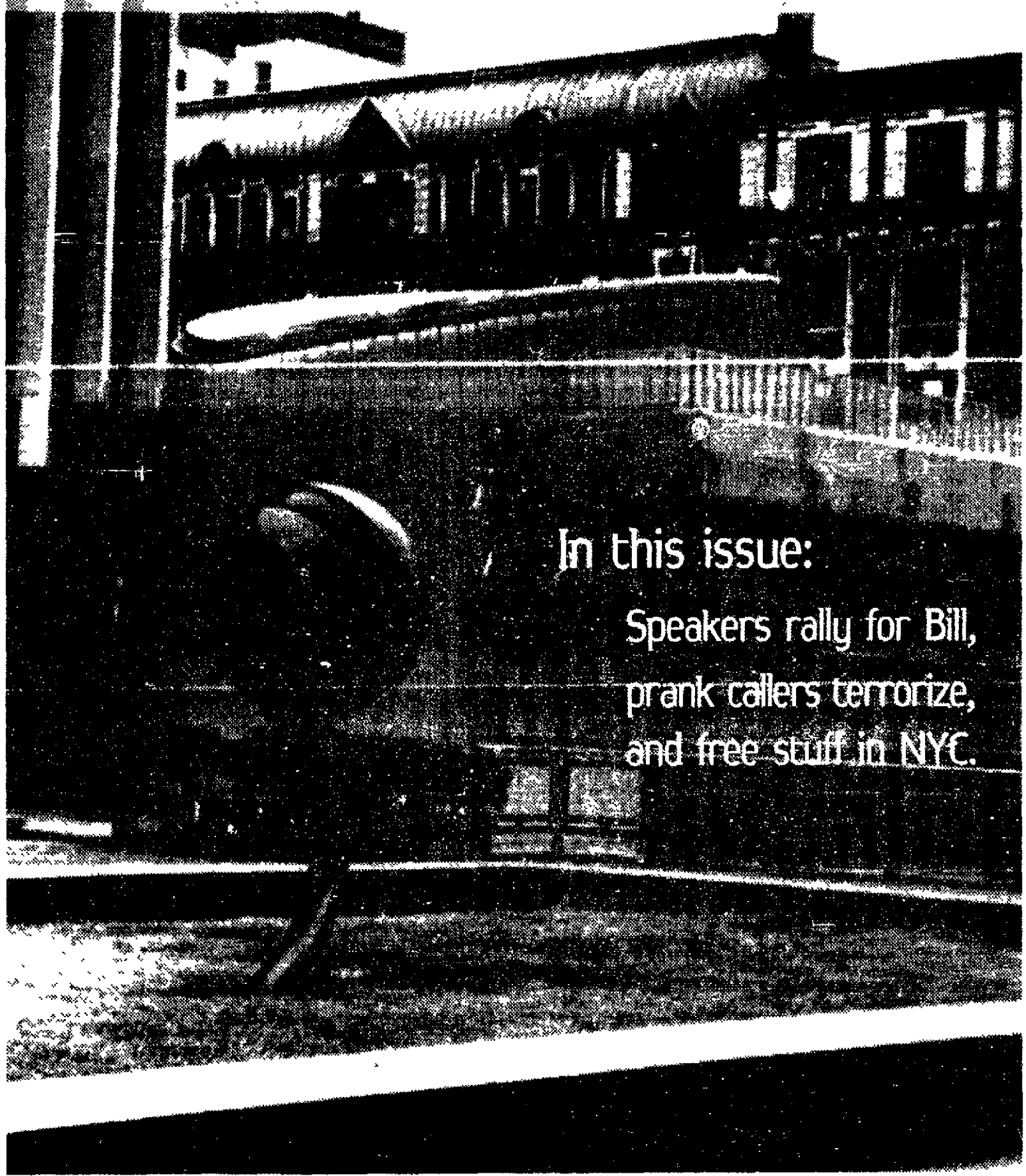


Baltimore

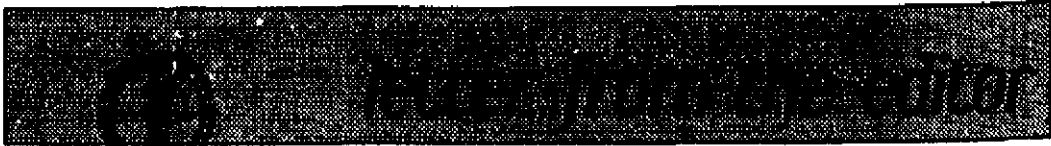
Bulletin

[2.10.99: Issue 2]



In this issue:

Speakers rally for Bill,
prank callers terrorize,
and free stuff in NYC.



Valentine's Day is almost upon us. We all know what that means, don't we. Candy. And Teddy Bears. And diamonds. At least, all my Valentines give me diamonds. Okay, that's a lie, because I haven't ever really had a Valentine. Except back in second grade when the teacher assigned us each Valentines and made everyone exchange cards and candy (diamonds optional). Even that came to an early halt, when this one kid Anthony (who happened to be my Valentine) ran around too much at recess after eating too much cafeteria food and vomited all over the cubby holes with everyone's cards and candy (no diamonds at this point).

It's actually pretty disturbing how much commercial importance is placed on Valentine's Day. All those wily capitalists out there prey on innocent young children, luring them with a few of their favorite things (candy, teddy bears), until they have them hooked on the belief that, on a certain day in February, they have to give and (even more so) receive candy and teddy bears in order to feel validated as human beings. Those mean executives know to get kids while they're young, because

by the time those kids reach our age, they are Valentine's Day Merchandise junkies for life, forever wallowing in a sea of that "no gift=no love" mentality pounded into them ever since they got their first stuffed teddy bear from grandma.

Basically, what I'm trying to say is that you shouldn't feel bad if you don't have a Valentine. Well, you can feel however you want, but if it makes you feel any better about your pitiful, Valentine-less self, I am one too, and I am a valid human being. Here's something I've told myself for so long that it has actually come true: I don't have time for a Valentine. Ever. Even in September. Even in June. It comes with the territory of being a Barnard woman. I've hopped on the Life Train. Gotten into the groove. Let my index finger rest too long on the J key while typing "Jamie." That might be a little sad, if I took the time to think about it. But I don't have time for that either, and I don't really care. As long as I keep myself happy, I don't need a Valentine. I tell myself that also, and it too has come true. For now at least.

CONTRIBUTORS

Christina Bracero graced the office of the *Bulletin* as News Editor last year; this year, she has passed the baton to her assistant, Karen Shoum, and taken on the role as Features Editor. A New York native, Christina likes to keep busy. She is currently a Barnard junior, Psychology major, full-time employee at an entertainment company downtown, and mommy.

CHRISTINA BRACERO

Germaine is a member of the *Bulletin* copy staff, and a bit of an entrepreneur. She has created her own major, which she has yet to entitle, which she describes as a blend of Political Science, Mass Media, and Pop Culture studies. She comes from Long Island, and has worked in the art/design department for other publications such as *Rolling Stone* and *Index* magazines.

GERMAINE HALEGOUA

Christy Thornton, a first-year from New Hampshire, is possibly double-majoring in Spanish and Political Science, and she has been the *Bulletin* Office Assistant since last year. In this issue, Christy explores the options for the financially-challenged student who wants to have fun in the Naked City. Look for a continuation in the NYC *Living* section next week.

CHRISTY THORNTON

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cover photo by jessica jaffe

Barnard Events Calendar...February 10-17

FEBRUARY 10
 The Sex of Food Service
 Faculty's Association of
 Diversity and Learning
 at Rutgers University
 Sulzberger Parlor, 3rd Floor of
 Barnard Hall, 6:30 - 8pm

FEBRUARY 11
 Women Poets at Barnard
 Sulzberger Parlor, 8pm

FEBRUARY 11
 4 Bands in 4 Hours
 Two CU bands: Capitol and
 Clancy
 As well as: Calico and Perils of
 Pauline
 \$2, Pizza included
 LL McIntosh, 8pm

FEBRUARY 15
 Making a Difference: Science &
 Science Studies, Feminist
 Scholarship and Social
 Movements
 Evelyn Fox Keller, Professor of
 the History and Philosophy of
 Science Program at MIT
 LL Mc, 5:30 - 7pm

FEBRUARY 15
 First Year Focus Room Selection
 into Sessions with Housing
 Manager, Janet Alperstein
 South Tower, 7, 8, and 10pm

FEBRUARY 17
 CORRIE Lecture
 Sulzberger Parlor, 12pm

...more events this week...

Urgings From the Spirit: This Week in Black Heritage Month 1999

2/10
 Sonia Diaz: Beauty tips for Black women
 7pm, IRC
 Common Meal hosted by Chaplain Davis
 7 - 9pm, RSVP: x48455
 Movie Night: "Beloved"
 8 - 10pm, LL McIntosh

2/2
 Caribbean Students Association Party
 10pm - 2am, Faculty House

2/13
 Jazz Semi-formal
 Tickets \$7 singles, \$12 couples
 7 - 10pm, Faculty house

2/15
 Black Liberation Today
 with Professor Manning Marable
 7:30pm, John Jay Lounge

2/17
 Sonia Diaz hosts an engineering program
 7:30pm, IRC

McAC Events Calendar

2/10-11
 A Multi-cultural Film Festival
 2/10 Divorce Iranian Style LL McIntosh 8-10
 2/11. Beloved LL McIntosh 8-10
 part of Black Heritage Month celebration

2/11
 Valentine's Day Study Break LL McIntosh
 12-1:30pm
 Make your own Valentines

2/12
 Take a trip to Chinatown in honor of the
 Chinese New Year
 Co-sponsored by the Multi-cultural and

Social Study Break Committees of McAC
 Watch a night of Romantic movies and get in
 the mood for Valentine's Day.

*The movie marathon is co-sponsored by the
 Social study break committee of McAC and
 the RA's. There will be a continuous stream
 of movies from 8pm-2am in Sulzberger South
 Tower*

2/15
 Valentine's Day Coffeehouse Part of the
 Monday Night Coffeehouse Series in the
 Quad Cafe 8-10pm
Decorate cookies and listen to music

Financial Aid Awareness Month Hotline begins

In honor of 'Financial Awareness Month,'
 which is from January 19th to February 12th,
 the new York State Financial Aid
 Administrators Association is setting up a
 free Financial Aid Hotline available to stu-
 dents weekdays from 12 to 7pm 1-800-689-
 1669 As spokesperson, New York Grant
 Chris Calloway says, "The reward for contin-
 uing your education and working hard is
 attaining goals that you have set forth take
 advantage of Financial Aid Awareness
 month"

January 19th through February 12th is a
 time when parents and students can get free
 facts about financial assistance for college. A
 toll free number is made available with expe-
 rienced financial aid administrators answering
 any questions you may have about the aid
 process. Workshops are also arranged by
 regions. The New York City region has work-
 shops in the boroughs of the Bronx,
 Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The
 schedule is attached for your convenience
 and one can contact Karen Price-Scott,
 Chairperson Region VI at kpricesc@pratt.edu
 if there are any questions.

In addition, information can be accessed
 on these websites www.nysfaaa.org or
www.hesc.com. The public is welcome to take
 advantage of any or all Financial Aid
 Awareness Month activities.

STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD IN 1999-2000 Please come to an information meeting to be conducted by Dean Szell on Thursday, February 11, 1999, 5-6pm in the Ella Weed Room, 2nd floor Milbank. (You don't need to attend this meeting if you have already met with Dean Szell concerning your application or if you have already attended one of the information meetings in the fall)

SPELMAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM Students who may be interested in a study exchange program for the academic year 1999-2000 at Spelman College should attend an information session on Thursday, February 18, at 4pm, in the Ella Weed Room For more information, contact Dean Taylor or her assistant, Ms Ross at x42024

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS For all students planning to apply to medical, dental, veterinary, or optometry schools next year On Thursday, Feb 18, at 5pm in Sulzberger Parlor, there will be an IMPORTANT meeting with Dean Bournoutian to go over everything you need to do in order to apply to these schools. If you cannot attend, please see Ms Abdoo in the Dean of Studies Office, 105 Milbank, during the week following the meeting to pick up the materials which will be distributed

SCIENCE AND MATH MAJORS The US Department of Energy, Office of Science, has established a program with the National Energy Laboratories, known as the Energy Research Undergraduate Laboratory Fellowship (ERULF). ERULF students receive a stipend, housing allowance, and travel aid. Possible placement in labs such as Argonne, Fermi, Oak Ridge, Brookhaven, and Princeton Plasma Physics. Applications are available online at www.orau.gov/doc_erulf. Contact Dean

Runsdorf for additional information at x42024.

JUNIORS The Clark Fellows Program provides fellowships to students with a strong academic record and a demonstrated interest in management and leadership of non-profit and community-based organizations. Those selected will receive \$30,000, which includes a stipend and tuition assistance toward an appropriate master's degree. Contact Dean Runsdorf: x42024

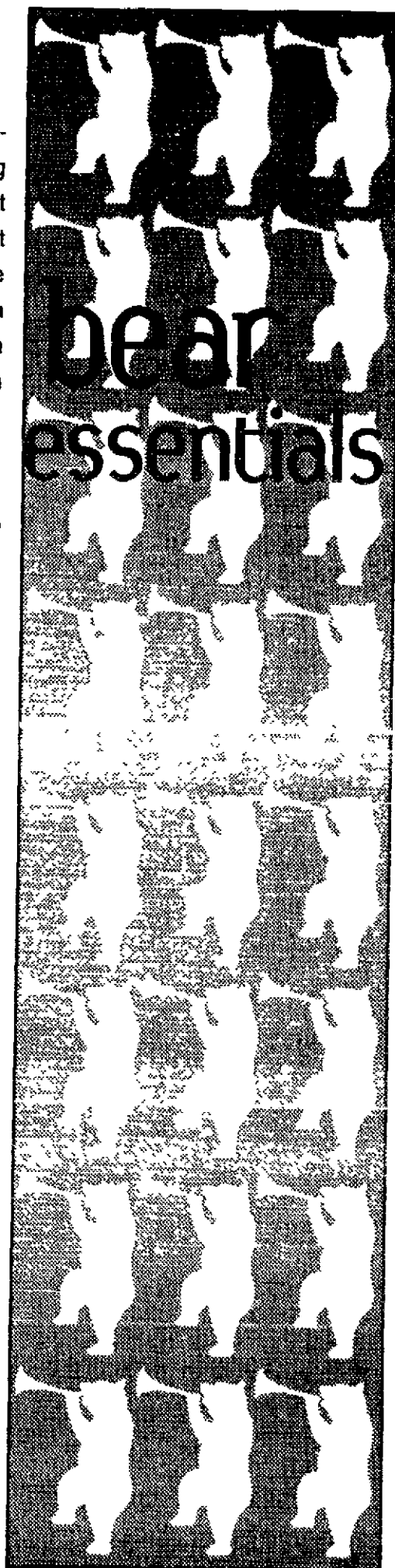
SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS The Morris K. Udall Scholarship Program awards up to \$5000 to students interested in a career in environmental public policy and to Native Americans and Alaska Natives who hope to pursue a career related to health care and tribal public policy Contact Dean Runsdorf at x42024

TUTORS 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 JONG WRITING CENTER The Jong Writing Center has re-opened for the Spring Semester The Center's specially trained peer tutors are read to work with you on everything from first-year English papers to lab reports and your senior thesis! Sign up for conferences (up to two per week) by the door of 121 Reid Hall.

LOOKING FOR HELP IN MATH?

Come to the Math Help Room, located in 333 Milbank Hall Hours: Mondays, 10am to 5pm and 6 to 8pm; Tuesdays, 11am to 6pm and 7 to 10pm; Wednesdays, 10am to 5pm and 7 to 10pm; Thursdays, 11am to 5pm; and Fridays, 10am to 5pm.



Students for Choice Hold First Meeting

by Anna Godbersen

Students for Choice, a new campus organization, held its first meeting Wednesday night, February 3, in the Center for Research on Women. About twenty students met, declaring a pressing need for student involvement in the ongoing struggle for reproductive rights. They expressed a hope that the lack of immediacy felt by members of our generation, who have grown up with *Roe vs. Wade*, could be transfigured into a more active political stance.

Students for Choice is coordinated by Davina Cohen, a Columbia sophomore, and by Lauren Porsch, a Barnard sophomore. Both were affected by Serrin Foster of Feminists for Life's lecture given last semester at Columbia Law school. Foster was invited to speak by the Columbia Coalition for Life, and defended her pro-life position with what Cohen felt were exploitations of founding feminist ideas (such as those of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony) and emotional manipulation. Porsch cited UCLA's "College Freshman" study, which documents the opinion of each Freshman class, to explain the need for Students for Choice. The study found that each year, fewer and fewer college students believe that abortion should be legal.

Cohen was involved with Students for Choice last year when she attended University of Michigan and worked for the National Abor-

tion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) during high school. Porsch has been involved in the Women's Collective and Take Back the Night at Barnard, and has interned at NARAL and Planned Parenthood.

Both emphasized the powerful rewards of social and political activism, and remained optimistic that the Columbia community would be able to thoughtfully and maturely discuss the abortion issue. Cohen expressed her deep admiration for people whose beliefs would prevent them from ever having an abortion, but remain pro-choice because they believe in a woman's right to choose. Many students at the meeting were surprised that there is not already a pro-choice group on campus—and they hope it will provide a forum for discussion on abortion.

Cohen and Porsch pushed for involvement on many levels. They outlined various plans, the first of which will be a campus talk given by Enca Pelletreau, the political director of NARAL, on February 17. They also made plans for involvement in Alice's Safer Sex Awareness week and activities for the March 10th National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers. The group discussed organizing a letter writing campaign and its role as a general resource of information on reproductive rights. International involvement was also suggested by Cohen, who expressed the possibility of "lapping into" the United Nations's family planning program. She said that she sets "no limitations" on the

organization's involvement in the reproductive rights movement.

The founding of Students for Choice comes at a time when debate on abortion is volatile and its legality is tenuous. While abortion is technically legal, individual states determine its accessibility. They can institute restrictive procedures such as required waiting periods and counseling. Abortion and the availability of abortion can thus vary and depend upon a woman's age, financial resources and where she lives. While women retain the legal right to an abortion, members of congress are working to make exercising that right extremely difficult. Violent action taken by pro-life groups has caused the number of doctors willing to give abortions to dwindle. In effect, 84% of United States counties have no abortion provider.

During the meeting, Cohen pointed out the rise in violent acts toward abortion clinics since the '70s. The murder last fall of abortion provider Dr. Barnett Slepian was an example of the terrifying actions that have brought about this situation. The coordinators of Students for Choice expressed the need for campus involvement with a movement to change this situation by defending abortion providers and informing our community about effective contraceptive options, access to reproductive health care, and the ongoing legal struggle for abortion.

Anna Godbersen is a Barnard first-year.

VELOCITY MOVING TOWARDS HER FUTURE AS FAST AS SHE CAN.

BY CORINNE MARSHALL

The Road From Slick Willie to William Jefferson

by Jamie Hardy

On the evening of February 4, several well-known campus and media figures united for what was called "A Public Discussion on the Impeachment of President Clinton." Mediated by Barnard's own Mary Gordon (BC '71), personalities such as professors Manning Marable, Jean Cohen, and Stanley Aronowitz as well as satirist Al Franken and Congressman Jerry Nadler (D-NY) each spoke for five minutes about their views on impeachment.

Al Franken, of Saturday Night Live fame, started off the evening in a light tone calling the trial "a good spectator sport, which only cost fifteen million dollars," equating its cost and content to that of "a pretty cheap bad movie." Reflecting the apparent temperament of the fatigued American public, Franken got the most emphatic response from the audience after nonchalantly concluding that Clinton simply "fucked up."

At the end of his allotted five minutes, Franken handed the mic over to Congressman Jerry Nadler, Judiciary Committee Representative from the Upper West Side, and Columbia graduate Nadler recounted his reasoning for voting against impeachment during the hearings last year. According to Nadler, one cannot understand impeachment until one understands its constitutional purpose. He called it "the thermonuclear bomb of constitutional order," arguing that the founders of the Constitution created it only as a means to punish a president who would abuse presidential power by "selling out" the U.S. to a foreign country, or to prevent a president from becoming a "tyrant." Implying that it should only be used as a last resort, he quoted Ben Franklin in calling impeachment a "substitution for assassination."

One theme touched upon by several of the

speakers was the confusion between "sin" and "crime." Nadler noted that people seemed to care a lot about whether Clinton had been sufficiently contrite towards his affair, or lying about his affair. However, Nadler said he didn't care either way, because "a sin may be a scar on the



Jerry Nadler, Al Franken, and Jacob Weisberg

soul, but it is not a crime."

Columbia professor Manning Marable took the discussion in a slightly tangential direction. He said the impeachment debate was really about "relativism versus absolute truth." Though he may not personally approve of all of Clinton's politics, he said, he believed that this impeachment was "the language of totalitarianism." He upheld the not uncommonly voiced theory that the Republicans had been trying to get rid of Clinton ever since he became President. Even when things appeared to be going well for the Democrats after the mid-term elections last fall, Marable remarked that, "like Darth Vader of Star Wars, the Empire was ready to strike back."

Along this same vein of thought spoke Todd Gitlin of the New York Observer, who said "this farce started long ago because the Washington establishment despised [Clinton]" from the beginning. Why? "Because he was a draft-dodging, non-inhaling, Hillary-marrying embodiment of that decade." He pointed out that the same people who despise the 60s have been trying to re-install Richard Nixon's post-60s politics ever since he left office in 1974, echoing Professor

Gordon's opening statement that people need to get re-energized in politics "because there are really bad people out there who will get involved if we don't." That aside, most of the speakers commented that the Senate will not actually remove the President from office.

Photo by Jessica Jaffe

On an ironic note, several of the speakers touched upon Clinton's role as what used to be called a "moderate Republican," and how he has appropriated what Jacob Weisberg of Slate Magazine called the "effective" components of the Republican platform, such as a strong military budget, and slapped on the label of "Democratic," which leaves the Republicans with the "bad stuff," like gay-bashing and anti-abortion tendencies. Columbia professor Jean

Cohen summed up Weisberg's statement by saying that Clinton "defeated Reaganism by beating them at their own game."

Certainly the most resounding issue of the evening was that of American culture's definition of "morality." CUNY professor Stanley Aronowitz brought up the idea that the American government "does not believe in pluralism in sexuality," and noted that in other countries, a president's sexual escapades would not even be a news item. Does this make Clinton any less moral than a leader of another country? Perhaps Professor Gordon expressed it best in her closing statement when she accused the United States of having too narrow a definition of morality, it includes "compassion, tolerance, far-sightedness, and generosity." It is by this standard, she resolved, that Clinton should be judged.

Thus concluded the "Public Discussion." Rather than a discussion, however, it ended up more of liberal analysis of the impeachment of President William Jefferson Clinton.

Jamie Hardy is a Barnard sophomore and the Bulletin editor-in-chief.

Ring, Ring. Who's There?

by Alyssa LaRoche and K8 Torgovnick

The phone rings and, expecting a call from a friend or about an important project, you rise from your desk and answer it. "She called me a sissy. She hit me and I fainted," says a sobbing mysterious voice over the telephone.

Prank calls occur in epidemic proportions through the halls of Barnard dorms. Women's colleges are notorious for the number of prank calls they receive, perhaps because the idea of reaching hundreds of girls' rooms excites prank callers, said Rachel Hnatowich BC '00, who receives about two prank calls a week. "[Prank callers] are disgusting freaks who like the reactions they get from harassing women," she said. "When they catch on that they can get only girls [as they go down the] row [of phone numbers], it's like a kid in a candy store."

Director of security Captain Plackemeyer also said that women's colleges can be a utopia

to prank callers. "The numbers run sequentially, so if a caller with an agenda discovers what number Barnard is at, they quickly learn that if they dial any number at random, they're in all likelihood going to be met on the other line by a female," he said. "He's virtually in heaven. He doesn't have to make a whole lot of calls."

First-
year
Dani

"Basically it's just a power trip for the caller."

Sophomore Marissa Balla has received several prank calls, although she got most of them her first year. "Someone would call for hours at a time. The phone would ring, and I'd pick up and no one was there. They'd call again and again," she said.

Plackemeyer highlights that prank calls have a lighthearted connotation, while harassing calls are very serious. "We have to make a distinction between a prank and something that's a joke and one where harm, insult, or alarm is intended," said Plackemeyer. "The latter is a crime of aggravated harassment."

The majority of students who receive prank calls do get calls of a sexual nature, which border on harassment. Elana Walker BC '02 has received several prank calls from a caller she has nicknamed the Buddha Man. She said, "I picked up the phone and this guy said, 'Do you know why I'm whispering? Because of the mood I'm in.' But I thought he said, 'Because of the Buddha Man.'"



Graphic by Corinne Marshall

Fields views prank calls less as derangement, and more as a way for men to exercise control. "Some people get sexual calls, but the ones I've gotten are just stupid and annoying," she said.

her roommate Heien Wei BC '02 receive a few prank calls a month, although the majority are from the Buddha Man. Once they received a call where the person on the other line made bird

... Prank Caller Who...?

chirping noises. Although Wei has answered the phone to very crude sexual messages, she said the bird call was the one that freaked her out most "[The ring] only rang once, so it was from on campus. That was really strange," she said.

Fields has also received several bizarre calls. "One person calls and asks for someone who doesn't live here. She says, 'Let me speak to so-and-so.' I tell her that she has a wrong number, and she screams, 'No I don't, let me talk to so-and-so!'"

Several prankers call a pay phone located in the hall where Fields lives. "People call repeatedly on a pay phone in the hall. I used to answer it and talk like there might be a non-deranged person on the line. Now I pick up the phone and say, 'Get a life!'"

Hnatowich, Walker, Wei, and Fields all have one caller in common. 'Sissy boy,' as he is often referred to throughout the Quad, has been calling up and down the halls of the Quad for years. "He whimpers to me that some 'she' called me a sissy, and that she hit him, and he fainted," describes Fields. "He calls again and again. You hear the phone ring in the room before you. A minute later your phone rings, and it's Sissy Boy and once you hang up, you hear it ring in the room on the other side of yours."

Hnatowich, who lives in the Quad, says that she has been receiving calls from Sissy Boy since her freshman year. Also, friends of hers who are graduates received calls years before she arrived at Barnard. "The first time he called I gave him sympathy. He gets you off guard because you don't know what to do," she said. "If someone breathes heavily you know to hang up. Everyone knows who he is—why can't security catch him?" Security is currently trying to identify 'Sissy boy', said Plackenmeyer.

Sometimes, security is able to identify and

bring charges against harassing callers. "Last spring, we brought to the attention of precinct 26 detectives a case where an individual from Brooklyn was making prank calls of a sexual nature," said Plackenmeyer. "Just as we had told them, when they were subpoenaed the telephone records, there were over 200 calls that were to Barnard numbers." The caller plead guilty to 200 counts of harassment, and was sentenced to three years probation and mandatory sex offender counseling.

As the victims of obscene or harassing phone calls multiply, security has a few tools at its disposal. Their best defense against prank calls is having students transfer them to the Security desk. One junior received several calls from a man who she thought was her roommate's friend. "It was really scary. I tried to transfer the call to security, but when I tried, he called back. Security said he probably recognized what I was doing and hung up," she said.

If a call is not transferred correctly when the prank call is transferred, the phone will begin ringing again, and the caller will definitely realize that they are being transferred. To transfer a call without this happening, hit the transfer button on the phone, dial x43362, and hang up immediately. If the student does not hang up, the phone will ring again and the caller will hang up. If after transferring the student hangs up, the call will be successfully transferred.

Another defense against prank calls is a caller ID phone, which tells the number from which the call originates. Phones with caller ID can be purchased from the school by getting a private phone line for 20 dollars a month. Hnatowich, who now has a caller ID phone, said there is an easy way to identify prank calls using caller ID. "[On the caller ID] if there is a 'T' at the beginning of the code, it means that the caller

has caller ID block. Only prank callers and telemarketers ID block," she said. "So if I receive a call with a 'T', I just don't answer it."

Without a caller I.D. phone, students have little or no recourse against an insistent harassing caller. One recent victim finally resorted to asking the male caller to "please stop calling here" following several nights of 3am phone calls. The caller would hang up and redial as soon as the phone mail system answered. This resulted in a over a week of broken sleep.

Some students feel that the current security measures are nearly useless. One student who did not report harassing phone calls asks rhetorically, "What can [security] do without the [caller's] number anyway?" This question highlights students' opinions concerning the red tape surrounding services at Columbia University and can lead them to attempt to deal with these phone calls on their own. Without assistance from the college or access to services such as *69, many Barnard students are left holding a dead line.

For calls that have not successfully been transferred to security, it is hard to answer a prank call in a way that will deter the caller from calling again. She said, "I have urges to yell and call [the prank callers] freaks, but that's what they want." Hanging up without giving a reaction is the best way to discourage prank callers, said Plackenmeyer. Overall, he said that students should not be overly concerned about calls, but that students should definitely report calls. "Generally harassment ends if for these people. They're not people who want any kind of physical contact with their victims. Their way of having sex is through the phone lines."

Alyssa LaRoche and K8 Forgovnick are Barnard first-years, and K8 is the Bulletin art director.

ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of February 10

GALLERIES

Tony Melillo
through 2/13
@ Basilio Fine Arts 26 Woodlee St.

Rob Pruitt
through 2/27
@ Gavin Brown's Enterprise 436 W 15th

Contact
through 2/8
@ Jack Tilton 49 Greene

Julia Margaret Cameron (Photography)
through 5/4
@ The Museum of Modern Art
11 W 53rd

DANCE

Martha Graham Dance Company
through 2/21
@ Joyce Theater 175 8th Ave

Route 66 Dance Company
through 2/7
@ Joyce Scho 155 Mercer St.

Fosse
@ Broadway Theater 235 W 44th

Beauties in the Beat
@ St. Peter's Church 619 Lexington

FILM

Rushmore
Sony Theatres, 6th/B'way

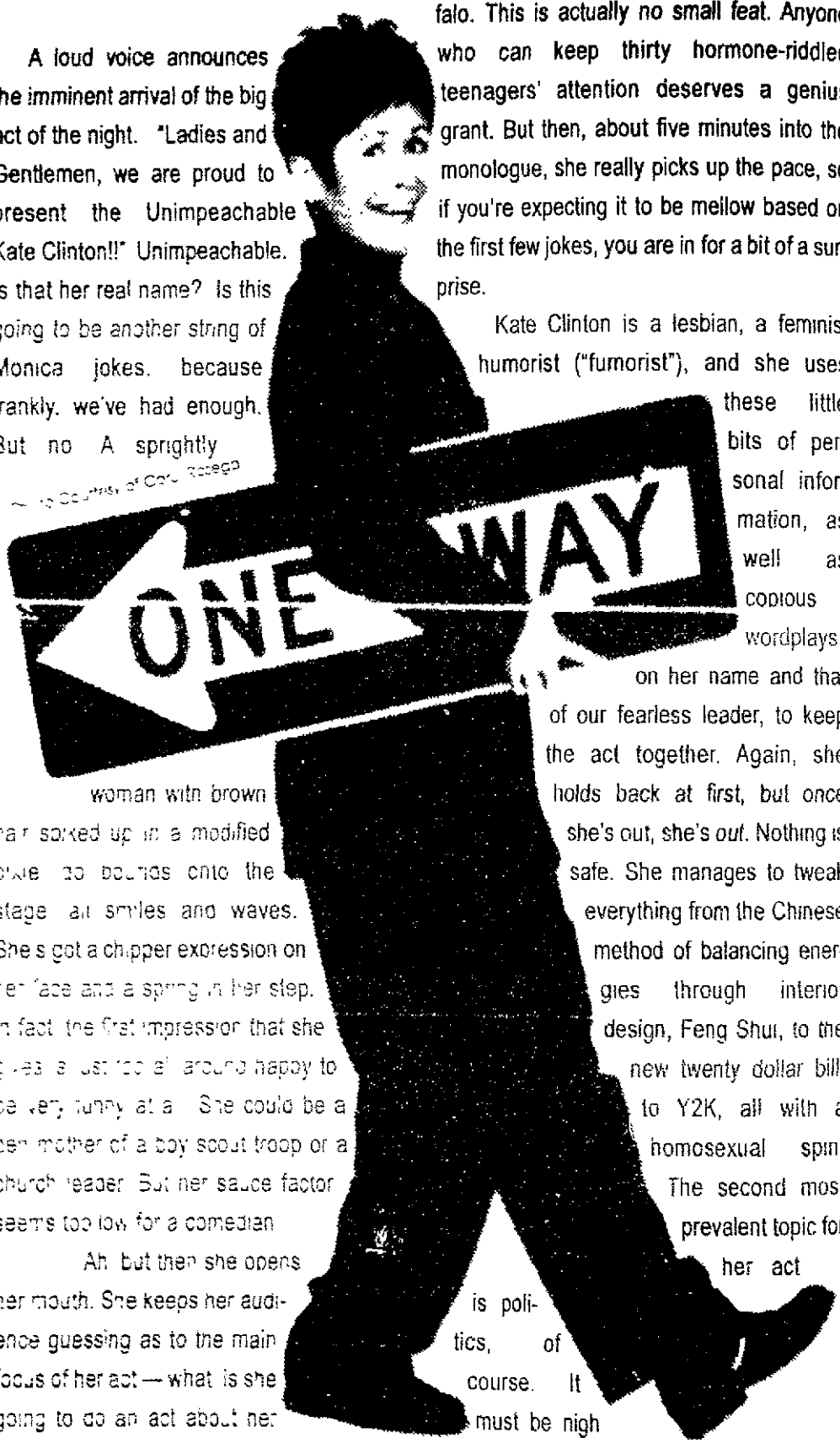
Sex, Lies, and Videotape

FUMORIST KATE CLINTON

by Katie O'Shea

A loud voice announces the imminent arrival of the big act of the night. "Ladies and Gentlemen, we are proud to present the Unimpeachable Kate Clinton!!" Unimpeachable. Is that her real name? Is this going to be another string of Monica jokes, because frankly, we've had enough. But no. A sprightly

— by courtesy of Carol Rosega



woman with brown hair soaked up in a modified pique no bounds onto the stage, all smiles and waves. She's got a chipper expression on her face and a spring in her step. In fact, the first impression that she gives is just total all-around happy to be very funny at a... She could be a den mother of a boy scout troop or a church leader. But her sauce factor seems too low for a comedian. Ah, but then she opens her mouth. She keeps her audience guessing as to the main focus of her act — what is she going to do an act about her kids or something? — and she doesn't quite hook the audience in just yet. But she keeps the people entertained, telling stories about

her "training" as a high school teacher in Buffalo. This is actually no small feat. Anyone who can keep thirty hormone-riddled teenagers' attention deserves a genius grant. But then, about five minutes into the monologue, she really picks up the pace, so if you're expecting it to be mellow based on the first few jokes, you are in for a bit of a surprise.

Kate Clinton is a lesbian, a feminist humorist ("fumorist"), and she uses these little bits of personal information, as well as copious wordplays

on her name and that of our fearless leader, to keep the act together. Again, she holds back at first, but once she's out, she's out. Nothing is safe. She manages to tweak everything from the Chinese method of balancing energies through interior design, Feng Shui, to the new twenty dollar bill, to Y2K, all with a homosexual spin. The second most prevalent topic for her act

is politics, of course. It must be high impossible to be a comedian with the last name Clinton and not bring up politics at least in passing. But Ms. Clinton doesn't just

JABS AT THE MAINSTREAM

do Clinton one-liners. She is sharp with her jokes about all levels of politics, from Dole to Hillary to Janet Reno to political pundits. She is a genius at subtle (and sometimes not-so-subtle) wordplay on people's names, such as her sly reference to "Clarence Uncle Thomas".

Sometimes it almost seems as though her jabs are Freudian, as though she didn't really mean to say them out loud. Hers are the type of double-entendres that are so clever you wonder why someone hasn't thought of them before.

A wonderful surprise was her introduction of a guest at the start of the second act. The way Ms. Clinton arranges her guest appearances is that any friends that she knows to be passing through New York during her run is welcomed to come in for an interview and a bit of a chat, much like Letterman. But it's much better than an appearance like Letterman or any of the late night shows because the audience can actually see the guest star and Ms. Clinton, right in front of them. Not only that, but the guest is in the audience for the first act and runs up from his or her seat, so look out for famous-looking people in the surrounding tables. On this night, the guest was Wilson Cruz, of "My So-Called Life" fame. He played the role of Ricki, Angela's bisexual and skittish friend. Telling the audience about the start of his acting career and one of his earliest jobs on "Unsolved Mysteries" ("So, did you have to go to re-enacting school for that?"),

Cruz was eventually convinced to sing for the audience. His choice was "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," which he claims was a favorite song since childhood. Then Clinton took the stage again and finished the set. The guest appearance humanized both Clinton and Cruz,

and the segment fit in well with the rest of the show. The transition from guest interview back to stand-up was less smooth, but it allowed for a pause as Clinton changed gears and went right on with her political and sexual barbs.

Her

type of comedy isn't the kind to make you lose bladder control. She's not big on physical comedy or jokes about your bowels, but as we all have learned from the ubiquitous Jim Carrey, sight gags and bathroom humor do not a genius make. Most of Clinton's humor is really controversial stuff. She'll make you laugh about RU-486, Joycelyn Elders, Linda Tripp and the Pope in the space of about two minutes. But the point is, you'll be laughing. You may not agree with her, but you'll probably laugh anyway.

"Kate Clinton: Correct Me If I'm Right" runs Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8:30pm. Tickets are \$30 and \$35. Performances are at the Westbeth Theater, at 151 Bank Street, between Washington St. and West St. Call (212) 307-4100 for tickets.

Katie O'Shea is a Barnard first-year

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT THE UNIMPEACHABLE KATE CLINTON!

ARTS CALENDAR

[cont'd]

2/4 @ The Lighthouse 111 E. 59th St.

24 Hour Woman
@ Union Square 13th St. and B'way

My Name is Joe
@ Lincoln Plaza Cinemas

THEATER

Correct Me If I'm Right
@ Westbeth Theater Center 151 Bank

Death of a Salesman
opens 2/10
@ Eugene O'Neill Theater
B'way and 49th St.

The Minnesota Twins
opens 2/18
@ Roundabout/Laura Pels Theater
B'way and 45th St.

Parade
@ Vivian Beaumont Theater 450 W
42nd

READINGS

2/4
Susan Choi and Hwee Hwee Tan
@ Asian American Writer's Workshop
37 St. Marks Pl. 7pm

2/5
"Making Tracks: The Rise and Fall of
Blondie"
@ Barnes and Noble's 4 Astor Pl.
7:30pm

A Civil Action exposes frightening reality

By Charli Long

Before seeing the film *A Civil Action*, one should be warned that John Travolta attempts to do what may seem impossible, portray a personal injury attorney with a conscience. And he succeeds.

In this true story, Travolta stars as Jan Schlichtmann, a smooth talking, high paid personal injury attorney in Boston. In the beginning, we see him pushing a client into court in a wheelchair, while the defense attorneys across the aisle hold up settlement figures until he sees one he likes. In this specialty of law, which the audience is told is really just an adult version of "chicken," Schlichtmann is not used to blinking first.

The beginning of the end of the high life arrives while Schlichtmann is on a local radio show. He is confronted by a woman who wants to know why he has not returned any of her calls or come to see her and his other clients in Woburn.

The caller, Anne Anderson (Kathleen Quinlan) and several other families in the small town of Woburn, Massachusetts, believe the deaths of their children from leukemia were the result of water contamination. At first, Schlichtmann refuses to meet or even talk with the people of Woburn. After all, he sees no chance at a big settlement. His partners, Kevin Conway (Tony Shaloub), James Gordon (William H. Macy) and Bill Crowley (Zeljko Ivanek), finally convince him to at least meet with Anderson, as she will not stop calling them, demanding somebody sue someone. As he is leaving town, after telling the residents that they have no case, Schlichtmann

finds a reason to make one. Near the river and wells which supply the town's drinking water, are two factories, owned by two of the nation's largest (read wealthiest) corporations, W.R. Grace & Co. and Beatrice Foods.

Now with a light at the end of the case (a huge settlement), Schlichtmann takes on the eight Woburn families as clients, and begins to dig for the truth. At first, it would seem that the case

to feel his clients' pain. He turns down an ample settlement offer in the hopes of really making them pay in court. What happens after that is a frightening reminder of just how vulnerable we all are in the face of industry.

If one did not know that *A Civil Action* was based on real events, the story would almost be unbelievable. But life is stranger than fiction and the first-rate cast and story quickly draw

Photo courtesy of Touchstone Pictures



John Travolta and this time it's personal (injury law, that is)

would be pretty open and shut, after all, one of the city's drinking wells was already closed down due to contamination. But it is not. The factories are the lifeblood of Woburn, and as a consequence, not many employees are willing to tell the tales of where the toxic chemical waste is dumped. None of the families can afford to really pay anything, so Schlichtmann's firm must finance everything up front, including a geological team which must try to prove what toxins went where.

However, in personal injury lawsuits, the name of the game is settlement. In the process of gathering his evidence, Schlichtmann makes a fatal mistake—he actually starts

you in. As Schlichtmann, Travolta gives an amazing performance as the attorney blinded by his own greed and feelings of personal indignation. It is blatant to everyone except Schlichtmann that he is outgunned and should settle quickly. But time after time he refuses to settle, evoking audible groans in the theater. Robert Duvall portrays Jerome Facher, attorney for Beatrice Foods, who turns out to be a much worthier adversary than anticipated. Facher may eat his lunches in a dusty library corner and carry a briefcase held together with scotch tape, but he is also a Harvard law professor who sees Schlichtmann's weaknesses. Other notable

performances are given by James Gandolfini as a tannery worker who risks it all to expose the truth, William H. Macy as the exasperated lawyer James Gordon, who is given the task of keeping the firm afloat financially, and John Lithgow as Judge Skinner.

A Civil Action leaves you with a full appreciation of personal injury attorneys and the frightening realization that justice is not only not blind, it takes credit cards.

Charli Long is a Barnard junior and the Bulletin Arts Editor.



Sex of FOOTBINDING

a discussion with

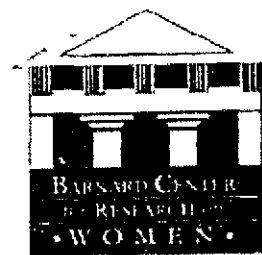
Dorothy Ko

*Associate Professor of History &
Women's Studies, Rutgers University*

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 10

6:30 - 8:00 PM

**Sulzberger
Parlor**



Sponsored by the
Center for Research on Women

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of February 10

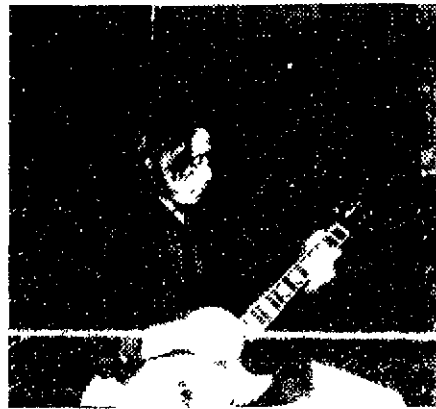
Second is best: "Just A Human Being"

By Jessica Marcy

sadly, his songs are indeed heart-felt, as are his sincere attempts to express himself.

As Carlos stands on stage and introduces his next song, "She's my life," a song dedicated to his wife Alicia, which embarrasses her, I am struck with a pang of sympathy for Carlos and detest at my over-judgmental, cynical thoughts. I try to tell myself to be more open to the music, to give this guy a chance. However, I soon learn how difficult it is as Carlos sings. "It's so wonder-

Photo courtesy of Alyshia Galvez



Chilean maestro, Carlos II

ful to hold her hand/ i means heaven or paradise/ to be just as one, like a star," and then continues, "She is my life, always/ She is my life always in my heart,/ she'll always be my life." Next, Carlos sang a song about his grandmother who passed away entitled "She's Gone." Carlos begins to sing: "She's gone, gone, gone like the wind," and his fellow guitarrist adds "Ooh, ooh, ooh, / like the wind," I cringe as the song seems almost too much to bear.

For all my criticism, though, the instrumental part is decent, even bordering on good with a very recognizable influence from the Beatles. Also, Carlos II has played at reputable places, making an appearance at the legendary CBGB music club. The real problem, therefore, stems from Carlos' lyrics and his often-incomprehensible voice. I ask myself, 'If Carlos was singing in Spanish, if he had a better mastery of the English language, would his songs be better?' Probably so. However, upon asking him why he did not sing in Spanish, his native language, he insisted that he was happier singing in English, hence his songs are forever doomed to be sappy and trite attempts at music.

Jessica Marcy is a Barnard sophomore.

As I entered The Bitter End, a quintessential Greenwich Village bar with its dimness and odor of musty beer, I was uncertain about the band that I was about to hear. The only information I was told about the band Carlos II, pronounced Carlos "Segundo," was that they were Chilean and that they were creating quite a splash.

Images raced through my mind; perhaps this was going to be the next big band, characterized by musical distinctiveness and rare originality. The band's press literature paints an image describing Carlos II as a "unique band of melodic contemporary rock" and calls Carlos, the lead vocalist, a man of "multifaceted song-writing and singing talent." The literature continues, claiming that "Carlos II comes on strong but complex, offering satisfaction to the listener on every level."

After hearing just the first song, I soon began to see the press literature for what it truly was: a complete farce. As the band played on, it proved itself to be almost the complete opposite of what it claimed. The song 'Human Being' clearly reveals how Carlos II and his lyrics are anything but complex and intricate on every level. Rather, Carlos proves his lyrics to be insipid, sugar-coated clichés when he sings: "I'm just a human being, full of hope in my dreams, I'm just a human being, that always keeps the strength and all the faith to walk ahead." Carlos continues with his "complex" lyrics stating: "I do laugh and I do cry." To describe Carlos's lyrics most aptly is to say that they are like the bad attempt of a dreamy seventh grader sincerely trying to come to grips with his confusion-filled pre-teen life. But Carlos is a grown man and,

ROCK/POP/FUNK

Wednesday 2/10

Wife Nelson and Family @ Tramps

Frogwings w/ Alman Brothers @ Wetlands

Fun Lovin' Criminals @ Irving Plaza

DJ Spooky @ Knitting Factory

Thursday 2/11

The Fys @ Bowery Ballroom

Saturday 2/13

Sloan @ Bowery Ballroom

Monday 2/15

Busta Rhymes @ Roseland

Tuesday 2/16

Rusted Root @ William Patterson University (Rec Center)

COMING UP...

Friday 2/19

The Samples @ Irving Plaza
Sugar Say w/ Everlast @ Roseland

Friday 2/26

Conehead Buddha @ Wetlands

Saturday 2/27

Lunchlicks @ Conny Island High
Sonic Youth @ Hammerstein Ballroom

Sunday 2/28

The Offspring @ Roseland

GET NAKED... WITH YO LA TENGO

By Karla Repple

In Spanish, for those of you who took French like me, "Yo La Tengo" means "I have it." In every way, I think it is fair for this band to say they have it. I am actually not very informed about Yo La Tengo and I do not own any of their albums, but have always meant to. Thus, when the opportunity arose to head to Tramps on a chilly Friday night to listen to them play, I jumped on it. I was not sure what to expect, but soon I realized that I should have paid attention to Yo La Tengo much sooner.

My friends and I were a bit slow in getting out of Morningside Heights and timed our arrival so as to perfectly circumvent the opening bands and walk into Tramps moments before Yo La Tengo struck their first chords.

Tramps was so crowded that even the coat check was full. I started to get annoyed by the seemingly ubiquitous yuppies (e.g., the couple in front of me making out), but once I heard the music, I could no longer complain.

Yo La Tengo blends and layers distortion and experimental sounds over a reliable beat and harmony. The melody seems to float above everything else. They are talented musicians, and do not spend a lot of time jabbering—they really get to the business of playing music. It is difficult to explain their sound because it is rather original. At times they reminded me of the Velvet Underground; at other times, they seemed more energetic.

The band is comprised of a New Jersey-based couple, Ira and Georgia, plus a some-

times-changing third member on bass. Georgia plays drums and sings in a voice that is absolutely as smooth as coffee. Ira changes from playing the guitar to a drum machine/keyboard, all the while singing in a voice that provoked one of my companions to say "if I could make love to a voice, I would choose that voice." Georgia and Ira truly harmonize beautifully, but are also quite capable of solos. They played an hour long set consisting of a good mix of old and new songs from their albums on Matador, including "Autumn Sweater," and "I Can Hear the Heart Beating as One."

One of the most amazing songs was the last one the band played, that is, before two encores, during which Georgia mesmerized us with a soliloquy about young addiction. I was absolutely touched. After that, I did not think an encore was in order, as I did not believe that her song could be followed by anything suitable. However, after a few minutes of applause, I was ready for one of the more energetic songs that they played. During the last encore, a bizarre thing happened: a naked boy ran on stage and sang Yo La Tengo's last song for them into Ira's microphone. I thought this was a practice only found in the Atlanta house shows I frequented in high school, but apparently the trend has caught on in the Big Apple too. At any rate, I laughed hysterically, and was comforted to be informed that it wasn't just a "southern thing."

Karla Repple is a Barnard sophomore

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of February 10

JAZZ/SWING/BLUES

Wednesday 2/10

NYU Jazz Orchestra @ Birdland

Gavin Parker @ Finally Fred's

Wednesday 2/10-Sunday 2/14

T.S. Mink Sextet @ Iridium

Thursday 2/11

Funk Filharmonic @ Le Bar Bar

Thursday 2/11-Sunday 2/14

Patricia Barber & her Trio @

The Jazz Standard

Sunday 2/14

Flying Neutinos @

The Rodeo Bar

Tuesday 2/16-Sunday 2/21

Buster Williams Quartet @

The Village Vanguard

Live Swing every night @

Swing 46 & Don Hill's

COMING UP...

Monday 2/22

The Bacon Brothers @

The Bottom Line

Mondays 7-12midnight

Swing @ The Cotton Club

IF I COULD MAKE
LOVE TO A VOICE,
I WOULD CHOOSE
THAT ONE.

How to paint the town red

by Christy Thornton

If there's one thing that defines living in New York City, it's that it is expensive. Not only are we subject to five dollar cups of coffee and twenty-five dollar CDs, but when we attempt to leave our humble little neighborhood and go out to experience all of that which New York is famed to offer, we have to dig deeper into our pockets for a little fun.

However, being that this is the most culturally diverse city in the world, there must be stuff to do that doesn't make us have to consider taking another job in the library. The truth is, there are tons of ways to go out and have fun in the city without dishing out your life savings. So, for the first time in the *Bulletin*, we've compiled a listing of great upcoming events that are absolutely free. From comedy clubs, both professional and amateur, to poetry readings, film screenings, dancing and live music, opera and theater, art galleries and museums, and crazy, cross-genre, all-out entertainment, the city has so much to offer for so little.

GETTING INTO MUSEUMS FOR FREE

Some museums are always free (denoted by * in list below). Some have a suggested donation (denoted by \$). Others often have specific hours that are free, or in which you can pay what you wish (denoted below by PWYW). Keep yourself out of the museum café and you could actually get free artistic inspiration!

American Craft Museum 40 W. 53rd St. PWYW on Thursdays from 6-8pm.
Asia Society 725 Park Ave. Free Thursdays from 6-8pm.

Bronx Museum of the Arts 1040 Grand Concourse, Bronx. Free on Wednesdays.

Cooper-Hawitt National Design Museum 2 E. 91st St. Free on Tuesdays from 5-9pm.

International Center of Photography 1130 5th Ave. PWYW on Tuesdays from 6-8pm.

Jewish Museum 1109 5th Ave. PWYW on Tuesdays from 5-8pm.

Museum of Modern Art 11 W. 53rd St. Free with CUID (although some exhibits cost extra).

New Museum of Contemporary Art 583 Broadway. Free on Thursdays from 6-8pm.

New York Hall of Science 47-01 111th St, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens. Free on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2-5pm.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum 1071 5th Ave. PWYW on Fridays from 6-8pm.

Whitney Museum of American Art 945 Madison Ave. Free on Thursdays from 6-8pm.

American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters*

American Numismatic Society*

Forbes Magazine Galleries*

Hispanic Society*

Museum of American Illustration*

National Museum of the American Indian*

Police Academy Museum*

Sony Wonder Technology Lab*

Whitney Museum of American Art at Phillip Morris*

American Museum of Natural History*

The Cloisters \$

El Museo del Barrio \$

Metropolitan Museum of Art \$

Museum of American Folk Art \$

Museum of the City of New York \$

New York City Fire Museum \$

NEW YORK NIGHTLIFE ON LITTLE CASH

OK, so museums are fascinating and we love them, but we want nightlife! A huge genre of free entertainment in New York City is the no cover night. Bars often host great shows, live music and spinning, and let you in for free. And yeah, if you go out to a bar, most likely, you're going spend some money, but with a bit of willpower and a 9 a.m. class in the back of your mind you can see some really great performances. They're marked on the calendar below with an NC, and items are listed by date.

2/10 Two Scots 37 Ave. A b/w 2nd and 3rd Sts. An improv troupe boasting a hilarious performance. 10pm

2/10 Poetry Writing Workshop Riverside Library, 127 Amsterdam Ave. Poetry Writing at 6pm. Registration required. Call (212) 870 1810

2/10 Architecture Lecture Cooper Union, 51 Astor Pl. b/w 8th St and 3rd Ave. "De territorialization and the Withdrawal of the Line" by Harvard and Cooper U. professor N Bryson in Wollman Auditorium, Room 21E. 6pm

2/10 Diet and Nutrition! Consultation Integral Yoga Health Foods, 229 W. 13th, b/w 7th and 8th. Manu Dawson, manager of Integral Yoga answers your questions about natural foods and vitamins. Weekly, 4.30-6pm

2/10 Film: Kiss of the Spider Woman VOID, 16 Mercer @ Howard St. Stars Raul Julia, William Hurt, Sonia Braga, Jose Lewgoy. Doors at 8pm, show at 8.30

2/10 "Fast Blood" by Judy Tate Ensemble Studio Theater, 549 W. 52nd, b/w 10th and 11th Aves. Part of a celebration of African-American women playwrights, this performance runs Tuesdays through Sundays through the 21st. There's a suggested dona-

without going into the red

- tion of \$7, but, heck, it's suggested. Reservations required, called (212) 247-4982. 8pm.
- 2/10 David Baxler Quintet w/ Joe Magnarelli (NC)** Detour, 349 E. 13th St. @ 1st Ave. Voted the Best No-Cover Jazz Bar 1996 by the New York Press, Detour hosts fabulous Jazz shows nearly every night, and there's never a cover charge.
- 2/10 Shoes: A Lexicon of Style** FIT Museum, 27th Street @ 7th Ave., ends 4/17. The museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology ponders the significance of shoes in so many women's lives...the average woman owns twelve pairs of shoes - betcha didn't know that one, didya? Tuesday - Friday 12-8pm, Saturday 10-5pm
- 2/11 Women in Science Panel** NY Academy of Sciences, 2 E. 63rd St "Single Sex Schooling and the Science Education of Girls and Women" 6pm
- 2/11 Reading: Previously Untranslated Works** The New School, 66 w. 12th St. Joyce Carol Oates, Patrick McGrath, Jorie Graham and George Plimpton read previously unpublished or untranslated works of Nabokov, Chekov, Elizabeth Bishop and Djuna Barnes 7pm
- 2/11 "The Duke Downtown"** The Violet Café, 79 Washington Sq East Lecture by Vince Prudente, former member of Duke Ellington's Big Band. 7:30pm
- 2/11 "On the Verge"** by Eric Overmeyer Marilyn Monroe Theater, 115 E. 15th St. Performed by 4th year students at the Tisch School at the Lee Strassberg Theater Institute. 8pm.
- 2/11 Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale"** Julliard Drama Theater, 60 Lincoln Ctr. Plaza, 4th Fl. Julliard students. Free tickets required. Call (212) 769-7406 8pm.
- 2/11 Living Room Live** The Parlour, 250 W. 86th St. An all inclusive, genre-bending comedy showcase that boasts fresh weekly material. 7:30pm.
- 2/11 Shequida (NC)** Sullivan St. Lounge, 189 Sullivan St b/w Bleecker and Houston. Not your typical drag show, Shequida is a true original. Trained at Julliard, she has amazing range - she can flaunt it all the way from soprano to baritone. Incredibly funny and always astounding, this isn't a show you want to miss. 9pm.
- 2/11 Hamlet Theater** at West Park Church, 165 W. 86th, @ Amsterdam.
- 2/21 The Frog and Peach Theater Company,** including Austin Pendleton and Ted Surkowski, two fabulous Shakespearean actors, put on a show directed by Lynnea Benson. Thurs-Sat 7:30pm, Sun 3pm. Reservations are advised. Call (212) 946-5321.
- 2/11 Jimmy Nations Combo (NC)** Rodeo Bar, 375 #3rd Ave. @ 27th St Hillbilly swing from North Carolina rip it up at a fabulously redneck bar. 10pm.
- 2/12 Film: "I am Cuba"** MoMA, 11 W 53rd. 1964 film about Cuba and Russia. 7pm
- 2/12 The Astor Place Riots: Live Radio Drama** The Great Hall, Cooper Union, 7 E. 7th St @ 3rd Ave.. Suggested donation. 7pm.
- 2/12 Free Range Rat w/Eric Hipp and friends (NC)** Detour, 349 E. 13th St. @ 1st Ave
- 2/12 Jazz at MoMA** MoMA, 11 W, 53rd St The Steve Wilson Quartet. 5:30-8pm
- 2/12 The Niagras: Cadillac Moon (NC)** Rodeo Bar, 375 #3rd Ave. @ 27th Cabaret-rock with emotion. 10pm.
- 2/13 Eric Rasmussen Quartet (NC)** Detour, 349 E. 13th @ 1st Ave.
- 2/13 Theater Lecture** The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E 7th St. @ 3rd Ave. "The Rise and Fall of the Bowery Theater District" by theater historian Dr. Mary C. Hendersen. Downstairs at the Great Hall, 3pm.
- 2/13 Rockabilly A Go-Go (NC)** Rodeo Bar, 375 3rd Ave. @ 27th St.
- 2/13 Open Performance** Dixon Place, 258 Bowery The first ten people to sign up perform anything but stand-up for 10 minutes. Sign up at 7:30, performances at 8pm.
- 2/13 "On the Road with Duke Ellington"** The Met, 5th Ave at 82nd St Film during PWYW. Uris Center of Auditorium, 4 and 6:30pm.
- 2/13 Felber's Frolics (NC)** Ye Olde Trpple Inn, W 54th St near 8th Ave, Susie Felber hosts this all out comedy showcase featuring improv, stand-up and sketch. Twice weekly, Saturday and Tuesday, @ 10 30pm
- 2/13 Unman** Solo Arts Group, 36 W 17th St b/w 5th and 6th Aves An amazing one-man all improv performance where the lines are blurred between acting and reality Feeding off of the always suggestive audience, Scott Prendergast, better known as Unman, weaves a hilarious web of comedy leaving the audience wondering where they end and the performance begins Two performances 10 and 11:30pm.
- 2/14 Between Green (NC)** Soha, 988 Amsterdam Ave., b/w 108 and 109 Sts.
- 2/14 French Conversation** Barnes and Noble Chelsea, 675 5th Ave. @ 21st St An informal French discussion group, all levels welcome. Meets twice monthly. 4pm in the café.
- 2/14 Film: "Duel in the Sun"** A Different Light Bookstore, 151 W. 10th St. Directed by King Vidor. Boasts "one of the most insane movie films ever made." It should be noted that this film is a favorite of Pedro Almodovar. 7pm.
- 2/14 Così Fan Tutte** Julliard Theater, 65th St b/w Broadway and Amsterdam. The Julliard School hosts the collaboration of Mozart and Da Ponte in this timelessly cynical opera. The

show is free, but advanced tickets are required. To reserve, call (212) 769-7406.

Shows on the 10th, 12th and 14th @ 8pm.

2/14 Open Mic Night: "Agony and Ecstasy"

Karma, 228 W. 4th St. A theme is provided for artists of all mediums every Sunday night. 8pm.

2/15 The Swing Set (NC) Detour, 349 E. 13th St. @ 1st Ave.

2/15 Easy Mondays Clementine, 1 5th Ave. @ 8th St. Bring some friends, or come prepared to make new ones as you strike up classic games that make you yearn for your youth, such as Life, Boggle, Sorry and Trouble, munch on way-too-sugary candy and listen to the music of DJ Shorty, who spins classic 70's pop. Weekly, 10pm.

2/15 Blue: A Bolder Shade of Comedy Indigo, 487 Amsterdam b/w 83rd and 84th Lounge setting with big name "all comedy," every Monday, 8 30pm

2/15 Rocket To Vaudeville Baby Jupiter, 170 Orchard St @ Stanton St. Open-mic comedy where the best of the scene can be seen

Expect big names and wacky performances. Mondays, 9:30pm.

2/16 Swing Dancing The Violet Café, 79

Washington Square East. Jump on the bandwagon and dance to the sounds of Duke Ellington's Big Band. No dress code, but hey, it's fun, so why not? 7:30pm.

2/16 The Matt Kane Quartet (NC) Detour, 349 E. 13th St. @ 1st Ave.

2/16 Philosopher's Forum Barnes and Noble Chelsea, 675 5th Ave. @ 21st St. Louis Marhoff meets to discuss the importance of time, space, truth and beauty at the end of the millennium. 7pm.

2/16 Comedy Brothel Exile, 117 W. 70th St. @ A weekly pros-only stand-up show. 9pm.

2/16 Easy Star Reggae Tuesdays (NC) Black Star, 2nd Ave, @ 5th St. Easy Star records hosts reggae all night starting @ 8pm every Tuesday.

2/16 China Chic: East Meets West FIT Museum, 27th Street @ 7th Ave. Runs through 4/24. The Fashion Institute of Technology Museum with an exhibit tracing

the evolution of Chinese fashion, and its influence on western fashion. See hours above.

2/17 Neal Sugarman Threes (NC) Soha, 988 Amsterdam Ave. b/w 108 and 109 Sts.

2/17 Owen Howard Quartet (NC) Detour, 349 E. 13th St. @ 1st Ave.

2/17 Choreography by Doug Varone World Financial Center, Winter Garden. The technical level of Varone's choreography is said to be astounding. 6:30pm.

2/17 Conversation: African Heritage Month Public Library, 203 W. 115th St. Reading and Conversation with Brian Keith Jackson, author of "Walking Through Mirrors." Part of the celebration of African Heritage Month. 5pm.

Well, now you've got no excuse. and don't give me that "three dollars for a metrocard" business, you can even walk to some of this stuff. Now, get off of your bum and see what New York is really about. for free!

Well Woman: Male performance anxiety

Q: My boyfriend can't (shall we say "get it up") perform. What can I do to help him with this problem?

A: It sounds as though your boyfriend is nervous or possibly feels pressure to perform. Most men our age don't have medical problems with maintaining an erection. The best thing to do is to help him relax by getting his mind off sex and his

penis, and pay attention to his whole body.

You can help him get comfortable by massaging him all over while he relaxes, and tell him that the point of the massage is just to help him relax—not a way to help him get an erection. Take the emphasis off sex completely. Also, to ease the situation, you two should talk about what you are each experiencing during the frustration. Opening communication lines will provide for more intimacy and pleasure.

Obviously, you should never criticize or

make undermining comments about the current problem. With lots of tenderness and sensitivity, the problem will most likely go away on its own. There is a very small chance that this could be a medical problem, but if it is, drugs such as Viagra are available by prescription.

For more information about being physically intimate without having sex, stop by the Well Woman office at 135 Hewitt

"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.

Make a Difference in the Lives of Children

Volunteer or work-study
for the America Reads Challenge

- The America Reads Program needs your help to teach reading and writing skills and to be a positive influence on elementary children in the area.
- Work-study available \$7.50 - \$12/hr.
- Volunteer at least once a week from 3pm to 6pm weekdays.
- Take the challenge and make a lasting difference!
- For more information, please contact:
Randy Larsen or Martina Olzog
x38419 x32028
or e-mail at RWL9@Columbia.edu

Mita's Musings
Mita's Musings
Mita's Musings

Tuning out of Reality

For a few years now, I have struggled with this shameful secret. It is not just something I can tell anyone I meet. A handful of my close friends know the truth. Some might say that it is an addiction, an illness, a severe sickness.

Unknown to most, I am a 'closet fan' of *Sunset Beach*.

Sunset Beach, a product of the marketing genius Aaron Spelling, is a place where nothing is impossible. Each week I am haunted by the same thoughts: will Caitlin find out that her mother Olivia and her husband Cole had an affair? Is Gregory or Cole the father of Olivia's baby? When will Gabie realize that she is meant to be with Antonio? And the ultimate cliffhanger will Ben choose his current love Meg or his wife Maria who has come back from the dead? I doubt even God could answer such burning questions.

Barnard College could be my *Sunset Beach*. I always think that there have to be more Caseys and Bens in this world. Even so, there may be a bit of a problem. No good-looking lifeguards running around to save me from drowning in the sparkling blue water. The handsome millionaire desperately trying to capture my heart has been reported missing. No amount of gel is keeping that hair in place. My battle with a healthy diet is not giving me the perfect body. The stress of 18 credits is not doing wonders for my complexion. In my half-disillusioned state, overdosed on cappuccino and diet Pepsi, I come to this realization at 3am: it's just me in my over-sized flannel pajamas and the thrilling words of Kafka. Stacks of German vocabulary words. Unopened bills and unreturned phone messages. My brain is on overload.

While my interest in *Sunset Beach*, and yes *Lifetime* made-for-TV-movies as well, may be classified as a sickness, I am not the only one who suffers in silence. Hundreds of my fellow Barnard women suffer with me as well. *Felicity*, *Dawson's Creek*, *Party of Five*, *Ally McBeal*, *X-Files*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *ER* all draw crowds of women to lounges each evening, smooshed together on couches entranced by the TV set, yearning for more. I wonder if George Clooney can even fathom the amount of women in college dorms across America coming together for one common cause: to catch a glimpse of that smirk.

What is it that causes so many brilliant, outstanding women to

engage in such anti-intellectual activities? We could be using that time to study, do laundry, or catch up on sleep. I could be watching the Learning Channel, an A&E Biography, or a National Geographic special.

My father is the only person I know who is absolutely captivated by TV specials about Stephen Hawking. Nothing excites him more than PBS. He highlights using various different color-codes on all of his leisure reading. Keep in mind that he is an engineer who cannot get enough of *Scientific American* and anything having to do with physics and astronomy. And yet all I can hear are the waves crashing on *Sunset Beach*.

A few weeks ago my friend was interested in finding a television to watch an interview that the King of Jordan was giving on CNN. She and I spent a good part of that Sunday evening wandering through the Quad into each and every lounge, only to find mobs of women watching either *X-Files*, or the Golden Globes. It is a sad state of affairs when what Gwyneth Paltrow is wearing to the Golden Globes is of more importance than the words of a nation's leader.

If you give your average Barnard woman the choice between *Allure* or *Newsweek* magazine, she most probably is more intrigued by "the Ten Make-over Commandments" than "U.S. Presses Air Attacks on Iraq in a Low-Level War of Attrition." As one of my friends pointed out to me, taking time out of your day to unwind is not about engaging in thought-provoking activities. "I want to be taken into a better reality, and not a reality that is more depressing than our world. It's all about having fun." Perhaps then I can find a statistical correlation between the number of credits a Barnard Woman takes per semester, and the amount of *Mademoiselle*, *US*, and *Vogue* Magazines mail services stuffs into her mailbox.

For now, I have succeeded in having a 'Sunset Beach-free' semester. Although I am now entering the early stages of withdrawal, my mind is occupied by countless tasks left to complete. I have also sworn off all fashion magazines, unless of course they are written in French or German, the justification being: what better way to gain proficiency than to learn how to say "Can Cellulite Be Cured?" in French? Sometimes during the wee hours of the morning, I find myself waiting for that lifeguard to come and rescue me from my sea of books. Well I can still dream, can't I?

Mita Mallick is a Barnard junior and a Bulletin columnist.

Sharing the City with Celebrities

By Sara Keane

An extraordinary circumstance befell me last semester. I was standing on the corner of Great Jones and Broadway in the Village when it happened. My little sister was visiting from Colorado and we were wrapping up a long day of shopping. We were headed to the last store on our list, Canal Jean Company, as we pulled up to Great Jones and waited for the signal to cross the street. I was looking back and forth, hoping we could dash in-between cars and be on our way when I noticed a familiar face to my left. It did not take me long to realize that I was standing next to Leonardo DiCaprio, and it took me even less time to communicate the exciting information to my sister, whose response was, of course, sheer ecstasy. I was abuzz with excitement, too (I admit it, I loved him in *Titanic*), but I felt severely disoriented more than anything else.

It is like the twilight zone around here sometimes, as you pass Calista Flockhart (star of *Ally McBeal*) on the street, or run into Jerry Seinfeld at a subway exit. I'm having trouble acclimating myself to a climate where stars share the sidewalk with random girls like me. This is an amazing place, this New York City. Regular old people can breathe the same air as movie stars. Some folks are unimpressed by the big names and do not bat an eyelash if they find themselves at the dinner table with Brad Pitt and Gwyneth Paltrow (my suitemate had such an encounter, and honestly did not think it was a big deal). But, as far as I am concerned, passing these people on the street is astounding. Actually, it is mind-boggling.

You see, out West, we never see anyone

of DiCaprio or Pitt caliber, and we grow up admiring TV and movie stars without ever really getting a sense of their humanity. There is something shocking about standing next to a pop culture icon and realizing that they are not as separate from you as you might think. They are basically the same as everyone else. I say basically because they are clearly very different from the common man when considering only the surface, but when it comes down to the simple facts of life, there just are not that many differences

among us

Sure, celebrities

tend to

be more

attractive

than

your

average

Joe.



average Joe, but they are not as ethereal as the big screen makes them look (DiCaprio was cute, but not exceptional). The stars walk around the city just like the rest of us, and though their professions put them in a category to which many do not relate, they are, after all, just people. They get sick, they go to the bathroom everyday, and they probably get their hearts broken once in a while.

It seems like common sense should alert us to the fact that movie stars aren't superhu-

man, and many people's common sense has done just that. However, there are those of us who are taken aback every time we cross paths with a celebrity. Screaming and pointing does not always ensue, but surprise and excitement almost always does. It only makes sense that this would be the case: it is thrilling to see someone who inhabits the imaginary world of film appear in real life.

A celebrity sighting can electrify almost anyone. This summer, I was in Midtown with a very somber and unflappable friend of mine named Brett. Brett is a *Star Wars* fan of magnificent proportions and was thus truly thrilled when we ran across Harrison Ford (Han Solo) as he was en route to an appearance at *The David Letterman Show*. It is important to note that Brett prides himself on his self-control, because it underscores how out of character his behavior was: he was yelling hello to Ford and waving his arms above his head as if he had no self-respect whatsoever. Of course, everyone else that saw Ford was doing the same thing, which proves just how deeply our fascination with celebrities goes.

There is some strange kind of cultural hierarchy that places movie stars far above average Americans and minimized the similarities between the two groups. It takes a while for the awe to subside; but when it does, it dawns on us that we are all just people, famous or not. I am not sure how I conceived of celebrities before I shared a city with them, but now I feel an abstract connection between us. Maybe next time I run into DiCaprio I will not be too star-struck to say hello.

Sara Keane is a Barnard junior.

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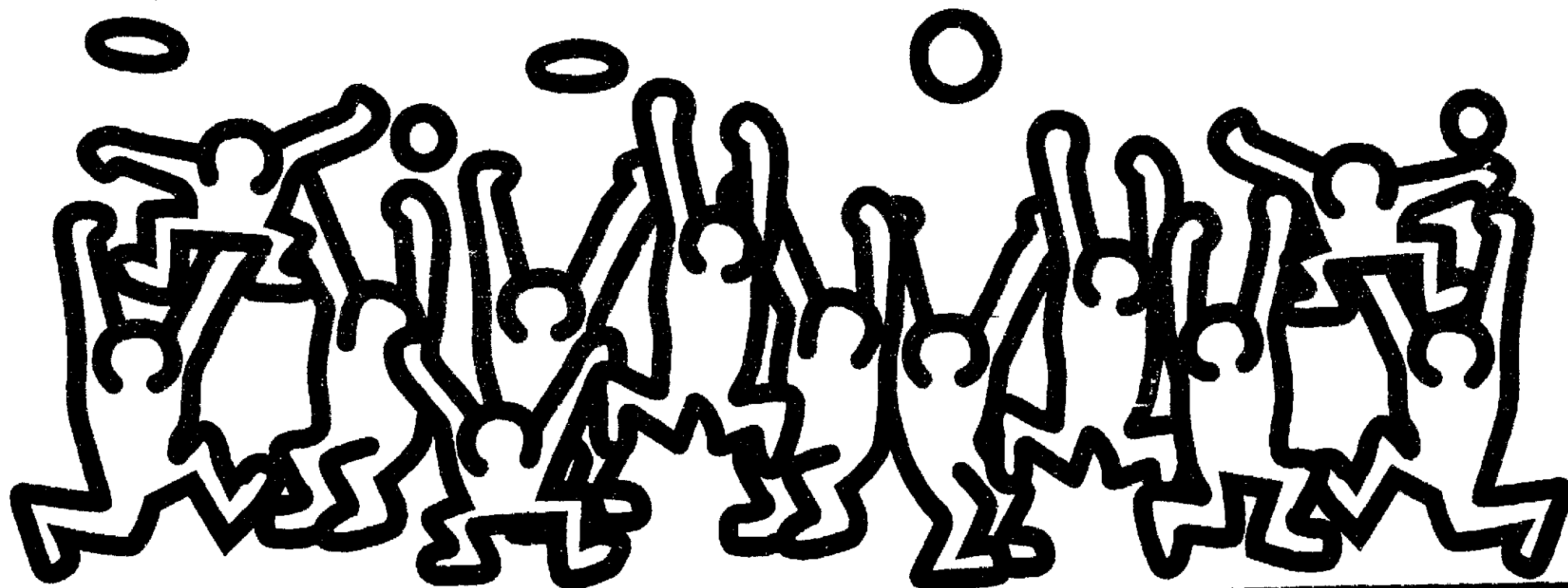
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