

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXIII, Number 37, 31 October 1989 — No arrests yet in string of B'way needle attacks
[ARTICLE]

No arrests yet in string of B'way needle attacks

By Robert Hardt Jr.
and Susannah Wood

Police have yet to make any arrests following a bizzare series of attacks that occurred last week on Broadway between 95th and 110th Streets, a spokesperson for the 24th Police Precinct said.

At least 23 women ranging in age from 14 to 50 were stabbed with unidentified sharp objects between Tuesday and Friday by groups of six to 10 young women, WNBC reported last night.

Although none of the weapons has been recovered, police fear victims were pricked by syringes infected by the AIDS virus, according to WNBC.

Of the 23 people who reported the attacks to the police, 22 were white women, causing police to believe the incidents may be bias related, WNBC reported. Victims all said they were assaulted by a group of black teen-age women.

Spokespeople for the 24th Police Precinct said they added extra police officers to the area, and WNBC reported that members of the Guardian Angels also patrolled the neighborhood.

Examination of the area late last night by Spectator reporters, however, revealed no visible increase of police protection. No Guardian Angels were seen on the street.

No Columbia students have reported being attacked in this way, Columbia Security sergeant Peggy Khan said. A Barnard Security guard who refused to be identified said that no Barnard Students reported being

attacked as of yesterday afternoon.

Some area residents expressed concern about the attacks.

“My friends who don’t live in this area are afraid of coming up here,” said Jessica Farman, a physical therapist who has lived in the neighborhood for the past two years.

Others said they were not as worried by the attacks.

“People have talked about it, but most people don’t give a shit,” said Bruce Caplin, a bartender at the Border Cafe on Broadway at 100th Street. “As soon as something’s on the 5 o’clock and 10 o’clock news, it doesn’t happen anymore.”