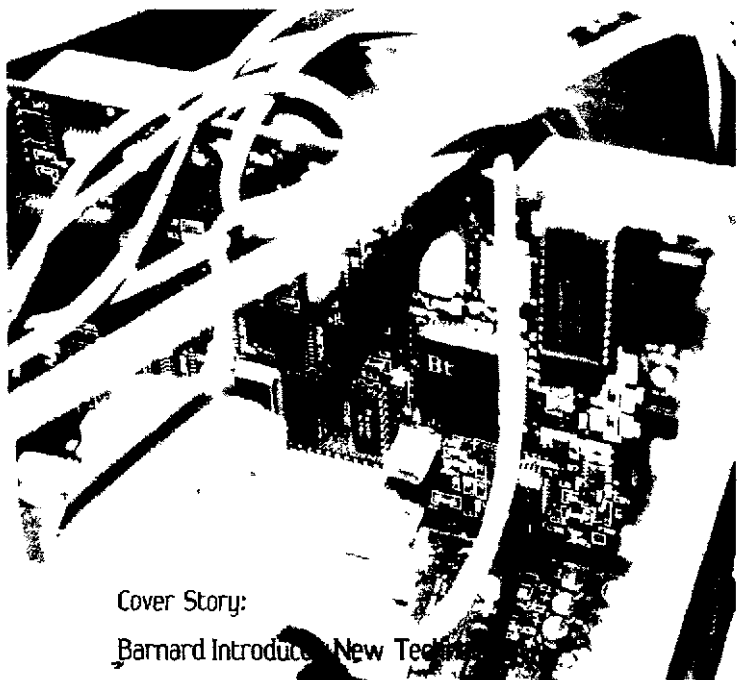


Barnard

Bulletin

24 September 1997 • Issue 2



Cover Story:

Barnard Introduces New Technology

Inside:

Betsy Reviews *Gattaca*

Blur Hits Manhattan

U.S. News Rankings Misrepresent Barnard

Barnard enthusiasts may have been sorely disappointed upon opening the Sept. 1 copy of *U.S. News & World Report*. The magazine, which ranks liberal arts colleges and universities nationwide, placed Barnard 27th on their list down from 23rd last year. Should the college be concerned about this dip in reputation? To many, these rankings represent the final word in college quality. But conversations with various Barnard administrators and close examination of the ranking criteria indicate that in fact the *U.S. News* rankings leave out certain information that would more accurately describe the quality of a Barnard education. The admin-

Barnard is also in the midst of rampant improvements to its physical and technological facilities, making this school one of the most exciting places to be right now and creating a learning environment that cannot be adequately described by a column of numbers.

istration, therefore, is not worried about this year's ranking.

"We'd be concerned if we saw something really wrong," said Lew Wyman, Vice President for Planning and Research, "if applications dropped or if fundraising were turning sour. But all our indicators show us doing very well. Concern would be too strong a word."

"These ratings are extremely money sensitive," said Dean of the College Dorothy Denberg, "and don't in any way take into account our unique relationship with Columbia. In fact, as far as the ratings are concerned, Barnard is hurt by its Columbia affiliation. The rankings include a calculation of resources and facilities. Although all Barnard students have access to the Columbia libraries, only Wollman Library is taken into account by the magazine, giving the College a pitiful financial resources rating.

In the explanation provided with the rankings, *U.S. News* describes the methodology. The description backed up Denberg's assessment of the rankings as biased toward schools with more money: the faculty resources rating includes average faculty salaries, and the financial resources ranking is based on expenditures, both educational and otherwise.

Operating on an endowment much smaller than those of the other sister schools, Barnard is somewhat less competitive financially. But

Barnard students know that this is not the only important criterion of the school's quality. Academically, "we're doing better on just about any benchmark," said Wyman. The numbers support this: last spring, Barnard had ten percent more applicants than Wellesley and dropped its admit rate by 4.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the yield—that is, the percentage of accepted students who enroll—jumped 5.7 percent. In addition, Barnard received a record 3554 applications last year and this year's first year class has 564 students, including twelve Centennial scholars up from five last year.

Wyman confirmed this, saying "The applications have never been stronger."

The extreme fluctuation in results from year to year also hints at their inaccuracy. One example is with the faculty resources rank. This year, Barnard received a rank of 110, while just last year our ranking was in the mid 60s. Apparently, *U.S. News* justifies this by saying that in this particular category, the schools are so closely bunched together that a tiny change in a school's resources from one year to the next can be reflected in a significant jump. Perhaps this is an indication that faculty resources is not a particularly useful measure of the quality of an institution. Whatever the reasoning, Barnard does not take these shifts very seriously. "When we make it into the top 25," said Wyman, "we don't view it as a time to jump up and down, because we know we could be out again the next year. The idea of collecting statistics is a pretty good idea. The more information students and parents have, the better. But this system describes just the numbers. It doesn't give you a sense of the place. *U.S. News* just doesn't get it."

The *U.S. News* statistics do account for some of Barnard's shortcomings, such as its low alumni giving rate. However, relevant circumstances such as Barnard's primarily-commuter status prior to 1988 are omitted. Barnard is also in the midst of extensive improvements to its physical and technological facilities, making this school one of the most exciting places to be right now and creating a learning environment that cannot be adequately described by a column of numbers.

Barnard Bulletin

editorial board: editor-in-chief: elise choukour; managing editor: janifer findor; art director: nda odgier; features ed.: stacy cowley; assistant features editor: apama surendran; commentary editors: on barnard: jessica jillean; arts editor: betsy crowell; music editor: nicola mader; news editor: eva goldsmith; staff writers: anna abner, anna gold, aub chern, long, marta malik; production staff: layout assistant: keith park; management office manager: sue park; business assistant: marta malik; advertising manager: stephan cohen; advertising assistants: anderson office assistant: anna gold; art advisor: cheryl shendler; the bulletin is published weekly, except during the summer months at Barnard College, New York City, and is printed by wagnon and partners. subscriptions are \$20 per academic year. information on ads and address changes may be sent to the bulletin, c/o 360 Broadway, New York, New York 10013. production wholly or in part is prohibited. words in the ad are all lowercase. the editorial board of the bulletin is published under the auspices of the Barnard College Society. members should send their attention to the right-hand corner column. cover photo by elise choukour.

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Barnard Events Calendar...September 24-30

Wednesday, September 24

- Last day to register for University M.M. Courses

Thursday, September 25

- 5pm in Sutzberger Parlor Cynthia Ozick reading from her new novel *The Puttenezzer Papers* followed by discussion with the audience

Friday, September 26

- First training session for peer counselors and advocates at the Rape Crisis Center

Monday, September 29

- 5:30-7:30pm at Sutzberger Parlor Party to celebrate Jane Gould and her new book *Juggling: A Memoir of Work, Family and Feminism*

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news briefs

Writer Cynthia Ozick Offers Inspiring Reading from her New Novel

On Thursday September 25 Cynthia Ozick one of America's most eminent writers will read from her new novel *The Puttenezzer Papers*. Ozick is a novelist, essayist, short story writer, playwright, and frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Harpers*, *The New Republic*, and *Salmagundi*. *The Puttenezzer Papers* Ozick's first work of fiction in ten years is a collection of previously published short stories which are compiled into a novel. The story features a Barnard graduate who becomes a lawyer, creates a golem (a zombie-like creature), becomes Mayor of New York City, falls in love, and falls in love. The reading which will take place in Sutzberger Parlor at 5:30pm is sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women and is being supported by The Ingeborg Tamara and Jonina Rennett Women in Judaism Forum, which brings to Barnard a number of programs that illuminate the complex roles of women in Judaism today and throughout history.

Party to Celebrate Jane Gould, Founder of Barnard's Center for Research on Women and Women's Studies Department

The Center for Research on Women, Barnard's Women's Studies Department, and the Feminist Press at the City University of New York will co-sponsor a party to celebrate Jane Gould, the first permanent director of the Barnard Women's Center, and her book *Juggling: A Memoir of Work, Family and Feminism*. Gould, a Barnard alumna, worked for eighteen years as Barnard's Director of Placement. She helped to found both the Barnard Women's Center, now known as the Center for Research on Women, and Barnard's Women's Studies department. She served as a men-

and inspired students as director of the Women's Center from 1972 until her retirement in 1983.

Gould's book *Juggling* clearly parallels her experiences with the historic transformations of women in American society. The term "juggling" when used to define the balance of family and career responsibilities is so associated with Gould that she is cited by Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary as the source of the new definition.

The party in Gould's honor will take place on Monday, September 29, in Sutzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall, from 5:30-7:30pm.

Barnard Participates in Women and Scientific Literacy Program

Barnard has been selected by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) to participate in a three-year initiative to support faculty development and improve undergraduate science education for women in the United States. Barnard is one of seventy-four applicants chosen to take part in the Women and Scientific Literacy (WSL) Program. The primary goal of AAC&U's WSL program, which is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is to make science attractive to more women by expanding and exploring content and new teaching methods within traditional science departments as well as within humanities and social science courses. Barnard is offering three new courses this semester that take into account the goals of such a program: Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Laura Kay, compiled Barnard's AAC&U grant proposal in an effort to incorporate more science into women's studies courses. Kay hopes to make some Barnard students less science and math phobic.

B E A R E S S E N T I A L S

Students Interested in Attending Graduate School The Annual Graduate School Fair will take place on Friday September 26 in Upper Level Mcintosh from 11am 3pm! So far over 40 graduate school programs have signed up to participate. The fair is an opportunity to learn about types of graduate programs as well as specific programs.

Mental Health Services Groups This Semester A group for students who have lost some one close to them meets every Friday at 11am. Students who would like to belong to this support group should contact Giselle Harrington staff therapist, at x42091 for more info. A second group, Making Peace with Food is for students who are concerned about food and body image issues. If you are interested please contact Dr Devra Braun also at x42091.

Dear Well-Woman

Q I have recently noticed that my girlfriend's vaginal secretions taste and smell differently throughout the course of the month. I would like to know what causes this and is it normal or is something wrong?

Sincerely,

Culinary Confused

Dear Confused,

A First, let me reassure you that what you have noticed in your girlfriend is normal and happens to all women. The smell and taste of vaginal secretions can be influenced by a wide array of factors. The obvious is a woman's cycle: hormonal changes throughout the month will indeed vary the taste or smell of her discharge. In addition, whatever smell there can also be trapped in by pubic hair or non-cotton underwear. If this seems to be the case, then just washing the pubic area well and

The Committee on Programs and Academic Standing This faculty committee meets biweekly on Thursdays to review requests from students for exceptions to academic policies and procedures. Petitions may be obtained at the Registrar's Office and must be submitted by the Monday prior to the Thursday meeting in order to be considered at that meeting. Please contact your Class Dean if you have questions about procedures.

Students Interested in Tutoring for Barnard Courses Apply in the Dean of Studies Office (105 Midbank) if hired you can earn \$9.50 or more per hour worked. Please speak with Dean Webster.

Students Who are Interested in Receiving Tutoring Please speak with your instructor about study strategies before seeking assistance from a tutor. Faculty members are your first

choice. Cotton undies should remedy the situation. Also, foreign bodies which have been placed in the vagina, such as tampons, diaphragms, and lubricants, can also create a foul smell or taste. In those instances, the taste should just dissipate naturally with the removal of the foreign object.

However, not all smells or tastes in the vagina are foul. Some women, at times, taste very sweet. It has been rumored that if a woman eats pineapple, her vaginal secretions will taste like fruit; the same has been said for steak and alcohol. It is just like when you eat a lot of garlic and then sweat, you can smell it coming out of your pores.

Sometimes though, certain smells and tastes, pleasant or not, can indicate an infection. A foul discharge can be a symptom of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, and a fishy one could be bacterial vaginosis. Surprisingly, a sweet or bread-like taste can be the by-product of a yeast infection.

If tutoring is in fact needed, please fill out a request form in the Dean of Studies Office. Please note that it may take several days for an appropriate match to be made.

The Jong Writing Center Trained peer tutors and faculty level writing consultants will work with you on everything from First Year English papers to lab reports to your senior thesis—at any stage in the writing process. Please sign up for conferences (up to two per week) on the door of 121 Reid Hall.

Students Interested in Studying Abroad This Spring or Next Year If you haven't attended either of the previous meetings this term, it is very important for you to attend the final informational session to be conducted by Dean Timée Szék in 304 Barnard Hall on Monday, September 29, 5-6pm.

But don't get alarmed! The bottom line is these tastes and smells are being produced by your body and are most likely just reflections of what you have been eating or what part of your cycle you are in. The time to be worried is if other symptoms such as fever, chills, itching, or pain during intercourse arise. If those things should occur, consult the doctors and nurse practitioners in the health center. Do not use a vaginal hygiene spray because they have been known to cause allergic reactions.

The best approach to take is to get to know your own body. If you know what your vaginal secretions usually smell and/or taste like, then you can tell if something is "amiss" or if it is just the onion rings you had for lunch. Do this alone or with your partner. And if you have particular preferences in smell or taste, experiment and ask your partner to eat different foods. Have fun!

Sincerely,

Well-Woman

Barnard Expands Computer Network

by Fahmda Rashid

When current President Judith Shapiro came to Barnard she brought along her Five

Year Plan for improving the school.

One of the program's key aspects focuses on increasing the funding available for campus computer facilities. This year, the added funding is beginning to pay off—sweeping changes are being made to Barnard's physical com-

puter network and in the way computing support issues are handled on campus.

The changes in campus computing began last year when Barnard switched from Novell's cc Mail system to Bmix, a UNIX system similar to Columbia's Unix. Over the summer, all campus residence halls at Barnard were fully wired to allow students to use Ethernet hookups to access the Bmix network—and through it, the Internet and World Wide Web—from their dorm rooms.

Technology usage on campus has increased dramatically in recent years as students rely more heavily on e-mail and as professors begin to utilize computers to explain abstract concepts or to provide newsgroups as a forum for student discussion. As computer usage increases, so do the number of computer-related problems and the need for a strong users' support network. According to Jean Follansbee, Director of ITS, it was "a logical progression from the recent emphasis being placed on technology campus wide to our RCA program."

The Residential Computing Assistants (RCAs) are part of a new project that ITS unveiled last semester. Associate Director of Academic Computing, Mauraen Romagnoli worked with Sandra Johnson, the Associate

Dean of Student Life, to form a program loosely based on the already in place Residential Assistant (RA) program. The RCA program is designed to create a pool of trained consultants living in the dorms whom students can ask for computer help when the ITS Help Desk is closed, or at times when the Help Desk determines that on-site help is necessary.

Other colleges have incarnations of the RCA program, said Romagnoli, "but to implement it here we had to see what worked for Barnard."

In addition to troubleshooting problems in the dorms, the RCAs will conduct training sessions later in the semester on basic computing applications, focusing on the Microsoft Office applications which include Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

There are currently eight RCAs for the 1997-1998 academic year. "The RCA program is still in the testing stages," explained Residential Computing Manager Dana Ostrow (BC '95). "As we see what works and doesn't work, we hope to expand. Next year, we hope to have 20 RCAs." The 20 RCAs would be based in their residential halls and would be responsible for the students in that specific dorm, borrowing the concept from the RA program. For this year, the eight RCAs rotate between all the halls.

The RCAs underwent intensive training one week before Orientation began in August, during which they covered everything from network installation to software applications. "Obviously, we can't assume that you know everything," commented Follansbee. "We went through the nuts and bolts during training." Also emphasized was the concept of spotting as RCAs learn through training in pairs so that they could learn to back each other up.

The RCAs were chosen after an intensive selection process in which they were asked to

complete a four-page application similar to the RA application and obtain recommendations from past employers and faculty members. Follansbee, Romagnoli, and Ostrow also interviewed RCA candidates.

"We were looking for students who were articulate, mature, technologically savvy, displayed the skills of leadership, and had some experience in teaching," explained Romagnoli. Both Ostrow and Follansbee stressed that the RCA project provides an opportunity for students to teach other students what they know as well as to develop their leadership skills.

Since the end of Orientation, the eight RCAs, Ostrow, and the program's Graduate Computing Assistant, Richard Denmark, have been hooking up individual computers to the network. Over the summer, ITS mailed letters to all Barnard students about the newly available network, and students were asked to mail a form back if they wanted a hookup. Lists of interested students were compiled, and the RCAs have been spending several hours each week installing computers. Most installations so far have been mass-installs where students bring their computers to a central location such as the Quad Cafe, and the RCAs install as many network connections as they can in about eight hours. Eventually, the RCAs will begin to phase out the mass-installs as they make more individual appointments with students.

Once all the students who requested connections—580 of them—have their computers hooked up to the network, the RCAs will never again be faced with installations of this magnitude: a network connection once installed is good for a student's entire time at Barnard.

Fahmda Rashid is a Barnard junior.

Future Doggie Doctors Form Club

By Mia Malkin

People generally think of veterinary school as a low stress alternative to med school but with the 27 veterinary schools in the US and Canada accepting less than 36% of their 22,000 applicants getting in is just as tough. Pre-vets face an additional obstacle: invisibility. Barnard is full of pre-med advisors, student societies and planning programs, but who ever thinks about the pre-vets?

Alanna Toll (BC '00) wants to change all that. On Monday, September 15, her newly formed Society of Pre-Veterinary Students received SGA recognition as an official student organization. Toll, founder and president of the club, is one of the handful of pre-vets on this campus. The organization already has 30 members, many of whom are looking to meet other pre-vets and most of whom have a genuine love for animals. After submitting a membership list to SGA and a constitution explaining the goals of the club, Toll is anxious for the Pre-Vet Society to become an active part of campus life. The club may be intended to serve pre-vet students, she explains, "but it is also for people who just love animals and are concerned with their welfare."

"The club may be intended to serve pre-vet students, but it is also for people who just love animals and are concerned with their welfare."

—Alanna Toll, founder of Society of Pre-Veterinary Students

One of the main goals of the society is to provide good networking opportunities for members to share information on veterinary schools, search out volunteer opportunities with animals in the city and discuss animal rights issues which are prevalent today. "It's hard being pre-vet," Toll says. "You can often just be

dumped together with the pre-meds.

The vast differences in admission standards between medical and veterinary schools are not widely known. While pre-meds and pre-vets both have to take biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and physics with labs, pre-vets are also required to take microbiology, genetics or biochemistry. And since admission requirements are not standardized and uniform as with medical schools, some veterinary schools require one, two or all three of those additional pre-vet courses. Pre-vets have to take either the MCAT, the GRE or the VCAT, the Veterinary College Admission Test, depending on where they are applying. Expense with animals is critical for vet schools and should include working with large and small animals, farm animals and exotic animals. One of the problems facing pre-vets at Barnard is the finding a cow to work



Pre-vet? Meet your future patient.

with in New York City is not too likely. In addition, many midwestern veterinary schools will not even consider applicants who have not taken courses in animal nutrition and animal husbandry. Most veterinary schools are also state resident oriented. They prefer to accept applicants from their own states and a few go

so far as to have contracts with the states guaranteeing that people with a DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) degree will practice in state.

It's more difficult to get into veterinary school than medical school, says Ann Bourmouhan, an Assistant Dean and Barnard's advisor for the public health professions. "Veterinary schools are very selective and there are few spots in applicants."

Bourmouhan is responsible for advising the pre-vets and during her three years at Barnard, she can only recall about five students who wanted to practice veterinary medicine. "There are lots of people who love animals, but few devote their lives to care for them." Bourmouhan is excited to be the advisor for the pre-vet society. "We can only support and help students if they identify themselves."

Melissa Braver (BC '00) is an animal rights activist and a new member of the club who hopes to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Non-animal testing is a problem in veterinary schools, she comments. "Veterinarian schools don't like to hear that you are an animal rights activist. Doing experiments on animals is something I am going to have to learn to deal with."

"Many veterinary schools are advocates of animal research," for their directors feel that such research ultimately improves the health of both animals and human beings. "Talking to others about the conflicting ideas of what it means to be a veterinarian and how it fits into the role of being an animal rights..."

ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of September 24

MUSEUMS

•Alternative Museum

594 Broadway

Nervous Systems Heidi Kumao through 11/1

•Brooklyn Museum of Art

200 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn

Current Undercurrent (work by local Brooklyn artists), through 1/25/98

•Jewish Museum

1108 Fifth Avenue

Gemile Fissarro in the Canbbean 1850-55 through 11/16

•Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue

Georgia O'Keeffe: A Portrait by Alfred Steiglitz through 10/5

Wardrobe (Costume Exhibit) through 11/23

•Queens Museum of Art

New York City Building

Cai Guo-Qiang: Cultural Meeting Bath

Projects for the 20th Century; through 10/26

•Whitney Museum

945 Madison Avenue

The Tate Gallery (London) Selects: American Realities, through 10/5

•Whitney at Philip Morris

120 Park Avenue

Accra Sheep (photos of tunnels beneath Grand Central station) through 10/10

•Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street

Object and Abstraction: Contemporary Photographs through 10/7

•International Center of Photography

1133 Sixth Avenue

Eye of the Beholder (beauty as seen by female photographers) through 11/13

Gattaca Appropriate for Modern Times

by Betsy Crowell

In modern times, the issue of genetic engineering is considered to be very important. Sheep named Dolly are cloned as easily as tomatoes once were. We are now living in the future world that we saw on episodes of *The Jetsons* not too long ago. It is always challenging to see how far we can progress as a species but it can also be dangerous. The film *Gattaca* provides a glimpse of how much danger really lies in the not too distant future.

Ethan Hawke plays Vincent Freeman in *Ethan Hawke stars in Gattaca*

because he was conceived in love and not a petri dish. In this society, genetics compose one's identity and perfection is what earns a place among the elite. He experiences a lifelong tension with his perfectly engineered brother Anton (Loren Dean) because he can never catch up to him. They compete in many swimming races, which Anton usually wins. Afflicted with a heart condition, Jerome (Jude Law) cannot make it all the way but in the end, his love helps him to save his little sister. He

never saved energy for the way back because he was putting all of his energy into just getting there.

The one thing Vincent has over Anton is his ambition. From a young age, he longs to

be an elite astronaut even though he knows this is close to impossible. He refuses to accept the hand that has been dealt to him. He studies extremely hard and then he sells his soul. He gives up his identity as Vincent in order to become Jerome's genetic masterpiece. At first, Jerome (Jude Law) had

it all good looks, superior intelligence and athletic ability. He had been destined for greatness until he was hit by a car and lost the use of his legs. Then, as far as Valid society was concerned, he no longer mattered. His life becomes one of solitude and alcohol. His misery is so intense that he is willing to sell his own identity. He agrees to give up his life to Vincent so he can see it put to good use, which he would have been able to do without legs.

Law exhibits Jerome's pain very powerfully.



ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of September 24

The director Andrew Niccol was not looking for a British actor when casting this character but Law was so charismatic that he changed the script. Law's acting is the best in the film.

The two men develop a friendship throughout the course of the film. Because they share blood, Vincent cannot live without Jerome and without Vincent's dream, Jerome has no reason to live. Their friendship becomes the central point of the film. Vincent is able to inspire Jerome—at least for a little while. He uses Jerome's almost perfect identity to get hired at the prestigious Gattaca Corporation as an astronaut. He even goes on to become a member of the envied team to travel to Titan. He almost gets investigated for a murder but is able to overcome that obstacle.

In a world where people's destinies are

Ethan Hawke plays Vincent Freeman, an "In Valid" because he was conceived in love and not a petri dish

mapped out for them from the day that they are born. Vincent's willingness to combat the odds is what makes him prevail. He does not buy into the system and though he experiences little hitches along the way, he finds people who are willing to help him because they too believe in his dream. Because of this, Hawke calls it "a traditional story of the triumph of the human spirit."

The one female character in this film is Irene, a co-worker of Vincent's at Gattaca, played by Uma Thurman. Like Vincent, she is flawed but unlike him, she accepts it completely. Niccol calls her "firm in her frailty and confident in her boundaries. She believes in the system so much that she will probably lie down to die on the exact prescribed moment." Vincent comes to trust and love her because she is flawed like him and she can understand him. She loves him because he does not care about

the flaws with which she is so obsessed. She is surprised at his utter disregard for the system but she learns to behave the same way. She has never before thought that she could do anything like that, but he shows her that she can.

This film is very positive because it shows that even in a heavily mechanized society, human relationships do exist and are what ultimately matter. The relationship between Vincent and Jerome is a testament to that fact. It transforms Jerome from a sickly, cynical drunk who cares for no one to a crippled man who pulls himself up a flight of stairs so that someone else can live out his dream.

With the exception of Law's performance, the acting in the film is weak. Thurman is cold as Irene, to the point that the love between her and Vincent is not believable. She does not induce any sort of compassion from the viewer.

With his boyish looks and humble character, up to this point, it is also hard to place Hawke as Vincent, a member of this futuristic society. It is understandable that he should desire to fly away from a planet where he is unwanted but his burning desire is not developed fully. One wonders why Jerome turned out one way and Vincent the other.

It is difficult to believe though that this is only director Niccol's third screenplay. The cinematography is beautiful in its sterility and successfully evokes the emptiness that many of the characters feel. It takes an interesting twist on a *Brave New World*-type of story. It is comforting to think that even in such a genetically engineered society, the human spirit can and will triumph.

Betsy Crowell is a Belmont Junior and the Bulletin Arts Editor.

GALLERIES

•Andre Emmanich Gallery

41 E 57 Street

Judy Pfaff Round Hole Square Peg through 10/4

•Wessel and O'Connor

242 W 26 Street

An Anonymous Artist Late 20th Century through 10/12

•Anna Kustera Gallery

41 Wooster Street

Creepy (all women artists using insects) through 9/27

THEATRE

•*Tibet Does Not Exist*

by Don Thompson

Tribeca Performing Arts Center at BMCC

345-8510 279-4200

•*Vote Jesus*

by Nate Eppler directed by Karen Kohlraas

Peregine Theatre Co

Studio Theater 4 A

29 E 19 Street, 4th floor

tickets \$10

539 3765

9/24 27 at 8pm

FILM

•*Patti Smith: The Sea of Possibilities*

Museum of Television and Radio

25 West 52 Street 821 5800

9/25 28

DANCE

•Urban Artworks 5

Face Downtown Theater

3 Spruce Street

\$9 for students 9/26 7 at 8pm 9/28 at 3pm

924 0077

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of September 24

We Hate It When Our Friends Become Successful

By Suzi Green

Artie of Blur

ROCK

Wednesday 9/24

Dog's Eye View
Mercury Lounge

Friday 9/26

Ron Sexsmith
Westbeth Theatre Center

Saturday 9/27

Guided By Voices/ David Kilgour
Irving Plaza
Guttermouth/ 10 Foot Pole
Coney Island High
Paul Weller/ Jannette Napolitano
(ex-Concrete Blonde)
Roseland
The Zen Traxsters
Crossroads

Sunday 9/28

Mt. Experience/ Groove Ghoolies
Coney Island High
Dub Narcotic Sound System
Brownies

Monday 9/29

Life of Agony
Irving Plaza

Tuesday 9/30

The Charlatans/ The Dandy Warhols
Irving Plaza
The Squirrel Nut Zippers
Roseland

CONCERT REVIEW

Pilgrims trekked from all over to Roseland on September 11 in an attempt to see their gods, Blur. All were welcomed by a representative of KRCC, New York's "alternative" radio station. In a nasal voice, the mindless DJ announced Blur's arrival. This band comes from 3000 miles that way, as he gesticulated wildly in no particular direction. The finer aspects of English culture were boiled down to "They drink tea there."

His final statement, amongst advertising the station once more, was a plea to "make them love America."

A mildly perceptible groan emitted from the lips of many in the crowd, only to be quickly drowned in the prevailing screams and inevitable "woooing" girls. The disgust was generated from those who understood the awful notion that Blur could possibly love America. With the growing popularity of their deities, this proposal was exactly what many long-time Blur fans feared.

The Blur albums of yore represented an escape from the mediocrity of American "alternative" music. Blur was supposed to hate America. Their sound, laced with romantic vignettes of everyday British life, seemingly could not be compromised for the use of the masses. If they loved America, Britain's patron saints of alienation would fall from their pedestals. With the release of their fifth album, *Blur*, and the success of *Sung 2*, magazine covers have been querying whether Blur would conquer America. The real danger was, would America conquer Blur? A battle was being waged, one for the

As Graham Coxon, Alex James, Dave Rowntree, and Damon Albarn took the stage and began their set of anglophile waxes were realized. Opening with "Beetlebum," this newer, more America-friendly Blur gave the masses what they wanted. KRCC condoned music. As Blur churned out song after song from their latest album, lead singer Albarn courted the audience with radio-friendly tunes like "Boys and Girls." The somewhat manic Albarn performed a



Those cantankerous Brits, Blur

series of aural feats, climbing on sound systems with abandon. His earthbound antics were just as spectacularly executed. Lyrics were punctuated with half-crazed grins, self-inflicted water bottle bows to the head, and a general fidgeting and rearranging of clothes. Obviously, Albarn loved the attention he received from his new, found American friends.

The rest of the band did not — page 14

Foxy Lady Debuts

by Carolyn Slutsky

Kim Fox is not supernatural, but she seems to wish she was. Everything about her, from her quirky hats and old-fashioned dresses to her enchanting lyrics and intricate melodies, suggests a calculated and realized plea to be different. With her debut album *Moon Hit*, Fox achieves just that.

Born in Manhattan and educated at Vassar College, Fox studied classical voice and opera before moving to Bloomington, Indiana, to pursue a recording contract and a new vision for her music. Working with students at Indiana University (every musician on her album is a citizen of Bloomington) and producer Paul Mahern, Fox pushed her vision and came up with magical results in *Moon Hit*.

The songs on the album are wholly unique, encompassing music of all types. Some like "Jen" about when one person has a deep hold over another, and "Bleed A Little, Allison" about how people can be so superficial that hurts, are slow, personal ballads sung and addressed directly to the listener. Others like "I Wanna Be a Witch" and "Flowers Have O's" are more upbeat and deal with how the supernatural reflects society and express a hope that fantasy has a place in normal culture. Lines like "That's why I wanna be a witch, Travel the world upon my broomstick/ Cause baby this life is a bitch. But it's the only life I

know and I ain't no saint I was a vampire" capture Fox's whimsicality and almost childlike innocence.

Beyond the layer of frivolity in her story like many songs deal with things like blood and perversion as being dirty. It seems that often the dreams of vampires and witches turn into night mares that haunt Fox's songs, portraying a singer-songwriter focused on, if not obsessed with, questions of shame and loss of innocence that come with the gaining of experience.

Her instrumentation could be compared to the dense piano and accompanying instru-



An image from the insert of Kim Fox's debut album

ments of Tom Amos, as could her profound need for songs to carry messages to her inspiration sources like artist Laura Nyro. Yet Fox's voice is distinct in its range of expressions and its competency in singing many different types of songs. Some of Fox's songs are dense and drawn out, while others are composed almost in a Broadway style, but each one features her lovely, haunting voice singing unbound and controlled all at once.

In "Sweetest Revenge" she sings about a bit of venging re-venge along with the cho- ▶ page 14

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of September 24

UPCOMING CONCERTS

David Bowie
Radio City 10/15
KD Lang
Radio City 10/16
Fiona Apple/Hooverphonic
Roseland 10/22
Misfits/Mephistopheles
Roseland 10/24
Mötley Crüe & Cheap Trick
Nassau Coliseum 10/26

JAZZ/SWING/ SPOKEN WORD

Wednesday 9/24
Danilo Perez Trio
The Village Vanguard
Chris Potter Quartet
Birdland

Saturday 9/27
Donald Harrison Quartet
The Village Vanguard

Monday 9/29
Indigo Swing (West Coast swing)
Swing 46
Arthur P. Levina poetry reading, Open Mic
Kavenaz (6-8pm)

It's OK, Ma, They're Only Shooting

by Jessica Ullian

Nobody likes to lie to his or her mother. Whether the issue at hand is a broken cookie jar or a missed curfew, the awkwardness of the moment never ceases to be overwhelming. Luckily, by the time most people reach college age, lying becomes less necessary. It is a profound relief to look a parent in the eye and, without sweaty palms or nervous giggles, announce that you stayed out until 4am last weekend and drank several beers as well. The age of parental honesty is generally much desired.

Unfortunately, I still live in perpetual fear that my mother is going to discover what it is that I'm hiding: the truth about safety at Barnard.

Columbia University would like its students to believe that their personal safety is carefully maintained. Each college's admissions office sends out safety booklets with application materials designed to quell

Unfortunately, I still live in perpetual fear that my mother is going to discover what it is that I'm hiding: the truth about safety at Barnard.

parental fears and confirm that Columbia has the best security of all the lives. In the big, bad world of New York City, the Morningside campus is supposedly an oasis of security. When faced with the wealth of information and statistics presented by the admissions office—the extremely low number of reported rapes, muggings, and shootings—what can a concerned parent do but cross his or her fingers and hope for the best?

My parents were opposed to my interest in Barnard, and initially for *bad me to apply*. Luckily, campus security was on my side, and I came home armed with the aforementioned booklets, pamphlets, and facts. I had heard stories of occasional muggings, but I dismissed them as cases in which the victim hadn't used good judgment. And I never mentioned a word to my family. Somehow, Barnard and I managed to promote the good while hiding the bad, and I won. Us'ng the same tactics, I've been winning ever since, but every year it becomes a little more difficult, as I witness the "bad" as it happens in front of me.

I have been lucky and have never been robbed or hurt in my two years here. But the admissions office isn't clouding my view anymore, and there is no way I can deny the nine muggings that happened in the area last year—in the Morningside area, near dorms, and even on

campus. During my first year, at least one student was attacked in Riverside Park. In addition, the security bulletins around campus inform us of neighborhood crimes that don't make the pages of any campus publications. Stop and read one, and you might find out about a non-university-affiliated act of violence, one that may have taken place right outside of your dorm. Last week, we were all reminded that we aren't surrounded by a protective halo when gunshots were fired within a block of Plimpton Hall. Whether or not the violence directly affects us, it's not so easy to ignore.

I spent my freshman year scanning campus publications before a visit from my family, hoping that we could walk by the front desk at Sulzberger without my mother noticing police sketches and security warnings. I systematically omit parts of my conversations, always checking myself before I say something that will ruin my mother's idea of the haven that is Barnard. To put it simply, I cannot shatter the image that this school has created for itself. There is no doubt that safety sells, and without the enhanced picture, parents would not send their children here.

The University does take significant steps to prevent campus violence, placing security booths around the area and holding education sessions for apprehensive first-year students. While these methods are certainly useful, they are not adequate if students come here believing that crime is only one issue among many they will not be prepared for. Here, students will not necessarily take precautions until they witness (or worse, experience) the consequences. What we don't see can and will hurt us.

I have never felt unsafe on this campus, but this may be because I try to maintain a heightened awareness of my surroundings. Granted, this may be so that I'm not unpleasantly surprised when my father reads a notice saying that two people were held up outside my building, but at least I know where the violent "hot spots" are. The University cannot measure security simply by the number of students who report acts of crime—as the shows cut's de Plimpton indicate, we are equally affected by off-campus incidents. We have to accept that safety at this University isn't everything we'd like it to be.

Maybe then I can stop lying to my mother.

Jessica Ullian is a Barnard junior and the Bulletin Commentary Co-Editor.

A Near Death Experience and a Startling Revelation

by Diana Adams-Ciardullo

A wrong turn on our beast of a 1972 Gremlin Vespa led us to a dead end road. Faced with the options of dismounting and manually lumming the monster around or descending a narrow gravel path on foot, we chose option B. Traumatized by a near death experience—a Greek tourist bus on a narrow, curving road almost sent us crashing down the side of a cliff and straight to the bottom of the sea—my friend Michele and I were ready to find a piece of beach and perhaps a glass of wine to slow our pulse rates.

After an uneventful descent to sea level, the gravel path gave way to jagged, glimmering rocks reflecting sea and sun in an indolent celebration of Greece's two most brilliant treasures. Waves crashed, sending ocean spray into the air. As we inhaled, our lungs filled with mist. The cool stickiness of the salt water on our sweaty skin served as the perfect antidote to a stressful morning. Our first challenge had been renting a scooter without driver's licenses, then aimlessly (we were too cheap to buy a map) maneuvering a scooter without brakes. High above us, atop red cliffs that plunged into a dramatic finale at the sea's edge, was a tiny white village centered around a windmill that towered over the stone homes. Flanking the bay were half-a-dozen restaurants with identical outdoor tables. Bronzed diners ate grilled fish, licking the oily residue off their fingers and toasted each other with glasses of white wine. Conversation lulls were filled by dipping pita wedges in tzatziki. The hum of talk and laughter was a backdrop to the clanking of old wooden fishing boats and the lyrical drumming of the waves.

Somewhat out of our element in cut-off Levis and bikini tops, we enviously spied on the well-clad tourists. Not a trace of the smell or gray haze of backpacker funk on their bodies. Clearly the restaurants were way out of our budget. We knew this without so much as glancing at a menu. But we couldn't resist indulging ourselves in a peek. A young Greek man eyed us as we picked up a menu.

"Hungry?" he asked.

"Himn." Michele has a very sly and seductive way of pursing her lips as a preface to her thoughts. "A bit. But we have a problem: we're poor."

Perhaps if we'd been less young, less American, and more dressed like we would've been so generous. But then maybe we wouldn't have appreciated the food so much, or needed his generosity. He sat us down at the "staff" table—apart from the paying customers but just as close to

the waves and the enchanting colorful fishing boats. He didn't bring us menus, insisting he would surprise us. The first surprise was a liter of wine, followed by a tomato-cucumber salad and pita bread. We learned that our friend was the establishment's proprietor, having just inherited it from his father. At one point a local fisherman proudly rowed in from his boat with a large grouper. He held it inches away from us for approval.

"You want to try?"

"Sure."

I've never eaten anything as fresh out of water. It was excellent. So were the grilled prawns, octopus, and calamari. For two hours we ate, drank, and talked. Then, in a state of euphoric delirium, we collapsed on a rock to let the setting intensify our intoxication.

When we said good-bye to our friend, he told us to come back for the sunset. "Best in the world," he assured us. "Bring your sweethearts. Very romantic."

With three hours to find honeys, we mounted the Vespa and headed straight for the notorious twenty-something cruising ground, a nearby beach. Jeff and Jeff were the best we could come up with—two boys recently graduated from a UC school who looked disturbingly alike. Arriving just in time for sunset with champagne and brews, we sat on the rocks and watched the sun give way to a dazzling display of pyrotechnics with a conclusion of star-filled cosmos. We were on the same rock the next morning when the sun came up. We snapped morning after the night before, p.d.ures and then parted company with smiles.

Did we discuss the meaning of life and talk about how much we loved each other? Or plan our next adventure? No. In fact, we talked about happy, not tragic—childhood experiences and laughingly—not bitterly—toasted ex-lovers. Topics like philosophy, morality, and the meaning of life were avoided. We didn't even exchange addresses.

My wrong turn did not lead to divine revelation. Rather, I found something like a fountain of youth. After three years of running like so many other Barnard women, steering myself maniacally down a one-way road to burnout and gray hair by 25, I realized how important it is to let myself be young. While I'm certainly young in years, I haven't always had a particularly young spirit. Age has nothing to do with the freedom of letting yourself enjoy life without thinking about the big picture. At a school like Barnard, we need to remind ourselves that everyone needs to play.

Diana Adams-Ciardullo is a Barnard senior.

Commentary

← **KIM FOX** from page 11 song about a bitterly ending relationship. The chorus begins with "baby" a prolonged exclamation with rambling notes more than an octave apart. It goes on to ask "Do you want blood when you could have the sweetest revenge?" with beauty and authority. Her voice seems to be pulling itself over the words and twisting them, painfully but so effectively that the listener feels compelled to obey her commands to live life as she wishes. Her voice and the clones she weaves with it are unforgettable slices of life that don't come around too often.

Fox took the title for her CD from American Indian Lakota tradition which dictates that women are sent to a moon hut while they are menstruating, creating both a sense of ostracism and a place for women to bond. This illustrates Fox's devotion to feminism and women's histories. It also defines the dichotomy of Fox's body of work—intensely personal yet universal lyrics, hard-to-follow, yet beautiful, yet complex melodies, a childlike tone singing about a harsh world.

Ultimately as Fox makes her music on *Moon Hut*—sounding sometimes like crying, often melodious and always detailing an important truth—the voice she manipulates and seems to seek to redefine in every note is her own.

Carolyn Stulsky is a Barnard sophomore.

← **BLUR** from page 10 seem as easily impressed. Gustaf Coxon wore an appalled look through most of the set. Every so often he would stare into the audience with what would only be interpreted as disbelief. Doggedly concentrating on his playing, drummer Rowntree barely even ventured a glance toward the masses. Finally bassist James continued on in his typical way, oblivious to it all, never losing his cool exterior. The only evidence that he was aware of his environment was an occasional head wagging and bum shaking in time with his bass lines.

Suddenly the light of redemption shone through. Alban prefaced a song with "This one is from our second album *Modern Life is Rubbish*." As the band launched into its best piece, the long time followers of Blur gained strength and stared victoriously at the little girls in tiny backpacks. The performance of "Popscene" amazed more than one old timer, as the mostly

← **PRE-VET** from page 7 activist is an issue many of the club's members are interested in exploring.

Toll has begun creating a schedule of activities the society might host during the fall semester. An executive board is in the process of being created, and the club hopes to invite speakers, such as the director of the Cornell Medical School and renowned primatologist Jane Goodall, to appear at club-sponsored panel discussions. The society will also have a

sedated crowd waited for the next radio hit.

Then Blur exited the stage, but only momentarily. It was not long before the gratuitous clapping and annoying screams of "Blur! Blur! Blur!" drew the band back onstage. Coxon entered last with a sheepish glance at the crowd, as if he was ashamed of what he had to do. The fleeting moment of security for the hard-core Blur fans was dashed in this particularly America-armed encore. The final blow was administered with the last song inclusion of "Song 2." Erupting in recognition of America's new favorite song, the crowd lurched forward and back. This was the moment the majority of the crowd had anticipated. Blur retreated from the stage. The outcome of the match had been decided. Final score—America 1, Blur 0. America emerged victorious.

Suzi Green is a Barnard sophomore.

monthly newsletter for its members, panels spotlighting various veterinary schools, and forums about issues concerning animals. Toll hopes that "the Society of Pre-Veterinary Students will become a vehicle for aiding more Barnard women in becoming active participants in the world of animal sciences and veterinary medicine."

Mite Mallick is a Barnard sophomore and the Bulletin Business Assistant.

TELL US HOW YOU FEEL!

this week's Commentary issues

Women continue to earn significantly less than men, and recently took a nationwide pay cut, as wages dropped from 77 cents on the dollar to 75.

What's your reaction?

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If you have photography and darkroom experience and want to make a commitment for the semester, please submit several sample photos and a short statement about your interest in the position. Four positions are available.

For information call Elise at x35366.

Bring all submissions to the *Bulletin* office at 128 Lower Level McIntosh. Deadline is Wednesday, October 1.

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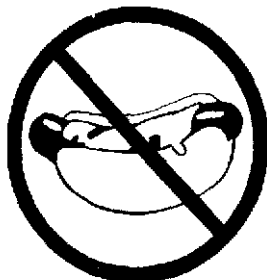
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