

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

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[ARTICLE]

AIDS test still suspended at Barnard Health Service

By Jonathan Earle

Barnard students who request testing for the AIDS virus are still being refused a blood test while administrators continue to reevaluate the current AIDS-testing program.

According to Harriette Mogul, the director of Barnard's Health Services, Barnard administrators have met to discuss the program, but have not yet decided whether or not to reinstate the blood test.

Meanwhile, students who wish to be tested are being turned away after Mogul administers pre-test counseling and students fill out New York City test forms.

"I've been met with a barrage of students asking for testing," Mogul said.

The decision to suspend the AIDS testing at Barnard was made during the last week in September, Mogul said. Barnard's Health Services had

been drawing blood at no cost for the HIV antibody test since February, when administrators decided to "take a look at the process." Mogul said. Vice President for Student Affairs Barbara Schmitter and Barnard President Ellen Futter would not say exactly why the process needs examining.

Both Mogul and Schmitter said last Thursday that a decision whether or not to resume the blood tests will be made soon.

"It should be decided at any minute," Mogul said.

Mogul refused to comment on whether the administration is pressuring health service officials to halt the AIDS testing program on campus.

She did say, however, that last week's decision to stop tests was not necessarily a permanent one.

"No decision has been made either way about this," she said.