Science Department urged that the university recognize its opportunity to have a conversation about issues which are burning in broader society. She spoke of the dangers of identity politics and said that there is a common misbelief that knowledge has some experiential base and that an individual's identity and set of values often delegitimizes you in the discourse.

Fuchs gave a personal anecdote of her controversial support of former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, which led her to receive hate mail from both African Americans as well as Jews that assumed because she was Jewish she should not be backing an African-American.

Columbia Political Science Professor Charles Hamilton suggested guidelines for having a conversation that allows people to hear one another. Since his experience in the Black Power movement in the late 1960s, on which he wrote extensively, Hamilton said he has become further convinced that the context in which you talk is terribly important.

He stressed informal discussion over structured debate, private conversations over public and the search for mutual agreement before disagreement prevents further discourse. Hamilton warned that a debate has implications of a winner and a loser. "What you really want is not applause," he said, "but understanding."

In urging for informal discussions about controversial issues, Hamilton warned against the media as well as academia's tendency to oversimplify the problem. "Sound bite journalism should not be further encouraged by sound bite scholarship," he said.

Hamilton also refuted the argument that recent campus events such as the Baker column were the catalyst of our concern, he said. He stressed that not only does the tension or campus reflect current divisive issues at the national level, but problems of racial and religious strife that are endemic to our nation's history.

After the professors spoke, the dialogue continued with students and faculty present at the forum. For purposes of confidentiality, students who voiced their opinions will remain

anonymous.

One student began by posing the question of whether a solution to recent campus conflict is obtainable. Another student replied by saying that as a microcosm of society at large, the university is the quintessential place to begin to question such controversial world-wide issues. She acknowledged that an answer will not materialize immediately but said she was hopeful that raising such questions was a beginning.

Another student voiced her concern that "the problem is that we do not agree on the problem." Someone else mentioned that the first step in an honest discourse is to "agree to disagree," to not be afraid of conflict but to use it as a building block toward understanding.

A professor brought up his observations of self-segregation on the Columbia campus, wondering if there were not a way to bring students of divergent religions and ethnicities together. The discussion then moved to whether or not separatism is innately negative and how a balance between celebrating one's heritage and reaching out to other groups can be achieved.

The forum did not concentrate on specific practical issues to unite students and resolve campus strife, rather, it offered an opportunity for students and faculty to talk about how to talk about the issues.

Students seemed pleased by the conversation that took place at the forum. "The most important thing was our discussion of how—in what context and with what language—we talk about such controversial issues as acceptance," said Kate Kees, BC '97.

Amy Boulet is a Barnard Sophomore and Assistant News Editor.

Buddhist Meditation Requires Sitting

Susanna Daniel

There are kloplop sticks and scraps of paper on the wooden floor of the Dudge room in Earl Hall. Most of the busy students who filter in and out of that room daily might not notice, but as eleven students who gather there Tuesday evenings can attest, there are more comfortable places to hold a group meditation.

Columbus newly formed Buddhist Meditation group is informal and nondenominational and meets weekly on campus to teach and practice Buddhist meditation. The group which ranges from eleven to about 25 students per meeting, was formed to expose different styles of Buddhist meditation to anyone interested and to provide a safe practice area for Buddhist and non-Buddhist students.

One founder, Jonathan McKeever, CC 98, said the group was specifically created to be culturally inclusive, "to compliment the work of other Buddhist groups on campus.

"Buddhism is not really a religion that is particularly concerned with divinity or God; those are not local concerns," McKeever said. "More important to the teaching of Buddhism is its spreading of human compassion."

Other founders are Jesse Levoay, BC 97, and Jesse Sanford, CC 99. Sanford paraphrased one important though simple Buddhist principle: "Be here," he said.

And so they are. "I am basically just here to sit, and if people want to come, that is good," McKeever said about the group's objectives.

The group is good to compliment work with a teacher and anytime you can sit aside is useful. Aana Rosenberg, BC 97, said Rosenberg has been interested in Buddhist meditation for several months and has studied with a Tibetan monk.

Melinda Hayes, BC 97, has studied in a monastery in Nepal. She views meditation as a way of getting rid of all the external things and "focusing." She believes practicing meditation in a group is valuable because "it provides a subtle sense of support, even though there is no interaction during the meditation."

The group does not intend to be an exclusive resource or authority on Buddhist meditation. So far, they have invited several speakers, usually teachers and practitioners of Buddhism from the community, to share their fields of expertise and to lead a meditation called a "sitting."

The general concept of learning and practicing meditation for a lifetime might seem to some an exercise in futility. This is one topic covered during informal discussion at one meeting. McKeever, who has been Buddhist all his life and spent several months studying and practicing Buddhism in a monastery in Canada, offered his opinion on why meditation is useful for its own sake. "We go into a sitting with speed and ambition to get somewhere or improve ourselves. But it is important in the beginning stages of meditation to examine your goals and to then go," he said.

Sanford has a simple explanation of his own involvement in the group. "I practiced meditation before and had the alternative, which is not practicing meditation," he said. Sanford has been practicing meditation for three years, since he was exposed to Buddhism in high school. "I was a classic workaholic to a meeting and I sat for the rest of the day," he said.



-Meditation in Earl Hall

thing," he said.

Many members of the group are beginners. During one half-hour meditation, many limbs grow numb. A few students shift uncomfortably on the makeshift mats, someone coughs. McKeever is perfectly still, except once when he ticks his toes.

Meetings are Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (sometimes Wednesdays at a substituted) usually in the art gallery in the basement of St. Paul's Chapel, though the room has moved a few times. Whenever space is used, it is made comfortable and cozy by McKeever, who brings his own blankets, a meditation cushion and a wall tapestry. Advertisement for the group is mainly postering, phone messages and word of mouth.

Amidst the pandemonium in a room, one can witness and applications. The Buddhist Meditation group succeeds in creating a space where meditation has become a safe, where simply sitting is the requirement.

Susanna Daniel is a Columbia College Student.

My name is Aimee and I am an Internet Addict.

by Aimee Taub

It is a peculiar affliction, yet far from rare. Everyone has seen it, not experienced it first hand. Its symptoms are easy to spot.

The victims sit in front of a computer for hours and days on end, pausing occasionally to type a few sentences or to click on an icon. They are covered with a layer of dust, drooling, malnourished and on academic probation.

The disease's milder form is manifested in the victim's tendency to cut lunch short and to skip class in order "just to check their e-mail."

The dreaded ailment is net addiction.

The glories of the Internet have been pontificated upon ad nauseum, but what truly makes it the powerful time vacuum that it has become? What is the cause of millions upon millions of regular Internet user's compulsion?

I hypothesize—with the help of my bio-psychology-majoring roommate—the existence of The Internet gene. The Internet gene is located on your DNA right between the VCR and the Sci-Fi gene. My family is a prime example. Since the gene is recessive, it makes perfect sense that my mother and brother believe that the world would be a better place if all computers would simultaneously explode. My dad, on the other hand, is a complete computer freak (Gasp!) I too have been obsessing about the Internet since I was old enough to pronounce "cyberspace."

While my compulsion is biological, other Internet users come up with a plethora of other reasons for their dependence. Reasons range from frugality to loneliness, from the

intellectual to the social.

Economics is a common motive. If you want to keep up with your friends, welfare without huge phone bills, e-mail is a quick and direct way not to lose sight of those whom you care about. E-mail is better than regular mail. A graphic artist from St. Louis says "e-mail is better because it's lazier. No stamps. No envelopes." E-mail is the technological fast-food equivalent of communication.

An English teacher from Florida praises the Internet's intellectual offerings: "The good thing about the Internet is that it is always on, so you can get responses in newsgroups at anytime of day or night."

A psychology graduate student in North Carolina loves the Internet because she can access the library from her home to do research for papers and because "it's fun to get into arguments with strangers."

Real life loneliness is a dominant incentive to sojourn on the Internet. A user who identified himself only as Brian told me: "The main reason why I first went to the Internet was because I was lonely. To explain, I didn't have any friends and I am totally shy."

Another student user is a bit more philosophical. "I like the net because it allows me to meet people from places I will probably never go to. It is like a mix between the singles bar, personals and pen pals of our parents' generation." Sad but true.

The nature of the

Internet is that it is a forum for everyone.

The Internet allows the physically challenged to communicate and to have fun. A hearing-impaired student remarks: "I like the Internet since it's my complete way of communication whether it's talkers or e-mail, and besides I can find lots of cool text to read and have a good laugh."

Whether the reason is biological, social, or for the expansion of the mind, the Internet is intoxicating and addictive. You can go anywhere, talk to anyone, do anything, without going anywhere.

Just don't forget to find your way back.

Aimee Taub is a *Barnard Junior* and faces her addiction gleefully.

WE WANT YOU



**FOR BULLETIN
COMMENTARY EDITOR**

Studies Address Women's Health Concerns

Christina Gallos

Feminist groups are attacking science agencies and drug companies who base medical studies solely on men. Feminist groups claim that these companies ignore the fact that women are physiologically and psychologically different than men. The exclusion of female subjects in these studies calls into question the validity of the results.

Women's groups demand that women's unique health needs must be met. This can only be done through the use of female subjects in medical studies.

The Women's Health Initiative was created to address women's health concerns. The Women's Health Initiative is a comprehensive 15 year study with an endowment of \$828 million. Its mandate is to attempt to yield definitive answers as to what measures women can and should take to prevent health problems such as heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis.

In an attempt to reach its ambitious goals, the Women's Health Initiative is running a number of studies. These medical studies include tests to see if cutting fat intake will result in a decrease in the risk of breast cancer, studies to see if taking hormones will prevent the rise of heart attacks that occur in postmenopausal women, and tests to see how osteoporosis can be prevented. For all of these programs women of various ages are recruited and must commit to having their health observed over a long period.

There are three main parts to the study. One part involves women taking pills that are either placebo or hormones to see whether hormones or indeed play a role in preventing heart disease. The second part of the study places women on diets with varying levels of fat intake. These women are requested to take an



Research into women's health care is lacking in comparison to men's.

in the effect of diet study and to take classes on how to prepare nutritious foods that fit the maximum fat requirement. Other women are solicited by members of the Women's Health Initiative for strictly observational study. They are requested to fill out forms detailing their health habits and medical history. These women are then followed up with later physicals, blood samples and further questionnaires. From these three studies the Women's Health Initiative is hoping to establish firm conclusions about women's health.

Just three years into the studies, however, the Women's Health Initiative has already encountered a number of obstacles. Their main problem is being behind schedule in the recruitment of participants. Currently, the hormone trial has only 5.4% enrolled of the 27,000 women necessary, 12,415 women of the 45,000 needed are enrolled in the diet trial, 15,418 of the 100,000 participants needed are enrolled in the observational study. Older women and

minorities, in particular, are not showing up at testing sites in sufficient numbers.

Another problem is that many women are refusing to participate in the part of the study where they are blind to whether they are taking pills that contain hormones or placebos. They prefer to make the decision on whether or not to take hormones for themselves. Finally, there has been criticism that the study (the diet portion, specifically) is poorly conceived and designed and that it will be difficult to maintain the study for as long a period as planned. In particular, it will be difficult for women who made changes in the diets to maintain them over the course of many years.

Women's health goals are ambitious and merit study. The Women's Health Initiative's goals are ambitious but their feasibility is uncertain. Yet, if they attain their goals, it will be a major landmark in the study of women's health.

Christina Gallos is a Bardonia College student.

Barnard Celebrates Gildersleeve and Roosevelt



Barnard College President Judith Shapiro speaks at the Gildersleeve Lecture.

by Amy Boulett

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Barnard College hosted a program entitled "Great Women of the United Nations" on November 15. Gildersleeve and Eleanor Roosevelt, on November 15, 1945. Nearly 300 people, including Barnard women faculty and alumnae as well as visitors from the United Nations gathered to honor these women's contributions.

Gildersleeve, a Dutch-born American, 1911-1991, was the first woman to chair the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She was also the first woman to be elected to the United Nations General Assembly.

Shapiro, Barnard's 11th president, was elected in 1997. She is a former Barnard alumna and a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

and experts on both Gildersleeve and Roosevelt. Speakers included Caroline Niemczyk, lecturer and biographer of Gildersleeve; Ambassador William J. Andersen, Vice President of the Foreign and General Development and former Deputy U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN; and Barbara Lieber, a long-time faculty member at Barnard College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and author of the biography *Florence*.

Niemczyk, a Barnard alumna, spoke about Gildersleeve's role in the United Nations. Andersen, a former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, spoke about Gildersleeve's role in the United Nations. Lieber, a Barnard alumna, spoke about Gildersleeve's role in the United Nations.

Two topics Dear Gildersleeve was also active in national organizations and called for furthering women's education such as the National Federation for University Women, which she founded in 1918. The American Mission to the United Nations was one of Gildersleeve's most impressive contributions. She was the first woman to be elected to the United Nations and was the second female member of the bodies of the United Nations.

Shapiro, Barnard's 11th president, was elected in 1997. She is a former Barnard alumna and a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She was also the first woman to be elected to the United Nations General Assembly.

begin in plans close to home. During one year and a half of the Second World War Roosevelt saved over 26,000 lives in effort to raise serious questions and further the cause of human rights.

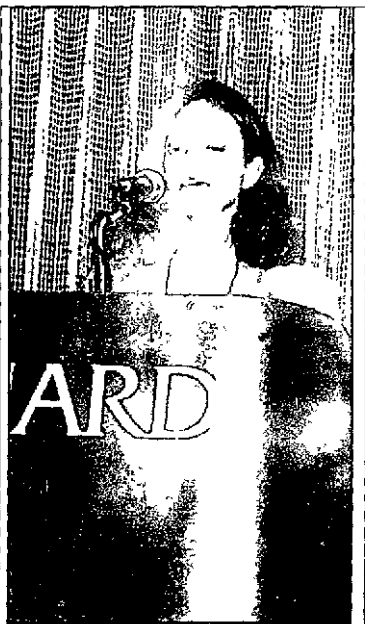
Eleanor Roosevelt's career as an activist did not end when her husband passed away. In December of 1945 President Truman asked her to be a delegate to the U.N. Assembly which as vanden Heuvel pointed out both "pleased" as well as "frightened" her. Although her initial reaction was to reject the offer, Roosevelt decided to continue to make her mark on history and established a relationship with the U.N. that would last throughout her lifetime. During her years at the U.N. she drafted the Charter of the Human Rights Commission, struggled to make the civil strife in Vietnam an issue, fought to free political prisoners of World War II and as vanden Heuvel said "never flinched while asserting her place in the male dominated political realm."

Blanche Wiesen Cook applauded Roosevelt's dedication to issues such as women's rights, civil rights, an international freedom. She related Roosevelt to the current "bitter moment of backlash and collapse of worldwide democracy" saying that today "we seem to have wandered so far away from" this ideal of human rights. Cook encouraged audience members to become active in politics and to support such institutions as the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom and different branches of the U.N. Cook said that Eleanor Roosevelt believed in power that she "sought power" and "influenced policy from a place of power" like virtually no other women were able to do in her time. She quoted Roosevelt's favorite saying: "If you have to compromise, be sure to compromise up."

Virginia C. Gildersleeve and Eleanor Roosevelt were finally recognized for their contributions to not only the United Nations, but to society at large. It is strikingly appropriate that Barnard should be the one to acknowledge that it was Dean Gildersleeve who named the United Nations, not President Roosevelt as is often thought, that the career of Eleanor Roosevelt was not simply defined by her role as First Lady. Though Gildersleeve was perhaps the most significant person in the creation of the United Nations, traditionally her name has not been in the pages of history books. Fortunately however, this seems to be changing. Barnard History Professor Rosalind Rosenberg said that Niemczyk's presentation is just a sample of a much larger study of Gildersleeve. She said she hopes that Gildersleeve will continue to be portrayed as the major figure, the "origin" of the U.N. that she really was.

Students and faculty alike enjoyed the re-education of Gildersleeve and Roosevelt. W. W. Schaefer '90 said "It's wonderful that Barnard can attract such renowned speakers."

"This was a wonderful opportunity to talk about the re-



**Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of
Eleanor Roosevelt, quoted
Roosevelt's favorite saying: "If
you have to compromise, be sure
to compromise up."**

between Barnard College and the United Nations," said President Judith Shapiro. "I hope the Barnard students will be inspired by what they've learned about these two great women to become more political and active."

Amy Route is a Barnard Sophomore and the Barnard Assistant News Editor.

In Search of Quasbra:

A Conference on The Power of Jewish Women

by January Massin

At Barnard College on Sunday, November 12, The Barnard Center for Research on Women and The New York Chapter of Hadassah collaborated to provide the community with a conference entitled, "The Power of Jewish Women." Barnard College and Hadassah, the largest women's Zionist organization, arranged a series of workshops to examine feminist issues within the context of Judaism.

Frañcine Klagsbrun, a lecturer on feminism, family issues, religion, and ethics, who is actively involved in the effort to ordain women as rabbis in the conservative movement, began the conference with a keynote address "Feminism," says Klagsbrun, "conflicts with a traditional patriarchal Judaism and thus breaks with Jewish tradition. This discontinuity leads to several problems, for example, Jewish women are often reluctant to use lawsuits to fight Jewish organizations which discriminate against them." Klagsbrun notes that the "feminist threat" of breaking the continuity of religion and tradition is a threat to all denominations, not just Judaism.

Throughout her speech, Klagsbrun pointed out that the issues examined in the conference, which ranged from how to talk to men in dating disorders, are not exclusive to Jewish women. All working women, no matter what religion or ethnically, are faced with the cumbersome "glass ceiling." This term refers to the predicament of many women who find themselves restricted to the level they can achieve in the workplace. Many women feel the constraints of this "ceiling" and feeling that it is near impossible

Klagsbrun described a costume she saw at the Halloween parade in Greenwich Village where a woman was covered with blood and wearing torn clothes. Amidst the ghosts and goblins was a woman who had "broken through the glass ceiling." The bloody battle to achieve top positions is sweeter than any ghost. This struggle is also unverse

"Feminism," says Klagsbrun, "conflicts with a traditional patriarchal Judaism and thus breaks with Jewish tradition. This discontinuity leads to several problems, for example, Jewish women are often reluctant to use lawsuits to fight Jewish organizations which discriminate against them."

Klagsbrun further asserted that issues like breaking the glass ceiling are not solely women's issues. "They're community issues, everybody issues." Women with both a family and a career find them difficult to juggle, the struggle for women is an issue that should not just be placed on the feminist agenda. It should be a concern for society as a whole. Klagsbrun said that 90% of women still feel it is their responsibility to take care of the family and only 8% of males list their careers as being as their top priority.

Klagsbrun ended her speech with a double warning. First, society should be weary of what she terms "offensive feminism." Feminists should not stress women's uniqueness or a harness to

men. The danger in branding women with particular qualities is that it conveys the message to both society as a whole, and women in particular, that there are certain domains that are inappropriate for women and outside of their realm. Yet, at the same time, women should strive to achieve an optimum balance. It is wrong to assume that women do not possess qualities that are traditionally associated with men such as objectivity. However, it is equally detrimental to assume that women must possess these "male qualities" in order to become fully integrated as equal members of society. A woman's goal should not be to assume the posture of a man.

Klagsbrun elucidated her sentiments by recounting a story about an experience she had before a surgical procedure. Understandably anxious before a serious operation, she found immediate comfort when she looked up and saw that all the attending physicians were female. She expressed her pleasure to these women, but their reaction was disconcerting. They stood before her cold and unresponsive. Klagsbrun suggested that women have only gone "half the way." While it is an accomplishment that there are so many female physicians, it is disturbing that they feel the need to emulate stereotypically male qualities.

During the workshop on Jewish Feminism, Anne Lapdus Lerner, one of the highest ranking women in American Jewish institutional life, extended Klagsbrun's warning. She repeated Klagsbrun's assertion that women's goal is not to be identical to men. Commenting on achievements already made in the women's movement, Lerner asserted that even though the way s

smoother now the way is not yet clear. Lerner tells the audience that when she was elected Vice-Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary she was handed a hammer. The gift was symbolic of the fact that she had broken through the glass ceiling. But the job of achieving women's equal status, Lerner reminded the audience, is still not done.

Lerner echoed Klagsbrun's keynote speech yet in the workshop she concentrated on tying these thoughts more closely into the Jewish experience. Within the past 25 years there has been an increased consciousness of feminist issues in Judaism. Today 40% of rabbinical students are female and Jewish women are gaining wider access to the religious texts. Yet there are still obstacles to overcome. Lesbianism is still overlooked in Judaism and women are still largely defined by their role in the family. Lerner asked "What about the families that don't have women in them and what about the women who don't have families?"

One of the reasons these obstacles persist is the difficulty in reconciling two powerful forces: feminism and Judaism. Feminism questions many traditional Jewish assumptions and is seen as a threat. On the other hand, feminists are skeptical about the fact that traditional Judaism tends to focus on men. It is difficult for many women to forget that it was only 50 years ago that a morning prayer existed where men thanked God for not being created as a woman. Judaism and feminism clash in many ways and are thus weary of each other. Jewish women must ask themselves how they are going to connect their Jewish and female identities. Lerner said "We must define the line where Judaism and feminism come together."

Most of the people attending the conference were both Jewish and female before the collective discussions began. Thus establishing a common bond. This bond created a genuine sense of continuity and connection. As I sat eating lunch midway through the

conference at a table where I knew no one, I felt some connection to all those seated around me. On my left was a recent Barnard graduate who was anxious to share her thoughts on the situations I may encounter when entering the job force and she was equally eager to hear what I was doing in college. On my right was another Barnard alum, much older than me, enthusiastic to both teach me and learn from me. She had lived in Israel for 14 years and was eager to explain how feminist issues are treated there. She asked me to update her on Barnard and thus reconnected a link with the college which she felt had been severed. It was this sense of continuity that allowed us to deal so

sensitively and thoughtfully and so effortlessly with the conflicts between feminism and Judaism. Yet I felt that this conference could be valuable for other non-Jewish women as well. Amy Boulet, a Barnard sophomore, confirmed these sentiments. Even though I am not Jewish, the conference was an amazing experience for me. Somehow I felt a powerful connection to every sentiment, every concern, every thought. Through focusing on the power of women, we all left the conference with a feeling of empowerment.

January Massin is a Barnard sophomore.

Center for Research on Women Speaker Cynthia Nixon



Cynthia Nixon, BC '88 spoke at the Center for Research on Women on Tuesday, November 14th at Noon. Nixon's remarks addressed *Becoming a Character: The Art of Acting*.

WARNING

by Diana Adams Ciardullo

Working in the baby department of a clothing store all day sparked a maternal instinct in me that has otherwise remained dormant for nineteen years. Somehow unwrapping

of parenting with a coworker. The story she related to me struck me, but what surprised me the most was how passionately she believed in the choices she had made and her lack of regret that she had shut the door on her career aspirations when she decided to have

When I asked what happened I was approaching her situation as if something bad must have occurred. After all, wasn't I going from a career on Wall Street to a low scale retail job degrading? It never occurred to me that maybe she was living under a different set of principles. Yes, she told me there was a time in her life when she wouldn't have believed that she would give up her successful career for anything. I realized that being a homemaker had a ways seemed to contrast sharply with what I considered my "feminist" principles. "Yet after talking to her I saw that there was nothing derogatory or anti-feminist" about the choices she had made. She had made very personal decisions that were right for her. How could I argue with her logic when she was obviously happy and pleased with her life.

Granted, she is very privileged in that she was married and had a husband who could support the family with his paycheck. She didn't have to work, and I am sure many working mothers and fathers would love to have the privilege of rearing their children without having to work for the economic necessity.

Certainly women can maintain careers and have families as well. Men have been doing it for ages. Yet what are the repercussions for children who grow up in families where parents work? A woman whose children I baby-sat for in High School owned her own floral business. She was consulting with clients and arranging flowers the week after her son was born. She had her child and she had her business, but was she missing out on part of being a mother? Was the son missing out? I don't mean to criticize women and men who maintain their careers and their families. Rather I am questioning the different sets of expectations placed on women. Women's magazines paint a

I don't mean to criticize women and men who maintain their careers and their families. Rather I am questioning the different sets of expectations placed on women. Women's magazines paint a picture of corporate women who are also successful mothers. Women in three piece suits toting toddlers on one hip and their attache case and diaper bag on the other represent two very strong expectations. Not only are women supposed to make it in the corporate world, they are also supposed to fulfill all the traditional female roles in order to be "complete" women. Women who are parents full time or are "homemakers" are stigmatized by feminists.

plastic packages of pint sized triple roll socks led me to consider the prospect of having a baby of my own. In all honesty this has never been a serious consideration of mine before. Although at times I questioned whether my lack of a maternal instinct was evidence of some genetic flaw, I always considered it an advantage. I figured that I would never have to worry about deciding between a career and a family nor would I have to face the consequences of having another person's needs and best interests to put ahead of my own.

In retrospect my previous thoughts about mothering were somewhat narcissistic or selfishly motivated. I like the idea of complete independence and autonomy. To be a good parent, the type of parent every child deserves in my mind, requires denying some of that independence.

I was discussing the present state

a family.

After graduating from college and working in New York for a number of years, she gained acceptance into a prestigious program that trained MBAs for Wall Street. After a year of intense studying and unbelievable stress, she passed the program and the job offers flooded in. She went to work on Wall Street, and to my economic ignorant mind the work she did sounded very impressive. Wondering how she went from Wall Street to working as a Sales Associate in a clothing store, I asked her what happened.

"What happened?" She laughed. "What happened is that I got married and had children. I don't regret it for a moment. I was definitely burnt out. And being a mother has been the best part of my life." This present job is a pastime for her and a way to explore the possibility of working again.

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 a so successful mothers. Women in
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 order to be "complete" women. Women
 who are parents full time or are
 homemakers are stigmatized by
 feminists. In my own mind I had always
 questioned how a woman can be
 satisfied being a full time homemaker.

Although I am glad that I have
 opportunities to pursue my aspirations
 that my Grandmother didn't for a

moment. It is obvious a woman
 never had to make the choice for whom
 motherhood was a "distraction" but
 a natural occurrence in a woman's life.
 I had a passing day dream of having a
 yard full of children. I me and my
 neighbors taking piles of nappies and
 jumping in them. I feel I have gained
 insight into why people chose to take
 time away from their careers to start
 families. Sure it is not always necessary
 or feasible but "feel" earned a new
 respect for women and men who make
 that choice.

*Diana Adair's Ciardullo is a Barnard
 sophomore and Women's Issues
 Editor.*



Dear Well Woman,

I live in a suite with five other girls
 and I think that one of my suite-mates
 may have an eating disorder.
 Sometimes she eats very little and
 claims that she's "stuffed" afterwards
 and some days I don't see her eating
 at all. I asked her if she's eating enough
 and she told me that I was being silly
 and worrying over nothing. What
 should I do?

Three meals a day

Dear Three Meals a Day

*If sounds like you are right to be
 concerned about your suite-mate. Here
 are some things that you may want to look
 out for before approaching her again. Does
 your suite-mate judge her feelings by how
 much she eats? Is your suite-mate always
 counting calories and fat grams? Does she
 over-exercise?*

*These are not the only indications of
 an eating disorder but they are typical
 behaviors of people with eating disorders.
 I would encourage you if you approach
 your friend again to talk about some
 examples of her behavior that have
 worried you but not to act as a counselor
 or therapist. There are professional people
 who can talk to your suite-mate and you
 may want to suggest that she talk to
 someone in health services. It may also
 help both you and your suite-mate to check
 out some of the pamphlets and reading
 materials available through the Peer Ed
 Office in Room 135 Hewitt (on the first
 floor). You and your suite-mate can also
 call the Peer Ed Office at 654-3063 if you
 have any other questions.*

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Little girl sits on
back alley fence
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with French Canadian accent
don't ask where she was born
she just might tell you
Children run through
alley-way, one of those
British lane-ways
juxtaposed on the
suburbs of Ontario
teasing as they are,
knowing all and nothing
She knows more.
Best and worst friends
they tell her she's
scaredy-cat not to
balance on old shingles
garage roof holding
power lines for balance—
she explains electrocution
they call her smart
she goes to that "different
school you know
just 'cause I can read and you
can't
But no one likes to be told
what they can't do—
shrinking from
inadequacy.
safe, secure, go at your own pace
but this is my pace and I want to
fly can you imagine flying
you're keeping me down
pulling me to the ground of your
imagination but that's not
where
I want to be
can you see into my future
tell where I'll be in
twenty years or ten

in a place you've never heard of
couldn't find it on the map
It's on the bottom half of the
globe

Just keep turning
Look into the haze
burning leaves in old Mr
Whatshisname's leaf barrel
cover your nose and keep
siblings from pyrotechnics
leave yourself open to the
pictures

Picnics on rhubarb but
Mum always comes out in
time—half the plant is
poisonous you know
Safe little world above the
jungle gym

Those summer days when you
spend all day outside
run in for dinner of
roasted cheese and it's
getting dark but you're not
tired until you fall asleep
instantly to the sound
of mosquitoes and
crickets in the yard
Days of light and dark dark
nights, no where to
go out to when the
movies get too scary
Play the game of
Who will you be—
no one ever knows the
answers and games
get old in time
Let's go play in my backyard
Imagine the kids from
down the block and
across the street
where are they now?

by Catherine Chambers BC 97

MRS.
WARREN
ESCAPES

by Mich Roberts

"All we had was our appearance and
our turn for pleasing men."

—George Bernard Shaw

Business took me to Times
Square this week, as it often does, and
for the first time in many months I did
not mind going there. When I first
started venturing down to the bow-tie
district, the iconic women who graced
every advertisement, billboard and
street corner for blocks upset me.
They reminded me of the orphanage
on 23rd street where I used to go when
I missed my daughter Vivie. Every
Sunday those girls pamper themselves
up as best as they can in the hopes
that the parents, who have come for a
specific girl, will choose them instead.
They line up along the steps that lead
up to the orphanage door as the
parents are leaving, and if nothing
happens, they stand with hopeless and
vacant gazes until the lady of the place
calls them in. This is what I see in the
eyes of those billboard women,
hopelessness, without a place to go in
the world, starving, abused. I must
admit I find myself wanting to take
them home and take care of them.

Recently, those billboards
were replaced. I haven't really noticed
what took their places because of a
statue someone erected in the center
of Times Square. Whenever I am out
on business now I forget to look up
because I can look straight out at this
statue and see a woman, still
malformed and highly abused, but
nonetheless a woman. She is silver
with a large metal plate over her eyes.
Her arms are thin and well-defined and
she reaches out across the masses of
people that huddle around her all day.
She is trapped inside a wooden box of
weapons and sperm. The box seems
so flammable.

Dr. Seuss... *Not Just Child's Play*

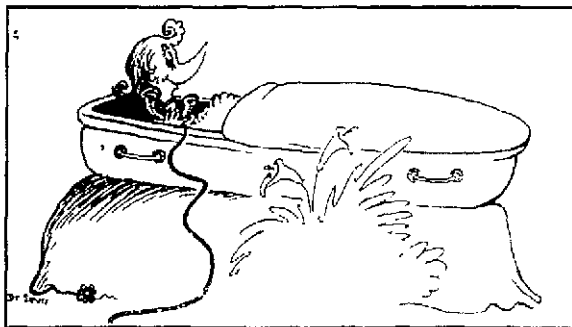
by Abigail Dye

One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, *The Cat in the Hat*, and *The Grinch who Stole Christmas* all bring specific pictorial images to mind when one remembers the chimerical illustrations found in Dr. Seuss' much-revered children's stories. Seuss' illustrations remind us of times when we were innocent, not yet aware of the power of sex and the irony of adult life. His children's stories are filled with colorful, playful and fantastic illustrations that appeal to children because they far surpass anything words could ever describe. *The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss* (Random House) reveals the author/illustrator's subversive side to the adult lovers of his celebrated stories.

The book's introduction states that "There was certainly nothing cookie-cutter blend or trendy about Ted Geisel. In short, you have entered Seussville, where questions and doubts are left at the door with the coo-coo something or other." It is obvious that Ted Geisel, the beloved Dr. Seuss, was a creative genius; this especially becomes apparent in his secret art. The primary colors that characterize the illustrations of his children's books never surface in his secret art. Instead, these basic, simple colors are mixed into sophisticated hues that are sometimes dull and drab or bright and clear. The colors, or absence of them, are combined in such a way that they hold the key to understanding the subject matter. *I Dreamed I Was a Doorman at the Hotel del Coronado* resembles an illustration from *The Grinch who Stole Christmas*, but the mood of it is much more complex. The painting shows a spectacular, magical hotel at the sea complete with distorted images of palm trees and sea gulls. The doorman stands in a yao-man-like costume beneath one of the majestic arches of the hotel's structure. Half of the painting is of boat's floating in the sea that seem to be appendages of the rococo hotel. This half is painted in dull yellow, green, and blue which contrasts with the bright tones of the other half of the painting which contains the sea-like structure of the hotel and its gardens. Its bright yellows, cherry reds, tangerine oranges, and lime greens give the painting a warm, tropical feeling that can fool the viewer into believing that he has stepped into a colorful paradise. The intrigue of the painting lies in the apparent contrast between the colors of its bright half and dull half rather than its subject matter.



Media: Watercolors Untitled



"Oh, I'd love to go to the party, but I'm absolutely dead!"

Media: Watercolors
Untitled

Classifieds

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Black Girl Does Not Live Up To Expectations

by Sara Biggs

The current offering of the New Federal Theatre is a two act comedy drama entitled *Black Girl* written by J.E. Franklin. The theatre is now in its twenty sixth season and has sponsored such artists as Ntozake Shange and Amin Baraka. The current production is returning to the stage for the second time. The New Federal first produced *Black Girl* in 1971 as the sole offering of their second season.

The play deals with the struggles of an African American lower middle class family as they try to survive lacking adequate education, privilege and communication. The mother, Mama Rose (Leslie Uggams) works as a maid to support three daughters, her grandparents and a string of homeless girls that she takes in off the street. Her husband Earl (Adrian Nade) has left her to support the family, appearing occasionally to throw money around.

Out of Mama Rose's three children it is around the youngest, Billie Jean (Sabrina DePina) that the play centers. Like her other sisters, Billie Jean has dropped out of high school but she has high aspirations of becoming a ballet dancer. Her family is horrified by the idea and they try to keep her from pursuing her goal in every imaginable way, whether from jealousy, ignorance or a mixture of both. We don't know.

Billie enters the scene as a figure of hope and the possibility of rise above difficult circumstances. Netta (Cheray O'Neal), Mama Rose's adopted first born daughter, who has gone off to college to become a teacher, Netta returns at Mother's Day offering Billie Jean the path to escape the life she

faces the wrath of Billie Jean's petty and bitter sisters.

Black Girl combines the elements of a 70's sitcom with those of a Cinderella story and the results are disappointing. Billie Jean, neatly enough, has both a wicked stepmother and two "stepsisters". The characters are poorly developed and in some cases, stiffly realized. One of the few shining moments came in a scene depicting a knife fight between Netta and one of Billie Jean's sisters. The moment contained no words but was one of the few times that the play built definite dramatic tension. There were many similar examples throughout where the words seemed to get in the way of the actor's performance.

The play did contain some impressive performances. Leslie Uggams and Cheray O'Neal were both a pleasure to behold in their roles as Mama Rose and Netta and Marlene C. Chavis and Arthur French were heartwarming as Billie Jean's grandparents, Mu' dear and Mr. Herbert.

The play contains moments both humorous and touching with large holes of forced acting and stilted dialogue in between. It's reminiscent of old movies and television shows that play off common stereotypes such as the fat petty sisters and the philandering father. It was hard to tell how much of the performance's stiffness was due to the inaccessibility of the dialogue and how much was the fault of the director and actors.

Black Girl will be showing until December 30 at the Harry De Jur Playhouse, 466 Grand Street in the Lower East Village. Student tickets are \$15. Sara Biggs is a Barnard Fresh Year.

SOPHISTICATED ANIMATION

CAN'T SAVE TOY STORY



Toy Story (left) and *Toy Story 2* (right) are directed by John Lasseter and produced by Pixar Animation Studios. *Toy Story* stars Tim Allen and Annie Potts, and *Toy Story 2* stars Allen, Potts, and John Goodman.

by Lari Rubenstein

Toy Story is magical, wonderful and amazing for about ten minutes. For the first few moments of the movie, the futuristic computer animation is enough to keep the viewer enthralled. But as the newness of the format wears away, there is no plot to make the next 70 minutes of the movie bearable.

Central to the plot of *Toy Story* is Woody the toy cowboy voiced by Tom Hanks. When Andy, Woody's owner, receives the new Buzz Lightyear toy for his birthday, Woody feels displaced as Andy's favorite toy. Resulting in a series of events, Woody and Buzz soon find themselves on a road trip. In the meantime, Andy's sister, Barbie, has a new doll, Mrs. Potato Head, who is voiced by Annie Potts. Mrs. Potato Head is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. She is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. She is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say.

and begging to go home shows that it is inappropriate for many members of the age group at which it is directed. This is on account of the aforementioned sadist Sid. Sid is known for mutilating his toys. For example, he enjoys sticking dolls' heads on other toys, such as Erector sets. If the toys were human, one might think he would not be so upsetting, but the fact that they are portrayed as human makes Sid a terrifying and somewhat disturbing character for the very young.

The movie's strength, however, is its subtle humor. In a scene where Sid has a toy car, he is shown to be a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. He is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. He is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say.

leading to a sort of *Home Improvement* vs. *Archie* feeling in the plot. Additional jokes are provided by John Ratzenberger, who, as Hamm the pig, will make you believe that his character is a Boston man on the side. Wallace Shawn, who plays Andy's toy dinosaur, as a self-doubting insect, is an amusing bit of therapy. And Don Rickles, who plays Mrs. Potato Head, is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say.

As the film's eye-catching computer-animated length film, *Toy Story* amazes viewers with its special effects, as the characters they come to love become real. The character of Mrs. Potato Head is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. She is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say. She is a very sophisticated character who has a lot of things to say.

Toad's Back In Light Syrup

by Moushum Paul

All I Want, Walk on the Ocean, Fall Down, Something's Always Wrong. Do any of these songs sound familiar? They should. Toad the Wet Sprocket is one of the best groups on the music scene today when it comes to lyrics and hauntingly beautiful music. Just for some reason they are rarely recognized for their work. People usually like their songs but time and time again they don't know the artist. Toad has finally come out with an album that has a lot of good music that should finally make people recognize them, maybe.

In *Light Syrup* the band's fifth album is a compilation of songs that were recorded for several of their former records but never made it onto them. This album has some pretty big shoes to fill. Toad first became mainstream with *Fear* their first album which contained songs with wonderfully deep and moving lyrics and music. They then proceeded to follow that one up with *Dulcinea* yet another great album. Their music style changed a little bit for this album in terms of the raw guitar and

drums. *Fear* was a bit more melodic than they both got the job done. *Light Syrup* contains some great music. My personal favorite is the sixth song on the album. So Alive is a typical Toad the Wet Sprocket song: great music, great words. They reworked it every four months until it was finally ready to go onto the *Fear* album.

There are ten songs on the album and each carries its own distinct style with it. The way in which you can tell the difference between the sounds of each of Toad's four other albums is the same way that you can tell for which album each song on *Light Syrup* was written.

The first song, a go mainstream off of his album is the hard song. Good intentions I was yet another song written for Fear that never made it but somehow made its way onto the Friends soundtrack. Ironically this song is getting a lot of airplay in Philadelphia which hopefully is a good sign that this album is catching on.

Other good songs on this album include the first track entitled Brother and the seventh "All in All." Brother is a heartfelt song about the feelings of one brother for another. The lyrics are sweet and genuine. It is one of two songs on this album that we've written exclusively for movie soundtracks and this one ended up on the *So I Married an Axe Murderer* album. All in All has a good sound that focuses basically on the fluctuation between which band member is singing. Gen Phillips and Todd Nichols go back and forth in this song and complement each other very well.

With very few exceptions one should expect this album to be an excellent compilation of great Toad music. Good songs, compelling and themselves and they have succeeded in making the new one better, at least *Light Syrup* does and their predecessors did well and it can be as some wonderful listening pleasure. Moushum Paul is a Barnard First Year.



but it did not fit. So it was put aside for their live performances and the crowd loved it.

That is basically the story for each of the songs on this album. With the exception of three, the rest of these songs

styles to accommodate the "MTV Generation" or grasp the inane sense of fame that comes with catering to the trends of adolescents (such as U2 and R.E.M.). Tears for Fears has remained true to themselves, their style, and the mere concept of music as an art form. The rejuvenating and invigorating mellowness they have always shown remains in *Rouli and the Kings of Spain*. The lyrics are equally meaningful, deep, and reflective. The background music is sophisticated and mature. The combination of the two, along with Roland's rich, beautiful voice, make for a fantastic album and an almost irresistible listening experience.

Stephan E.M. Katakopoulos is a Barnard First Year.

A Few Curlews Too Many

by Debbie Grossman

The Indigo Girls have a new album out. So fans start salivating. 1200 Curlews has been recorded just for you. This collection of live concert material has been collected over five years of touring and over more than 1200 shows. But if you have only a passive fascination with the G-Is, put that \$30.00 back in your pocket, because this two-disc set contains more Indigo Girls than any one person might ever desire.

The album is meant to feel as well as flow like a live Indigo Girls show; hence the two CDs and more than 2 hours of music. It contains more information

than you might really want to know about the music—Amy Ray and Emily Saliers write about a paragraph of commentary on each song in the extensive liner notes. They've also left in lots of cheering and "twitzy banter" between performers and audience, and rather than enhance the CD, it only crowds the music and interrupts the flow of the album. Also included is a quaint and rather naive, Emily Saliers song recorded in 1987 in Amy Ray's basement. "Back Together Again" is chock-full of such lyric gems as "we're baaa baaaaa baaaa! together again and I'll never gonna lose you as a freeeeeend!" While an interesting touch, you might want to skip this track after the first listening.

But when you finally wade through all the useless information and cheering and extra chatter, you find that there actually is some worthwhile music on this album. The Indigo Girls really are a great band. Live and in a



Emily Saliers and Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls in their new live album, 1200 Curlews

testament to their abilities as musicians that they are able to sound this good without overdubbing and all the tricks of the studio. In fact, some of the live versions sound better than the songs' studio counterparts. Amy and Emily are obviously inspired by the audience. Often, the power of their songs isn't due to the lyrics, or even the music itself, but the sheer emotion and feeling that they put into each song.

Like a live show, this album has its fair share of covers, the most impressive of which is Bob Dylan's "Tangled Up in Blue." Amy Ray seems to parrot the verses, but her entire soul pours into this one. And to say this isn't blasphemy, which it could well be, the Indigo Girls might do it a little better than Dylan himself. Emily sings a cover of a Joan Baez song "River Where We Many" songs which Emily sings lead on, has a tendency to recede and be forgotten only to reappear as one of the many nice but not particularly exciting songs on the

album.

The Indigo Girls have recorded a version of Buffy Sainte-Marie's "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" for the first release, which is included on this album, most unnecessarily in both live and studio versions. The profits from sales of this rock riot called "hearing very heavily towards support to the Honor the Earth Fund, which aids in the preservation of Native American cultures. The lyrics are no poetry, but here, once again, a song recorded by Amy Ray's excellent voice.

If you're not a fan, skip this album and you'll be satisfied. Most of this stuff is just imitations of other old songs, and the covers themselves certainly aren't a reason to purchase the album. But if you love the Indigo Girls, by all means get this album. Heck, buy the accompanying live album, too. Don't be dissatisfied.

Debbie Grossman is a Barnard Freshman.

THANKSGIVING

by Andrea Burciu

Thanksgiving day is just around the corner and the holiday spirit has already set in. Americans everywhere are purchasing pumpkin pie, corn and cranberry sauce and are frantically searching for the ultimate stuffed turkey and side dish recipes. School-age children who are told the story of the origin of the Thanksgiving holiday run home to put the little Pilgrim Feast cartoons on their door. All too soon Thanksgiving will be here. Most of us will sit down with our families, but before enjoying our own little feast we might thank God or some other supernatural force for the past year and for our being here. Do you really think She or He is the only one who should be thanked? Maybe in the spirit of things you have forgotten about the Native Americans. Do you ever wonder how they feel about Thanksgiving?

The first settlers in the New World would not have survived their first year if it were not for the Native Americans. Yes, The Native American. The Native Americans we called the Pilgrim guests to their land brought them turkeys and venison and showed them the corn and potato and pumpkin so that they would have food to survive. As the story tells it the Native Americans were the guests at the Thanksgiving feast where God was thanked for the past year's blessing. If God did have anything to do with it, it would have been Her or His bringing the Native Americans to the aid of their guests. And how were the Native People thanked for their good works their charity?

It was the beautiful red skinned peoples who explored the mountains, prairies and rivers who subsisted in the back. Their lands were taken away by purchases in return for worthless trinkets or by animal traps in return for bullets to all of those who did not pack up from the ancestral lands and move on to far-off reservations. Their belief in us, ce and humanity was robbed from them by government officials who, when asked about Indian rights, imprisoned or killed them for their insolent inquiry. The food was taken away,

from them by buffalo hunters who only killed for hides and left the rest of the animal to rot. Their dignity was stolen by ours who brought them "freewater" so the Native American would drink and become oblivious to the systematic extermination and be easy to steal from. Their pride was taken away by a nation of intruders who forced them to become starving, begging, homeless wanderers. The United States outlawed their traditions and religions to make them white-like and would not accept them even after their sacrifice. Life was taken from them by an endless journey by the smallpox and other diseases (sometimes) purposefully introduced to their non-immune bodies, and by the bullets of their guests.

Every drop of blood drained from the Native Peoples signifies unbearable loss of knowledge, tradition and respect for the earth and nature, all of which are essential to us. Every soul senselessly sent to the Spirit World signifies another horrendous murder on the hands of this country's history. What was this destruction in comparison to Hitler's holocaust? The slow yet efficient sacrifice of a beautiful race of human beings was what this country was founded on.

At Thanksgiving, think about the Native Americans and thank them. And if you thank God, thank Her or Him for allowing the Native Americans to survive their plight. And if in the Thanksgiving spirit of love, brotherhood and giving your care to celebrate Native American Month in a meaningful way, educate yourself about the real history of this land and the real history of its Native People. That way you may know when the government is carrying out more injustices, such as ending people off their reservations in order to dig for uranium or sentencing innocent men to death. You will be able to fight them and protest with all of your might. Then someone out there will think of your caring and on the day of Thanksgiving you will be thought of fondly as
Andrea Burciu is a Bernard Singer

Elizabeth Gold On Turning 21 and being faithful to an old identity

The other day I decided to go and get my white ID. I turned twenty one over the summer but had put off getting a new ID out of affection for my old pink friend. Amazingly considering how disorganized I usually am I'd never lost my original card. It had been through rain storms, laundry, snow, sand, endless swipes through the machine at Ruggles during my sophomore year, meal plan machines throughout my first year. It had born multitudes of stickers, seven different semesters, five dorms, a weight room, and a Dodge gym. My affection for the ID was unfailing even though my picture had been totally invisible since midway through my sophomore year.

I live in Ruggles again this year and my ID had refused to swipe through the machine there since the first day I moved in. Finally one of the guards stopped humoring my security violation and told me, "Just get a new card for Christ's sake." I was shamed into heading on over to Kent Hall and veiling into the depths of the ID office for my white-onst twenty-one card.

I was shocked when they simply took my old picture out of a file and laminated it into a new card.

"Aren't you going to 'take a new picture'?" I asked.

"You want to pay an extra ten bucks?" The ID lady countered. "No, of course I didn't want to pay an extra ten bucks, but I sure didn't want that old picture staring me in the face either." It was creepy to walk out of Kent into the sunlight holding a record of myself at

the last three and a half years. Every day this year I am bombarded with the knowledge that time is counting down. I get hideous notices in my mailbox informing me that I am supposed to get my picture taken for the yearbook or that I need to attend a career forum. I used to choose my outfits based on whether or not they looked funny, now I find myself shopping for "good clothes."

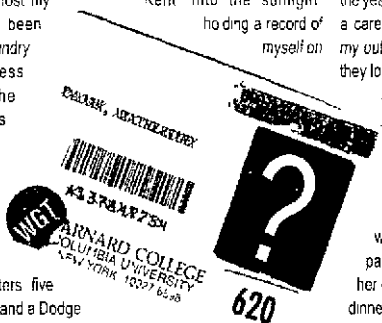
The girl in the ID picture has never heard of internships or theses, she's never lived with a guy or gone for longer than a few weeks without seeing her parents. She's never had to buy her own groceries, cook her own dinner, or earn the money to pay for it.

At first when I got my new ID card, I was frightened of the picture. I felt like it was of a different person than me, and I felt frightened for her because I knew that she was in for some heavy changes. But the longer I stare at it, the more I am able to find some peace with that girl. Sure, the next few years are full of surprises, but I made it this far. I mean, three years ago I couldn't even imagine turning twenty-one, let alone graduating or finding a job. Well, I still can't imagine finding a job, but I guess I'll just have to find out.

My first day of college in the picture I am wearing my favorite shirt (lost long ago in one of my numerous moves), my hair is long and curly (it has since refused to curl once it reaches a certain length). My face is thinner, I have lipstick on, and my glasses are different. Most of all, however, I look scared. My parents had just left, I didn't know anyone, and some peppy friend wearing an oriental shirt had just told me to smile. In the picture I am desperately trying to look like I have some clue of where the hell I am.

It's truly bizarre to me that my photo hasn't undergone some sort of *Dorian Gray* transformation. It should have changed with me over

Elizabeth Gold is a Barnard Senior.



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TARYN... Continued from page 32

frantically unaware of where I was going. Finally I spotted a green fuzzy jacket. It was Mary's Polartech—the one good-looking—and more importantly the one single—guy in the store. I stood at his side, pulled my hair out of my face, and dropped the book I was holding in my hand. He didn't seem to notice so I lapped it his way with my foot. He leaned down, picked it up and handed it to me, looking soulfully into my eyes.

Then I realized he looked a little too soulful.

I had blindly cruised to Barnes & Noble's vast Bible collection and my chosen young man had three Bibles stacked next to him. I decided that I could not help him choose the best book of God and so I went downstairs, scrawling a note to Mary—MUST LEAVE. HAVE HAD ENOUGH—while I walked. When we reentered outside the store Mary confirmed that other than Polartech, whom we now called Bible Boy, she had seen no one else young, attractive and single.

"I see! Like a failure." I told her.

"You shouldn't," she said. "It wasn't your fault."

"But I feel unfinished," I said. "My mission was unaccomplished."

"You'll have to come to terms with that," I sighed. I know.

*** The Plan Exploded ***

The major reason I didn't pick anyone up was because I discovered that I'm not as aggressive as I thought I was. But this is not the whole story; the Barnes & Noble clientele was exceedingly weak. There were all these old guys and I couldn't approach them. There was this couple who kept feeding each other bits of a muffin and dropping crumbs on the floor as they looked at "The Entertainment Weekly Supplement Book to Seinfeld." Polartech was a missionary. Everyone in the cafe was wearing either black clothes or a beret and they all thought they were in *Dead Poets Society*. In hunting terms, I guess it just wasn't deer season.

And here lies the only difference between hunting and flirting: two awesome-y similar activities. Generally speaking, a failed attempt in flirting results in nothing more than a momentary depression. Worlds do not come crashing down, heavens do not tremble. A failed attempt in hunting, and your family may not eat for a week.

Taryn Roeder is a Barnard Junior and Bulletin Weekly Columnist.

Taryn In Bed

"Sometimes the Chase is Better than Winning the Race"

A friend told me that in some Native American languages the same word is used to mean both "hunt" and "flirt."

"Until I realized that," she said, "I never understood how some people could like to hunt so much. If they like meat, why don't they go to the supermarket and buy it? The reason hunting and flirting are similar is because both processes are more exciting than what is eventually obtained. There is pleasure in seeking the perfect target. There is beauty in the skill required for the pursuit. There is glory in the moment of achievement—followed by a feeling of disappointment because there is nothing left to do but lie back and relax. The challenge of The Chase has vanished."

My mother says that I like The Chase because I'm not ready for a boyfriend, which is her nice way of saying I'm immature. Maybe so, but I think that many suffer from the "I only want you when you don't want me" phenomenon. There was a boy I liked for years and when he finally professed his love, I realized I wasn't interested any longer. I dated him anyway to give it a chance, but without The Chase having him wasn't any big deal. Near my house in Boston is a Shell Station where a guy works whom I've had a crush on for months. The reason the crush has lasted so long is because it's a perpetual Chase with this guy. When I'm in Boston I fill my car up with gas everyday, and he knows me by name when I go in to buy gum. That as far as it ever goes. If I was dating him, would it be half as fun to drive over to the gas station, or half as exciting when he undercharges me for gum?

I decided to construct a little Chase for myself on Monday night. I wanted to enjoy the searching to go somewhere where no phone numbers would be exchanged. I decided to search for fresh blood in one of those meat markets we call bookstores. However, the evening didn't go exactly as planned.

The Barnes & Noble 66 St.
Fiasco
*** The Plan ***

My plan was to roam the new Barnes & Noble and to explore the bookstore subculture. To exude pheromones all over the place, meet a guy, drink coffee with him, and say goodbye. I wanted to locate my victim, stalk him, and

move in for the kill. It would be The Chase in a microcosm. The beauty of the mission was that it would be a pure chase with instant gratification and no side effects. My only fear was that one of the bookstore regulars might try to pick me up before I had a chance to pick someone up. To counteract this problem I brought my friend Mary with me. She agreed to sit in one of the armchairs there and read a book, her thin black glasses resting sexily on the top of her nose. I figured men who were looking for someone to pick up would not be able to resist my beautiful friend. This would leave me free to prowl quickly and quietly between the shelves.

*** The Plan Expanded ***

I had so many ideas. I walked to stand in the fiction section, ostensibly trying to decide between Faulkner's "Collected" or "Uncollected" stories. Here I would "lose" my contact lens, creating a mock scene in which I would enlist the help of a selected boy. Or I thought perhaps I would ask a sweet guy for aid in choosing a book for my "brother." My favorite idea was to stand in the poetry section, asking unsuspecting prey, "Um, I forgot my reading glasses. Do you think you could read this out loud to me?" After he began reading, I would interupt, "Do you think you could read it with even more feeling, more passion?"

*** The Plan Enacted ***

At Barnes & Noble, Mary sat in her designated armchair while I scouted out the area. I looked at the dimensions of the store, the locations of each section, and the variety of men to be found. I began in Bestsellers. There were about ten men here, but most were unsatisfactory and I decided that too many men at close range would mess up my aim, and I wanted to be accurate. On the 2nd floor was the Fiction section. I looked right, I looked left, as far as I could see—women.

I stalled by Mary then, and she threw a tiny balled up piece of paper at me. It read in block letters: MEET ME IN THE TRAVEL SECTION. I went directly there and dodged behind the pull-out maps. When Mary arrived, she spoke in a fragmented sentence so that our mission would not be discovered.

Cue Green Polartech Jacket, Blue Backpack, Upstairs. Then she disappeared. I followed her directions up to the third floor. This section was hopping. Tons of people. I looked right. O.K. people. I looked left. Coupes. Where were all the single men? As promised? Where was Polartech? I cruised