

And here we are again (do I start these things out the same way every week?). Last week's idea of going through the issue and highlighting certain articles of interest worked so well, I thought I might try it this week too. Oh, did I mention that it is Tuesday morning and I have been sick all weekend and I am still sick and if I don't do this thing as soon as possible, the paper won't get out on time, and that talking about what's in this issue is the easiest way to fill up this space without totally copping out? If only we could be so honest in essays for class. **Note for the professor: the next few paragraphs are padding to make my 12pt. Courier New-font essay fill out the 25 pages you require, thanks**

So anyways. We start out in the news section with an interesting piece on immigrant taxi drivers in New York City, as a recounting of a lecture in Barnard's Forum on Migration series. So many things that hold up the infrastructure of this city go unnoticed (by me, at least), and I know I rarely ever think about the origins of other New Yorkers. Chances are that they, like me, are not from around these parts. I bet it would blow my mind to pull ten people off the street at any one given time and ask them where they were before they came to New York.

Another article which touches upon the theme of foreign roots is the review

of the movie *Whiteboys* in the arts section. The film is about white Iowa farm-boys who have embraced hip hop culture as their own, a phenomenon probably not too unfamiliar for any urbane teenager in the world these days. Its not just white boys who have caught the bug; every "race" I can think of has a large contingency of people who (try to) live the hip hop way. I guess the reason the reviewers of *Whiteboys* found this movie so amusing is because American society has finally allowed us to make fun of the white male majority, and laugh when they try to be anything other than homebred whiteboys. Ha, its about time.

Staying on the subject of those out of their element, this week Mita muses on life as a shorty in a culture where tallness is what's valued. She even has a picture from the Ricky Martin concert of her horrible view of the tops of other people's head. I cant really sympathize because usually at shows it is I who block other people's views. All I can say to all the tiny people out there: I am sorry you can't see over my hair when I tease it up (fairly often), but heck I paid just as much to see the show as you did.

Goodness, I didn't get to talk about much, and already my space is up. So my faithful, see you next week— hopefully I won't be sick again.



CONTRIBUTORS

Junior Celia Washington is from Atlanta and is the new NYC Living Editor of the *Bulletin*. Majoring in Sociology and Pan-African Studies, Celia plans to attend law school after graduating from Barnard. Her interests include movies, music, and literature. This summer, Celia visited Cuba for a month and described that this experience, "opened me up to traveling and a different society"

Zehra Mamdani is a first-year student who likes Barnard for being small yet big, and for its New York City environment. She is from New Jersey and enjoys writing, art, museums, and horseback riding. Next semester, Zehra hopes to join Columbia's equestrian team. Although currently undecided about her major, Zehra is looking toward computer science, science, and journalism in the future

Karen Spector is a sophomore and is originally from New Jersey. When asked about her interests, Karen said that she was interested in fruit, specifically organically grown fruit, and enjoys cooking anything and everything. Karen intends to create her own major which will include visual arts. In the future, Karen says with a chuckle, that she would like to be a rock star or Andy Warhol

ZEHRA
MAMDANI

KAREN
SPECTOR

Barnard **Bulletin**

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cover photo by Jessica Jaffe

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Barnard Events Calendar... Oct 6-13

THU, OCT 6 & FRI, OCT 8

First Year Elections McIntosh Student Center and Hewitt Hall For information, see event postings or contact the College Activities Office at x4-2096

THU, OCT 7

McAC Welcomes Author Anna Quidien '74 to Barnard Reception to follow For information, see event postings or contact the College Activities Office at x4-2096 7pm, Lower Level McIntosh

The Gildersleeve Lecture Series "No Constitutional Right to Be Ladies Citizenship and Feminist Activism" A lecture and discussion with Linda Kerber '60 May Brontbeck Professor in the Department of History and Government work on women and civic responsibility For information please contact the Office of Special Events and Summer Programs at x4-8021 4pm, The James Room, fourth floor Barnard Hall

FRI, OCT 8

'Dying to Be Thin' A Conference on Body Image and Eating Disorders For information, call x4 2067 9am Barnard Hall Lobby

FRI, OCT 8 & SAT, OCT 9

Celebrating 60 Years of American Studies at Barnard A two-day conference Reception and birthday celebration for the American Studies Program will follow in the James Room The conference continues on Saturday with seven roundtable discussions. << page 6 >>

Immigrants Share Their Plight

by Zehra Mamdani

The bittersweet song of immigrant life is perhaps the most catching tune heard in America, particularly on the streets of New York City. Home to more than two million foreigners, New York City is the epicenter of immigrant life. Walking around the City is a daily reminder of how many immigrants—live, work and struggle in the Big Apple. One obvious reminder of this fact is the City's taxi drivers.

NYC cab drivers have developed a reputation for being horrendous drivers, road hogs, and universally foreign. However, the nameless men and women behind the glass of the taxi cab are more than just stereotypes—many are struggling immigrant workers who came to America from native homelands with corruption, greed, bad governments, and large corporations. Many have been exploited by the US and other capitalist societies, says Bhairavi Desai, the leader of the Organizing Committee of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA). A recipient of the New York Magazine Award, which commended her for her role in building the alliance, Desai spoke at Barnard College, on Thursday September 23, as part of the Barnard Forum on Migration, a continuing effort by Barnard College to educate and understand the different backgrounds, cultures, and ideas at Barnard and beyond. Desai, grateful for the opportunity to speak at Barnard, presented facts on the plight of taxi drivers in New York, focusing on the Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi community, who make up most of the NYTWA.

A native of India, Desai spoke on the rigors of assimilating into American society, incorporating bitter childhood memories of prejudice and racism into her talk. The main goal of the alliance, she says, is to protest and improve the punitive conditions of NYC taxi drivers. The

police and Mayor Giuliani have made it harder for taxi drivers to make a living, she says. Already working an average of twelve to eighteen hours a day with no paid pension, no health care, no insurance, limited money, and very little time to spend with their families, cab drivers now have to deal with tickets from police "for no justifiable reason," and a "racist" Mayor who will not negotiate or meet with the NYTWA.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, a cab driver for 18 years, is bitter about the deplorable conditions of cab drivers and disillusioned with Giuliani's quality of life campaign about labor. He claims it is not focused on making a better life for laborers, but rather "putting labor in its place", which is sweeping the "black and brown faces" off the streets of New York.

The views the NYTWA presented at Barnard's Forum on Migration were not readily accepted by all members of the audience. Although many were respectful of the alliance's struggles and goals, one man, who identified himself as a supporter for the taxi drivers' cause, but not for Giuliani's campaign, vehemently argued that the mayor was not a racist, but just "a man that doesn't like anyone." He was repeatedly asked to "stop interrupting" and "stay quiet" until finally he was asked to "shut up." This outburst was a minor example of the hostility that Desai, members of the NYTWA, and the taxi drivers in New York have to deal with. Despite the resentment that NYC's mayor, police, newspapers and society have for taxi drivers and other working immigrants of color, Bhairavi Desai along with the members and supporters of the NYTWA will not stop working for their cause and will continue laboring for "political solidarity [in the United States] in keeping with what happens back home."

Zehra Mamdani is a Barnard first-year

"IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK—I THINK" is a group for students who have returned to Barnard after withdrawing from school for some time and would like to talk to others in the same situation. We will be meeting on Thursdays from 5:50 to 6:30 pm in the Well-Woman Office, 135 Hewitt. Anyone who withdrew for any reason is welcome! For more information call x4-2091 and ask to speak to Giselle Harrington.

COPING WITH LOSS: The Counseling Service offers a support group for students who have experienced the death of a parent(s) or sibling any time in the past (recent or long ago). If this loss is still affecting your life, please join us every Friday at 11am in the Health and Counseling Service conference room. Everything you say there will be held in strictest confidence. The death of parents or siblings can be very isolating. In this group, everyone will be able to understand your feelings and reactions, no matter what they are. If you are interested, or simply want more information, please call and speak to Giselle Harrington, M Ed., psychotherapist and group facilitator, at x4-2091.

LIBRARY WORKSHOPS: Weekly walk-in workshops are held at the Reference Desk on the second floor of the Library as follows:

NEXIS Tuesday at 4:15pm **Searching the Web**
Wednesday at 4:15pm. No sign-up is required. You may want to consult the Library web page for more information about library demos 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, catalogues, 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 second floor of the library or by completing the consultation form on the Library's home page and submitting it to

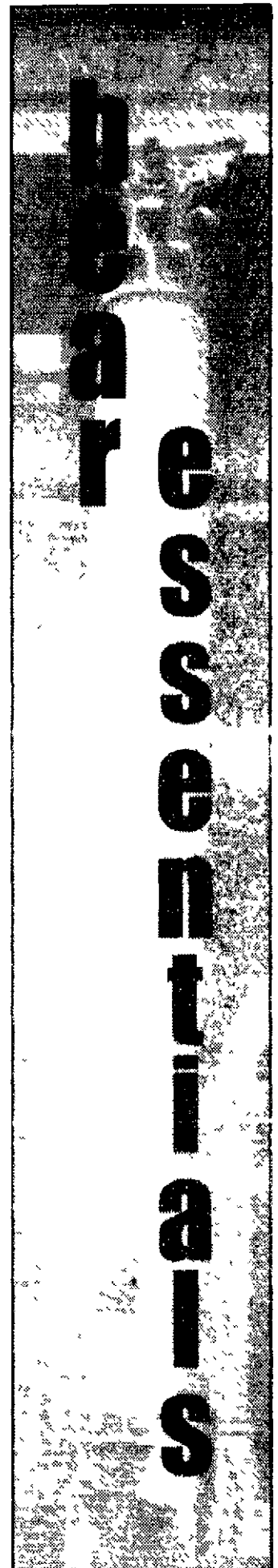
refdesk@barnard.columbia.edu. Please supply specific information about your research topic to the reference librarian and allow a sufficient number of working days for the librarian to prepare for the session.

MATH HELP ROOM, 333 Milbank Hall, is open evenings, 7–10pm, Monday through Wednesday, for students in non-math courses that include computation and analysis. Daytime hours are for students enrolled in calculus or lower level math courses: Monday, 9:30am – 5pm; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10am – 5pm, Thursday, 10am – 2pm and 3 – 5pm; and Friday, 10am – 4pm. Please check the web at www.math.columbia.edu and look for the Milbank Math Help Room for any changes to the current schedule.

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIPS: Juniors with very strong academic records who are considering graduate school and a career in public service may wish to consider applying for a Truman Scholarship. For further information, please call x4-2024 and sign up for Dean Schneider's information session, which will be held on Thursday, October 28 at 6pm (call x4-2024 for an appointment). 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 an exceptionally strong academic record and a history of receiving financial aid as undergraduates. 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, x4-2024

FEBRUARY 2000 GRADUATES: Diploma Name cards for February 2000 graduates should be turned in to the Registrar's Office by Friday, October 8, 1999.



Celebrating Sixty Years of American Studies at Barnard

Barnard College, one of the first colleges in the nation to have an American Studies program, will mark its sixtieth anniversary with a two-day conference examining American culture and society.

The conference opens Friday, October 8 at 4:30pm with a keynote address entitled "Angles of Vision: What American Studies Has Been; What American Studies Might Be" by Linda Kerber '60, Professor of History at University of Iowa.

"Barnard was an undergraduate pioneer in American Studies," said Kathryn Johnson, Director of American Studies at Barnard. "Because the field has changed so dramatically—mirroring our changing view of the United States—we thought this would be an opportune time to look both back and ahead."

Barnard's American Studies program began in 1938-39 under the direction of former President Virginia Gildersleeve. Gildersleeve encouraged the students to "crystallize in their minds the nature of that American Way of life they would... soon be called upon to defend." The course was short on theory but demanded that students learn details of America's political history few faculty would know today, and insisted that women had a role to play in American political and cultural life.

After World War II—when other colleges began to form their own departments—Barnard changed the program's name to American Civilization. The term reflected a desire, bolstered by grants from the Mellon Foundation, that the field more closely described the American character. The Cold War conception of American Studies reached its peak in the '50s and '60s with the myth of American exceptionalism, the notion that America's status as the leading world

power was a result of the unique character of its citizens forged in a culture which prized individualism and entrepreneurship.

The 1960s were defined by the examination of minority groups whose history had been neglected in comparison to the history of majority groups. In the 1970s and '80s, American Studies entered a period of flux as other merging disciplines, such as Women's Studies, examined its qualified areas of study and took up some of its concerns.

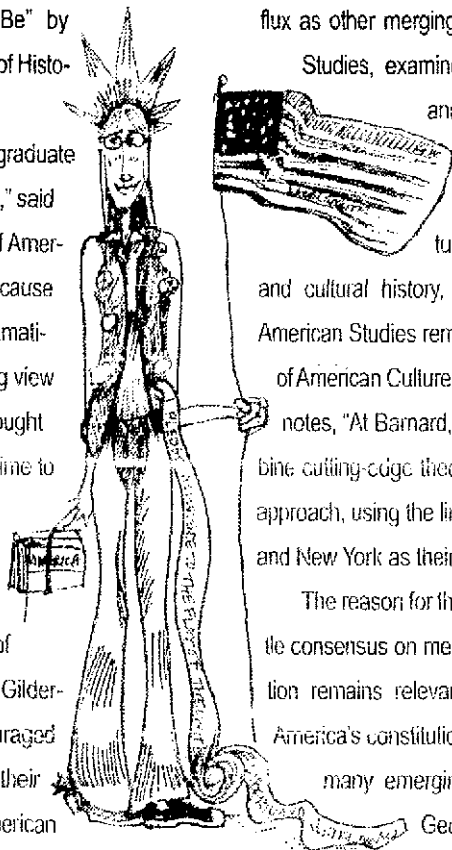
Today, enriched by a variety of disciplines including cultural studies, literature, history and cultural history, and on-line study, interest in American Studies remains strong, even as definitions of American Culture grow more diverse. As Johnson notes, "At Barnard, American Studies majors combine cutting-edge theories of culture with a hands-on approach, using the limitless resources of the internet and New York as their laboratory."

The reason for the resurgence? While there is little consensus on methodology, the underlying question remains relevant, especially at a time when America's constitutional democracy is the model for many emerging nations, and analysts from George Soros to Michael Sandel are arguing for the importance of culture in sustaining the democratic impulse.

"Is there something that defines us as a country? In the '50s and '60s, there was an answer and it was yes," said Johnson. "Today, there is much less consensus on that answer, but there's a continuing interest in the question: What does it mean to be an American?"

The conference is made possible by a grant from the Virginia C. Gildersleeve Fund of Barnard College. For information, contact Tiffany Dugan at x4-8021. Enrollment for the conference is limited. The conference fee is \$20, walk-in registration is \$25.

—courtesy of Office of Public Affairs



... Oct. 6-13

... Room,
Barnard Hall

MON, OCT 11
Barnard Women in Judaism Forum
"LAPS, Jewish Mothers, and Ghetto
Girls: The Challenge of Gender for
Twentieth Century American Jews"
A lecture and discussion with Riv-
Ellen Prell, associate professor
American Studies at the University
of Minnesota. 5:30-8pm, location
TBA

WED, OCT 13 & THU, OCT 14
Fall Blood Drive. For information,
see event postings or contact the
College Activities Office at x4-2096.
11:30am-4:45pm. McIntosh
Student Center

THU, OCT 14
Barnard Forum on Migration: "Great
Railway Journeys of the World: Mali
and Senegal" A screening and dis-
cussion with Manthia Diawara,
director of the Africana Studies
Program, and the Institute of
African-American Affairs, NYU. For
information, please call x4-9011.
7pm, Sulzberger Parlor

Gender Matters in Science: "The
Logic of Difference: Race and
Gender in the History of Medicine."
A lecture and discussion with
Evelynn Hammonds, associate pro-
fessor of the History of Science,
MIT. For information, call x4-2067.
6:30-8pm, Altschul Atrium.

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Closing the Computing Gender Gap



by Tamar Abraham

When I first agreed to write an article related to women and computing, there was a doubt in the back of my mind as to whether I would have enough information. What is so specific about the information technology field, or computer science, for that matter, that it has to be broken down based on gender?

Surprisingly, even though computers are transforming virtually every workplace across the industrial spectrum, there seems to be a serious technological gap between the sexes. Fewer women are reportedly earning degrees in computer science. This comes despite the fact that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be an almost 70 percent growth in computer and data processing jobs by the year 2005. Ironically, today there are nearly 200,000 information technology jobs today that employers are scrambling to fill.

Other statistics point to the fact that the gender gap does not even start from the workplace, or higher education, for that matter. In 1997, girls made up only 17 percent of high school students who took the advanced placement exam in computer science. Among students who took the SATs in 1996, 29 percent of boys reported that they had taken computer-programming courses. For girls, the figure was 20 percent, according to *Computers and the Classroom*, published last year by the Policy Information Center of the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. Boys were also more likely to use computers to solve math and natural science problems, and to report that they had experience or course-work in computer literacy, according to the study.

Why should these statistics be a concern?

For one thing, (the reluctance of women to embrace computer science may be a reason for complaints that the field of information technology—offering well-paying careers in such fields as systems analysis and programming—is woefully understaffed. According to the Department of Labor, the percentage of women holding information technology jobs is dwindling to 29 percent.

So what is causing the gender gap?

I set out to find some answers and see what others had to say. Solana Nolfo, Bulletin business manager, interned this summer at GirlGeeks?™, a company which, according to their website, is dedicated to promoting the female side of computing through interactive websites and other media outlets. An

interview by Soledad O'Brien with executive producer Kristine Hanna revealed some interesting conclusions about the gender gap.

According to Hanna, "there are a lot of girls out there who want to be in technology, who want to be in computing. The problem is they don't know how to do it, they don't know where the role models are." Other obstacles preventing young women from entering the field is that "they still have that stereotype that it's not cool to be smart and that it's not cool to sit at a computer. They don't see the role models out there who are cool. . . wonderful women who are using the computer to create better lives for themselves and to make the world a better place."

Andrew Blaner, Associate Director for Technical Support Services at Barnard, agreed. According to Blaner, many people shy away from computer science because of the stereotypical images associated with the field. He said that people wrongfully perceive it as a dry, impersonal job spent in a cubicle working hours on end, inputting lines of code into a machine.

Are there differences in how women and men approach computers? Blaner is quick to point out that, given the proper training and opportunities to learn first hand, anyone can enter the field. Bhavana Nancherla '02, a math major and residential computing assistant (RCA) added, "although in terms of classes I don't notice that there are less girls, there seems to be a gap in terms of computer literacy." From her RCA experience she has noticed that while many girls express an interest in computers, many aren't attempting to learn computer tasks—from installing an Ethernet card to relatively common jobs such as saving files to disk. This shying away of dealing with computers as tools may possibly affect an interest to learn computer science. She defined computer science as "the ability to break down a problem

into steps." Too often, females are caught up in the stereotype that they are only good at the humanities. Many girls are taught to believe that science and math are inherently male, and as a result, will not attempt to excel in these subjects. Nancherla agrees that computer science should not be gender-biased. She made mention of the fact the most people she knows studying computers are "extremely good at what they do."

Whatever the reasons for this gap, the declining presence of women in information technology has not gone unnoticed. Many schools are now trying to lessen the gender difference by changing the way they present science to students. For instance, a study commissioned by MIT found that women majoring in electrical engineering and computer science felt

Statistics show that women take fewer computer sciences classes, enter computer professions less frequently than men, and show reluctance to perform basic computer tasks. Are Barnard women at a technological disadvantage?

less prepared than their peers who were majoring in other disciplines. The study mentioned some recommendations, which would avoid the preferential treatment of women, while attempting to decrease the gender gap. Suggestions included offering a course that is designed for first-year students (both women and men) who may be interested in exploring electrical engineering or computer science, as well as sponsoring seminars in order to encourage students to meet and interact with professional women in both industries. They also intend to provide information for prospective students expressing an interest in the field

So let's say a Barnard student contemplates majoring in computer science or just sharpening her skills to advance in the technol-

ogy age: what does Barnard have to offer as far as support and classes? While Nancherla points out that Barnard and Columbia are not specifically known as technology-oriented schools, there are plenty of opportunities available for those who are interested. Raksa Ouk '01, a pre-med student, says she became a computer consultant at the Lehman lab in order to gain first-hand experience working with computers that one does not necessarily obtain from the classroom. Other options include becoming a residential computing assistant (RCA) or working at the Help-Desk. Basically, the key to getting ahead in the field is to take advantage of the available opportunities. According to Blaner, many of the students working in the labs are successful in obtaining jobs

and internships as a result of the skills gained at Barnard.

The best advice for those students contemplating entering the field of information technology is not to feel discouraged. Women seem to offer a different style to the profession. According to Hanna, "there are some things that women are, I think,

just better at than men. There is more collaboration, communication, getting through crises." But whether male or female, in an increasingly technical world, there is a greater demand for people who can span both the technical and non-technical aspects of a career. For living proof, look at Carly Fiorina. The hiring of this Hewlett-Packard CEO this summer set off waves in Silicon Valley when she became the first outsider to take the reins of this venerable computer giant—and the first woman to head a Dow 30 company. A note to Barnard humanity students: Fiorina double-majored in medieval history and philosophy.

Tamar Abraham is a Barnard first-year.

Photos by Eliza Bang.

ARTS CALENDAR

for the week of October 6

ART

Black Eastern: New Photographs on New York City. Urban beauty in unlikely places. Brent Sakoma, 530 W 22 St, 828-2262. Thru 10/16.

Daido Moriyama: Postwar Japanese photographer whose dark, brooding works drew inspiration from photographer William Klein, and the writing of Kerouac among others. Japan Society, 333 E 47 St, 752-3015. Thru 1/2; Laurence Miller, 320 W 57 St, 397-3930. Thru 10/30; Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5 Ave & 82, 535-7710. Thru 1/3.

Sensation: "Young British Artists From the Saatchi Collection" Saatchi, art collector, has an eye for buzz-worthy artists. Be prepared for controversy, possible revision, & spectacle. YBA are Damien Hirst, Jake and Dinos Chapman, Sarah Lucas, Tracey Emin, Rachael Whiteread, Mona Hatoum, Chris Offill, and many more. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5000. Thru 1/9.

Minimalia: An Italian vision in Twentieth Century art. Explores the trend toward simplification. P.S. 1 Contemporary Arts Center, 22-25 Jackson Ave & 46 Ave, around 21 St in Long Island City, Queens, (718) 784-2084. Opens 10/10.

THEATER

Octoberfest 1999: FREE! (so call for reservations) Short plays, stand-up, poetry, music, scenes, solo performances and many more performance arts brought to by the Ensemble Studio Theatre. Leslie Ayzavian, Arthur Giron, Kallulani Lee, Peter Maloney, and Tennessee Williams to drop a few names. 549 W 52 St, 247-4982. Thru 10/31.

Nirvananov: David Karl Lee's flamboyant rock musical combines 2 elements: Russian playwright Anton Chekhov's Ivanov with the Kurt Cobain tragedy The Piano Store. 158 Ludlow St, 420-1466.

Thwak: Australian performers David Collins and Shane Dundas, alias "Umbical Brothers" in this creative, wild, and silly comedy/mime performance. Minetta Lane Theater, 18 Minetta Lane, 307-4100.

The Phish Book: it Reels Ya in

by Sarah D'Ambruoso

When *The Phish Book* (Random House) first came out in hardcover in early 1998, I got a sneak peek at it through my brother, a die-hard Phish fan. I remember leafing through it, thinking that it looked like an interesting read if only I had the time. A year and a half later, *The Phish Book* has finally come out in paperback and the unofficial results are in: to put it simply, the book rocks. In *The Phish Book*, the Vermont-based band's story is told in a variety of ways—in fact, about two-thirds of the 188-page book consists of transcribed interviews with the bandmembers—which, for the cover price of \$19.95, is a real bargain. The other third of the book is comprised of over 200 previously unpublished pieces of art and photography "from the band's private archive," we are told in the press review. Indeed, some of the photos I could have done without, including the one of fleshy drummer Jon Fishman displaying the full Monty on stage in 1994.

Phish, whose record *A Picture of Nectar* was once labeled "Worst Album of the Year" by *People Magazine*, is now widely-recognized as a ground-breaking, innovative, experimental improv-rock band—a recognition that the band's fan base has maintained for over a decade. Phish fans by the millions are truly dedicated, loving, and sometimes scary fans whose sole purpose in life, it seems, is to traipse after the band while it's on tour, foregoing luxuries such as hot showers, warm beds, and proper nutrition all in the name of seeing as many shows as possible. The band is famous for the amount of love it bestows upon its fans, though, allowing bootleggers to circulate and trade illicit recordings of the live shows—a practice that makes record labels squeamish. Phish, however, graciously prefer not to dwell on the profit loss and copyright infringement issues, shrugging it off collectively

as free publicity. It is, in part, this democratic approach to the distribution of music that has inspired in Phish's fans a kind of cult-like devotion.

The critical accolades have not always flowed in for Phish. Phish is and always has been a populist band first and foremost. In 1995, just as Phish was really starting to make a name for themselves following the underground success of their first big-time studio album *Hoist* and their first live album *A Live One*, Jerry Garcia passed away. With the future of the Grateful Dead in limbo, many Deadheads adopted Phish (then on tour in North America) as the Dead's logical replacement and have never looked back. Phish, however, was labeled "the new Dead," and was ceaselessly compared to the older, stylistically different band. So part of Phish's project over the past three or four years has revolved around crawling out of the unwanted shadow of the Grateful Dead that so many critics cast over them. A crucial objective of the last couple of years has been to carve out their own identity in the history of rock as a means of getting beyond the rock critics who heard their music mainly as a montage of silly children's songs, heavy-handed Led Zeppelin influences, and wannabe jazz.

The results of this undertaking are well-documented in *The Phish Book*. Richard Gehr, an enthusiastic Phish fan and culture critic for such luminous publications as *The Village Voice*, *Spin*, *Rolling Stone*, *Mirabella*, *Salon*, and *Newsday*, spent 1997 following the band around its European and North American tours. Gehr devotes a lot of time and text to pinpointing defining moments in the band's history—such as the introduction of rock/jazz keyboardist Page McConnell to an embryonic, two-guitarists-and-a-drummer version of Phish in 1985; and the ground-breaking 1997 per- << page 22 >>

Whiteboys get a moment of glory

by Akiko Kurematsu and Melanie Linn

Whiteboys is directed by Marc Levin, produced by Henri Kessler, Richard Stratton and Ezra Swerdlow, stars Danny Hoch, Dash Millhok, and Mark Webber, and features rappers such as Snoop Doggy Dogg, Dr. Dre, Fat Joe, Slick Rick and Doug E. Fresh in guest appearances.

The movie starts with beautiful scenes of sweeping cornfields, curving dirt roads and lazy cows grazing on the vast Iowa farms. Hardcore rap lyrics blare in the background, and three "whiteboys" emerge, dressed in baggy pants with one leg exposed, FUBU shirts, sideways hats and gold chains around their necks; graffitiing up the barns in the middle of a farm while they bust out rhymes and beats. The story centers around Flip, James and Trevor, three boys born and raised in rural Iowa. They live with the stereotypes of being white, and have a hard time figuring out where exactly they belong in this world.

The plot introduces significant teenage issues such as identity, expression, and race, as well as sex, drugs, alcohol, violence, and peer pressure. The three boys try to find their true identities as they wonder why they are white, and Flip even exclaims how his white skin is the cause of too many birthmarks over his black skin. They look upon the extravagant Hip Hop and Rap artists in music videos with envy—the bundles of Benjamins in one hand, scarcely clothed women in the other, with guns, liquor, cigars and cars littered around them. They think, if only their skin were black, they'd have the glorious lives that they sketch. The movie comically illustrates how these white kids try to talk the talk, and walk the walk of black hip hop culture, calling each other "dawg," and "niggah," and it is funny to watch them copy the moves of their "homies."

Race is brought up cleverly when Khalid, a

smart, respectful black kid is instantly victimized and arrested during a police bust at a white party. Khalid, who neither drinks nor smokes pot, is the first one to be cuffed and thrown in to the back of the police car. Without exaggerating the point, this scene hints at the unfairness and discrimination still left in society today.

Sex, drugs, alcohol, violence and peer pressures are all touched upon lightly. Sex only occurs between Flip and his girlfriend Sara. It is apparent that they are having unprotected sex, and while she tells him to put a condom on, he doesn't, and Sara gets pregnant. Although this serious and immensely important issue surfaces, the characters react in a shallow and petty manner. Sara shows almost no emotional strain and considers her pregnancy and abortion with an almost carefree whimsy. Drugs, alcohol and violence show up throughout the film, and it is a realistic portrayal of how teenagers today treat dangerous substances lightly and with ease.

The story is overall comical, yet challenging and provocative. The characters are well built up, and they are reminiscent of real kids who are exactly like Flip, James or Trevor. While people can identify with the characters, the stereotypes are enforced too many times, in such an obvious fashion that it becomes bothersome and irritating. The end was also disappointing and trite.

At the very least, this movie is recommended to someone in the mood to laugh at some country red neck boys, while as can be, trying their best to be black. This is also a good movie for those who like rap culture; not only do famous rappers appear throughout the movie, the soundtrack is mostly of the HipHop and Rap genres. However, at its best, perhaps *Whiteboys* can even dare the audience to discover their own identities as well.

Akiko Kurematsu and Melanie Linn are
Barnard first-years

ARTS CALENDAR

[cont'd]

DANCE

Lincoln Dance Company: 1937 Dark Elegance. Special Member's 1938 Charleston. Andrew Taylor's 1937 Dark Elegance, and the premier of Doug Varone's The Plain Sense of Things to the Philip Glass score. Joyce Theater, 175 E Ave, 242-0001. Thu 10:17.

On Top: Weekly hip jam with Lafayette Horn. The jazz band. Sat at 8 & 10. Caffe Pony-Gro, 41 Clark, Bklyn, (718) 222-4488.

Charles Dennis: Mr. Remonville and My Dad and TV. Performance Space 122, 150 First Ave at 9 St, NYC, (212) 279-0410.

FILM

Boys Don't Cry: Girl moves to a new town, reinvents herself as a guy, love and tragedy ensue. Columbia alumna Kimberly Peirce, directed and co-wrote the script with fellow alum Andy Bienen. Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, Bowway blvd 62 & 63. Sts: Union Square 14, Bowway & 13 St. Opens 10/8.

Gunovers: Actress of the moment, Sarah Polley, plays the young girl who gets involved with an older man. Sony Theatres Lincoln Square, Bowway & 68 St, 395-5000; Gotham Cinema, 58 St & 3 Ave, 777-FILM # 763; Angelica Film Center, Houston & Mercer Sts, 995-2000.

West Beirut: coming of age story set during Lebanon civil war in the 1970s. Written and directed by Ziad Doueiri. Wings East Cinemas, 2 Ave at 12 St, 777-FILM #622.

American Beauty: Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening. A surprisingly amusing story of a beautiful man. Theaters everywhere (Sony, Clearview, Lovers).

MUSIC CALENDAR

for the week of October 6

ROCK/PUNK/TUNK/
POP

Wednesday 10/6

Flux Feeley @ CBGB

The Mary Janes @

Brownies

Wednesday 10/6-9

Laurie Anderson @ BAM

Opera House

Thursday 10/7

Phish @ Nassau Coliseum

Friday 10/8

the Fui ivicGee Band @

Wetlands

The Young Philadelphians

@ Knitting Factory

Saturday 10/9

Netaid Concert @ Giants
Stadium

(Black Crows, Counting
Crows, Busta Rhymes,
Sting, Wyclef, etc.).

Tribute to John Lennon on
his B-day

@ Continental

The Derailers @ Bowery
Ballroom


Wednesday 10/13

Wilson Pickett @ Irving
Plaza

COMING UP...

**10/27 - Ben Folds Five @
Hammerstein Ballroom**

Edna's Goldfish



by Melanie Linn

Saturday, September 25 marked the official CD release show for the new Edna's Goldfish CD, *The Elements Of Transition*. As I made my way down Hudson Street on Saturday, I was hit with a sudden realization... "I should have bought my ticket earlier" My eyes soon caught sight of the hundred others who were probably hit with the same realization. The line flowed out from the doors of the Wetlands like an open fire hydrant and flooded the street. I met my friends who had been waiting in line for an hour already and were somewhat close to the door. We were soon informed that none of the people around us had tickets and that the doorman had already let the people with tickets inside. We were nervous that we would not get in the show and that we would miss what we had been so anxiously awaiting for over a month. Our worst fears came true. The large ticket collector stood outside of the door and said, "Shows Sold Out People, No one else is gettin' in!" The fans became angered, but predominantly disappointed.

Fans came from all the five boroughs and New Jersey to see the show and to buy the CD. After a few minutes had passed, the doorman came out once again to announce that there would be another show the next day, Sunday. We bought tickets and watched the flood of people slowly drain. Disappointed, we left only to return the next day for an afternoon of skanking and good Ska music.

We were entertained not only by Edna's Goldfish, but also by The Pilfers and Step Lively. The show was a great success. Step Lively

what's new on the ska scene?

opened the show to be followed by Edna's Goldfish and closing with The Pilfers. Edna's Goldfish was the highlight of the show. Their unique sound brought the crowds height of intensity to a level that is not easily reached.

The fans rocked out not only to the tracks from the band's new album, but also to songs from their last album, *Before You Knew Better*, which was awarded Indie Album of the Year at the Long Island Music Awards. Older songs included, "Eventually Anyway," "Sunrise to Sunset," and "This is not here." Some popular new songs were "1800 Miles to Nowhere," "World Over," "Everyone I know Is From Lindenhurst," and "Veronica Sawyer." The New York scene was excited to see Edna's Goldfish playing again being it that the band just got back from their European tour in early September. They are increasing their popularity with each crowd-pleasing show.

The new CD, "The Elements of Transition," is receiving great reviews. Take it from me, it rocks! It can be purchased now in all the local music stores. I can honestly say that I like every song on the album, each song has its own special meaning that is sure to grab any listener. It is not an album to be missed.

The band recently shot a video for MTV for their single, "Veronica Sawyer." Look for their video on MTV's 120 minutes. It can be requested at www.mtv.com or 1-800-Dial-MTV. Anyone interested in going to a show can access their website at www.ednasgoldfish.com. This band is definitely going places. Edna's Goldfish is moving with the times and I suggest that all move along too! Do not be left behind.

Melanie Linn is a Barnard first-year.

GOT TIGERMILK?

by Vanessa Garcia

The first time I heard Belle and Sebastian was last semester—a mellifluous sound came from one of my suitemates' rooms, making its way from beneath the crack of her door, through the sleepy corridors of morning, and trespassing into my room. It was a gentle trespass of voices—I was happy to have it invade my surroundings, happy that my previously unbroken silence had been filled with music. When one is in deep thought, only an old friend can disturb her without upsetting her. It was like that—Belle and Sebastian were old friends I did not realize I had. They tapped me on



the shoulder, and I bought their CD the next day. That was last year's release called *The Boy With the Arab Strap*. This year they bring us *Tigermilk*. *Tigermilk* was released this summer, however, it has been a kind of legendary album for the group. Belle and Sebastian listeners had heard these lyrics and melodies long ago—in the same way that great pieces of literature circulated in manuscript form before they were actually published. The album was made in five days while Belle and Sebastian were still attempting to receive certification from Glasgow's Stow College. That's right, this album was made by college kids, and, because we are college kids, and, because we are listeners, we understand.

They have a quirky habit that I really enjoy—they like to put dates in the lyrics of their songs: "I was happy for a day in 1975..." "Stayed with me all day in 1995..." "It changed her philosophy in '82..." These are dated events, remembered occurrences, conversations among friends we

have been allowed to listen to—perhaps even sessions with an analyst. I cannot help but be charmed by this group. Lyrics like "She sticks up for you when you get aggravation from the snobs cause you can't afford a blazer and you're always wearing dogs," make me smile. Lyrics like "So I gave myself to God, there was a pregnant pause before he said ok," make me smirk.

And how about "Your obsessions get you known throughout the school for being strange making life size models of the Velvet Underground in clay?" We all remember those kids—some of us were those kids.

I truly enjoy the first two tracks on this CD: "The State that I am in" and "Expectations." I want to play them over and over again before I continue listening to the rest. Their songs have stories, they are narratives set to a beat—not all groups can achieve this successfully. Although sometimes I feel that I hear the voice of "teen angst" in their lyrics—and the voice of "teen angst" ALWAYS annoys me—I must forgive them because they sound so good. My least favorite on this album would have to be "Electronic Renaissance," through which they attempt a mimetic effect of their lyrics through their music bringing us to the discotheque. I don't want to go to the discotheque.

Still, Belle and Sebastian have such a sweet sound, such a unique intonation that I can't help but recommend it. Now that the album has been released for the masses, we can all swarm to the music store.

Vanessa Garcia is a Barnard junior and the Bulletin music editor.

MUSIC CALENDAR

[cont'd]

10/31 moe. @ Hammerstein Ballroom

11/4-5 Iggy Pop @ Irving Plaza

11/11 Pet Shop Boys @ Hammerstein Ballroom

JAZZ/CLASSICAL/OTHER

Wednesday 10/6

Celia Cruz (Salsa Queen) @ SOB's

Thursday 10/7

Eric Reed, Solo Piano @ Jazz At Lincoln Center

Tuesday 10/12-17 Fred

Hersch @ Village Vanguard
The twenty-first International Festival @ Town Hall

Saturday 10/9 -

Celebracion Colombiana

Friday 10/15 - Venezuela en Vivo

Friday 10/22 - Punta Rock Explosion

Friday 10/29 - Fusions

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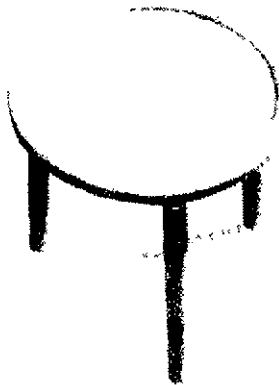
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Discover the hidden surprises of

by Celia Washington

Have you ever found yourself walking down Broadway wondering what else is there to Morningside Heights? Are you tired of shopping at the same old places on Broadway? The answer is but one avenue away that's right, on Amsterdam. In an effort to bring new and exciting places to your attention, let's explore just what is going on from 100-110 street on Amsterdam. In order to get to Amsterdam Avenue all you do is cross over Broadway (going to your left if you are walking downtown) and it almost seems like a whole new place to be.

Of course Broadway is full of restaurants to eat in—but they get a little redundant at times, right? Starting at 110, there are quaint little restaurants that have the appeal of good inexpensive food without the wait. Café St. John's is on the corner with Sophia's Bistro and Desperados further down the block. Desperados is a personal favorite of mine for their taco plates which come with huge sides of frijoles y arroz (rice and beans). 109 is where the infamous SoHa (South of Harlem) bar is. Apparently, you have to be 21 (or have ID that says so) to get in, and the music of the evening is whatever the bartender wants to hear. Hmm. Near SoHa is another bar-type place called Saints. An indication of the clientele would be the gay-pride symbols on the door, and there is

probably an ID situation going on there as well. A new restaurant in the block just opened called Dalia's Tapas, which serves authentic Spanish cuisine. Not only does it look like a beautiful place to eat, but the menu sounds appetizing as well.

Why would you come this way if you weren't interested in eating? Let's say for example you were looking for a gift, or maybe wanted to take up karate. You would be in luck because in the same 109 block, there is a pottery shop (where you can find great gifts) and a Karate-do dojo, where classes are offered. And just for fun there is a 99-cent store that has all kinds of neat items for 99 cents.

Moving on past another Mexican restaurant in the 108 block (El Rey de

Caridad, in case you were interested) a popular discount plus store can be seen on the other side of the street and the price on laundry detergent seems quite reasonable. In the 107 block, Awash, an Ethiopian restaurant can be found as well as a shop called Essential Oils, which sells, of course, essential oils which can be used for fragrances or for healing purposes. For example, lavender, when mixed with water and placed on the forehead with a cloth, eases headaches.

Jessica Jaffe



breeze and smells of sophia's

The 106 block, which is also called Duke Ellington Blvd., has a spot called Night Café. Unfortunately there is another 21 with ID barrier for those of you who don't qualify. 104 is the next big attraction with the large international youth hostel. While I couldn't find anyone inside to speak with, I've been told that the idea comes from Europe where people frequently backpack through the different countries and need somewhere cheap to stay that is safe. Need any alterations? Right across the street is your local tailor in a shop called Sangline.

103 has Champions Bicycles for those of you needing repairs on your bike from the curb you hit last week, but there is also the botanica Santa Barbara in this block. A what? A botanica. A botanica is basically a shop where religious items are sold. More specifically, people who practice Catholicism or Santeria (Cuban-based religion that combined Catholicism with Yoruban practices) frequent botanicas for things such as candles, soap, perfumes

or oils, rosary beads or even small statues of saints. Botanicas are interesting because they are a part of a culture that people don't get to see very often. Botanicas are friendly places to go and buy something simple like a candle, or maybe just talk to the people there and learn something. For those of you who are Spanish speakers, this could be your opportunity to practice that espanol and see if class has paid off.

In case the botanica Santa Barbara is closed, there is another one on 101, the Botanica Alta Gracia. It pretty much has the same things as the one on 103, but that doesn't mean you can't check them both out. If you are getting hungry there is a restaurant right beside Alta Gracia called Krik Krak which serves Haitian/West Indian food.

Amsterdam Avenue

We are now at 100 and it seems like we may be coming to an end of our 10 blocks of fun, but there are 2 more spots. The first is the Ace Hardware store located on the corner and then there is the carpet store called Broadway Carpet. Now why would I be telling you about a carpet store? This particular carpet store usually has a box outside with rolls of carpet that were leftover from orders. What is exciting about this is that they sell them for about 5 dollars a roll, and the roll is usually a decent sized length. So those of you who thought that carpet is too expensive should run down before someone gets the good ones. The carpet rolls are not all the same but it's kind of fun to mix and match. The hallway of my suite in Plimpton is lined with carpet from this spot and although none of the pieces are the same color, it definitely adds character.

So now that all of the shops have been laid out, I will tell you about the culture. While this is a busy street for merchants, people live here and are always outside talking, playing or just hanging out. There is a park next to the youth hostel that is always full of parents with their little ones or kids playing ball. The many barbershops and hair salons always have customers and there are always little children outside of the corner shops which sell candy and soda. There is a nice feel to walking down a street that is almost like a neighborhood in the middle of a large city. For me, this is what makes New York unique. To be around all of the activity in people's everyday lives makes me feel more comfortable about my own. If this is a little more diversity than what you're used to back home, take advantage of the opportunity to see what life is like for other people. Did you come to New York to live, eat and breathe inside of this controlled school environment?

Hopefully I have mentioned at least one thing that has sparked your interest on Amsterdam, if not many. While we are all struggling college students, try to remember that some of the great things about New York are the neighborhoods and the people. Taking time out to walk around in these neighborhoods will help people to not only appreciate diversity, but to also remind them that there is a big world existing outside of campus.

Celia Washington is a Barnard junior

Jessica Jaffe



Interior of an Amsterdam Ethiopian restaurant

ASTORIA, QUEENS. WHO KNEW IT WAS SO EASY?

By Diana Paquin

This week I took a journey out to Astoria (Queens) containing my quest to leave our borough and return having used only \$1.50 on my metrocard (with a free bus to subway transfer, of course). Arbitrarily, my faithful friend Bongbong and I hopped on the M60 (and you thought it was just to take you to the airport) and rode it over the Bridge into the most diverse and sprawling of the five boroughs.

Astoria is home to a huge Greek community, evidenced by the innumerable Greek diners and restaurants that dot Steinway Ave (home of the "R" Steinway Stop), and 31st (where the "N" line meets its end). A local favorite is "Uncle George's" on Broadway and 34 St. which serves steaming Greek specialties at reasonable prices. If Greek is not your thing, any of the Chinese, Middle Eastern, Italian or other tantalizing cuisine served up nearby should satisfy your palate and your wallet.

If food's not on your mind because you're searching for the perfect outfit to wear club-hopping this weekend, stop into any of the Boutiques on the strip of Steinway between 29 and 31 streets, including "Young Attitude Boutique." If you're searching for anything metallic, asymmetrical, off the shoulder, strapless, backless, micro-mini, or rubber, your search is over. I had my eye on a fire-engine red latex tube-dress which ended high on one thigh and then slanted down the opposite knee—but the store manager at this point yelled at me for writing in my notebook, presumably because he thought I was stealing his design ideas. This would never happen at the Goodwill or Salvation Army located just a few blocks up the Street.

Astoria has something for everyone—the club hopper, chain supporter (there's a Victoria's Secret, Gap, and Benetton all-around 31), vintage rocker, ethnic food enthusiast, or the simply curious. Underneath the N train at Ditmars, check out the "Americana" mural depicting both Jingoist American standards such as the American Eagle, Waving Flag, and Sweeping Rockies, as well as an unexpected depiction of the many nations represented in the neighborhood. This mix of ethnic and American spills across these streets which are just as easy to access as those in the Village, we just need to take the extra mental energy to leave our island.

Diana Paquin is a Barnard senior and Bulletin columnist.

Viruses 101: Anatomy

by Talia H. Swartz

Stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing, and sneezing. Fall has just begun, and as we settle into our courses, the cold season descends upon us. Sneezing and coughing seem inevitable once our friends, roommates, and classmates are doing so, but in fact there are a number of important ways in which we can all protect ourselves from getting sick.

The common cold is caused by viruses, which are infectious agents that are not actually alive. Viruses are capsules of protein filled with pieces of genetic material, just like the genetic material inside our cells that contains the information necessary for them to function. The genetic material of the virus is a blueprint for the virus to replicate itself but it needs a living cell, a host, in which to multiply. Once the virus enters the cell, it manipulates the cell's own machinery to propagate more viruses. The new viruses are then released from the cell and go on to infect other host cells and make more copies of themselves.

Many different viruses cause the common cold. When one of these viruses enters our bodies, our immune system mounts an attack and learns to recognize the invader, should it return in the future. The length of this memory varies, but in some cases it lasts forever.

That is why when someone gets chicken pox once, she won't get it again, even if re-exposed. The cell's memory for the common cold viruses is a couple of years, so anyone could only potentially become sick from the same strain a few times over many years. However,

take to prevent the spread of these annoying and health-threatening agents.

The most important precaution to take is to wash our hands. Whether we realize it or not, bacteria and viruses are everywhere.

They are smaller than the smallest visible piece of dust, and they cover the surfaces of everything with which we come in contact. They're not all bad as long as they stay where they belong, but if we take them out of their natural habitats, they can pose problems to our health. Microorganisms live in the soil, in our food and inside our bodies. We couldn't live without them; they provide us the necessary elements to breathe, eat, and break down waste. Whenever we put our hands into our bodies, we introduce potentially harmful organisms from all the surfaces that we touched. We must

always wash our hands before eating and after using the bathroom. Hand-washing is so important because it removes bacteria from our hands as well as the food that feeds bacteria. And we should always use soap. Just running water won't do very much, because bacteria have membranes that act like oil, so water will run right past them. Most soap makes bacterial membranes soluble so that the bacteria can get washed away with the water rinse. Other soaps that claim to



Karen Spector

each time a person is infected, it is likely to be from a different virus or a different strain that is new to her immune system, which is not prepared to fight an unrecognized virus.

The common cold is very infectious. The virus particles travel quickly and easily through human respiratory tracts from one person to another. In a place like Barnard, where students are always in close contact, there are some precautions that we can all

of the Everyday Cold!!!

"antibacterial" actually contain compounds that kill bacteria. But that's not really necessary, we don't have to kill them, as long as they don't get inside us. By the way, that pink stuff in the dispensers all around school is like the first kind: it doesn't kill bacteria, but it helps them wash away.

It's always important use common sense when

dealing with the cold. It is a good idea to cover the mouth when during a coughing or sneezing attack to protect the people around from air- and mucous-borne bacteria. Bacteria and viruses travel on particles of dust that get inhaled by others around us. One of the most

important things to keep in mind, though, is that the most effective cause of spread of infection is direct contact. This means that it's not the best idea to borrow a pen from a friend

It has been shown that two out of every three cases of the common cold are caused by viral entry through the eye, so it's best to keep hands out of the eye region.

who has just sneezed. If she did cover her mouth, then little virus particles are all over her hand and they will easily be transferred from her hand to the pen to you. It has been shown that two

out of every three cases of the common cold are caused by viral entry through the eye, so it's best to keep hands out of the eye region.

Talia Schwartz is a Barnard senior and the vice president of the microbiology club

BCereus, the Barnard Microbiology Club, promotes the awareness of microbes and microbial activities in everyday life. The club is open to students of all majors (not just the sciences) because everyone is affected by microbes. If there are any questions, please e-mail Talia Schwartz at

ts217@columbia.edu. The club's first event of the semester will be a trip to the American Museum of Natural History on October 13 to attend a presentation on microbes living in hydrother-

mal vents. For information or reservations, e-mail yc225@columbia.edu.

Well Woman: INTRUDER ALERT!!

Q Every time I go into the bathroom there is a guy there. What should I do? I am annoyed because I want to walk around in my towel—why shouldn't I? This is an ALL GIRLS SCHOOL!

A This is a difficult issue since it is inevitable that in an all girls school, there will be guy visitors—whether they be brothers, friends, or whomever—and they will most likely have to use the bathroom sometime during their stay.

However, there are many girls who feel uncomfortable using the bathroom when guys are around and I am sure that there are several girls on your floor who feel the same way you do—especially if there is always a guy in the bathroom.

Since you are probably not alone, you should speak with your RA and perhaps she can set up a meeting where the floor can decide to designate a specific bathroom for male visitors and another one for residents such as yourself who wish to be able to walk around freely in their towels.

Q Last year there was an e-mail that was widely circulated about the safety of dioxin in tampons. Dioxin is used in the bleaching process and I was wondering if Well Woman could address the validity of the claim that dioxin is toxic and possibly harmful to women.

A Thanks for your question. This topic has been debated since the circulation of the email in question. As Well Woman would like to fully address your question, please see our upcoming newsletter on the topic in mid-October.

"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.

BULLETIN

[10.6.99]

health [19]

HEY! I'm Down Here!

by Mita Mallick

Some people are socially handicapped; unable to socialize or conduct themselves properly in a social setting. I am convinced that my father is hearing impaired, or rather I should term his handicap as "selective hearing." My brother is musically handicapped and my mother is artistically challenged. I too have a wide variety of handicaps. I am dating impaired, make-up impaired, and at times find myself to be socially challenged. However my biggest handicap of all: being vertically challenged.

I don't know where I was the day they were giving out height. Most probably I fell asleep or was watching a Lifetime movie starring Susan Lucci. My mother's side of the family are all very tall, but my mom is 5'3" and my dad is 5'9". I thought I would be lucky, that the gods would smile down upon me and bless me with a few extra inches. My brother is 5'9" and at 16 years old, is still growing. I must have stopped growing when I was ten. My turquoise corduroy pants from the sixth grade still fit me.

One evening last fall I remember being in the Plimpton elevator and someone I had class with got into the elevator. I was dressed in my pajamas and flip-flops. She took one look at me and exclaimed, "Wow! I never realized that you were so short! You're short." S-h-o-r-t. I'm short. Ouch.

The last few years I have been height obsessed. What I wouldn't do for five more inches. Short people are victims of discrimination. The good cereal I want is always at the top shelf at the grocery store. At UFM, I am forced to ask one of the employees to get me the box of cereal. He usually gives me a scrub smile, his gold teeth twinkling in the light. With a little dance he mocks my inability to reach the box of Cheerios. He holds it right above my head so I can jump like a little puppy trying to grab my treat.

The stupid shade in my room always snaps up too high so I have to get a chair to pull it down. I look like a little boy going fishing when I try on capri pants. When no one is looking, I have to do a little jump to see if there is any mail in my McIntosh box. I always get stuck in the front of yearbook pictures for group organizations. When I walk without looking, I will end-up bumping into a guy's stomach. The chic dresses and pants never fit me for the other half of the outfit drags on

the ground behind me. In fact, I go overall shopping in the kiddie section.

Nothing was more devastating for me then when I went to my boy Ricky Martin's CBS special taping a few weeks ago. Crowded amongst giants outside at Liberty Park in Jersey, I hopped up and down, trying to catch a glimpse of my boy. I bobbed up all around for a peak of Ricky swiveling his hips. Flashes of his leather pants, cheesy grin, and biceps passed before my very eyes. After waiting for more than four hours for the performance, I couldn't even see him. At that moment I looked up to the heavens, and thought, "God I've never asked you for much. Please give me the boost I need to see my boy." Nothing. I was wearing two inch heels. It was my one moment to seduce Ricky with my charm and beauty. All he could see was a brown speck.

Height is considered sexy. It is this perception we have of long legs being feminine. Designers like Calvin Klein and Donna Karan don't make clothes for "short" people. In fact, designers seem to think that if you are vertically challenged, you must be "beauty impaired." Short people are unattractive and wide. I love when I am pointed to the petite section in the department stores. It is usually in the far back, clothes falling off the hangers, stained and disorganized. My grandmother wouldn't even be caught wearing those bright floral over-sized skirts.

So I never buy flat shoes. I always wear short skirts with matching color pantyhose, because that is what Marie Claire says will make me look taller. I never wear long skirts because Mademoiselle says that will make me look shorter. Shorter? Not possible.

But I hear that guys like short girls, especially guys who are tall. That is why I need to find someone whose 6'4". Just in case I ever decide to have children one day, I'll have something to combat my genes. It is disturbing when I find myself speaking to a guy at eye level, which at Columbia is usually a daily occurrence. It must be something in the water. In our society it's reverse discrimination, because many women won't date a man whose 5'1". Thank God I am not a man. For more reasons than one.

Nevertheless I'm standing proud at 5'1", for I think my out-going personality and sense of humor makes up for the lacking five inches. I still think there needs to be more compassion for the vertically challenged in our world today. At Starbucks, it's either you get a short or a tall latte. Short is such a nasty term. Let's try this compassion thing out. I would like a petite latte, please.

Mita Mallick is a Barnard senior and Bulletin columnist.

The Small World of Barnard Can Make a Girl Sing

by Bianca Jordan

Since returning to Barnard this year, I cannot get a particularly annoying Disney song out of my head. The explanation is simple. The words that come to mind as I walk around campus are, "It's a Small World After All." If people hear me humming it as I walk around campus, they'll know that I am occupied with thought of Barnard.

Before this year, however, I never thought of Barnard as a small world. To the contrary, I always enjoyed feeling that I could get lost in Barnard and Columbia whenever I wanted. As a first-year, I didn't have to go any further than McIntosh if I felt inclined to eat someplace where I would not see a familiar face. I was completely unknown.

When the weather was nice and I wanted to do some productive studying outside, I could get quite a bit of work done on the Columbia steps. I noticed that others seemed to get distracted there, but I didn't have that problem. When I asked my professors a question in a lecture class, I did not expect them to remember who I was. There were enough students, I figured, that I could chance asking even the most inane of questions without caring too much. Of course, if a professor did remember my name, it surely must have been because I distinguished myself from the others by making a near-brilliant comment! On the social front, someone excited by the unknown could not have asked for a better campus: I felt like all I had to do was turn around, and I would see a new person that I wanted to meet. Finally, if I really wanted to lose myself, I simply took the subway downtown and found other faces, confused streets, different activities, and building after building after building.

Even as a sophomore, I still felt like I could recede into anonymity whenever I chose, though I was more familiar with campus life, and no longer found the Columbia steps so conducive to studying. I knew of a number of library hideaways. I was part of a club that only its members seemed to have heard of (I'll give you a hint: Zooprax). It seemed a great coincidence when I saw fellow students on a train other than the 1/9. Most of my voice-mail messages were still forwarded to me by the Rolm Phone Lady. I actually wished that I got more phone calls from people

on campus. It was a test, I thought: can I make this campus into my community? I took the challenge seriously when I knew I would be studying abroad in my junior year, and forced to be excluded from life at Barnard and Columbia. I managed to make myself familiar with the University, but I was convinced that no one would remember me after I had been gone for an entire year. Life would change while I was away, I said to myself, and those who did recall my name would talk about things that I hadn't been there to experience with them. The school was just too big.

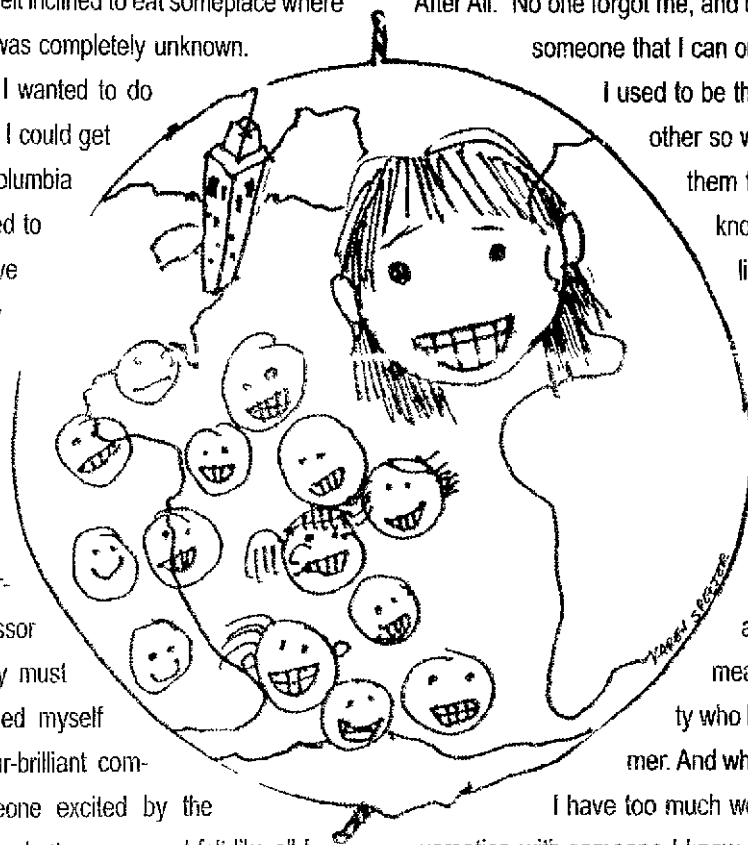
That year abroad is over, and now I'm back. My latest impression of Barnard and Columbia? Start singing. I've found that it is "a Small World After All." No one forgot me, and once or twice I have even smiled at someone that I can only just remember. People for whom

I used to be the only go-between, now know each other so well that they forget that I introduced them to each other. Even though I do not know many first-years, I sometimes feel like I do because they remind me of other, older students that I know quite well. As for the administration, it seems like the majority of girls (myself included) have either a best friend or close mentor within it. When I mention going to a restaurant downtown to talk about these impressions over a meal, I hear of someone in the University who lived next to the restaurant last summer. And when I absolutely cannot chat because

I have too much work to do, I get distracted by a conversation with someone I know in what I thought was a safe library hideaway.

So, the campus seems smaller. As I look around, my feelings are mixed. The number of unknowns that have so excited me up until now has seriously diminished. Yet, it is quite satisfying to return to Barnard and find myself rooted in a community that I enjoy. I imagine that this is what many students feel as they get further and further along in their education. If this is the case, I only hope that they are spared the one major annoyance that I am not: I hope that their thoughts do not wear them down by constantly making them sing about laughter and tears, sharing and comparing, and about it being "a small world after all."

Bianca Jordan is a Barnard senior.



<< page 10 >>formance of "Wolfman's Brother" in Hamburg, Germany that garnered the band's second live album Slip Stitch and Pass such rave reviews, proving that Phish really had, as its fans had been declaring for years, arrived.

Live shows really are the only way to listen to Phish in all their improvisational glory. Once in a while they surprise the audience with a real treat, like the Halloween concert in 1994 at Glen Falls Civic Center in New York, when the band "scrupulously reproduced both the spirit and letter of the Beatles' White Album." Or how about the Great Went, a three-day festival in northern Maine held in the summer of 1997, at which 65,000 people enjoyed Phish in the buff. Don't believe it? *The Phish Book's* even got the pictures to prove it. Live shows, though, are the only place in which to actually witness Phish's sheer virtuosity with their assorted instruments, harmonized vocals, and the occasional vacuum cleaner (Fishman "plays" an Electrolux on 1990's Lawn Boy).

Although Phish's music is usually a hard sell to non-fans, this book is so engaging and enthusiastic that it's hard not to want to run out and buy all their albums after hearing the band members go on at length about old-time Barbershop quartets, playful lyrics like "Set the gear shift for the high gear of your soul/You've got to run like an antelope out of control," and a mysterious friend known as "The Dude of Life." After you buy all their albums, though, consider purchasing *The Phish Book*, which, to this reviewer's mind, is as close to an owner's manual as a fan can get—it's a great primer in the history, influence, and mythology of one of rock's most innovative and prolific bands.

Sarah D'Ambrosio is a Barnard senior and Bulletin ad manager.

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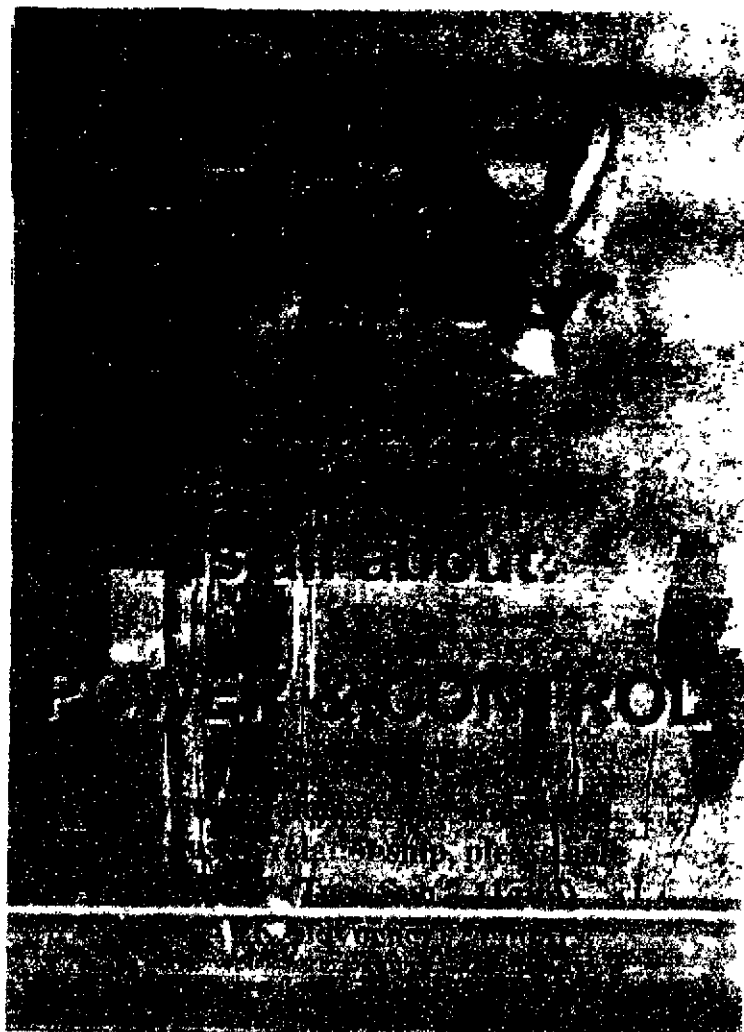
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