

Barnard

Bulletin

[10.7.98: Issue 4]



Barnard Celebrates
**LATINO HERITAGE
MONTH**



The list of famous Barnard alumnae goes on and on. We have bragging rights to Erica Jong, Twyla Tharp, and Margaret Mead, among others. Laurie Anderson came to visit campus last year, and brought Lou Reed with her. Mary Gordon is an alumna and a Professor of English. Not bad at all.

However, there is one alumna that stands... apart from the crowd. She is famous, successful, a master businesswoman. Yet she is rarely mentioned in admissions brochures and publicity campaigns. Many students are unaware that she is an alumna at all. She is a source of pride to some, an embarrassment to others. Barnard just doesn't know what to do with Martha Stewart.

What can be done with a woman who has made a career out of placing women in traditional homemaker roles? Her personal success may be one small step forward for equality, but it is accompanied by a giant leap back to an era when a woman's only career choice was home and family. Can we praise Martha Stewart for her business skills while she perpetuates an ancient stereotype? Can we condemn her for these same reasons?

This dilemma is not easily resolved, but it does draw the world's attention to the gender discrepancy in most major industries. If female industry leaders were the norm, Martha Stewart's choice of industry would be insignificant. In reality, this high-profile public

homemaker is far more significant than she ought to be.

Sadly, the *Bulletin* cannot single-handedly mobilize an army of female executives, ready to take on the world. But we can give them free publicity. Jennifer Flandro's new column explores women's roles in the business world through profiles and interviews. This week, Flandro's subject is Leora Hanser, a Barnard senior who has already seen more of the professional world than many people ever do

The purpose of this column is to demonstrate that we are surrounded by successful female leaders, in the city and in the Barnard community. By maintaining the tradition of excellence that already exists at Barnard, we will make ourselves count as students and future alumnae. If we act as leaders, we will prove that women do not need to fall back on traditional roles in order to succeed.

And we will ensure that there will never again be a reason to devote this much space to Martha Stewart.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jamie Hardy has been the *Bulletin* photography editor since her first year. She became

interested in photography several years ago, and enjoys it because "it teaches you to approach things in a different way." This week, Hardy contributed the photographs for Part I of "The Home of the Homeless" series. She is a Barnard sophomore.

Solvej Schou is a Barnard junior and Assistant General Manager of

WBAR. Schou frequently writes for the *Bulletin* Music section, and has reviewed albums and concerts by Patti Smith and Ani DiFranco, among others. Her review of Hole's most recent album, *Celebrity Skin*, appears in this issue.

Jodi Savage became the Advertising Manager at

the *Bulletin* this semester. She has written for the News and Music sections, and recently reviewed the album *The Mis-education of Lauryn Hill*. Savage is a Barnard junior.

Barnard Bulletin

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cover photos by lara crock

Monday, October 7
 Preparing Social Security with
 Honorable Judge Leslie Crocker
 Singer
 8:30-9:30pm James Room
 Barnard Hall
 First-Year Elections
 12:30pm, McIntosh
 5:30pm Howell

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Alumnae Networking Reception
 7pm, Aitschul Atrium

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Barnard Blood Drive
 11:30am-4:45pm Upper Level
 McIntosh

PHOTO BY IAN LROCK



Students at the Latino Heritage Month Event

briefs news briefs news briefs news

Latino Heritage Month Begins at Barnard

October is Latino Heritage Month at Barnard. On Wednesday, September 30, Barnard's Latina group *Mujeres* threw the second annual kick-off reception. The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, a professor in the Black and Hispanic Studies Department at Baruch College. Vega was the Executive Director of El Museo del Barrio from 1969 to 1974. She is also the president and consultant to international programs at the Caribbean Cultural Center/African Diaspora Institute.

Vega discussed issues of cultural diversity and cultural equity. Her speech revolved around the *Mujeres'* theme for the month "Latino Strength Through Diversity with an Emphasis on African Roots." Vega delivered a powerful speech on the importance of acknowledging the different cultures, customs, and roots that intertwine Latinos. Vega used extensive knowledge of how our African, Native American, Asian, and European roots contribute to our distinct cultures. This reminded the audience that "although we are indeed very different, our strength lies in this diversity."

Vega also spoke about what being a Latino consists of, why Latinos feel the need to categorize themselves, and the ambiguity of the ethnic term Latino. There is no one meaning or criteria for being Latino, said Vega. "It is not entirely based on culture, music, religion, geography, or language—so what constitutes a Latino?" Vega explained that we are "one mosaic tapestry of people with a common foundation seen in our religions, foods, music, et cetera—that of African descent. That basis should be the motive for unity amongst all students of color at Barnard."

After listening to Vega's moving speech, Kimaada Brown BC '01 exclaimed, "I feel so

much more connected with the Latina community." The audience was filled with students from various cultural backgrounds. Many were impressed by Vega's speech, which seemed to foster a sense of sisterhood amongst the students of all cultural backgrounds. "You are a family... and that is power," said Vega.

Mujeres—the Spanish word for women—is the only Latina organization at Barnard. It was founded by Amber Garza BC '98 in October 1997. *Mujeres'* goals are to promote Latina leadership, to provide an organization of cultural support for Latina women, and to promote awareness and pride in the diverse Latina heritage at Barnard. *Zoe Colon*

Dining Services Offers Plan for Commuters

Skip Stop and ARAMARK Dining Services have launched a pilot meal plan program for commuters. The program offers interested commuters the chance to eat at any of the dining halls or food places on campus, said Senior Director of Dining Services Al Sorbera.

The joint venture, initially proposed by Skip Stop, is offering a free \$10 Metrocard to any commuter who buys at least \$50 of points. The Metrocard deal will be offered for a tentative 30 days. Dining Services is willing to extend the promotion period if need be.

This program is the first meal plan that has been set up for commuters. One of the advantages to the meal plan is that there is no sales tax on food items, said Vice President of Student Activities/Skip Stop Wan Li Kuang BC '99. Diners who pay cash are charged an eight percent sales tax.

"Skip Stop is very excited about the program," said Kuang. Skip Stop is also planning other activities and programs for commuters, remarked Kuang, who is happy with the commuter response to the meal plan.

-Christina Bralero

Truman Scholarship: Juniors with very strong academic records who are considering graduate school and a career in public services may wish to consider applying for a Truman Scholarship. For further information, please see Dean Schneider. (Call x42024 to check his hours.) In addition to strong academic records, good candidates must have extensive leadership and public service experience.

Beinecke Scholarship: Juniors planning to attend graduate school in the arts, humanities, or social sciences are eligible for this highly competitive award. Students must have a very strong academic record and have some history of receiving financial aid during their undergraduate years. Each Beinecke Scholar receives \$2000 upon completion of her undergraduate degree and a stipend of \$15,000 for each of two years in graduate school. Interested juniors should contact Dean Runsdorf, x44204.

February 1999 Graduates: Diploma Name cards for February 1999 graduates should be turned in to the Registrar's Office by Friday, October 9, 1998.

Library Workshops: Weekly walk-in workshops are held at the Reference desk on the second floor of the Library as follows

NEXIS: Monday at 4pm

Clio Plus and LWeb: Tuesday at 4pm

Searching the Web: Wednesday at 4pm

No sign-up is required. You may want to consult the Library web page for more information about library demonstrations at www.barnard.columbia.edu/library

Consultations for Research: The Barnard Library offers a consultation service to students undertaking a research paper or thesis. A reference librarian will assist you in identifying and using library resources-bibliographies, cat-

alogues, periodical indexes, electronic resources, including the internet, and other materials relevant to the project. Appointments for an individual conference can be made at the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of the Library or by completing the consultation form on the Library's home page and submitting it to refdesk@barnard.columbia.edu. Please supply specific information about your research topic to the reference library and allow a sufficient number of working days for the library to prepare for the session. Questions about the service can be directed to the refdesk e-mail address.

Math Help Room: 333 Milbank Hall (Monday and Thursday, 6-8pm; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8-10pm.) Help is available for students in non-math courses that include computation and analysis, as well as math courses

Students Interested In Tutoring for Barnard courses may apply in the Dean of Studies Office (105 Milbank) If hired, you can earn \$9.50 or more per hour worked. Please speak with Ms. Pearson.

The Committee To Prevent Alcohol and Drug-Related Sexual Assault is sponsoring a lecture series entitled *Courting Violence Reflections on the Causes and Prevention*. The first two events are: *No Regrets. Preventing Sexual Assaults*, with The Honorable Judge Leslie Crocker Snyder, Thursday, October 8, 5:30-6:30pm, in the James Room; and *Mixed Drinks/Mixed Signals: Date Rape Prevention* with Professor Peggy Sanday (University of Pennsylvania, Anthropology Department) Tuesday, October 27, 7-8:30pm, in Altschul Atrium. Call ASAP, x42128, for more information and watch for campus posters for subsequent events.

bear essentials



Professor James Walvin Launches Forum on Migration

by Elnaz Menhaji

The Barnard Forum on Migration was launched on October 1 with Professor James Walvin of the University of York, England, giving the inaugural lecture. Walvin spoke about Great Britain's role in eighteenth century slave trade and its relation to the African Diaspora, focusing on former slave Olaudah Equiano's autobiography.

In her introduction to Walvin's lecture, Caryl Phillips, Barnard's new Professor of Migration and Social Order and Professor of English, referred to Walvin's work as "amazing historical research that brings to life a particularly dark corner of our collective history." Walvin has written more than two dozen books on the subject including, *Black and White, The Negro and English Society 1555-1945* (1973), *Passage to Britain: Immigration in History and Politics* (1984), and *Black Ivory:*

A History of British Slavery (1992).

Most recently, he has published *An African's Life: Olaudah Equiano 1745-1797* (1998) in which he examines the autobiography of a Nigerian, written in 1789. Walvin asserted that not only is this text extraordinary by being the first slave narrative, but the story itself is just as remarkable. "Some of the best remembrances of stories are not historical, but by creative writers," said Walvin.

In his autobiography, Equiano describes how he was taken from his home in Africa to Barbados at around the age of ten. By his mid-thirties, he had acquired enough money to buy his own freedom. This enabled him to become a British-employed sailor, in charge of transporting other black slaves across the Atlantic Ocean.

According to Walvin, Equiano lived at a time in which "slavery was the hinge of British socio-economic life." The transfer of people

and goods not only greatly benefited Europeans, but also impacted the lives of individuals and communities.

Walvin also disputed the generally neglected role of Britain in the transportation of slaves from Africa across the Atlantic to the Americas (North America, the West Indies and Brazil). The statistics he provided illustrated the country's dependence on slave trade—according to Walvin, about one half of voyages to and from Africa (12,000 – 13,000) were done in British ships.

The Forum on Migration will continue in November and December: The African Presence in Scotland 1550-Present Day, Italian-American Immigration to the United States: A Transferal of Old World Pessimism and Village Thinking in the American Mainstream and The New Literature of Immigration in Italy.

Elnaz Menhaji is a Barnard first-year.

Women Poets at Barnard Sponsors Reading

by Sara Keane

On October 1, the Barnard community was treated to an evening of poetry courtesy of the Women Poets at Barnard. Audience members heard the work of Hettie Jones and April Bernard, who took the place of Marie Ponsot.

"We have lots of writers and poets in different departments who come to the readings," said Claudia Rankine, Director of Women Poets at Barnard and assistant professor of English. "We also have other writers from outside the Barnard community who come to hear their colleagues."

The reading opened with Hettie Jones, who described herself as "a card carrying member of the beat generation." Jones has taught at numerous institutions and is presently at Parson's school of design. She is

also chair of the Penn Prison Writing Program and runs a writing workshop at the Bedford Hill Correctional Facility.

Jones read from her recently published book, *Drive*. "The book is a collection of poems that uses the theme of driving as a metaphor for journeying through life," said Victoria Haagblom as she introduced Jones. Jones' themes included love and womanhood.

April Bernard, who will be teaching a workshop in the fall, also read. Bernard won the Walt Whitman Award for her first book of poetry, *Black Bird Bye-Bye*. Bernard read from her latest work, *Psalms*. She also read three of her unpublished poems, which addressed her life in the Village during the 1980s. "[Bernard's] poems test the barriers of faith...and explore how doubt can accommo-

date belief," said Haagblom. "Her voice is profound and loving, witty and passionate."

In addition to organizing the monthly readings, Women Poets at Barnard sponsors a yearly poetry contest and publishes the winner's book. Entrants must have completed a book-length manuscript and must not have published a book previously. 400 to 600 women submit entries every year, said Rankine. This year's winner, Gina Osman, will be reading on April 1 from her book *Lag Mine (Elements of Character)*.

Women Poets at Barnard will also organize a conference this spring, "Innovation and Experimentation in Contemporary Poetry." Marjorie Perloff will be the keynote speaker and Barbara Guest will be reading.

Sara Keane is a Barnard junior.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance Meets at Barnard

by Natalie Sevidio

On Monday, September 21, representatives of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliances (FMLA) held a meeting in the Women's Center in Barnard Hall. Sylvia Henriquez and Summer Damon visited Barnard in an attempt to spark interest in founding a Barnard College chapter. Topics discussed included female equality, reproductive, civil and lesbian/gay rights, non-discrimination and non-violence.

FMLA representatives are looking for a private college chapter. A Barnard chapter could possibly extend to Columbia campus, although a strong base has to be established at Barnard first, said Henriquez, who believes that Barnard is "strong and ready" for such an organization. "FMLA would allow for on-campus activism on a campus whose students are often active in the city beyond Barnard gates," said Henriquez.

Jennifer Applebaum, treasurer of the Women's Collective, says the group is certainly open to the idea of forming a chapter. The Collective has appointed a small committee to investigate the issue before making any

decisions. Some students, eager for a more structured feminist group, are responding enthusiastically to the idea of a FMLA chapter. Other students worry that people will be excluded because FMLA is such a structured group.

FMLA is a leadership program launched on campuses nation-wide by the Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF), FMLA's parent organization. The nationally-affiliated chapters on each campus are student-run, creating a network for young feminists as well as a chance for members to develop leadership and organization skills, said Henriquez. Each group works closely with other feminist and activist groups to increase activism on campus. The chapters are supported by Field Representatives, such as Henriquez and Damon, as well as by a Coordinator and a Director based in Washington, DC, and the assets of FMF. The annual campaign facilitated by the field staff in Washington, DC is a nationwide effort. The goal of "Choices," this year's campaign, is to explore reproductive, leadership, and career choices, as well as educating and activating students on these

issues.

According to FMF's mission statement, since its founding in 1987, FMF has developed innovative programs and strategies to further the equality and economic development of women, non-violence, and the overall empowerment of women in society, both locally and globally. The FMLA mainly focuses on empowerment in the area of government, including public policy-making and elective/appointive offices, ranging from their stance on reproductive rights to their concern for the environment. FMLA supports extending legalized abortions to minors, and maximizing access to family planning and contraception. FMLA is dedicated to civil rights, such as affirmative action programs for women and minorities, anti-discrimination policy, and support of lesbian and gay rights.

Students seeking more information on this topic should either visit the Center For Research On Women, Barnard Hall, Room 101, or visit the FMF website at www.feminist.org.

Natalie Sevidio is a Barnard first-year.

Kids get S.H.O.U.T.-outs from Barnard Volunteers

by Jodi Savage

On Thursday, September 24 and Friday, September 25, Sarah Katz and Lisa Pennington of the Children's Defense Fund-New York came to Barnard to recruit student volunteers for the Student Health Outreach Project for Children (S.H.O.U.T. for Children). S.H.O.U.T. is a pilot program attempting to recruit and enroll children from the Washington Heights area in health care insurance programs, said the representatives. Barnard and Columbia are the only colleges involved in the outreach effort at this time. "We chose to recruit Columbia students because of Columbia's long his-

tory of dedication to community service," said Pennington. Pennington also pointed out that college students are "a great resource, and show a lot of energy, enthusiasm and passion when it comes to helping others and working for a good cause."

S.H.O.U.T. volunteers are required to commit at least two hours a week. Volunteers must attend two training sessions to get acquainted with Child Health Plus and Medicaid eligibility requirements, applications, and services offered. Volunteers are then assigned to a two-student and one supervisor group in one of six non-profit organizations.

The high number of uninsured children in Washington Heights is a reflection of a national crisis, said Pennington. In 1990, according to Marie Lizardo, Director of Social Services at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation (NMIC), thirty percent of the Washington Heights population did not have health insurance. 50 percent of Latino children under five, and 25 percent of immigrants over 16 years of age were also uninsured.

Jodi Savage is a Barnard junior and the Bulletin Advertising Manager.

GET READY FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

by Charli M. Long

After investing a lot of blood, sweat and tears into a Barnard education, some students decide they need more. At first it is easy to get pumped up about spending even more time within the confines of a university. Then the realization hits that Harvard probably doesn't care if some pre-med student can quote entire episodes of ER. They want to see grades, lots of good ones. They also want great scores on those dreaded standardized tests. For some reason, studying a subject for four years is not evidence enough of proficiency.

To give all those interested a little test drive, here are some sample questions obtained from the GRE and LSAT registration booklets.

ANALYTICAL REASONING

From a group of seven people—J, K, L, M, N, P, and Q—exactly four will be selected to attend a diplomat's retirement dinner. Selection conforms to the following conditions:

Either J or K must be selected, but J and K cannot both be selected.

Either N or P must be selected, but N and P cannot both be selected.

N cannot be selected unless P is selected.

Q cannot be selected unless K is selected.

Question: If P is not selected to attend the retirement dinner, then exactly how many different groups of four are there, each of which would be an acceptable selection?

(A) 0

(B) 1

(C) 2

(D) 3

(E) 4

Explanation: This is an analytical reasoning question. The question asks you to make a new assumption to the original set of conditions—P is not selected to attend the retirement dinner. The test taker is supposed to determine all of the different possible selections that are compatible with this new assumption.

Since the second condition states that either N or P must be selected, if we can infer from the new assumption and the second condition that N is selected. And since N is selected, we

know from the third condition that L is selected. In other words every acceptable selection must include both L and N. We are now in a good position to enumerate the groups of four which would be acceptable selections. Notice that K may or may not be selected. We need to examine what happens in either case. First, assume that K is not selected. In this case J is selected (since the first condition indicates that one of J or K must be selected) and Q is not selected (since the fourth condition implies that if K is not selected, then Q cannot be selected either). Since exactly four people must be selected, and since P, K, and Q are not selected, M, the only remaining person, must be selected. Since M's selection does not violate any of the conditions or the new assumption, N, L, J, and M is an acceptable selection; in fact, it is the only acceptable selection when K is not selected. So far we have one acceptable selection, but we must now examine the conditions in the case where K is selected.

Suppose that K is selected. In this case J is not selected (as one can see by the first condition), but Q may or may not be selected. Again we look at both possibilities. If Q is selected, it is part of an acceptable selection—N, L, K, and Q. If Q is not selected, remembering that L and P are also not selected, M must be selected. This gives us our final acceptable selection—N, L, K, and M.

Thus, there are exactly three different groups of four which make up acceptable

selections, and (C) is the correct response. This is considered a "difficult" question; only 37% of test takers answered it correctly when it appeared on the LSAT.

Need more, campus masochists? Read on for a math question lifted from the GRE booklet.

PROBLEM SOLVING

In a certain year, Minnesota produced $\frac{2}{3}$ and Michigan produced $\frac{1}{6}$ of all the iron ore produced in the United States. If all the other states combined produced 18 million tons that year, how many million tons did Minnesota produce that year?

(A) 27

(B) 36

(C) 54

(D) 72

(E) 102

Since Minnesota produced $\frac{2}{3}$ and Michigan produced $\frac{1}{6}$ of all the iron ore produced in the United States, the two states together produced $\frac{5}{6}$ of the iron ore. Therefore, the 18 million tons produced by the rest of the United States was $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total production. Thus, the total United States production was $6 \times 18 = 108$ million tons, and Minnesota produced $\frac{2}{3} (108) = 72$ million tons. The best answer is (D).

Charli M. Long is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin Features editor.

The Standardized Paths to Continuing Education

by Sheema Chaudhry

Graduate school, anyone? According to the Barnard Catalog, nearly one-third of Barnard graduates enter full-time graduate or professional schools after the first year of graduation. The largest proportion of this group opts to study law, medicine, or busi-

The LSAT is not the only step that leads to law school, but the Law School Admission Council claims that "LSAT scores help to predict which students will do well in law school." Hence, proceed with caution!

ness. A significant number of the remaining two-thirds eventually attends professional or graduate school. Although it is always useful to know these statistics, one does not need the catalog to realize that Barnard students are partial to graduate education. A stack of Kaplan or Princeton Review brochures at McIntosh, a sampling of students enrolled in Biology 2002, or a few words from Deans Tsu or Boumoufian are ample pieces of evidence. For each potential area, there is usually a specifically prescribed track. Grades, recommendations, relevant experience are also key factors; however, test scores debatably remain the most essential factor. It is generally accepted that standardized tests do provide the most objective piece of information on applicants. Likewise, all graduate and professional schools require students to present their test results. Let's take a look at the most popular exams.

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is

offered four times a year and consists of three main sections: reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical reasoning. It is scored on a scale of 120-180; the scaled score is "good" or "bad" relative to the recent mean score of a particular school. For example, a score of 168 is "good" for Columbia Law School. The LSAT is not the only step that

leads to law school, but the Law School Admission Council claims that "LSAT scores help to predict which students will do well in law school." Hence, proceed with caution!

The Medical School Admissions Test (MCAT) is offered twice a year (April and August) and the

April date is strongly recommended. It also consists of three areas of questions: biological sciences, verbal reasoning, and physical sciences. Each section records scores from zero to fifteen; therefore, a forty-five is the highest possible score of all combined sections. In today's stiffly competitive environment, a score that falls below a thirty is usually a death knell. Surprisingly, successful completion of the MCAT does not require the student to memorize stores of biology or chemistry facts. Rather, the exam presents specific facts and situations that the student must analyze and draw conclusions. It largely measures reasoning and comprehension, not rote memorization. Hint: Do not apply the lessons learned in Bio courses to the MCAT.

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

is important to students applying to various graduate programs across the fields. The General Test that measures verbal, quantitative, and analytical reasoning skills is offered in the standard paper form and on computer. The Computer Based Testing is offered year-round on the first three weeks of each month, whereas the paper-based test is only offered twice a year. The GRE Subject tests are very specific and measure achievement in a particular subject area and assume an undergraduate major in that discipline. Most applicants must take the general exam and the particular subject exam, which is offered twice a year. The importance of the general exam is hard to measure since dissimilar fields and programs use the exam. However, the test claims to measure the basic skills required for any potential graduate student in any field. In some Barnard science departments, the subject exam is a major requirement, equivalent to the senior thesis. Check with the department chairperson.

The specific dates and accompanying materials for the MCAT, LSAT, or GRE are

The importance of the [Graduate Record Examination] is hard to measure since dissimilar fields and programs use the exam. However, the test claims to measure the basic skills required for any potential graduate student in any field.

available in the Dean of Studies. All three exams have on-line registration options and specific questions can be addressed to the appropriate dean or academic department.

Sheema Chaudhry is a Barnard junior.

by Stacy Cowley

"Community" is one of the buzzwords of the Internet revolution. Everyone wants to talk about it, worry about it, sell it or analyze it. Sociologists have written books about the dynamics of online communities, *Wired* magazine devoted over 50 pages in one issue to chronicling the history and dynamics of the most famous online community—the California-based *Well*. Amidst all the hand-wringing and hype over online communities, one interesting aspect of them has been virtually ignored: their short life spans.

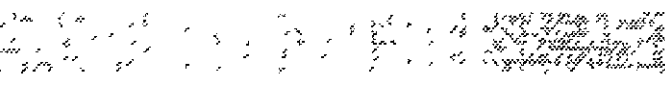
I met my online clan in January of 1995 when I was a junior in high school. The AOL *X-Files* newsletter—which back then had less than two hundred subscribers—advertised the formation of a weekly sim, a real-time chat-based game that's something of a cross between *Dungeons & Dragons* and group storytelling. Being a die-hard *X-Files* fan and fledgling Net addict, I signed on. Twenty of us showed up in the chatroom that first night. Most of us came back the next week. And the next.

I got to know the characters first. West was a flirt with a fetish for swords, Abbe liked to be in charge, O'Leary wanted to be the next James Bond, Driani had a southern accent and a pair of pet snakes. Slowly over the summer, I became friends with the people behind the screennames. Abbe turned out to be Marianne, a graduate student in English at the University of Maryland who lived just half an hour from me. O'Leary is Will, a screenwriter in Houston. And Driani became Danica, who is the same age as me and has almost exactly the same interests. We started talking by e-mail when we realized we were taking

the SAT on the same day—and weren't all that surprised when we got identical scores.

By September, the sim was a major part of all our lives. Danica, who lives in California, flew to DC to spend a weekend with me. Marianne published a zine filled with stories that various players had written. Every Thursday I rushed home from school to get my homework done so I could spend the time before the sim planning plot twists with other players and reading over the log of the previous week's session. Those evenings were the highlight of my week.

I'm not sure when the trouble started, but I know the day it ended: November 17. Melo-



**Great Web Site: LambdaMOOC Cultural Swear List
www.lps.net/scritch/swear.html
is definitely an educational experience—although probably not the kind of education you expect from Barnard. Learn how to swear in Afrikaans, Russian, or Cantonese, to name just a few, not for aspiring diplomats.**

dramatic as it sounds, the day the sim ended is one I'll never forget. Five of the dozen or so regular players sent out their resignations. I remember reading the e-mail and feeling as though a part of me were dying.

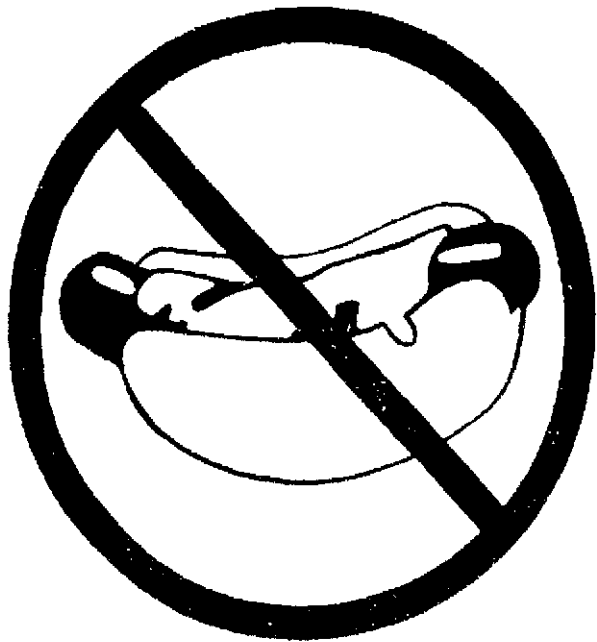
I never understood exactly what happened. Tension between the AOL host who ran the forum and several of the players seems to have been a factor, along with a fight Danica had with several other players over her character being gay. Whatever caused it, the sim ended. Several players started an IRC version of the game, while those of us who were left on AOL tried to keep the game running with the players we had left. Neither group got very far.

Three years later, the ashes of our community are still around. Searching Alta Vista for any of our character names will turn up half a dozen abandoned webpages with profiles, stories, and game transcripts. Several sites still archive the weekly newsletter Marianne and I edited, a project that started out at three pages and grew to over fifty. On AOL, in the sim forum, there's still an *X-Files* sim. None of the original players are part of it.

I've played in other sims since then, and I've been a part of other online communities, but none will ever affect me as powerfully as my first. Last week, I got an e-mail from Marianne, who looked me up in the Columbia directory and found my e-mail address. She still has a filing cabinet drawer full of printouts of all the stories and logs we wrote, thousands of pages worth. We all feel a little silly admitting how powerfully playing a game with a bunch of strangers has affected us, but there's no denying that it did.

I thought our community's life span was an aberration, that most last for years and become a regular part of their members' lives. But the evidence indicates that they don't. Nearly every book or article focusing on a particular community ends with the community's gradual collapse. Julian Dibbell's 1993 *Village Voice* article 'A Rape in Cyberspace,' ends with the anticlimactic slow disappearance of most of the LambdaMOOC residents involved in the cyber-rape dispute. On-line communities, which exist in the chaotic atmosphere of a medium still in its genesis, are ultimately tragic. They flare up quickly and die soon thereafter.

Stacy Cowley is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin columnist.



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with
 Honorable Judge Leslie Crocker Synder
 New York State Supreme Court Justice

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Counting Violence: Reflections on the Causes and Prevention of Sexual Assault
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A Luncheon and Discussion with

Jacqueline Barton

Arthur and Minnie Hunsch Memorial Professor
 Department of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology

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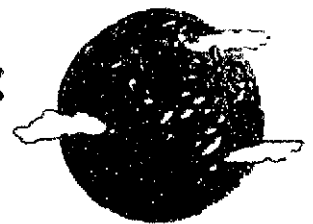
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ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of October 7

ART

Architectures, Architecture, Architecture

October 8 through November 14

Times Square Gallery

450 41 Street

772-4891

A look at twentieth century structures

Beck and Al Hansen

Through October 24

Threading Waxing Space

476 Broadway

866-9520

Works by the late artist and his musician grandson

Miko Bidolo—"The Fountain Drawings"

Through October 24

119 Wooster Street

294-9300

Creative license taken with Duchamp's famous "Fountain"

FILM

The Bicycle Thief

Through October 15

Film Forum

209 W Houston Street

727-8110

Fiftieth anniversary of a post World War II film

A Merry War

Lincoln Plaza

Broadway and 62 Street

Adapted from a George Orwell satire about class and money in England

A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries

Paris Theatre

Fifth Avenue and 58 Street

Adapted from Kaye Vane's autobiographical novel

Shakespeare's Dark Comedy Proves Ironically Apt

by Ayesha Khan

Upon entering the small, pleasant theater, viewers were greeted by a cast that looked like a bunch of butchers gone psycho. They were all sitting in the front row, as though watching the show themselves, and seemed completely out of place and at the same time, completely at home. From the very start, the audience members felt as though they were observing a private showing. The basis of every costume was blood-spattered, dirty white, baggy pants and shirts or vests. These were, with the exception of the costumes of Shakespeare's famous and recurring clowns, covered with well-made traditional vests, doublets, or capes. Notable exceptions included skeleton jumpsuits, explosions of pink tulle and roses, and a judge's black robe paired with a sea captain's feathered hat.

Measure for Measure, at the Connelly Theater on 4 Street between Avenues A and B, is as typical a Shakespearean comedy as you can get, or so it seems at first glance. What makes it so enjoyable is not only the original way it's presented at the Connelly and the energy that the cast puts into it, but the fact that it's so uncannily appropriate to the moment. It speaks of a man in power abusing that power to take advantage of a young woman.

The weird and wonderful figures swirling, racing, and pacing about the stage delighted the audience. Their faces were made up in strange and disturbing ways—there was liberal use of silver or dark glitter, whorls of it on their cheeks and near their eyes, blood trickled down from cuts on their foreheads and like tears from the corners of their eyes. Make-up darkened half moons under their eyes to make

their faces take on a skeletal quality. These faces were continually in motion—the Target Margin cast is full of highly expressive and memorable actors and actresses.

There is, of course, as in any Shakespearean play, the traditional comic relief figure, to prevent the play from becoming too dark. Here, it is Luccio, a supposed close confidant of the Duke. Resplendent in a blinding white (and only slightly bloodstained) tuxedo and a silver glitter top hat with wings, he overacts with relish and makes broad gestures while delivering exaggerated lines. Also having the ear of Angelo, he too tries to argue the case of Claudio, asking, "for the rebellion of a codpiece to take the life of a man?"

The story is simple and all-too-disturbingly possible, especially for Shakespeare's day and age. In Vienna, a prince (not actually a high and noble position) is left in charge of the state in the absence of the Duke. Learning of the case of a certain Claudio, who impregnated an unmarried girl, he decrees that Claudio must die by the next day. Claudio's sole supporter is his young and very beautiful sister, Isabel, who is a young nun. She comes to plead the case of her brother before Prince Angelo.

As Isabel leaves Angelo's study with the promise that he will think about her request, the prince recognizes his desire for her. This is one woman he may not even look at with lustful thoughts, and he can think of nothing more than his desire to possess her. "The tempter or the tempted," he asks of the audience, "who sins most?" He is almost trying to convince himself that, because she can raise these thoughts in him, she cannot be a pure soul and is somehow to blame.

When Isabel returns the next day to

ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of October 7

THEATER

Harvey Firestein: The Second Coming
Saturday nights at 9:30 and midnight
Eighty-Eights
228 W 10 Street
924-0088
Firestein performs scenes and songs from his works

Oedipus
Classic Stage Company
136 E 131 Street
279-4200
Starring Billy Crudup and Frances McDormand

Til The Rapture Comes
WPA Theatre
518 W 23 Street
206-0523
The story of a young boy growing up in the South

Measure for Measure
Connelly Theater
220 E 4 Street
358-3657
A new take on an old tale

No Exit
Bowery Lane Theatre
220 Bowery
677-0060
A dramatic interpretation of Sartre's famous play.

Sakina's Restaurant
American Place Theatre
111 West 46 Street
239-6200
Immigrants try to figure out America and New York City

Prince Angelo's study, he dances around the subject for a little while, then states his case quite plainly: if she wants her brother's life, she must surrender her virginity. The scene is extremely powerful, with Isabel declaring she will denounce him to the magistrates and to the Duke when he returns. Angelo responds not only with physical threats but with the assurance that, with his spotless reputation, everyone would believe her to be making false accusations on her condemned brother's behalf. He leaves her, terrified, cowering in a corner of his study. "Who should I tell," she trembles, "Who would believe me?" She decides to go to the one person she can still trust, her imprisoned brother Claudio. She says determinedly before moving offstage, "More than our brother's life is our chastity."

The prison scenes throughout the play are extremely disturbing. The inmates are filthy, bloodstained, animalistic, and frightening. This version of Shakespeare's prison friar is based on a Southern Baptist preacher, who is at times loud, thoughtful, singing, and delicately reproachful in a smooth, peaceful way. When he sees Isabel come to visit her brother, he decides to eavesdrop on their conversation. Claudio is marked with a sign bearing the childishly scrawled word 'fornicator,' and the pregnant girl has one with 'whore' written on it. At first, Claudio is incensed, wishing to kill Angelo, but later is able to think of nothing but the possible eternal torments of Hell. He scares himself into asking Isabel to accede to the prince's demand. Horrified, she flees the scene, and the friar comes out of hiding to reprimand Claudio and tell him to go beg his sister's pardon.

The friar convinces Isabel to tell Angelo that she agrees, but only if the place is dark. He then brings in a plot twist: a woman that Angelo had promised to marry a year before agrees to replace Isabel in the dark. The next day when the duke returns, it is revealed that

he was actually the prison friar in disguise. After a rather harrowing public confrontation in which he pretends not to believe the testimony of Isabel or of the other woman, he reveals himself and all is put right. Luccio, who had previously bragged to the friar that he, too, had impregnated a girl and not been caught, is condemned to marry the unfortunate lady in question. Angelo's punishment, too, is marriage, to the woman he had wronged.

The cast used several techniques to lighten up an otherwise oppressive story by startling the audience and making them laugh. One of these was that, after a strongly delivered line, the two actors looked at each other, absentmindedly said 'no' to the air, and moved around to do the line again with a different inflection. Another technique was the entire ragged cast ran screeching across the stage at completely random moments to distract from a scene change. Stagehands and costume people roamed around or reset the stage at any time during the performance. Also, every once in a while, there was an uncomfortable silence until someone prompted the friar who had once again pretended to forget his lines. During one of Shakespeare's particularly odd metaphorical passages referring to things only someone living in his time would know, they brought out a student's annotated copy of the play so that the actor could read out the explanation to the gathered cast. Most of the actors often chided with the sound technician, making 'cut' motions with their fingers across their throats to stop an odd or loud piece of music.

All in all, *Measure for Measure* was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, which turned a Shakespearean play into something different, something eye-opening, funny, and disturbing. At such a reasonable price, it is well worth the cross-town trek.

Ayesha Khan is a Barnard first-year.

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of October 7

ROCK

Wednesday 10/7

Bleed Demonspeak/ El Niño @ Life
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory
Edwin McCain @ Irving Plaza

Thursday 10/8

Lydia Lunch @ Life
Liz Phair @ Roseland
Sex Pod/ Novena @ Maxwell's
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory
The Radiators @ Irving Plaza
King/Us X @ Tramps
The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black @ Coney Island High

Friday 10/9

Lydia Lunch @ Life
The Roots @ Bowery Ballroom
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory
Edwin McCain @ Irving Plaza

Saturday 10/10

Lydia Lunch @ Life
Mary Lou Lord @ Bowery Ballroom
Combustible Edison @ Maxwell's
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory
The Radiators @ Irving Plaza
Tough Boys @ Coney Island High

Sunday 10/11

Kun DMC @ Tramps
Man or Astro-Man? @ Maxwell's
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory

Monday 10/12

Fuel @ Maxwell's
Cake @ Bowery Ballroom
Jerry Cantrell @ Roseland
David Byrne @ Knitting Factory
Incubus @ Irving Plaza
Joe Satriani @ The Town Hall

Tuesday 10/13

Cake @ Bowery Ballroom

Hole: Where is the Love?

by Solvej Schou

Setting: Los Angeles. Five years ago
Scene: One young woman (namely myself) stares up at the scratched and screaming glory of **Courtney Love** playing the hell out of an electric guitar. She is a baby doll in a thrift shop dress, a witch in smeared lipstick, a rock goddess with her foot planted firmly on top of an amp. Her throaty howl marks everyone a victim. All the grrrls want to be her. All the indie boys are afraid of her. "They get what they want, and they never want it again," she growls. As her audience, we all believe her.

Setting: The present
Scene: Love has been a widow and mother for four years. With the aftermath of **Kurt Cobain's** death, she has thrust herself into the hands of the media, the movie industry, and the public. Yet, she defies comparisons to **Madonna** and **Yoko Ono**. She cannot be that easily contained, or loved, or hated. Sculpted and stripped of the old dirt and make-up, clothed in Versace, chiseled to a model sheen, she still captures the weight of herself in her music, her words.

Celebnty Skin, Hole's latest and third full-length album, will never capture the same intensity and immediacy as 1994's *Live Through This*, or the raw angst of *Pretty on the Inside*. The punk-rock Love of then is a mirror reflection of the more pop-rock Love of now. However, too much has happened, too many changes have occurred for that level of

aggression and fury to resurface. And really, why should it? I was determined to write a scathing review, to bash the newfound polish and shine, the **Billy Corgan**-influenced conformity and lack of confrontation. *Live Through This* held a secure place in my 15-year-old angry adolescent heart. *Celebrity Skin* does not attempt to recapture the past. Rather, Love parodies herself, pities herself, finally touches on a piece of that hidden pain, and actually produces some good songs in the process.

As a Hollywood record, *Celebrity Skin* definitely exudes a polished California sound. Gone are the dramatically scratchy wails, the super grunge guitar. Love still rants, still intones those introductory "Ohhh's," but with a toned down flavor. Guitarist **Eric Erlandson** showcases more musical complexity and richness than on the previous albums. Likewise, bassist **Melissa Auf Der Maur**



and drummer **Patty Schemel** form a strong rhythm section. While **Smashing Pumpkins** leadman **Billy Corgan** leaves his stamp on five of the songs, the sound is mainly Love's own. I am a firm believer in the authenticity of her song writing. It is too simple to invalidate the woman, the girlfriend, the wife. It's called the "blame Yoko" syndrome.

Indeed, Love turns the magnifying glass inward on "Reasons to be Beautiful." Over a driving guitar and drums, she sings, "Miles and miles of perfect skin/ I swear I do, I fit right in." The claim is unsure, a desperate parody of her own bodily reconfiguration. "So sick in his body, so sick in his soul," Love makes vague reference to Cobain. When she whispers, "It's

better to rise than to fade away," the irony of the statement is clearly apparent.

On several songs, Love refers to the pain stemming from Cobain's suicide. Nevertheless, she never once mentions his name. "Use Once and Destroy" and "Playing Your Song" both mimic the churning grunge of Nirvana, and lend a personal yet unimpressive side to *Celebrity Skin*. On "Use Once and Destroy," Love reiterates, "I went down for the remains/ Sort through all your blurs and stains." The images expressed in these songs recall a

fold and fade so slow." On "Celebrity Skin," women and men share the realm of pain and suffering. The songs do not fall into distinct gendered categories.

Celebrity Skin will doubtlessly receive both rampant disparaging and praise. It is clearly not punk, yet not quite pop. And the woman at the front has many different faces. But who is Courtney Love really, and why does she come back again and again to curse and entertain us? Where's the Love? Where's the figure that we call a "slut," "sell-out," "punk priest-

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of October 7

JAZZ/ CLASSICAL/ WORLD

Wednesday 10/7

Max Roach @ Blue Note
 Mason Casey @ Chicago B.L.U.E.S.
 Cuban Music Festival @ S.O.B.U.s
 Harriett Bluiett Group @ Sweet Basil

Thursday 10/8

Max Roach @ Blue Note
 Paul Whistler & The Wheels @ Chicago B.L.U.E.S.
 Harriett Bluiett Group @ Sweet Basil
 Frank Foster Quartet @ Iridium
 Kurt Elling & His Trio @ Birdland

Friday 10/9

Masters of Indian Music (Ravi Shankar/ Rashid Kahn) @ Symphony Space
 Max Roach @ Blue Note
 Marcalin Pumpak @ S.O.B.U.s
 Elvin Bishop @ Chicago B.L.U.E.S.
 Harriett Bluiett Group @ Sweet Basil
 Jonn Pallucci Quartet @ Birdland

Saturday 10/10

New Jewish Music (The Klezmabos/ Chava Alberstein) @ Town Hall
 Max Roach @ Blue Note
 Harriett Bluiett Group @ Sweet Basil

Sunday 10/11

Korean Dance & Song @ Kaye Playhouse (Hunter College)
 Max Roach @ Blue Note
 Harriett Bluiett Group @ Sweet Basil

Monday 10/12

Les Paul Trio @ Iridium
 Toshiko Akiyoshi @ Birdland

Tuesday 10/13

Mark Turner Quartet @ Sweet Basil
 Lewis Nash Septet @ Village Vanguard
 Young Lions Octet @ Iridium



scratching of the surface rather than a dive.

Both "Malibu" and "Boys on the Radio," on the other hand, are not only well-crafted but bittersweet as well. On "Malibu," Love sings with a tinge of nostalgia: "Crash and burn/ All the stars explode tonight." In "Malibu," "oceans of angels" lie at the bed of suicide. Similarly, the boys on the radio "crash and burn/ They

ess," an "attention fiend"? Where does that picture reside? In our cluttered minds, in her music? The seed of that question truly lies in herself. We will never unearth it. It is too deep inside.

Solvej Schou is a Barnard junior.

nyc living

a weekly feature devoted to women's issues, fashion, food, and other aspects of life in new york city



THE HOME OF THE HOMELESS

featuring: EDDIE WAYS

PART ONE OF TWO

by Nahid Seyedsayamdost

Among the familiar faces of Morningside Heights, there are some faces that are more familiar than others—the faces of the homeless. You might wonder about them, but you've never had the time to find out more about those members of our community. To quench our collective thirst for information in this matter, the *Bulletin* interviewed several of these faces, which will appear in two parts. This week's interview features Eddie Ways, of "Got food? Got change?" fame.

Ways, who habits the southeast corner of Broadway and 113 Street, agreed to be interviewed, "As long as you don't change my words—because sometimes it's all about fabrication, and that don't bring nothing but destruction, you know what I'm saying? If you're real with yourself, you gotta be real with people, too. See, people have a tendency to like to listen to a lot of glamorous talk, and that's not what gets us there. Anything that I say, you can take it and you can find it in the Book. Because it's real. In the Bible there are the things that govern the world, really. They should. I'm not sayin' that politics are totally run by the Bible, but they've totally like gone according to the Bible. You know what I'm saying? See this country here, we are supposed to feed the world, we're in the condition to do it, but we don't. In the Bible we are looked at as Sodom and Gomorrah. You understand? We're the ones who are supposed to take care of all the children of the world. But we don't do it in that perspective. We do it with 'something's gonna come back to us' in our mind. If we don't receive something back, then we're not gonna help the countries that have nothing to offer us. And it shouldn't be like that. We should give to countries who don't have, in order to have. See, we can help countries that are underdeveloped to be developed, and then we can receive our

reward that way. Because, by the fruits that they bear, we will receive. We are neglecting what we are here for. We can fall just like the powers of a long time ago—like the Roman Empire. We can fall just like them. They had their chance.... Now, we're doing the same thing."

It is noteworthy that someone like Eddie, who has so little, thinks about giving to poorer nations. How exactly did Eddie end up on Broadway? He sighs, "See, one day I was going to the hospital on 114 Street and they was having a bazaar inside the building. And a guy who was

PHOTO BY JAMIE HARDY



"If you're real with yourself, you gotta be real with people, too. See, people have a tendency to like to listen to a lot of glamorous talk, and that's not what gets us there."

there stopped me on the street, and asked me to help carry his stuff, and he paid me. But, after I finished helping him, he told me if I wanted to stay around, other people were coming and I could help them, too, and they would pay me, too. So, I helped them, too and it became a habit. But then they tore the building down, so there were no more fairs, but I got stuck out here. I'm what you call the homeless person. I used to live in a shelter, but the shelter is totally corrupt. You'll never get out of the shelter. So I ended up staying over here, and I used to sell greeting cards. One day someone just vandalized my property, so I had nothing then. So I ended up right here. One winter I was sleeping right on that bench [in the middle of the cross-section of Broadway and 113 Street], I had a sleeping-bag, and when I woke up, some body

had stolen my shoes. I didn't have no shoes, and it was so freezing. And the first time I went into that bank [Chase on 113 Street] was that day. I went into that bank to keep my feet warm, not to ask for change, 'cause I wasn't begging for change during that time. In the bank they were giving out coffee and cookies to the customers. And so the lady came by and she gave me a cup of coffee, and I was drinking the coffee. So, this is a true story. So, when I was drinking the coffee, and when I took my cup down, a lady dropped change into my cup. And I told her, I said 'no, ma'am, that's my coffee,' and she said 'I'm sorry!'

like that, and I didn't want her to think that I'm angry, so I said 'that's OK, ma'am, I'll just drink down to it,' you know, drink down to the change. And so, when I look into my cup, I have about three dollars in there. And I was hungry, too. And then, something came into my mind 'Ah! So, Eddie, you can stand here with a cup, and you can get money. Like that.' But, so, my main concern was to get me a new pair of shoes O.K. while I was standing there, there was a guy over at the ATM machine, and he heard me ask some people, if they could get me a pair of shoes. So, the guy said, 'Where can we get a cheap pair of shoes?' So, he took me right down to this sports-store (corner of 113 Street and Broadway), and he bought me a \$29 pair of sneakers, and I put them on my feet. And from that time on we became friends. And that's how I got stuck out here. I've been here for four to five years. But I chose to come out here in a temporary fashion. But then I had no where to go, so I got stuck here."

The reason Eddie does not have a home is part of a vicious circle. He cannot get welfare unless he has a home, and without getting welfare, there is no way he can save enough to afford a place to stay. Similarly, because he does not have a home address, he cannot get a job, and without a job he cannot afford a home.

Another interesting complication of living on the street is its effect on the possibility of romantic relationships. Eddie is true to himself, "I

only had relationships with people I knew before I came out here. It's not really possible to have a romantic relationship unless you are romantic with yourself. How can you enjoy a total romantic relationship living out here, you know what I'm saying. It's about me getting myself together before I do that. I wouldn't put this on another person. It'll be selfish to have a lady and live like this. Because I'd be cheating her totally—you understand. See, relationship is about having a person for life. Anything else is messing around, not a relationship. But you got to be faithful to yourself in order to be faithful to some one else. I could walk down the street and have a lady. But a lady is not my problem, my problem is surviving, because if I don't survive, I can't worry about having a lady."

From his words it is obvious Eddie wants to leave the street corner. He explains, "Everyday I think about getting outta here. But I think about it in order to get there. I'm getting my head together. I've already left two times and I've come back, because the way I went wasn't right. The next time you won't see me here, I won't be back. I'm going home to be with my grandkids—I have nine. I have five kids, I am 52 years old. I have to take myself home."

Nahid Seyedsayamdost is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin NYC Living Editor.

Well Woman: BIRTH CONTROL

Q Are birth control pills dangerous after a number of years, or are they new and improved now?

A Present day birth control pills are significantly better than the pills of the '60's. Because oral contraception (OC) of the '90s has about one-third of the synthetic estrogen and one-tenth of the synthetic progestin that the earlier

pills had, our generation does not experience as many serious effects. Various tests have shown a correlation between women who take birth control pills and the increase of breast cancer and infertility, but there are just as many tests that say the evidence is inconclusive. There have also been tests that conclude by taking the Pill, women's chances of developing ovarian and endometrial cancers decrease. The possible

long-term side effects depend on many factors: the age a woman begins OC, elapsed time of taking OC, smoking, family history of heart problems, blood clots or certain cancers, and many others. We suggest you talk to your doctor, and look over reliable sources to learn the specifics.

"Well Woman" is a weekly feature in the Bulletin. The responses, written by the Well-Women Peer Educators, answer questions from members of the Barnard community. Questions may be submitted to the Well-Woman Office, 135 Hewitt.

WOMEN AT WORK...

by Jennifer Flandro

"Women's accomplishments need to be hailed," says Leora Hanser, a senior from Palo Alto, California. "You look at leaders everywhere and they are still predominantly male. Women are there and we are increasing our firmness, but we're still not there yet."

Hanser's family connections to Columbia first brought her to the Morningside Heights campus, but she chose to apply early decision to Barnard after visiting and getting an overwhelming sense that "this is it, this is where I want to go." While

Barnard's status as a women's college did not impact her decision, she now extols the virtues of a women's college education. "You get the best of both worlds because you do get this small women's college environment that pays attention to a woman's needs and focuses more on what it means to be a woman, and makes you explore that in almost everything you do. [A single-sex education] impacts you in all sorts of ways you might not otherwise think about."

Asked about her most remarkable college experience, Hanser hesitates. "That's tough. I've had some really cool things happen." Eventually, she settles on her Voter Empowerment Project, an effort that resulted in the registration of 5,635 voters. The project began modestly—she and a few other volunteers went to 125 Street and registered just under 100 people. "I came back, I was like 'I could do this so much bigger and better.' That may be my biggest problem—I don't know how to think small." From there, the project blossomed into a citywide effort. "I've never worked that hard at something," Hanser says of her efforts, which involved coordinating several non-profit organizations

and bringing the MTV "Choose or Lose" to campus, as well as enduring some "really horrible experiences," such as having her likelihood of success questioned in a 65-person meeting. She was also faced with the challenge of reforming conceptions of voter registration. "It took a lot of work to convince people to want to register people to vote...I'm not so sure I understand what exactly the controversy is, but a lot of people see voter registration as a very political type

leora hanser

of behavior. It's hard to for people to see voter registration in a non-partisan way."

As she looks to the next year, Hanser plans on "exploring how political involvement will make me happy. Ideally, I want to go into politics, but the problem is you can't graduate and run for office." She hopes to find work in the next year that will lead to involvement in a Presidential campaign in 2000. Hanser's optimism and ambition flow into her future plans. "I'm interested in world change...for me, the best place to be doing that is creating policy," she says.

While the Barnard President's Report calls Hanser's internships "a list...that reads like a 'Who's Who' in American politics," Hanser downplays them as "some incredible opportunities with incredible people." She was one of George Stephanopoulos' first interns when he came to Columbia in spring of 1997. Hanser also worked for California Senator Dianne Feinstein and was able to write the speech concerning the breast cancer stamp that Feinstein gave. Currently, she does a lot of speechwriting for former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo, a man whom she holds in high regard. "He is so, so bril-

liant. Very, very sharp. And [working for him] is very demanding, but it's demanding in a good way. It's the way I want to be pushed."

Hanser's involvement, however, is not limited to off-campus activities. She currently serves as President of the Student Government Association (SGA), and worked as a Resident Assistant (RA) and University Senator last year. She also was a member of the task force evaluating the sexual misconduct policy. While she says being an RA last year

"made me aware of a whole other part of the college," she "felt very pulled" between her various activities, some-

times attending four or five meetings a week. She wanted to be SGA president, she laughs, "to consolidate responsibilities."

Talking about her role as President, Hanser rattles off goals as if they were a daily to-do list: examine the 18-point credit limit, work on SGA's relationship with clubs and the student body at large, promote "Barnard-specific" programs, determine feasible methods of updating Barnard's computing services, influence the campus to be "more community-service minded," hear and respond to student concerns, evaluate clubs' use of their money, build community. One of her more ambitious aspirations is to "create lasting traditions... We want to build traditions that are lasting and will not just die in three years. It's just one step in the right direction."

SGA is just one more area where Hanser is unable to think small. "I'm doing it because I care about Barnard, she says, "and I want to make Barnard a better place, if not for my class, for everybody who's going to come after me."

Jennifer Flandro is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin Managing Editor.

Breaking Up is Hard to Do—But Often for the Best

by Sara Keane

Sometimes it is just hard to know where to move next. Life for us is so delightfully crammed with choices, and we are unsure what to choose. It is the story of humanity. Here we stand, between childhood and adult life, painfully aware that each step we take has a powerful influence on a future that we want desperately to shape. The problem is that no matter how precisely we outline our desires, we simply are not in control. A thriving will to live depends upon acceptance of the facts that spirit-shattering things happen to everyone, and that we can survive them.

I was 18 when I fell in love for the first time, and I fell hard. He was my best friend, my encouragement, my security blanket, and my understanding. He told me that I was beautiful, laughed at my jokes, and believed in my dreams. He presented me with roses for no reason, and called just to say he loved me. I cherished every moment with this boy. I wanted to marry him. But, no matter how hard I shake my fist at the universe and demand to be heard, I cannot change the fact that we are now separated.

Everything went beautifully until the day I became aware of something troubling within myself. We fell in love so young that I was unable to explore myself as an individual, I was unaware of my own strengths and weaknesses. I didn't know where I wanted to go or who I wanted to be. I didn't know how I would survive if something happened to this boy that I loved. I did not know if I could stand on my own.

This was not good, I felt the dissatisfaction growing within me. I tried to believe that it was not there, because I could not deal with the havoc it could wreak on my life. But here is the key. I could not control the fact that I needed to take off on my own, despite the fact that I loved this boy very much. I was absolutely torn. What I wanted was to be satisfied with my happiness, what I could not deny was that I needed more. I knew that I was asking for torture when I considered being apart from him. However, we are each human spirits separate from any other, and denying our dreams is a recipe for discontent. Our relationship was sure to suffer more if I did not follow my heart to independence. I know I would have been dissatisfied and sour. I had to choose between two options, both of which would leave me in pieces. Staying would have doomed our relationship because I would have felt unfulfilled as an individual. If I left, I would risk losing him forever.

When the opportunity came to move to New York, I knew I had to take it. I was ecstatic that my chance at adventure had finally arrived, but I had not seriously questioned what such a change would cost me.

By the time I realized I had exchanged my life with this boy for the chance to strike out on my own, it was too late. He said he thought it would be better if we could each start new lives, unattached to each other, and do some growing up on our own. I agreed.

That boy is not with me now, though I love him still. The essence of this experience is familiar. I have been scalded with disappointment before. Each time, I have kept putting one foot in front of the other. Each time I have survived to look back on the ordeal as a blessing that brought me to a place which would have been impossible to reach without first enduring the anguish. I remind myself that I believe there is a reason that these things happen. I have no doubt that our individual suffering teaches us lessons that help us to evolve into more enlightened, satisfied, happier people. I know my story is not a mutant tale that is the result of life singling me out for persecution. This is what it means to be human, and every other person in the world has faced this same demon.

This is the most important thing to remember: life's pain is not a punishment that we each struggle through alone. It is not meaningless, cruel, or arbitrary. It works with us to refine our life strategy and to sharpen our perspective. In the end, it helps to make us happier. Have faith that the right thing will always happen, even if it is not the "right" thing as you define it. Fighting off despair with faith that all things work out for the best is what helps me to keep breathing when I feel like life is trying to suffocate me. When I feel like I will never heal from this solitary tragedy, I think of all the human beings in the world that have lost the one they love. Every person passing me on the street is probably a survivor of something like this. Writing detailing our ancestors' broken hearts go back for centuries; clearly people have made it through this and gone on to produce the human race. Human life continues even though we each experience this devastation. That is encouraging.

I am doing better as each day goes by. Life is colorful and pleasing for the most part and I have started to notice that entire hours go by without tears. Sometimes though, I still wake up at night in a panic that I have misplaced something valuable. I check to make sure I have my wallet. I scrounge around and make sure I still have my glasses. Then I remember that he is gone, and that is the reason for my deep sadness and discontent. It does get better though, and I am sure that I will understand what this is all about someday.

Sara Keane is a Barnard Junior.

They Will Never be Forgotten

by Mita Mallick

It has been on only three occasions since my time at Barnard that I have opened my McIntosh mailbox to find that neatly folded letter on bright white university stationery, slipped amongst my other mail. At the end of the letter this time was Dean Austin Quigley's signature of Columbia College, written in that fake "official" ink which has been photocopied, indicating that you were not the only one to receive his letter.

I know that sending a broadcast Rolm phone message is the only efficient way of letting people know when memorial services are to be held. But I also know how disturbed I am when I hear the voice of the Rolm phone woman announcing the death of the student, just as this same woman will monotonously broadcast any other message for \$150 and five days advance notice.

The fake blue ink, which makes me feel so removed from the university, announces to me the death of a Columbia College senior who took her own life.

I can remember my freshman year when a junior committed suicide. I remember. I can remember my sophomore year when a law student was murdered. I remember. Now as a junior, there has been the death of a senior. I cannot seem to forget. I remember opening each of those letters and not knowing what to do. So many letters were tossed in the dumpster. I watched the letters accumulate along with the many credit card applications, OCD newsletters, and flyers announcing a sale at the student store. For some reason I can never throw the letter away. What shall I do with it? Keep it as a reminder of the person who died? Throw it away and dismiss it? Or stuff it in my bag and hope that it finds a way to misplace itself?

Honestly, I am not sure what I expect. A part of me feels that deans should be signing and folding each and every letter themselves. Maybe it's just me who needs to feel some sort of physical, tangible warmth penetrating through the black bold face typing. I feel that the

administrator's fake blue signature is a pretense. After all, they are not confiding "one-on-one" to me and telling me of this death, as they address it "Dear student" and not "Dear Ms. Mallick". I continue to be just one of many who are informed. I know that this is their mandatory procedure of informing students of a tragedy. I know that sending a broadcast Rolm phone message is the only efficient way of letting people know when memorial services are to be held. But I also know how disturbed I am when I hear the voice of the Rolm phone woman announcing the death of the student, just as this same woman will monotonously broadcast any other message for \$150 and five days advance notice.

Yet, I didn't even know her. Not even the first thing about her. When I heard the rumors circulating that day, I thought it was a sick, twisted joke. I remember calling a good friend of mine and asking her if it was true. It was the first she had heard of it. I can remember the horror I felt the next day when this same friend left a message on my machine, sobbing as she whispered on my voice mail that she had known her.

Everything stays with me. I keep reciting her name over and over again. I have to know her from somewhere. I rarely forget a name or a face. Did we serve on some committee together? Were we ever introduced? Did I pass her by on college walk one day as I frantically rushed to class? While I struggle to remember her, it appalls me that others can be so insensitive. The "suicide girl". That is how they refer to her. I can't even imagine how I would feel if it was my best friend, classmate, student, sister, or daughter. Maybe by not using her name people feel like they can distance themselves from the situation.

If there is no name, no face, no story, then maybe they can fool themselves into thinking that it never happened.

But she is gone. She had a name. She had a face. And she left so many things behind. I will not forget her, or what I heard about her: who she was, where she was from, and what brought her to Columbia. So many of us will cry along with those who loved her. I cry because I never got the chance to know her. I cry because I feel helpless, and that a single letter cannot be the only way of remembering her or anybody else who dies at this university. She can't be just that letter. I know that she was so much more than that.

Mita Mallick is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin columnist.

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