



barnard bulletin

orientation 2001

welcome first-years!

who do I turn to when
I'm freaking out?

don't get scammed into
a credit card

explore music venues,
visit museums, and tour
the neighborhood

buy your books
online

one senior reveals her
barnard truths

letter **from** the **editors**

I remember the first article I wrote for the bulletin. I liked to write, loved to be involved, and had no experience in journalism. I found my way down to the little basement office of Barnard's news-magazine and asked the only person present how I could get involved. She was the news editor and asked me if I would like to cover a story--a conference on breast cancer with an alumnae panel. I was so excited that I gave away theatre tickets that I had for the same night as the conference. That was one of the best decisions I have made during my college career.

The bulletin is a student organization at Barnard that does not require you to be from any particular background. It does not ask that you hold true any religion or ideology. It doesn't ask you for money. The staff is made up of a collection of students who have a common interest in expression. Some are writers, others editors and photographers. Some are lovers of graphics design and some are computer fanatics. Still others are just opinionated and want their name and ideas in print for all the campus to read.

I have written for the bulletin since my first semester at Barnard, and have contributed to every section at some time. I was features editor for a year and a half and I wrote a column from overseas last semester. Now, I'm co-editor-in-chief, along with the just as dedicated bulletin staff member, Courtney E. Martin, who has also written extensively, and edited the nyc living section.

It's addictive. It is a great fulfillment to be a part of a group of individuals that works on a daily basis to provide for the entire student body an outlet for dialogue and debate. The bulletin is Barnard's forum for the open exchange of ideas for which

we attend college. We aim to inform, excite, interest, entice, and sometimes offend. We strive to be a quality news-magazine that provides, unbiased news reporting, in-depth, controversial features on campus events and other issues that affect students, interesting reviews of music and arts events throughout New York, the cultural capital of the world, interesting accounts of city living, and gripping commentaries written by thoughtful students who care about their surroundings and want their ideas to be heard.

The bulletin welcomes everybody to help shape the way our community perceives itself. We have weekly meetings that are open to the public (where you will also find interesting students and free food). We value the opinions of our staff and our readers and we openly invite you to attend. We have several staff positions available and we are willing to train and foster interested writers and editors who want to get involved at Barnard.

The bulletin was the first non-academic activity that I tried during my college career and it opened up opportunities for involvement in dozens of other activities, in my writing assignments, through the people I met interviewing, and with the people I got to know on the staff. During my time here, the bulletin has undergone some major changes and has really become the voice of Barnard. We invite you to offer your own voice to the community of which you have just become a part. Welcome.

Kiryn Haslinger & Courtney E. Martin

editors-in-chief

**just what
is this thing,
anyway?**

After moving all your belongings into a small shared (hopefully air conditioned) room, meeting dozens of new people with whom you will share space for the next year, and saying good-bye to your family, you finally have the opportunity to sit back, relax, and check out the very first issue of the spring 2001 Barnard bulletin. What you hold in your hands is Barnard's own weekly newsmagazine, completely distinct from the *Columbia Daily Spectator*. The bulletin is a 100% student run features-based publication that highlights issues unique and important to the Barnard student body. We bring you coverage of important news events, comprehensive features articles on people, events and issues around campus, student commentaries and cutting edge information and reviews in arts and music. We also have a section all about living in the city, and all the things New York has to offer a college student. We are always looking for enthusiastic writers and have public board meetings Mondays at 8 in 128 Lower Level Macintosh. Stop by, call x42119, or email bulletin@barnard.edu for more information!

barnard **bulletin**

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cover photo by Jamie Hardy
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& Esther Edgerton Foundation, 2000
courtesy of Palm Press, Inc.

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ohmigod! what do I do?

when you feel like you're lost, don't panic...there are people here to help

By Christy Thornton



So, it's your first week on campus, you've moved 18 years of your life into a not-yet-so-charming room and you're starting to settle in and feel like maybe this could be home. Your roommate is in your First-Year Seminar, and the girl down the hall was blaring that DMX album that you love so much. *This might not be so bad*, you're thinking. You followed those signs to the dining hall for lunch, the girls in the orange t-shirts smiled politely when you asked where Barnard Hall was, and your parents seem to be calming down about leaving you behind and heading home. The little blue orientation book has a schedule all layed out for you, and you can follow or not follow it as you please. You're going to meetings, running between buildings, picking up papers. This whole college thing seems easy enough, so you kiss the folks goodbye, watch as they drive away, and you head to the lawn with some girls from your floor for a barbeque. Everything seems to be going great. Maybe you're even beginning to feel a rhythm. *No problem*, you think. *I can handle this. Who said entering college was tough?*

You're feeling confident, making some friends, you've got some plans for the night. You head back to your room to do some unpacking. Your roommate is in the room, the soundtrack to some unrecognizable 1950s musical turned way up, singing at the top of her lungs. You sit down at your desk, annoyed, and try to turn on your computer, but it seems to be stuck somehow. The phone rings, and an unfamiliar voice on the other end of the line says something barely audible and clearly sketchy, so you hang up the phone, really grossed out 'cause you think you just got a prank call, and a cockroach scurries across the floor. You jump up with a scream, scaring your roommate. She falls off of the chair she's standing on to hang up an enormous *Sound of Music* poster and hits her knee on the hard, linoleum floor. She starts to cry and you run downstairs to see if that girl to talked to in the orange t-shirt a little while ago is still there, but she's gone. You try to go back up to your room, but you can't find your ID and the desk attendant can't let you in without it. Frustrated, feeling alone and confused, you sink down on a couch and start to cry, wishing you never came here. *What am I gonna do?* you think. *Why am I alone in this? Is there no one here to help me?* But don't panic, my first-year friend. You are far from alone here at Barnard. You have a

artist unknown

ton of resources here at your disposal—you just have to know where to look. What follows is a brief rundown of all of the people here on campus that want to help—heck, some of them even get paid for it.

your RA

So, you brought your P. Diddy albums to keep you company while you study, but your roommate seems to still be addicted to the *Oklahoma!* soundtrack, and has had “Oh, what a beautiful morning” on repeat for four hours. You think if you hear that freaking song one more time, you’re gonna go insane, and you just don’t think you can make it another day without completely losing it. Enter your Resident Assistant. It’s your RA’s job to help you in all aspects of your residential life here at Barnard. She can arrange a meeting between you and your roommate where you can express your feelings openly, and help you work out your problems so you can peacefully co-exist. She’s there whenever you need her—if your roommate’s knee is bleeding and you don’t have a band-aid or if you can’t decide if you’d rather go into sociology or psychology, your RA is there to help. If you just want to chat or you need some quick advice, drop in and see her. She’ll be more than happy to help—chances are, she’s faced a lot of the same problems you’re facing. Take advantage of her—she’s one of your most candid resources on campus.

NSOP staff

You see them everywhere. They helped you put your stuff in a big, ugly laundry cart and helped you wheel your whole life up into your new room. They wear these little NSOP-pop t-shirts that are just cute-o-rama. You’ll see them sing, and dance, and make fools of themselves just for you. They’re the New Student Orientation Program staff, and it’s their mission in life to make you more comfortable with your transition to college. If you can’t find your way to the registrar or you need to know the name of a restaurant in the neighborhood where the twenty members of your family who came to see you off can all eat together, an NSOP-er will know. They were all once among your

ranks, confused and overwhelmed, standing on the sidewalk wishing they knew where the hell the dining hall was. They know. They understand. They’re easy targets, ‘cause they’re all wearing the same damn outfit. Got a question to which you can’t find the answer? Find an NSOP-er.

campus security

You’re dozing peacefully in your bed, exhausted from the pace of orientation week. It’s three am, and the phone rings. You pick it up, and a breathy and sketchy voice on the other end asks you a question you’re pretty sure you don’t want to answer. Or one of the women in your class invites the group to a study session in Plimpton. You don’t really know where Plimpton is, and maybe it’s a little too late to wander around by yourself in an unfamiliar area. Or you just don’t know which building is Milbank, and you have a class in exactly 45 seconds. Don’t be afraid to pipe up and ask a security guard. Or call security for a ride to Plimpton after dark. Or call them to report a prank call. It’s the charge of the campus security team to make sure that you feel safe in your new home. If, for any reason, you are ever made to feel uncomfortable by someone or some situation, call Barnard security. They want you to be comfortable, and they are always around to help.

desk attendants

The desk attendants are, for the most part, some of the most observant people on campus. They know who’s going in and out of the residence halls, and they play a huge part in your security on campus. When you feel inconvenienced by having to show your ID everytime you enter the building, think of it as creating trust between yourself and the desk attendant. It’s a desk attendant’s natural reaction to be cautious of anyone who tries to enter the building. You may feel that because you *clearly* look like a college student, the person behind the desk should let you in. But they wield a huge amount of power with the little button that opens the door, and they can keep out all of the people you wouldn’t want just marching around in your home. In addition to taking a fierce pride in pro-

tecting your well being, the desk attendants are great people to have as friends, as they are wealths of information. Everyone talks to the desk attendant—they have to in order to get into any residence hall. Desk attendants know what’s going on in their buildings...if you have questions, they’re great people to ask.

residential computing

You have a paper due tomorrow, and you can’t for the life of you get your disk drive to work. Or your iBook keeps crashing and giving you the little bomb signal on the screen. Or your mom sent photos of your dog to your Barnard e-mail and you don’t know how to be able to see them in PINE. Rather than simply chucking the whole thing out the window when your computer won’t cooperate (which could prove lethal for those walking below and is *not* recommended), call the Barnard Computer Help Desk at x47172. They have a staff of Residential Computing Assistants whose job it is to help you with your computing problems. Call them to arrange an appointment, or just to ask a technical question. They’re also the ones who give you the stuff to be able to put your computer on the ethernet, and help in the computer labs around campus. If you have a computer question, they have the answer. Again, like RAs and security guards, they’re paid for what they do best. So use ‘em.

anyone who looks friendly

All of those Barnard students walking around, they were all first-years at some point in their lives. And the people that work here spend their days dealing with their little niche of Barnard culture. So if you have a question about anything at all, don’t hesitate to ask the person next to you in class. Or the guy behind the counter in MacIntosh. Or the library attendant in Lehman. Or the facilities guy in the tunnel. Barnard is one of the warmest, most welcoming communities you’ll experience. So just ask!

Christy Thornton is a Barnard senior and bulletin office manager. Edited and reprinted from orientation 2000 issue.

from condoms to conferences barnard's unique resources for women

For months now, you have been reading glossy publications with photos of appropriately diverse, seemingly ecstatic Barnard students and pages and pages of text telling you why Barnard is so great. Now that you have chosen to come here, you certainly know about all of the fantastic things that Barnard has to offer. You attend a small liberal arts college with fantastic advising and amazing professors. You have access to a huge, Ivy League research university. You live in New York City. And, over the next four years, you will find yourself surrounded by some of the most amazing women you'll ever meet, because you have chosen to go to a women's college.

It is Barnard's status as a women's college that will give you some unique resources over the next four years of your life. Information for women on campus abounds - from help with contraception, to lectures on women in business, to research on early '90s riot grrl culture, Barnard is an institution chock full of resources for women.

Health Services

In addition to providing clinical care and educating students to become knowledgeable and effective users of health care, Barnard's Health Services program seeks to, as their mission statement reads, "promote the health of body, mind, and spirit." Barnard women have access to walk-in health services from 8:30am to 4pm on weekdays, and can schedule appointments to meet with nurse-practitioners or doctors. Services include complete medical care, including gynecological exams, HIV testing, and prescription services.

In addition to providing excellent women's health care, Health Services also publishes a variety of information-

al pamphlets that are incredibly helpful when dealing with health concerns. A concentration on women's issues, such as eating concerns and sexual health makes Barnard's Health Services unique. Additionally, Health Services also runs a Stress Reduction and Relaxation Training Program, called the "Mindfulness Meditation Program," which seeks to help Barnard women deal with their hectic lifestyles. A six week program that costs \$25 for Barnard undergraduates, the class requires regular meetings and daily practice of the techniques learned, and includes a half-day retreat and audio tapes to help you reduce your stress levels. For more information, visit <http://www.barnard.edu/health>.

Counseling Services

A program of Health Services, the Counseling Services program at Barnard is a short-term resource for Barnard students who feel as though they want to talk through their problems, whether they are concerns with relationships, drugs, loneliness, stress, or anything else about which students need to talk. They even assure you on their website that, "It's also okay if you aren't exactly sure what the problem is - we can help you talk about that, too." The sessions are completely confidential and free of charge to Barnard students. They do stress, however, that Barnard counseling is a short-term solution - you can meet with a Barnard counselor up to ten times in an academic year, and if you feel as though you need more long-term help, they can help refer you to an outside counselor. There are also counseling groups that you can join, and there is no limit imposed on the number of group sessions you can attend. Visit their website at www.barnard.edu/counsel.

Well-Woman

Another program of Barnard Health Services, the Well-Woman peer education program focuses their approach wellness on "an integration of body, mind and spirit, which moves us toward a more proactive, healthier existence," as their mission statement reads. Well-Woman trains Barnard students to be peer educators in areas of women's health, such as self-esteem, body image, sexuality, healthy relationships, and stress management. These "Well-Women" then host workshops in residence halls and around campus, and serve as peer resources for other students. Well-Woman also publishes a monthly newsletter and a weekly women's health question and answer column right here in the bulletin. Additionally, they host a series of Tuesday night clinics for women facing their first pelvic exam, lessening anxieties and making the process much clearer for those who have never seen the gynecologist before. For more information, you can visit their webpage at www.barnard.edu/health/wellwoman.htm.

RC/AVSC

The Rape Crisis/Anti-Violence support center is a university-wide resource housed here at Barnard. They provide peer counseling, advocacy and education about issues of sexual violence, and have a staff of Peer Counselors and Peer Advocates, who serve as resources to victims of sexual violence. Additionally, there is a staff of Peer Educators and Outreach Volunteers, who organize special events, bring speakers to campus, and inform members of the Barnard-Columbia community about the reality of vio-

lence and about the services of the RC/AVSC. They offer emotional support, accompaniment, and referrals to survivors and their supporters, and educate students, administrators, and faculty around the dynamics and effects of sexual violence and relationship violence and organize the University community against violence. For information on how to get involved in the work the RC/AVSC does, visit www.columbia.edu/rcavsc.

Women's Studies

Another excellent resource for women here on Barnard's campus is the Women's Studies Department. Established at Barnard in 1977, and officially becoming a department in 1988, Women's Studies at Barnard plays host to the annual Feminist Art History Conference, which this year will be held on November 10 and 11, addressing the intersection of feminism and visual culture. The extensive, interdisciplinary faculty span research interests from physics to Spanish, and classes include everything from "Hollywood Film since 1948" to "Gender and Power in Global Perspective." Look for events and projects of the Women's Studies Department all year round. For more information, visit

www.barnard.edu/wmstud.

CROW

In addition to the excellent health care and amazing women's academics available on Barnard's campus, Barnard is home to the world-renowned Barnard Center for Research on Women. Founded in 1971, the Center has been active in promoting awareness and fostering dialogue about women's issues, and keeping "feminist issues at the intellectual forefront of college life," according to their website. The Center is cited by many as the birthplace of third-wave feminism, and the annually host the nationally recognized "The Scholar and the Feminist" conference. They have an extensive collection of research materials that includes books, periodicals, and an exciting collection of ephemera - non-book material such as pamphlets, manifestos, governments papers, etc. They are putting on a variety of exciting events in the coming year. Some highlights:

Thursday, 13 September. The Women Seeking Justice lecture series presents MORATORIUM 2000: PUTTING AN END TO THE DEATH PENALTY, a lecture with Sister Helen Prejean with an introduction

by Susan Sarandon. Lower Level McIntosh, 7pm.

Tuesday, 2 October. The Barnard Project for Gender and Science presents BALANCING THE EQUATION: WHERE ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY? A conference co-sponsored by The National Council for Research on Women. The James Room, 4th Floor Barnard Hall Registration begins 9am. Conference 10am.

Saturday, 27 October. The Barnard Summit: Women, Leadership and the Future featuring Patricia Adcroft, Marian Wright Edelman, Barbara Ehrenreich, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Gwen Hill, Mamphela Ramphele, Janet Reno and Marie Wilson, among others. Barnard brings together some of the most celebrated and visionary women of our time to explore how best to fulfill the promise of complete equity for a new generation of young women. Registration begins at 9am in Barnard Hall Lobby. Conference from 10am to 4pm.

The Barnard Center for Research on Women is one of the most exciting and unique resources for women on campus. To get involved in the work that they do, visit their website at www.barnard.edu/crow. Christy Thornton is a Barnard senior and bulletin office manager.



looking for the barnard inside scoop?

come work the *bulletin* beat!
we currently have editorial board
openings for this semester

stop by the *bulletin* office, 128 LL Mac, or
email bulletin@barnard.edu for more info

shopping for classes

pro: Shopping for classes before you lock yourself into a schedule offers you a nice introduction to professor's style and a great look at the syllabus, plus a feel for the dynamic of the class.

con: Professors don't structure their syllabi with shopping in mind, so if you miss your ultimate choice of classes while browsing others, you may have trouble catching up. Also, the ability to test out courses and professors encourages the idea that professors need to sell themselves and the class by being entertaining—not a great indication of what the course will really turn out to be.

online registration

pro: This new institution has eliminated lots of unnecessary paperwork. Registering online is very easy with the well-designed site and handy pop up screens that warn you when you have scheduled classes that overlap. With online registration, Barnard students do not have to deal with the hassles of phone registration at Columbia.

con: Unless you actively seek out a relationship with your advisor, it is possible to never meet him or her before graduation. The new technology may hinder the small-college, nurturing environment that Barnard promises.

choosing classes based

pro: Taking a course whose subject would never appeal to you because the professor has a great reputation may allow you to discover new material that you never would have anticipated liking. It also encourages developing great relationships with professors.

con: You can easily lose focus on the field that you are most interested in or dabble so much in classes of recommended professors that you have trouble choosing a major course of study by the end of your sophomore year.

getting requirements done early

pro: Getting all those graduation classes out of the way clears up your schedule so that your junior and senior years will be free from the hassle, and you can focus your attention on your major. It may also provide the possibility of discovering a field in which you didn't know you would be interested.

con: Your first year may be filled with required classes instead of ones you are excited about. It may slow you down on getting major requirements started. Spreading out your requirements allows you to mix up your schedule with major courses and required courses so none of it gets to be overwhelming.

taking Columbia classes

pro: Cross registration allows you to take larger classes where you can meet lots of new people and professors, some of whom are world renowned in their fields. Within departments, Columbia and Barnard have distinctly different styles that you can check out and compare.

con: Columbia classes do not offer the all-female environment and focus on women's learning that you may want in the classroom. In general the classes are much larger, less intimate, and offer less professor accessibility (in many Columbia lecture classes, the only opportunity you have for extra help and feedback is from a graduate teaching assistant, not the professor).

decisions decision decisions

the pros and cons of your academic choices

get involved on campus!!!

The Columbia/Barnard community is overflowing with a plethora of extracurricular activities...if there's one thing you'll learn about college, it's that it's only half about the classes. So, go out, get involved...look for clubs days on the Barnard and Columbia campuses, or visit **College Activities'** website at www.barnard.edu/cao for more information and a complete listing of clubs. In the meantime, here are a few examples:

WBAR is Barnard's very own student-run radio station, broadcasting via an FM radiating cable current and a live audio stream on the Internet. We are a non-commercial, non-profit station that has been broadcasting to the Barnard and Columbia community since April 1, 1993. We seek to provide a forum in which the members of this community can explore "college radio" in all its various forms, including independent music, special interest genres, technical work, news production, and promotions. Our format is progressive with an emphasis on new music and independent labels, but most importantly, we strive to be a place where students, amateurs, anyone can express creative ideas through the medium of radio. Look for applications to be a dj (no experience necessary!) and visit www.wbar.org for more information!

The **International Socialist Organization (ISO)** is an activist based group committed to fundamental social change from below. Join us at our weekly meetings every Thursday at 7:30 in Hamilton Hall on Columbia's campus where we discuss our involvement in the movements and the theory that backs up our practice. For more information on upcoming activities and meetings call Monique at x38130.

CSSN (Columbia Student Solidarity Network) is the umbrella group for many campus organizations that fight for social justice, racial equality, women's rights, ethnic diversity, environmental sustainability, and economic justice. We are your one-stop shop for finding out how you can make this University, this City, this World a more fair and beautiful place. There is always free food. Email cssn@columbia.edu to get on the list-serve that lets you know when any activist event is happening.

SLAC (Columbia/Barnard Student Labor Action Coalition) supports workers through educating students and the community, lobbying the University administration and government, art projects, strike support, and demonstrations. We welcome students and workers of all political persuasions and time commitments. Contact gsg15@columbia.edu.

Are you a writer? Actor? Director? Stagehand? Or are you just a ham? Get involved with **LateNite Theater**, the University's only exclusively student-written, -acted, -directed and -produced theater group. Send an email to latenite_theatre@hotmail.com and keep an eye out for flyers advertising upcoming events!

Columbia Museum and Gallery Club provides students with a fun way to meet others and obtain free entry to some of New York City's most popular museum/gallery exhibits.

CU Greens is a political organization that works with and around principles and goals of the green party such as environmentalism and social justice.

CU Campaign to End the Death Penalty works, on campus and locally, around issues concerning the death penalty. We are presently working towards a moratorium in New York.

WKCR, Columbia's radio station, is always looking for interns. The station, 89.9 FM, reaches the tri-state area and plays a variety of music in its multitude of departments. Contact wkcr@columbia.edu if interested. Also, check out the website, www.wkcr.org, for more information.

The Columbia Catholic Undergraduate Athletes is a group that provides opportunities to pray, socialize, and reach out to the community together.

The Collection is a fictional quarterly magazine, tracing the lives of a dozen members of the Morningside Heights community. Each of the authors is a University student who provides a glimpse into the life of a character the author has created. Follow the characters all year long in the print magazine, available about twice a semester, or see new and archived stories online at www.collectionmagazine.com. We're always looking for more writers, artists, designers and more!

The second annual 28 hour **Dance Marathon** will be held during the second semester. The marathon benefits the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Peace Games volunteers teach conflict-resolution in fourth and fifth grade classrooms in Harlem and Washington Heights once a week for one hour. Peace Games is Columbia Community Impact's largest community service program in part because it allows students with busy schedules to make a difference in our community in just a couple of hours a week, and have a lot of fun doing it!

elementary is Columbia University's organization devoted to hip hop in all its forms, including breakdancing, dj-ing, and mc-ing. We put on shows throughout the year and specialize in bringing underground talent to campus, in addition to open mics and workshops. All fans and artists are welcome to attend weekly meetings and check out the website through the CU webpage.

Students for Environmental and Economic Justice is currently conducting campaigns on the FTAA, socially responsible investing at CU, and a Citigroup boycott, among others. Visit www.columbia.edu/cu/seej for info.

pick a card, any card. . .

By Renata Bystritsky

They crawl all over the campus. They accost us on College Walk, near our dorms, even as we eat lunch in McIntosh student center. Though most credit card representatives are legitimate messengers of Visa, Discover, American Express and Mastercard, others have done not-so-legitimate things to rope students into the wonderful world of credit.

In the past few years, some students have had unpleasant experiences with credit card representatives. Some call at the crack of dawn to alert students of new deals they shouldn't miss. Some have been dishonest about annual fees, finance rates, and other charges—practically tricking students into the “buy now, pay later” mentality. If these students knew how much they were going to pay later, they would not have casually given their John Hancock.

Barnard sophomore Alexandra Lutoshkina had a run-in with a dishonest credit card representative. She was eating lunch in McIntosh during her first year, when a representative from Citibank approached her. Citibank's services are endorsed by Columbia University, and the rep was offering a free gift for signing up. She signed up promptly, and received a credit card shortly afterwards. A few months after that, the bills began pouring in.

She was billed for fees she did not know about, including the “free subscription to Time Magazine” that came with the card. “I was supposed to call them to cancel the subscription,” she said. “But I had no idea which number to

call. Customer service wasn't helpful at all, either; they told me nothing about what I should do, or how I should cancel the card.” Finally, her parents called the company, and everything was magically ironed out.

The constant calls are what bug Barnard sophomore Katherine Ozishvili most about her experiences with credit card companies. “I hate them,” she said. “First of all, [representatives] call constantly, and they do not leave you alone—you have to slam the phone

factor.

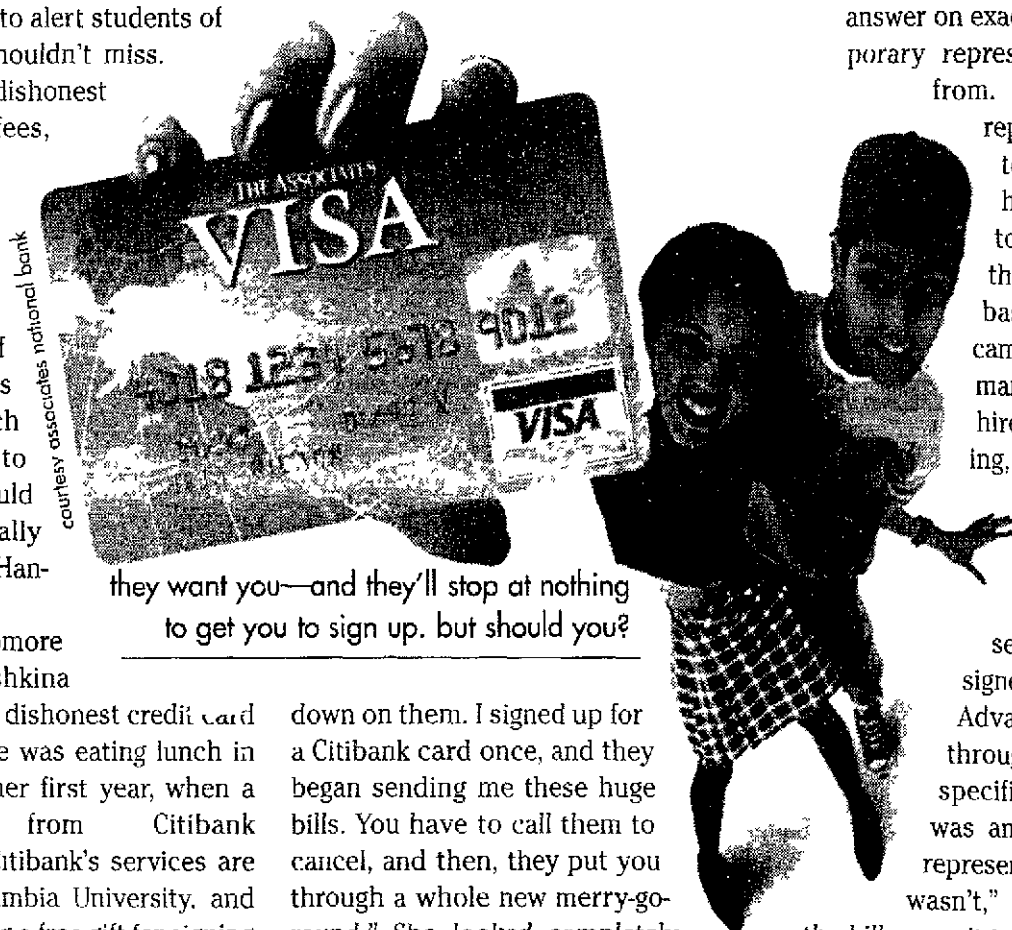
Some of the so-called “reps” for credit card companies are not affiliated with the actual credit card company. Their salary is determined by how many forms are filled out; therefore, some rep's objective is to get a customer to fill out as many of those applications as possible. Sometimes, the rep knows next to nothing about the company's policies, and simply harasses people to fill out multiple copies, “just to help him/her out.”

The *bulletin* could not get an answer on exactly where these “temporary representatives” are hired from. However, as several representatives encountered on the street have said (while trying to pitch their offers), their pay is commission-based. According to campus rumors, a great many of these “reps” are hired from modeling, acting, or temp agencies.

Many students have had problems with temporary representatives. Barnard senior Kate Torgovnick signed up for a American Advantage Mastercard through one such rep. “I specifically asked if there was an annual fee, and the representative told me there wasn't,” she said. “But when the bill came, it turns out that the annual fee for the card was 50 dollars.”

Sometimes, the reps coax and cajole—and sometimes, they choose the simpler path of forgery. “I only wanted the one specific card,” she said. “But the rep kept asking me to fill out two others. He said, ‘It would really help me out—I get paid per form I turn in.’”

Although she refused the other two cards, a day after her requested card



they want you—and they'll stop at nothing to get you to sign up. but should you?

down on them. I signed up for a Citibank card once, and they began sending me these huge bills. You have to call them to cancel, and then, they put you through a whole new merry-go-round.” She looked completely mystified. “They actually told me once that I don't have to pay the bill now, but that I should start using the card.”

No mystery there. Credit cards thrive on extra charges. It is easy to miscalculate the amount of money that one is charging, and interest charges swiftly go through the roof. Late fees, although rarely specified in brochures, are also a

but not until you read this

arrived in the mail, two other cards came in. After she called the company, she was informed that they had gotten her name through a promotion that had been going on at Columbia University. "I can only guess that the person took my information from the first form and forged it on the other two forms," she said.

The other two credit cards entailed fees and responsibilities that she had never anticipated, or wanted. To cancel the card, a customer must first run the familiar gauntlet of machine-recorded voices, endless holds, and then, a little debate with the customer service person on whether she really wants to cancel the card.

"All of my information was on that form," Torgovnick said. "It had my social security number, my mother's maiden name, absolutely everything." When she tried to figure out who had committed forgery with her name, the company was of absolutely no help, claiming that they could not track down the person who had repped for them that day. "No one seems to even care about this," she fumed. "Actually, I have a problem with Columbia University even letting these reps on campus," she continued. "I know that they need to run a business, but this is a school"

Columbia University gave Citibank permission to have their representatives

on campus last year, they had also installed a Citibank corner in Alfred Lerner Hall, complete with brochures, applications and certified bank manager. Throughout most of the year, this is the place to get signed up for loans, credit cards, checking accounts and a variety of other services.

Your credit record does not note

radical path, renouncing credit cards altogether Torgovnick now goes only for offers that she gets through the mail, since it is easier to be objective with a detailed letter than with a vague, insistent rep.

Eari Allen, a legitimate Citibank representative permanently employed on salary at the Citibank kiosk in Lerner Hall, suggests getting information directly from the source, rather than by hurriedly signing on a temp's form. The kiosk can provide valid, accurate information—as well as the time and space to

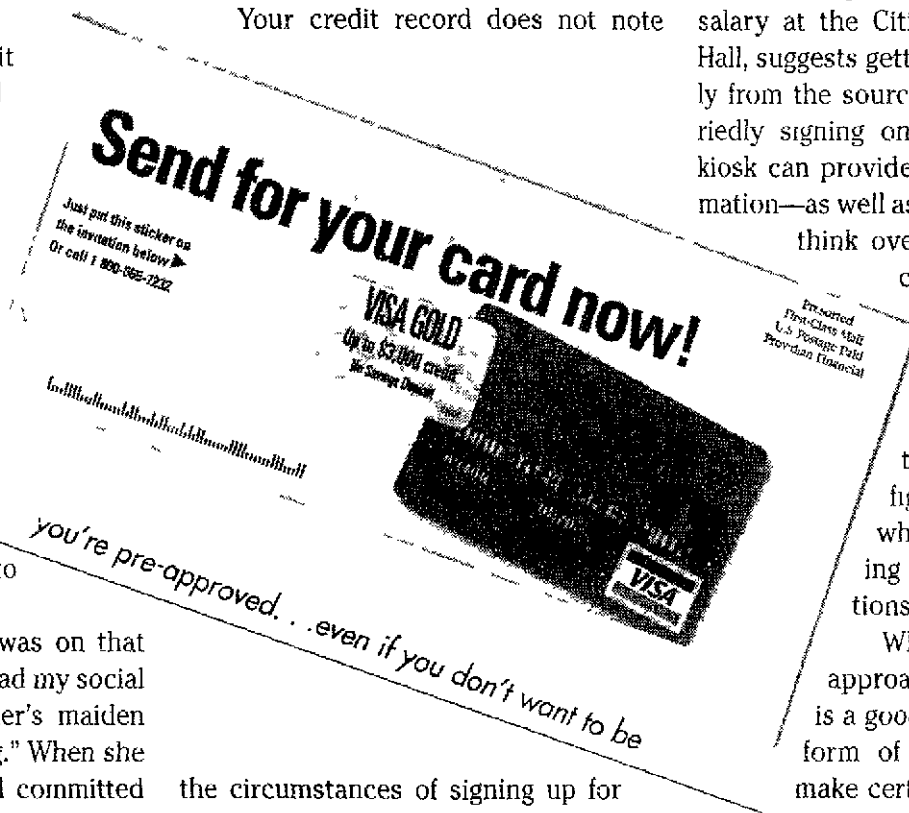
think over one's decision. You

can also speak to bank representatives at any bank in the city that offers a credit card, who will have all the relevant facts and figures on hand, and who are not paid according to how many applications they solicit.

When you are approached on the street, it is a good idea to ask for some form of certification, just to make certain you are talking to a real company employee, rather

than a scam artist; since temporary reps look just like ordinary college students, it follows that anyone can pretend to be a bank representative. Do read the fine print before signing anything, and do think twice before giving up your personal info.

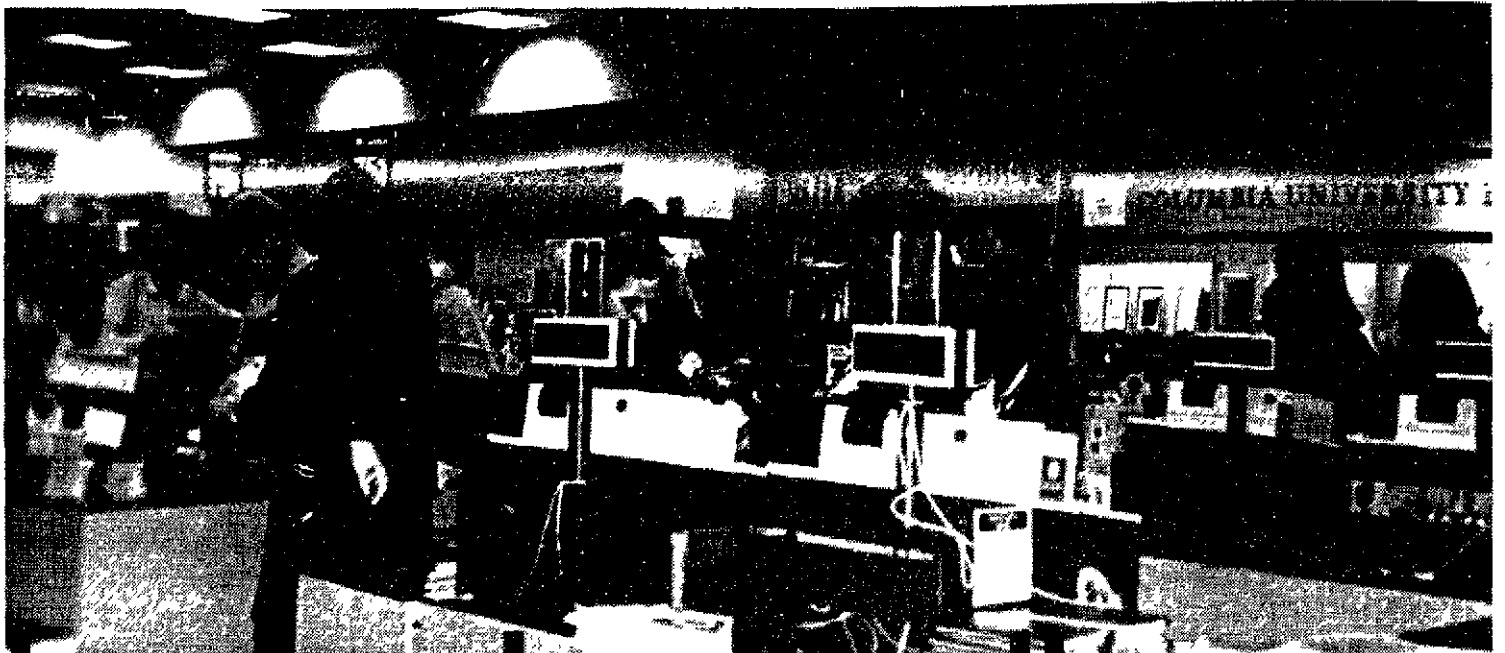
Renata Bystritsky is a Barnard junior and bulletin staff writer. Reprinted from 4 October 2000.



the circumstances of signing up for credit cards. It notes only applications, declinations and failures to pay, not whether or not you were unfairly coerced into signing anything. In college, it is exceedingly easy to mess up your credit record for life, effectively hampering yourself in future financial endeavors.

Lutoshkina came up with a popular solution—she runs every credit card offer past her parents before applying. Katherine Oziashvili has taken a more

looking for a federal work study job?
are ya a tough gal who wants to make a lot of money
in not a lot of time? then we want you!
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buy your books online.com

give your wallet a rest and surf the web for deals on your textbooks this semester

By Lauren Palmisano

As a new semester begins, college students everywhere sigh with grief as their worn-out wallets take another big hit. That's right, it's time to buy books. Though new book prices are high, used books are hard to come by (at least ones that aren't highlighted or overpriced), and thus, few students find the motivation to embark on a search for inexpensive books. The majority of students, who find themselves pressed more for time than for cash, flock to the good ol' Columbia Bookstore. Their regular priced books are comparatively fair but are in no way a bargain, and while the idea of buying used books at the CU bookstore seems like an appealing option, everyone is aware of the benefits, so the books usually sell out quickly.

Thus, those with more foresight, or concern, are uncovering new methods for buying books at an affordable price. Planning to order books about a week in advance is an easy way to save money. If a student has enough time to wait for a mail delivery the internet is about the cheapest, most efficient way to get the best possible deals on books. Online shop-

ping will almost always save money over shopping at the local bookstore, especially when buying used books online.

The following example is a proof of how much money can be saved. If a Barnard student needs to buy books for her four classes—physics, calculus, Italian, and social psychology, the total cost for these four main textbooks at CU bookstore will be \$394.00 (\$295.10 used). If this same student shops online, and buys these exact same books, her total cost can be \$290.66 NEW (\$216.33 used). By researching the textbook sites online, this student has found a worthwhile method of book-buying and now, everyone else can take advantage of her efforts.

A good way to begin the search is by getting an idea of the value of the required books. Even before the course starts, a student should talk to people who have taken the class before, e-mail the professor, and if one is available, look at his or her website with course information. If a student knows the title, author, and edition of the textbook, searching can begin weeks ahead of time. It is beneficial to also have more specific information, such

as the ISBN number of the book. This can be found on the back of the book above the UPC, or bar code, or printed on the copyright page. If a copy of the book is inaccessible, it is easy to find out this number at the Columbia Bookstore website, or at the site of any other merchant that carries the book. The CU Bookstore's website (www.columbiabookstore.com) also has another valuable service. A student can learn the retail value of her book so that she can determine fair prices elsewhere, regardless of whether or not the book is in stock.

From there, pricing books can be simple, as long as certain rules are followed. Don't assume that Amazon.com is the end-all of book bargains simply because the prices are \$5 less than the bookstore prices. Also, always pay attention to shipping costs because they can often negate the savings effort altogether. After visiting the CU Bookstore site, two great sites to visit are www.ecampus.com and www.allbookstores.com.

Allbookstores.com is a site that automatically searches numerous discount book websites to find the best price for

the book. However, the site does not include *ecampus.com*, which is certainly one of the top three sites for both price and selection. Additionally, there is sometimes a discrepancy in price between what this search engine lists, and the price that appears when actually following the link to the merchant's website. Therefore, the buyer must do the work of following most of these links to compare prices accurately. Even with this extra step, the site saves the buyer time because it provides links for books without the buyer having to search for all the books on each site, write down the appropriate information, and then determine the best price.

Another good thing to check before buying is the publisher's website. Though it is in no way a guarantee, some publishing companies will sell books directly to the student for a very low price. Calculus, Early Transcendentals, for example, can be bought directly from the publisher at *www.brookscole.com*, for \$84.56, brand new. This book sells at the CU store for \$119.75 (89.75 used). This price even beats most prices from discount bookstores.

After finding a really great deal on one book, it may seem easy and worthwhile to use such a site for buying all needed books. However, not every site has consistently good prices. Though they may have an occasional good buy, sites to avoid for general use are *VarsityBooks.com*, *edu.com*, and *textbooks.com* (or *barnesandnoble.com*).

Since shipping costs are also important factors in saving, it is important to check for them at the start. The best deals can be found at *ecampus.com*, offering free shipping for orders over \$35. A store that has new and used non-textbooks is *www.powells.com*—they offer free shipping for orders over \$50, and *www.textbooksatcost.com* has free shipping for orders over \$100. The quickest shipping can be found at *textbooks.com*, which will deliver to Manhattan the next day for the 3 day shipping cost if the order is placed before 11 am. Yet, with this website, because prices are so high, it is often better to just buy the books at the CU bookstore.

Even after such shopping efforts, it is unlikely that you will want to hold onto

those bargain books at the end of the semester. Unfortunately, selling books can seem even more frustrating than purchasing them, especially when the book that cost \$100 three months ago will only sell back for a small fraction of that price at the bookstore or to most online dealers. So, as a rule of thumb, do not sell your books back to one of the cheapest places to buy books, such as *ecampus.com*. The reason some of these dealers sell so low is because they buy even lower. Now is the time to take advantage of the sites that will sell high. Hands down the best online market when it comes to selling books is *www.amazon.com*. If books are in "like new" condition, Amazon will buy books for as much as 80 percent of their retail value. The aforementioned Calculus book can sell to *amazon.com* for \$84.67-\$96.76, while *ecampus.com* will only pay \$32.40 for it.

Another market is right here on campus, selling books to other students.

If students put up posters and tell their friends, their books will most likely sell

for a price comparable to the CU bookstore's used prices. This method is beneficial

because it cuts out the middle man, who can be either the store or online dealer, who will want to make a profit on the books bought back. *Amazon.com* is useful because it connects the seller directly with the buyer, without taking a large profit for itself. Amazon will also buy books at any time. This way, one can price the book at Amazon and still try to sell it around campus for a slightly higher price, without having to worry if it doesn't sell in the two-week book buying period.

For required soft cover books, Labyrinth is almost always stocked with the books that CU students need. To get the best discounts however, hunting

through the posters early in the semester and asking around can definitely prove to be worthwhile. Students on campus tend to sell their used soft cover books at very low prices. Another good place to shop is *www.powells.com*, where used soft cover books are offered at a fraction of their usual cost. Nevertheless, buying directly from students is still the fastest and often the cheapest method.

Also, before buying soft cover books at all, look online to see if they are available for free in e-book form. One great site is *www.emule.com* at the "Classical Poetry" link. It has an extensive collection of poems by about 140 authors, which includes Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, over 100 of Shakespeare's Sonnets, the *Aeneid*, and what appears to be the complete works of Yeats. For novels, check out *www.information-resources.com*.

For research, browse the categories of recently published books available to print out at *www.nap.edu*, the National Academy

Press's website. If the work is a classic, it should always be

easy to find. *Barnesand-*

Noble.com also has

100 classics for free on e-book,

which can be downloaded

and viewed using the

Microsoft Reader 1.5, which is

available at Microsoft's website

for free.

While the Columbia

University bookstore will

satisfy the need for textbooks

immediately, shopping around can be worth as much as \$200, depending on how

thorough and lucky you are. To recap, one must start early, buy used, find what is

available for free, and simply know what a good deal is. If a student finds the best

bargains on high-quality used books, she just might find herself with a few extra dol-

lars at the end of the semester when she sells them back for more than she paid.

Lauren Palmisano is a former bulletin staffer.

Edited and reprinted from 24 January 2001.

**...as
a new
semester begins,
college students
everywhere sigh
with grief as their
worn-out wallets
take another
big hit.**

museums offer culture and

By Kristin Carlson and Abby Co

A typical day-in-the-life of a Barnard student might consist of rolling out of bed, scribbling notes in a few classes, trekking to the library, and meandering down Broadway to scarf a giant slice of Koronet's pizza—complete with spicy red pepper sprinkles—and maybe some zesty Chinese take-out for a midnight snack. All this is usually accompanied by



The Metropolitan — an endless maze of amazing art and exhibits

a certain level of stress, almost certainly related to the masses of homework that are physically weighing on shoulders, lying in wait in overstuffed purses and backpacks.

Still, for those students who neglect to take new-found knowledge any farther than their textbooks, Matt Damon's line in the film *Good Will Hunting* holds true: You spent a lot of time and money on an "education you could have gotten for a dollar-fifty in late charges at the public library." Education and higher learning are seemingly omnipresent forces, surrounding us on an almost daily basis. Colleges are everywhere; classes are anywhere. People read books at home, at the library, outside in the park.

Barnard women, however, have an opportunity and a responsibility to extend college education into the multitude of cultural activities available in the great city of New York. Innumerable street vendors, plentitudes of ethnic restaurants, many types of spectacular theater, diverse shopping centers, numerous parks, and varied architectural styles extend and thrive beyond campus boundaries.

When people, American or not, think of the city, they think: Broadway shows, Lincoln Center, Times Square, Little Italy. Perhaps a less obvious, but by no means less important, Big Apple mecca may be discovered in New York's unique wealth of museums. As an extra bonus to the plethora of content, most exhibits are available for free viewing with the flash of a Barnard student ID.

Given the facts, Barnard women have no excuse not to spice up book learning with the wonderful museums New

York has to offer. Even if the hottest cultural encounter of the semester thus far is wasabi—worry not, and prepare for a major increase in cultural zest. For the novice, here is a sampling of fiery favorites, now ready for your viewing pleasure.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Allot several trips to fully discover and enjoy New York's largest and most complete museum of art. Paralleling the volume and depth of New York City itself, the Met holds priceless treasures, hidden hovels, and inexhaustible rooms to explore. The collection contains pieces from almost every civilization on Earth, past and present. Some classic must-sees are an amazing sphinx and a cute blue hippo in the Egypt room; the reclining Venus in the Greek and Roman hall; and the impressive display of American painting from the Hudson River School. Also notice the furnished rooms that cameo in each section to represent various cultures, including a superbly tranquil setting in the Islamic art area. Always filled with a thrilling amount of traveling exhibitions, the Met's collection spans art from vogue American photography through antique Chinese painting. For post-viewing pleasure when the weather is nice, lounge on the Met's Roof Garden and enjoy an eyeful of cityscape skyline; in colder months, relax in the American Wing Garden Court while perusing smooth statues and bright Tiffany windows.

Location & Transportation: Upper East Side, Fifth Ave. at 82 St. Take the 4, 5, or 6 to 86 St.

Museum of Modern Art: The MOMA is the place for all true lovers of modern art. This museum features drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, video, print and more from late nineteenth century to present. Patrons of the MOMA engage their creative side, deciphering anything from a plain white canvas to a multi-media. The permanent collection features favorites such as Van Gogh's "Starry Night," Matisse's "The Dance," and a study of Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. M.)." MOMA is preparing to move to a different site in order for restoration to be completed on their home on Fifth Avenue. Unfortunately, because of this some of MOMA's more famous works are not currently on display.

Location & Transportation: Midtown, 5 Avenue at 53 Street. Take the M4 bus to 53 or the E/F train to 5 Avenue.

American Museum of Natural History: Allow plenty of time to explore the many floors and diverse displays in this expansive place. Go from authentic dinosaur bones to evolution exhibits to worldwide taxidermy all in one visit. This museum is jam-packed with such riches as moon rocks, Aztec art, and a butterfly conservatory. One wing even contains a winding cosmic pathway that chronicles the birth of the universe, as well as computer-generated imaging of the Big Bang showcased beneath a glass floor. Choose from other

a break from student life

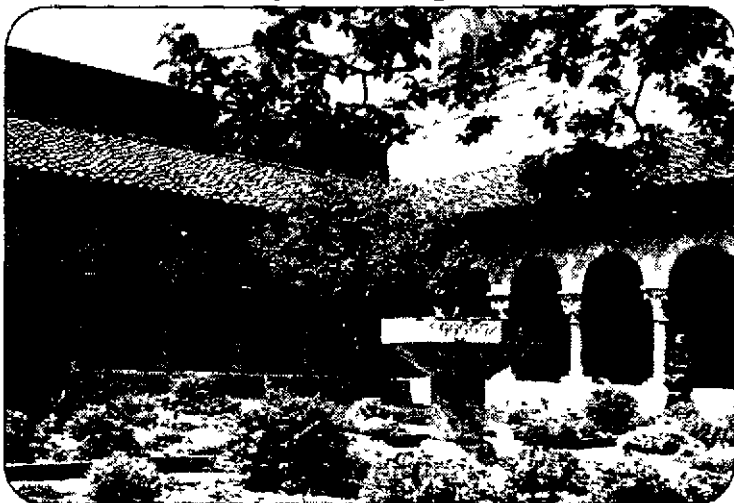
exciting experiences like jaunting amongst live rainforest plants, or entering the aquatic realm with a stroll beneath the big blue whale. Exhibits change frequently, a sure sign that visitors are always coming back for more. No matter which aspects of nature capture a patron's individual attention, The American Museum of Natural History promises to be the proud owner of several fascinating pieces of the great outdoors.

Location & Transportation: Upper West Side, 79 St. and Central Park West. Take the B or C to 81 St.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum: A poignant collection of clothing, passports, and letters join touching photographs—both tragic and beautiful—in a museum that describes a part of history that is uniquely New York and distinctly American. Located on Ellis Island, the museum is the actual building through which as many as 5000 people per day once entered the United States. A surprisingly large percentage of Americans today can trace at least one ancestor back to this island, a fact which makes this visit a personal one that museum-goers will not likely forget.

Location & Transportation: Ellis Island. Take the 1/9 to South Ferry and catch a boat to the island.

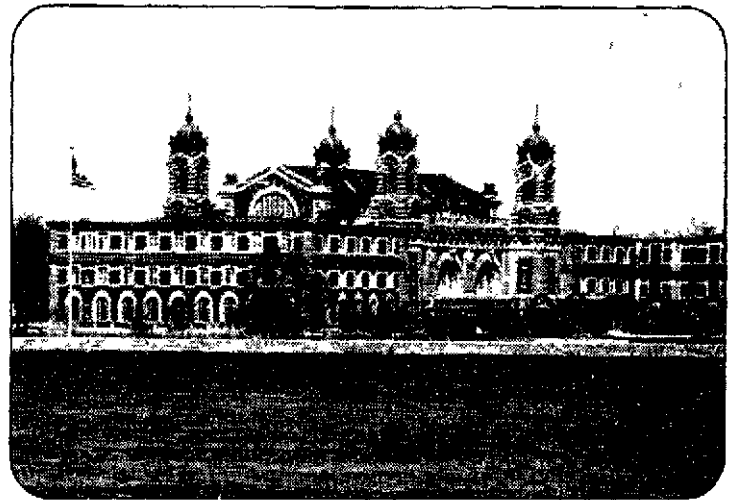
The International Center for Photography: Indulge your voyeuristic tendencies through the artistry of great photographic eyes at The International Center for Photography, a fresh addition to Museum Mile that was founded in 1974. Within its spotless yet intimate walls, the Center houses a pleasing variety of photographic paraphernalia—from relic cameras to modern life-sized glossies. The architecture of the building offers several rooms of intriguing displays, organized and captioned in such a fashion as not to be overwhelming. Furthermore, the lower level contains high-tech computer gear, which allows patrons to examine digital imagery, read artists' thoughts, and post their own responses on the web. Nearby, the building also boasts a darkened



The Cloisters—tranquility and Medieval collections

room, playing photomontages set to music. For all levels of photographers, as well those with no picture taking experience who just like to take a peek, the Center is definite eye candy.

Locations & Transportation: Midtown, 1133 Sixth Avenue at 43 St. Take the B, D, F, or Q line to 42 St. Upper East Side, 1130 Fifth Avenue at 94 St. Take the 6 train to 96 St.



Ellis Island Immigration Museum—a work of art and history

The Cloisters: For anyone who has ever dreamt of knights in shining armor (or anyone who enjoyed reading Sir Gawain and the Green Knight in high school), there is The Cloisters Museum. Located in Fort Tryon Park in northern Manhattan, this museum houses the art and architecture of the Middle Ages appropriately: in a castle featuring several medieval architecture styles. This unique blend of content and presentation exhibits medieval paintings, stained glass, books, gardens, columns, vaulting, and trinkets in a non-protrusive way, offering the viewer a contextual look at the ways nature, religion, and everyday life affected the aesthetic product of the middle Ages. Pieces of authentic castles are embedded into the stone of the building, adding to the awe that a patron of this museum experiences. The upper balcony overlooks Manhattan and the Hudson River, and when the weather is nice, there is an added bonus: three cloisters—monastic gardens featuring herbs and fruit trees—enhance the museum-going experience. Back inside, be sure to get a glimpse of the famed Unicorn Tapestries during your trip.

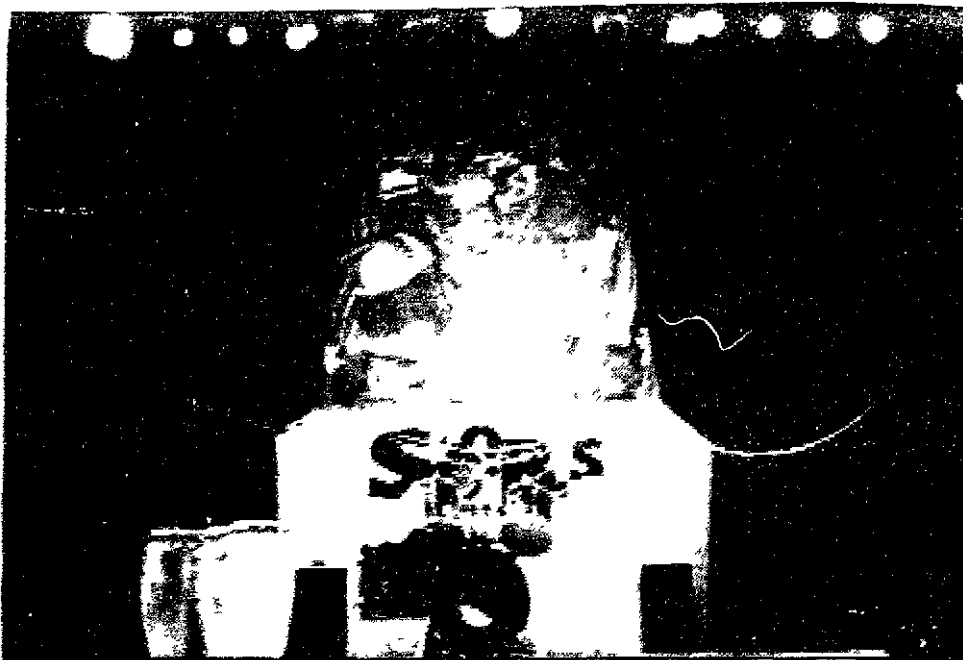
Location & Transportation: Washington Heights. Fort Tryon Park (190 Street). Take the M4 bus to Fort Tryon Park or the A train to 190 St.

Kristin Carlson and Abby Clay are Barnard juniors Edited and reprinted from 14 February 2001.

so many clubs,

and that's so a part of it is by the way you know that you're in the band is working in the city to play of course you'll want to see them. You will call the venue and you'll order tickets and you'll pay a deposit to hold one of those tickets. After all, doesn't any band sound good anywhere they play?

The big night however you may be in here once. That you thought would be a party and instead you'll see the people. Unless it's Madison Square Garden. Liggeradott is a place the size of the stadium the sound quality is atrocious making you cringe as even the slightest note of noise and what is worse there is absolutely no view of the band from the balcony where your seats are. How do you see a musical nightmare be avoided? Research, research, research. How where the best places to see music in the city are The Knitting Factory, Irving Plaza, The Bitter End, and all you have to do is read this newspaper, with guides to achieve your pleasure. Enjoy.



The stage at The Bitter End on Union Street

amazing. If being this close to the lead singer's spit and sweat turns you off then the Bowery's general admission policy may not be the most appealing. But with the atmosphere of the place, the chance to get up close and personal with the band, and the crazy bar scene in the back of the club, the Bowery is a prime place to go.

upstairs has comfy couches, and there is another bar room for the antisocial drinkers amongst the audience.

Bowery Ballroom
 4 Deane St.
 Box Office: 511-2111
 Open 11:00 AM - 1:00 AM
 Bowery Ballroom is a great place to see the best live music in the city. Bowery Ballroom is a great place to see the best live music in the city.

Irving Plaza
 Irving Plaza
 Box Office: 511-2111
 Open 11:00 AM - 1:00 AM
 Irving Plaza is a great place to see the best live music in the city.

The Knitting Factory
 74 Leonard St.
 Box Office: 219-1055
 Directors of Subway, 11 P to
 Franklin Street. The Knitting Factory
 is located on Leonard Street.

Since its opening in 1998, the Bowery has the place to hear the most performances. The same company that gave us the Mercury Lounge has outdone themselves with this one. The venue is beautiful with art deco details and great live lighting throughout. The mezzanine is reserved for VIPs and if you sit in the mezzanine you'll know why.

Now the Speaker Series performs at the Bowery as well and it was simply

Anyone who has been to a show at Irving Plaza can testify to the goodness of this place. The somewhat seedy history of the Plaza—it was previously used as a burlesque theater—adds to its personality. The main stage area is a decent size and the sound quality is reputed to be one of the best in the city with good lighting to boot. There is a large bar in the back for added enjoyment and there are plenty of spaces to chill out between acts. The lounge area

The Knitting Factory is the old standby for fans of eclectic and experimental music. Avant garde jazz, indie, and art rock are what the KF specializes in. Since relocating to Tribeca in 1994, the club has become even more popular, as it offers a little something for everyone. Three different performance spaces provide a good selection of music. If you don't like the sound of one place, at least you don't have to trek across town to find something else! The Main Space is the section that plays host to the larger touring bands, while the Old Office and Knitactive Sound Stage are for smaller, more intimate performances. The Knitting Factory is quite

so little time...

a large production; in addition to clubs in New York and California, they have their own record label, magazine (K-Note), and interactive website where you can order merchandise and buy advance tickets. The care they put into their business is evident by their live shows; while the sound system leaves something to be desired, a show at the Knitting Factory is always worth the money.

S.O.B.'s

204 Varick St.

Box Office: 243-4940

Directions by Subway: 1, 9 to Houston Street. S.O.B.'s is on the corner.

If listening to world rhythms is your thing, then this is the place to go. Though quite small, S.O.B.'s (which stands for Sounds of Brazil) doesn't have that claustrophobic feeling of many clubs of similar size. Decorated in full tropical glory, the club is host to music from all over the globe—jazz, salsa, reggae, and the latest in Afro-pop are staples of the club. Theme nights are especially popular; currently the club is hosting After Work Party Fridays, Samba

Saturdays and La Tropica Mondays. A great place to go to immerse yourself in new cultures and to get close to that Latin lover you've been eyeing in lecture.

Village Vanguard

178 Seventh Avenue

Box Office: 255-4037

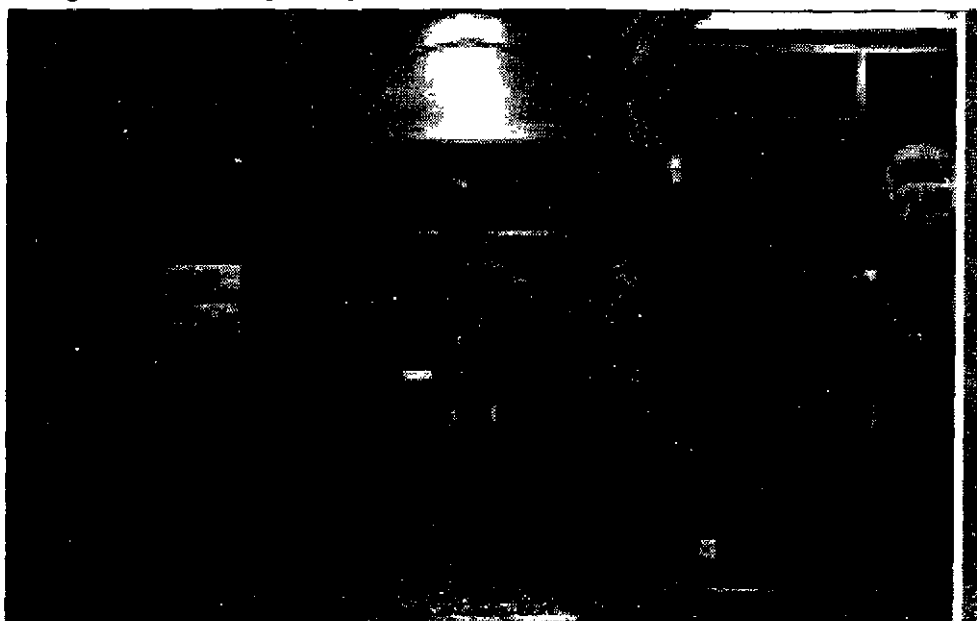
Directions by Subway: 1, 9, 2, 3 to 14 Street. The club is just below West 11 Street on Seventh Avenue.

If you want to impress someone with your expertise on the fine art of jazz, this is the place to take them. This state-ly venue has been around since 1935, giving it an air of authority that will make you fear to even speak inside. The sound quality is superb, letting one hear every last note played by an instrument until the very end. A small venue that is often crowded to maximum capacity, reservations are recommended, but you can attempt to get in the night of a performance. Monday nights are reserved for the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra—they've been playing at the VV for thirty year years, so do not expect anything different if you go on that night!

While this guide only lists a tiny fraction of the numerous venues scattered around the city, hopefully it will provide some guidance to a confused soul. I remember my first concert experience at Town Hall on 42 St. I was so excited to be seeing Morcheeba that I did not care where the seats were, as long as I was there. It turned out that we were in the first row, which could have been a good thing except for the fact that our view was completely blocked by two huge speakers. In order to see anything besides these black boxes, I had to stand in the aisle, along with a hundred other people in the same predicament. While it was still a lot of fun, I wish I knew more about the place before I rushed into buying tickets. Before you pick up the phone to order tickets, check out the floor plan, the location, and the quality of the venue. At least I was lucky enough to hear the band (considering there were speakers in my face)—other places, you may not be as lucky. When you are sure the place is good, go ahead and grab the tickets. Unless the band is just too good to miss, regardless of venue—in which case, throw all caution to the wind and go watch already!

Thea Tagle is a Barnard sophomore and the bulletin music editor. Edited and reprinted from 11 april 2001.

The bulletin music section prints a brief listing of events weekly. For a complete listing check out the Village Voice, free in Sulzburger lobby.



the Village Vanguard is a New York City jazz standard

our little corner of Harlem...

By Kiryn Haslinger

When my mother and grandmother brought me to Barnard, they were pleasantly shocked at the beauty of our little corner of New York. Having lived never more than an hour and a half from Manhattan, they both regarded New York City as a dirty place, too rough for their little girl. They thought that the only worthwhile places to visit were Midtown and Museum Mile. We all learned that we had been quite naïve. New York has hundreds of unique and interesting neighborhoods packed tightly into the five boroughs. What you will very soon learn is that you now live in one of the most beautiful and historic in the city.

The northern part of the island of Manhattan (59th Street and above) was once the very flat, fertile land that Manhattan Indians used for farming. When Dutch settlers arrived to settle in the southern part of Manhattan, the natives were permitted to remain in the northern section, which they called Muscoota ("flat place"). Few Europeans set foot in the area until Governor Peter Stuyvesant built a town in Muscoota in 1658 and named it "Nieuw Haarlem." When English settlers arrived in 1664, they changed the name of the Dutch town to "Harlem."

The area (as most of New York/New Amsterdam) was predominantly agricultural land owned by wealthy European settlers and early Americans through the Civil War. In the 1880s a Harlem Railroad system was completed, making it easy for city-dwellers to travel north. Affluent Manhattanites moved "uptown," making Harlem an area of opulence and grandeur. The less industrialized, less accessible parts of Harlem were inhabited by poor Irish and Eastern European immigrants, creating distinct ethnic pockets in the area.

By 1905, more buildings had been erected than there were people to live in them, and thus started the immigration of middle-class African-American families who were pushed out of other parts of Manhattan due to commercial development. A prominent black community thrived and the migration to Harlem continued during the 1920s with people

coming to New York in record numbers from the American South and the West Indies. In the 1920s, during the Harlem Renaissance, Harlem became the urban cultural center of black America. Today, the neighborhood of Harlem is the region north of 110th Street from the Hudson to the East River. It is broken up into smaller neighborhoods, including Morningside Heights, where Barnard is located.

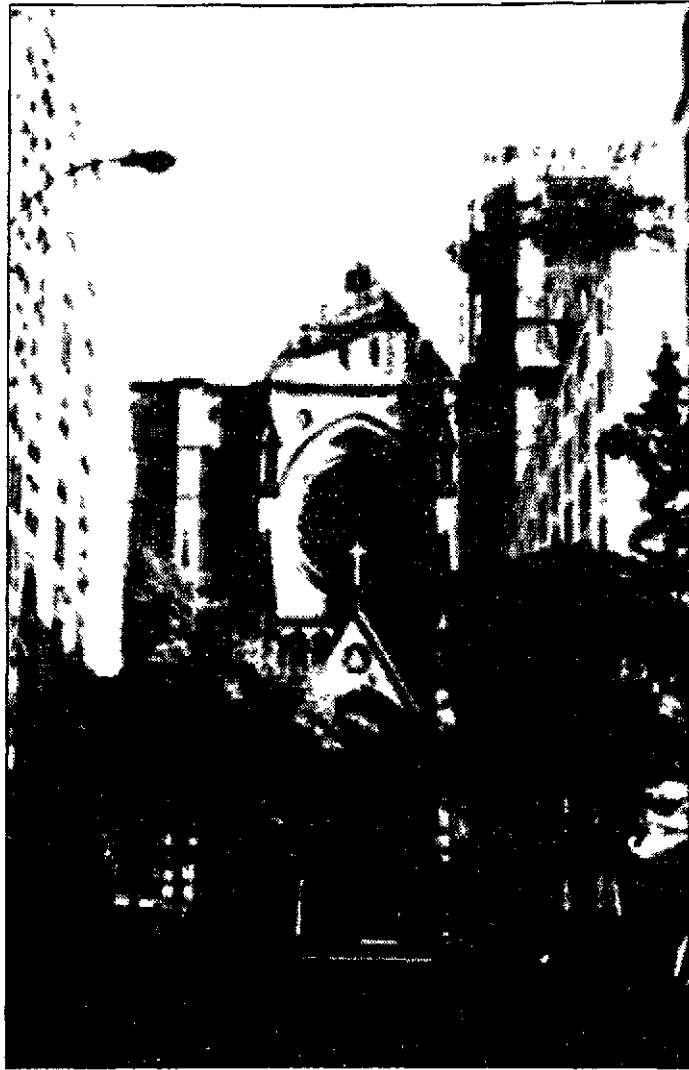
If you don't stray from the Columbia gates it is easy to miss the historic beauty of our immediate neighborhood. Barnard may have a wonderful little lawn and even a greenhouse, but we are also surrounded by three of the city's largest, most beautiful parks, as well as several smaller ones.

To the west, one block from campus, is Riverside Park. Riverside spans from 72nd to 125th Streets along the West Side Highway and Riverside Drive (the park actually extends to the top of Manhattan, but changes names along the way). Along the street in there is a shady walking path with park benches and small playgrounds. Venture down the steps (located at intervals of about 8 blocks; the closest is 116th Street) and find a very peaceful grassy hill and an alternative walking/running/biking path with a fantastic view of the River.

Morningside Park borders Columbia's campus to the east. It sits on the steep hill that connects East and West Harlem.

This park has spans from 123rd Street to 110th where it ends in the beautiful gardens of St. John the Divine gothic cathedral (Yes, there is a gothic cathedral in our neighborhood. And it claims to be the largest in the world). Morningside has great picnicking areas, complete with tables and grills. It also holds many community events throughout the year, such as festivals and park clean-ups.

To the south, Central Park does not quite border the campus boundaries. But a short walk or a ride on the M4 will bring you to the top of the great park that constitutes 6% of Manhattan (843 acres in all). The 110th Street reservoir at Fifth Avenue can often be overlooked next to the main reservoir in the center of the Park. But don't miss the opportuni-



Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 112 St. and Amsterdam

explore the history of the Heights

ty to check it out because it is one of the most beautiful and peaceful places in Central Park. It borders the Conservatory garden (a six-acre formal rose garden), that can be accessed from the Fifth Avenue-105th Street entrance, across from the Museum of the City of New York.

Immediately north-west of Barnard's campus, at 120th and Claremont Ave. is the Riverside Church. This world-famous Christian church prides itself on being interdenominational, interracial, and international. The church consists of a large nave (modeled after the 13th Century gothic cathedral, in Chartes, France) and several auxiliary chapels all filled with incredible high ceilings, stained glass, and religious icons. In addition to Sunday services, the Riverside Church holds frequent community events. There is a permanent collection of Heinrich Hofmann paintings, as well as temporary exhibits of professional and local community artwork. The Riverside Church also holds musical and theatrical events throughout the year.

Directly across the street from the Riverside Drive entrance to the church is the General Grant National Memorial, better known as Grant's Tomb. The monument—the largest mausoleum in America—was completed in 1897 to honor

Riverside Church tower from behind the Interchurch Center
Ulysses S. Grant, the eighteenth US president and Union army commander attributed with the responsibility of winning the American Civil War, ending slavery, and reuniting the nation. Surrounding the memorial are mosaic benches with artistic renderings of city life. These were constructed in a 1972, for the 100th anniversary of the US parks service, which was founded by President Grant. Architect Pedro Silva recruited local students and residents of the area to help design and construct the benches. The modernist style of the benches, which were directly influenced by Antonio Gaudi's work in Barcelona, clash beautifully with the austere, neo-classical monument. The plaza in front of the memorial can be used for rollerblading and biking. It also doubles as a venue for free jazz concerts during the summer (August 29 marks the last concert of the season with Roy Hargrove on the Jazzmobile). On Sundays, volunteers reenact Civil War battles in the plaza, and the park rangers are always looking for actors (there are roles for men and women). By the way, if anyone asks, no one is buried in Grant's Tomb. The bodies

of General Grant and his wife are entombed there.

The Apollo Theatre, at 125th Street between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevards, is a classic New York landmark that has recently received two grants that total \$725,000 for restoration. This money will potentially be used to restore the 1914 building and increase tourism in Harlem. The theatre still holds "Amateur Night at the Apollo" every Wednesday night. The Apollo theatre features performances of many organizations and artists including the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

The Studio Museum in Harlem, at 144 W. 125th Street (between Lenox and 7th Avenues) opened in 1968 to feature African American art. The museum has an artists-in-residence program for young, creative artists of color to train and display their work.

A little outside our neighborhood, but still a nearby and worthwhile is a trip to 515 Lenox Avenue. Here you will discover the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, a branch of the New York City Public Library. The center has a permanent collection of manuscripts, artwork, and artifacts relating to the history of people around the world of African decent, as well as temporary exhibits relating to African-American history and culture. The Center often features theatre and musical concerts.

In addition to the many cultural sites in the area, there are several institutes of higher learning, including Teachers College, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Union Theological Seminary, the Bank Street College of Education, and the Manhattan School of Music. If these weren't enough to give the neighborhood a young population, the New York International Youth Hostel—the largest hostel in the world—is located on Amsterdam Avenue between 103rd and 104th Streets.

If you ever have a few hours free, you need not go far to find history, culture, and beauty as a refuge from school work. Just walk beyond the Barnard gates and explore your surroundings. You'll be amazed at all there is to see.

Kiryng Haslinger is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor-in-chief.

spoken word poetry on the rise in New York

By Courtney E. Martin

Spoken word poetry has gained popularity with a fury in the past ten years, especially in urban settings. It is best described as a fusion between the word-consciousness of traditional poetry and the lyrical rhythm (infused with some serious ego) of hip hop. From these two genres, a new one is born, and it is a feisty little thing.

There are two contexts in which spoken word poetry is most often performed. One is the mild, "good child" of performance poetry: the open mic. At an open mic, anyone is welcome to work it on the stage. An aspiring poet must only sign up on the list, which the host will usually cap at about twenty or twenty-five people a few minutes before the show begins. Read at an open mic and you can expect to get big hugs of applause from the warm fuzzy audience and a boost of self-confidence. Read at a slam, on the other hand, and expect no such thing. The "bad child" of performance poetry is most certainly this five poet bout to the death. In a slam, five poets each have an opportunity to read three poems. At the conclusion of each poem, five audience judges score the content and performance of the poem from one to ten, with decimal places to avoid ties. The highest and lowest scores are thrown out and the three remaining are totaled. At the end of all three rounds, each poet's scores are added up.

The poet with the most points gains both a victory and an ego boost. The kicker about slams is that the audience judges are chosen at random, so the scores are totally unpredictable. Well-known and loved poets are used to getting a ten on Friday and a six on Saturday for the exact same poem. Inconsistency, in spoken word poetry, is the nature of the beast.

Sound intriguing? Well, there are great venues to see spoken word poetry all over New York City, but the four most established are the Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, Urbana at CBGB's, Bar 13, and Jimmy's Uptown.

The Nuyorican Poet's Cafe has been the center of performance poetry since the 70s when it was started by a group of passionate and fed up Puerto Ricans in alphabet city. Located at 236 E. 3rd Street between avenues B and C (take the 1/9 to 59th, the A to West 4th, then the F to 2nd avenue), the Nuyorican is a far journey for Barnard students, and also one that is completely worth it. Every Friday night at around 10, the bricks start sweating as hundreds of audience members and five poets pack into the tiny space. The host, Felice Bell, keeps it loud and joyful all night, but be prepared to pay \$5 and to stay for awhile: Nuy-

orican slams usually last far past Cinderella's curfew, especially because after the invitational slam there is an open mic for anyone so inclined. The Nuyorican hosts a lot of other great events as well, so be sure to check out their website at www.nuyorican.com.

The Urbana slam at CBGB's is a younger event (started in 1998), but totally worthwhile. Every Sunday evening at 7, things get kicked off in the CBGB lounge. While CBGB's is known as the "home of underground rock," the Urbana Slam proves that spoken word poetry has a loud and clear voice at this great venue as well; the 2000 National Slam champion team hails from Urbana! CBGB's is also in the lower east side, 315 Bowery between first and second streets to be exact, but once again, it is well worth the hour on the subway and the \$5 cover charge. For more details check out www.cbgb.com.

If you want a slightly closer jaunt to experience performance poetry, plan going to Bar 13 on Monday nights at 7:30 pm Bar 13 is conveniently located right off of Union Square (take the 1/9 to 42nd, then the N/R to 14th) at 35 E. 13th street on the second floor. The "A Little Bit Louder" slam, as it is known, boasts a feature poet, an open mic, and a slam all for the low student price of \$4. For more information on this student friendly slam, check out www.geocities.com/loudpoet.



the nuyorican is one of many spoken word venues in our fair city

et.

And finally, the closest and newest venue to see some local talent is Jimmy's Uptown, located at 2207 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard (Seventh Avenue) between 130th and 131st. The exciting thing about Jimmy's is that the winner makes some serious cash, unlike most venues who only offer the champion admission or enough to buy a beer. In addition, Jimmy's boasts to give out the title for "hottest poets champion of the week." Hey, it may not be Miss. America, but it could still get you a date or two.

Don't forget that there are events on campus that show you the best and brightest student talent and give you a great opportunity to try your own work out in front of a familiar audience. StrangeFruit, a show put on twice a semester, features a historically talent-packed open mic. In addition, Columbia's only organization devoted to hip hop, called elementary, is known to throw some fantastic open mics as well. Keep your eyes peeled and your pens moving.

Courtney E. Martin is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor-in-chief.

NSOP HIGHLIGHTS

NIGHT AT THE ROXY
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
9PM-2AM

**HIGHER LEARNING:
DIVERSITY DIALOGUES**
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH
3PM-5PM

ALUMNA READING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST
1PM-3PM

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE:
CENTRAL PARK ZOO PARTY**
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH
9PM-12AM

SEX LIES AND VIDEO TAPE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 30TH
5PM-8PM

**PARTY OF THE DECADES:
ALFRED LERNER HALL PARTY**
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH
10PM-1AM

CULTURAL RECEPTIONS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 31ST
3PM-5:30PM

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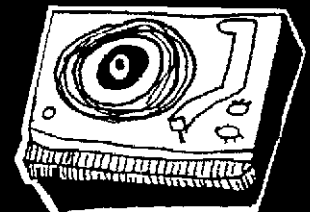
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the barnard experience

By Courtney E. Martin

Barnard is not the typical college experience. Your life here will certainly not be summed up in sports memorabilia or graduation gowns. Even old textbooks will never tell the true story of your time here. Instead, Barnard will become for you a collection of moments. No matter how incongruent or random they may seem, when you piece them together—look back on the piling up of your time here—you will see how this place forms who you are.

When all the shoes, graduation photos, laundry soap has been unpacked my parents hug me, and my mom, dragon colored eyes full of tears, and dad, suddenly so big and necessary again, get into a taxi. As their car pulls away I burst into tears, humbled by the hugeness of it all. I was so brave in theory, so scared and alone in truth.

The four of us put on our new Barnard uniforms—black pants—and head out the door at 9:30 p.m. on a Saturday night. Allison has done my make-up as usual (I can never navigate the brushes), so when we arrive at Ruggles Hall I am feeling better and older. Five minutes later, when we get signed into an empty suite and learn that parties don't really start until at least 11 or 12, I feel like the youngest, naïve girl in the "big city."

A scruffy Columbia boy, sitting on a bench and mulling over a cigarette, tells me that women are an inferior sex intellectually. I consider, for a moment, giving him my usual song and dance about Victoria Woodhull and Seneca Falls, Naomi Wolf and the value of emotional intelligence, but then I look around me. Sulzberger tower rises so high above, the clock shining down in the moonlight telling me what time it is. "You know, I really don't have time to substantiate that comment. I have too many papers to write and too many intelligent women to talk to upstairs."

The phone rings and I go rigid at

my desk. One week before the nurse practitioner in health services found a condensed spot in my right breast. An ultrasound and a hell of a lot of disbelief later, I am waiting for the results. Nineteen years old and contemplating my mortality, I answer.

Benign. I look at my roommate, eyes wide across the room, and signal that everything is okay...we both end up in a heap of laughter and tears on the floor.

The wrap lady says, "How is your day baby?"

It's a Thursday night on the hall. Dinner just ended, giggly girls run from room to room as Fiona Apple and the Roots seep out of their stereos. Someone's mom has just sent a care package of her special chocolate chip cookies and they have arrived battered and crumbled, ready for the mass grab of a floor of women grown tired of Hewitt sponge cake. I go to the bathroom to wash the crumbs from my fingers and hear gagging noises in the corner stall. My insides freeze. My voice hides, suddenly frightened by its own power to shatter such a gruesome silence. I have been educated by enough junior high sleepovers in suburbia to know what noises like this really mean. "Are you okay?" I hear myself blurt out. No answer.

Professor Dalton, dynamic and balding as usual, looks us in the eyes as no one else has following the third campus suicide this year. "Something must be done," he implores, idealism and real pain echoing in his eyes. Altschul 202 is silent as church. Hope grows thick, a lump in my throat.

Our beloved apartment in the 600s is looking far too loved on a Sunday morning. 40 ounce bottles of St. Ides swim in the melted ice of the

bathtub and CDs lie scattered across the wooden floor. We wake with headaches and hungry bellies and immediately start re-enacting the night's best moments. The chore wheel can not help us now.

I am so angry that embarrassing tears start welling up in my eyes. We sit directly across the table from one another in 404 Barnard Hall. Her interpretation of June Jordan is blasphemy to

me. I can't stop flashing back to the faces of my favorite kindergartners at Grant Housing Project and totally losing the logic of my argument, the edge in my voice. Intellect and emotion knock into each other and against my insides.

When he walks me home at 5 am in the thickest fog, I suddenly realize that we have been talking for 12 hours straight. I am so distracted by the charcoal outline of his eyes and his funny stories that I forget to appear casual. Love is like this.

We dance whenever we can.

Kelly and I escape to the roof with notebooks under our arms and pens clenched in our fists. We read poems, pieces of stories, eulogies to our weaker selves, out loud and in the wind. Our words grow thrashing wings.

I pull the weak-binded yearbook, shredding at the edges from the shelf and begin to delicately turn the pages. The sepia tone faces of women who once whispered to one another in these same rooms, once fell in love and out on these same steps, once found the same home—a home embedded in moments—stare back at me.

Courtney E. Martin is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor-in-chief.

...one senior reveals her truths...

neighborhood gentrification not in students' interest

By Kiryn Haslinger

If you draw a rectangle around the perimeter of Broadway and Amsterdam Avenues between 112th and 120th Street you will have demarcated the empire that is Columbia. The inside of the box is peaceful, clean, and trendy. It has some beautiful, historic buildings. But nearly everything constructed since the early twentieth century is sterile, unimaginative and simply ugly.

Columbia has a real interest in maintaining its empire. A clean, safe, neighborhood should attract students and along with those students, serious cash-flow. Simple economics dictates that the University invests in its surroundings, building and renovating businesses that appeal to students. The university's intention is to restore and preserve the neighborhood while maintaining the culture and character of the area and its inhabitants. Columbia has worked very hard to renovate and repair the facades of over 65 pre-war buildings in the area. But over the past three years, during my tenure at Barnard, every addition (not renovation) to the neighborhood has screamed of mass globalization. (For example, within the 112th to 120th empire, there are two coffee shops. They are both Starbucks. How can a shop that sells overpriced, bitter coffee competing only with itself be in the students' interest?)

Small local businesses seem to be moving out as chain stores and trendy restaurants move in. I cannot speak for the entire Columbia student body, but multiple Starbucks, overpriced nuevo French and Mexican restaurants with poor quality food, and ugly, charmless buildings do not appeal to me. So why do these keep coming into the neighborhood?

Columbia owns much of the retail building space in the campus vicinity and makes decisions about what businesses are located in the area. The university has an acute interest in the area and has been conducting a study on how to spend funds on future development in the region between Morning-side Park and Riverside Park, from West 106th Street to West 130th Street. You'll notice the ongoing construction of the storefronts between 114th and 115th Streets. All of these restaurants and shops had unique, personalized signs when I first came to Barnard three years ago. Over the next few months, the renovation will be complete, and the block will culminate in its clean, uniform appearance.

You will also notice among the beautiful red and tan brick turn-of-the-century apartment buildings are new cold, homely buildings which seem to have been intended to fit in with the neighborhood décor but fail miserably. An example of this is the new Broadway dorm between 113th and 114th Streets. The Columbia architecture school is one of the premier institutions for architecture in the world... *What were they thinking?* Given that the Office of Institutional Real Estate has done so much to restore the already existing buildings, the new design is inexcusable for its lack of any resemblance to the beautiful, brick buildings on all its sides.



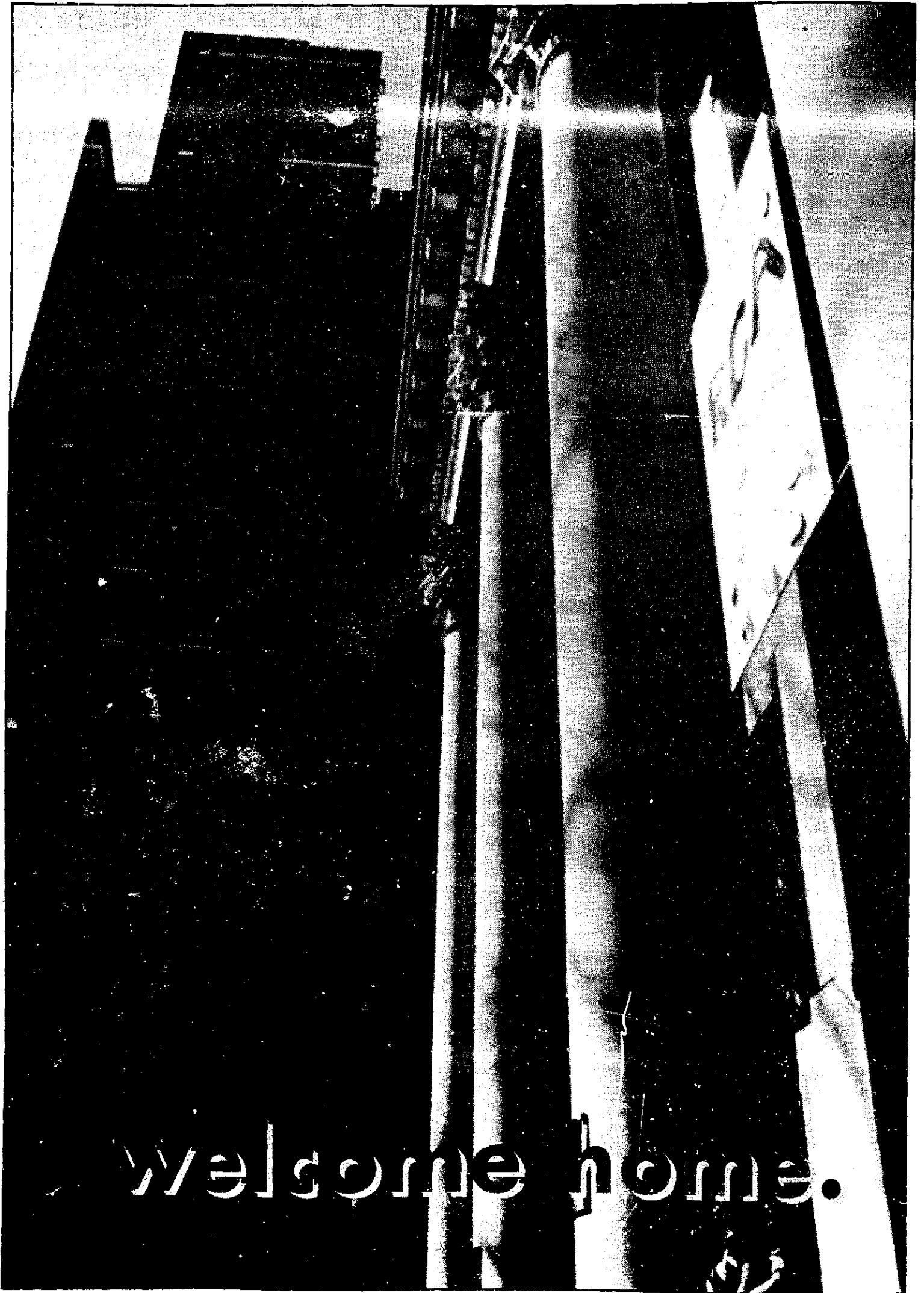
site of Columbia's new building project, 110 Street

Walk past the northern boundaries of the campus, where Columbia's influence is not so strong because of the several other institutions housed there, and you will see beautiful and cohesive architecture that makes you feel proud to walk along the sidewalk. Walk south past 112th Street and you will enter the not-yet-gentrified neighborhood that has tons of local color and an energy completely distinct from the 116th-centered kingdom. The unique quality of these few blocks may soon disappear, as Columbia

is building an elementary school and apartment building at the south-east corner of 110th Street.

It seems to me that the university views sterility as a priority in student appeal. Character is being thrown out of Morning-side Heights with each new refacing and rebuilding. Leave the rectangular kingdom and you will experience a distinctly different atmosphere. But the box is rapidly expanding for the sake of expensive gentrification. I don't know if there is way to stop it, but I think it is important, at the very least to enjoy the character that still exists. Leave the womb that is campus. Take a walk past all the cute sidewalk cafes: their food is poor to so-so and quite overpriced. There are restaurants further north and further south with good food, good prices, and character. Discover them before they're gone. Enjoy the beautiful buildings on Westend and Riverside Avenues. Given their recent work on the Broadway dorm and Alfred Lerner Hall, I expect that Columbia architects will probably never be able to compete with that beauty and cohesion. Appreciate what's left. Don't let the empire make you too comfortable and forget that you now live in the most diverse, most exciting city in the world.

Kiryn Haslinger is a Barnard senior and bulletin co-editor-in-chief.



welcome home.