

Bryn Mawr College

## Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College

---

Bryn Mawr College News

Bryn Mawr College Publications, Special  
Collections, Digitized Books

---

10-29-1947

### The College News, 1947-10-29, Vol. 34, No. 05

Students of Bryn Mawr College

Follow this and additional works at: [https://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc\\_collegenews](https://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc_collegenews)

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

---

#### Citation

Students of Bryn Mawr College, *The College News, 1947-10-29, Vol. 34, No. 05* (Bryn Mawr, PA: Bryn Mawr College, 1947).

This paper is posted at Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College.

[https://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc\\_collegenews/836](https://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc_collegenews/836)

For more information, please contact [repository@brynmawr.edu](mailto:repository@brynmawr.edu).

# THE COLLEGE NEWS

VOL. XLIV, NO. 5 ARDMORE and BRYN MAWR, PA., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1947

Copyright, Trustees of Bryn Mawr College, 1947 PRICE 10 CENTS

## Juniors Display Musical Talents In "Big as Life"

### Vivid Stage Sets Give Appropriate Scene For Wild West

by Emily Townsend '50

The Junior Show of '49, Big As Life, presented last Saturday night in Goodhart Auditorium, was supported by excellent sets and good songs; the action within this framework was somewhat weak and spotty. The individual acting was of a fairly high quality, and gave the show the vitality the plot failed to, while the shortness of the production, always attractive in amateur musicals, was all to the good; the humour, however, was too often of a kind that has been buried long since, and should never have been dug up again.

The plot, cleverly and aptly symbolized by the stage crew's creaking machine, was nevertheless the major weakness of the show. Concerned with the Lucite Life-reporters' assignment to cover the boom town of Creeping Fingers, and the mildly frustrated love-affair of hero Gabe and heroine Gentian Violet, it had to be oiled at frequent intervals by the character parts. It did, however, get the songs in and the leads married off, which is the ultimate function of any musical comedy.

Bright spots in the show were Kathy Geib and Sue Henderson in the leads; it is a pity they were given no more to do, for they did what they did very well. Both had clear, true voices, and fine comic talents. Kathy's solo, "Nosegays", came out nicely from behind one of the dearest pans in all the West, (rivaled only by those hairy miners, Kelley and Platt), and Sue managed to look incredibly demure, even in the scanty pink of the

Continued on Page 2

## Old Chapel Form Favored by Poll

Elizabeth McClure, head of the Chapel Committee, reports that the Chapel poll indicates a clear majority approving the present order of service. The prevalent feeling is that a good sermon is definitely a desirable part of Chapel. The poll revealed, however, the student support of an average of one student-led service each month. Mid-week lectures, especially on comparative religion, were also advocated.

The most immediate aim of the Chapel Committee in carrying out the suggestions of the poll will be to evolve a better method for selecting Sunday and mid-week speakers. New hymns with familiar hymns will be procured as soon as possible. Specific suggestions, such as improving the Music Room and calling the service "Vespers", will also be acted upon.

Specific figures from the poll were as follows: of the 252 students that replied to the poll, 185 favor the present order of service; 15 opposed; 69 favor present type of service; 24 favor devotional service without speakers; 143 favor combination, services with speakers alternating with student-led services; 173 report they will come to lectures on comparative religion; 172 oppose morning services; 40 supported this.

## Japan Undergoes Education Change, Says Mrs. Vining

Goodhart, October 23. — "One must live in Japan to realize the dramatic changes in Japanese thought in the last two years," stated Mrs. Elizabeth G. Vining, tutor to the Japanese Crown Prince, in a lecture on "Japan of Today." She pointed out that Japan, a totalitarian country for centuries, has renounced war, formed a democratic political structure and gone on to rebuild her character with courage and hope.

Education, she continued, felt this change immediately after the Emperor announced the policy of peaceful surrender. Because the Occupation put the responsibility of reform on the Japanese themselves, a newly established Japanese Educational Council formed a charter stating the new aims for education. The manual and memorization system succumbed to the popular desire of fully developing the personality of the Japanese child, of giving him a sense of responsibility for building peace.

This charter, Mrs. Vining explained, made education compulsory for nine years and introduced liberal textbooks in history, geography and civics. She pointed out that there has been a great change in teaching personnel. Conferences, workshops, training schools and a program of adult education are training teachers in the true meaning of democracy.

The new educational program has won the enthusiastic support of the Japanese people, the speaker continued. But the change is

Continued on Page 2

## Curric. Committee Presents Report

Betty Hamilton, '48, chairman of the student Curriculum Committee, has made a report on the poll taken of the senior class last spring concerning changes in the curriculum. The results of the poll, summarized below, are to be submitted to the faculty committee.

The majority of the 64 seniors who filled out the poll felt that there should be a required course in either History, Political Science or Social Science. Strong opposition to the large number of required subjects has made action on this problem unfeasible.

A strong majority of the seniors favored additions to the curriculum of Creative Writing, Comparative Religion and Drama.

Although there was definite opposition to the substitution of a thesis for the comprehensive examinations, there were sufficient complaints about the comprehensive system to merit a recommendation to the faculty committee. The inequality among the departments was a chief source of dissatisfaction. A suggested solution was that of a prepared general examination such as that given by the Biology Department last year. Oral "gripes" are also to be brought to the attention of the committee.

The chairman wishes to remind students that if they have any problems or complaints concerning a department they should consult the Curriculum Committee representative of that department. Minutes of the meetings of the committee will be posted on a special bulletin board in Taylor Hall.

## M. Newcomer To Discuss U.S., Marshall Plan

"The United States and the Marshall Plan" will be discussed by Miss Mabel Newcomer at the second College Assembly on Current Affairs, November 4 at 12:30 in Goodhart. Miss Newcomer is Chairman of the Economics Department at Vassar College.

Miss Newcomer has recently returned from Germany where she acted in an advisory capacity to General Clay. In 1944 she was a member of the American delegation to the United Nations Conference at Bretton Woods, which established the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank of Reconstruction.

Among various public activities connected with the State of New York, Miss Newcomer was a member of Governor Dewey's Tax Advisory Committee in 1943 and of the New York State Joint Committee on Fiscal Policies in 1937.

## BMC, Haverford To Give Saroyan On November 7-8

William Saroyan's *The Time of Your Life* will be presented in Goodhart, on November 7 and 8, as the fall production of Bryn Mawr's Varsity Players and Haverford's Cap and Bella. Director Frederick Thon describes the play as "a poetic fantasy combining vaudeville, philosophizing, and the Missouri Waltz." This latter ingredient should literally set the stage for the Undergrad dance which will follow.

Production Manager Betsy Swope, '50, is in charge of constructing the play's setting, Nick's Pacific Street Saloon, Restaurant and Entertainment Palace at the foot of the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Ami Hains, '50, is handling sound effects; Vera Tozzer, '48, costumes; Yolanda Domville, '49, makeup, and A. Levensohn, prompting. Carol McGovern, '48, is publicity manager.

Tickets are on sale from 1:30 to 2:00, in the Public Relations office.

## Calendar

Thursday, October 30

4:30—Vocational Committee Tea, Common Room.

8:30—Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., "The Patterns of Democratic Change: Jackson and Roosevelt", Goodhart.

Friday, October 31

8:00—Freshman Hall Plays —(Pem West, Pem East, Non-Res, Denbigh) Skinner Workshop.

Saturday, November 1

8:45 A. M.—Middle States Intercollegiate Hockey Tournament, here.

9:00 A. M.—Hygiene Examination, Taylor.

8:00 P. M.—Freshman Hall Plays—(Rock, Merion, and Rhoads) Skinner Workshop.

Sunday, November 2

2:30—Hall Hockey Match. Rock vs. Rhoads.

7:00—Chapel Service conducted by Rev. C. Leslie Glenn, Music Room.

Monday, November 3

7:15—Current Events, Common Room.

8:15—Miss McBride, "Parliamentary Rules and Procedure", Common Room.

Tuesday, November 4

12:30—Assembly, Miss Mabel Newcomer, "The United States and the Marshall Plan", Goodhart.

## Edith Finch Writes Biography: "Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr"

### Rare Book Room Displays Papers Of M. C. Thomas

by Irina Nelidow '50

"If I ever live and grow up, my one aim and concentrated purpose shall be and is to show that a woman can learn, can reason, can compete with men in the grand fields of literature and science that open before the nineteenth century." So wrote Martha Carey Thomas in her diary in 1871 at the age of fourteen.

This diary together with her letters to family and friends, the letters she received from well known contemporaries, her speeches, her research papers, and many interesting photographs forms part of the M. Carey Thomas Collection now on display in the Rare Book Room of the Library. The exhibit offers witness to how Miss Thomas' whole life was a fulfillment of her early ideals.

Summa Cum Laude

M. Carey Thomas was the first woman to whom the University of Zurich awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with the distinction of summa cum laude. It was a great triumph for her, as well as for women's education. In a letter to her mother in 1882, Miss Thomas reveals her emotions before and after her successful examination. "I became more and

Continued on Page 2

## Pres. to Explain Parl. Procedure

President McBride will give a talk on the "Fundamentals of Parliamentary Procedure", on November 27, at 8 o'clock, in the Common Room. All heads of organizations and others who are interested are urged to come.

This talk was planned at the end of last year as a possible solution for the inefficiency of campus meetings. Undergrad presents it this year with the hope that a better understanding of Parliamentary procedure will enable meetings to cover more business in the allotted time and that attendance will thus be better this fall.

## New Orchestra Shows Promise: Time and Coordination Improved

by Barbara Bettman '49

"We're beginning to work up a repertoire for Christmas and Arts Night, and we're gaining confidence," stated Anneliese Sitarz, '50, president of the combined Bryn Mawr and Haverford orchestra. This year's orchestra numbers about 25 and is under the direction of Mr. William G. Reese. Mr. Reese, a student of Pierre Monteux and former student at the State Conservatory and the University of Berlin, conducts his rehearsals in a business-like and musicianly way, and it is a pleasure to hear this new orchestra, which gives evidence of being different from that musical ensemble from which we have heard in recent years.

It seems a pity that the orchestra is so small and that its instruments are not completely balanced

## Lifelike Study Shows Dauntless Woman, Brave Leader

by Katrina Thomas '49

Few of us can escape the memory of M. Carey Thomas which permeates Bryn Mawr. Everywhere there are reminders of her: the simple plaque bearing the inscription M.C.T. 1857-1935 over her ashes buried in the library cloister; the copy of the Sargent portrait which was awarded the Grand Prix at the Paris Exposition and the white marble in the reading room; the furnishings of the Deanery — the carved chests, sepia photographs, the pre-Raphaelite paintings which hang in her "blue study" and the Chinese lanterns that are brought back from her travels are familiar to all. Thus her name, her general appearance, her status as first dean and later president of Bryn Mawr for nearly thirty years and some of her personal tastes are known to us. But Edith Finch's comprehensive biography will make this indomitable woman live for those of us who never knew her, and bring her back vividly to the minds of those who did.

This is no fictional biography, no words are put into the mouth of Miss Thomas that she might have said, no actions that she might have done. But Miss Finch has made her live in the pages of the book. The author presents a personality of almost heroic stature with strong ideals and a power of rationalism that greatly supercedes her emotions.

M. Carey Thomas is shown as a woman who fought for everything she got. She fought to go to Sage College at Cornell University, to be allowed to study at Johns Hopkins though she was not permitted to attend classes. She fought to go on to a German university and to win the degree of doctor of philosophy. She finally attained this at the University of Zurich after a three-day written examination and a three-hour oral examination in philology and the development of English literature, attaining the highest possible distinction—summa cum laude, heretofore only given to men.

Miss Finch covers the years of

Continued on Page 3

# THE COLLEGE NEWS

FOUNDED IN 1914

Published weekly during the College Year (except during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays, and during examination weeks) in the interest of Bryn Mawr College at the Ardmore Printing Company, Ardmore, Pa., and Bryn Mawr College.

The College News is fully protected by copyright. Nothing that appears in it may be reprinted either wholly or in part without permission of the Editor-in-Chief.

## Editorial Board

HARRIET WARD, '48, *Editor-in-Chief*

BARBARA BETTMAN, '49, *Copy* BETTY-BRIGHT PAGE, '49, *Makeup*  
LOUISE ERVIN, '49 EMILY TOWNSEND, '50, *Makeup*  
KATRINA THOMAS '49

## Editorial Staff

BARBARA ZIEGLER, '48 JEAN ELLIS, '49  
MARIAN EDWARDS, '50 GLORIA WHITE, '48  
CECELIA MACCABE, '50 MELANIE HEWITT, '50  
GWYNNE WILLIAMS, '50 IRINA NELIDOW, '50  
ANNE GREET '50 PAT NICHOL, '50

## Photographer

ROSAMOND KANE '48

## Business Board

MARY BEETLESTONE, '49, *Business Manager*  
CAROL BAKER, '48, *Advertising Manager*  
JOAN ROBBINS, '49 BETTY MUTCH, '50  
HELEN COLEMAN '50

## Subscription Board

ALLY LOU HACKNEY, '49, *Manager*  
EDIE MASON HAM, '50 SUE KELLEY, '49  
ANNA-STINA ERICSON '48 EDYTHE LAGRANDE, '49  
IVY BOROW '50 SALLY CATLIN '50  
BARCARA LIGHTFOOT '50 BUNNY STADERMAN '51

Subscription, \$2.75 Mailing price, \$3.50  
Subscriptions may begin at any time

Entered as second class matter at the Ardmore, Pa., Post Office Under Act of Congress August 24, 1912

## Americanism: Theory And Practice

Mr. Stassen's comment that the current Communist purge in Hollywood seems un-American is well-taken. It is true that it is also un-American to try to overthrow the government, or to "take orders" from another government. It is equally true—or has been—that an American has a right to believe as he feels and even to state those beliefs.

The investigation in Hollywood seems to be a culmination of all the Communist investigation of the past months. Films are being arbitrarily classified as Communist propaganda, film stars and producers arbitrarily filed as Communists. The intense eagerness of such men as Mr. Robert Taylor, who "hates the Communists", to ally themselves with the persecutors in evidence of what may be the presagement of tragedy in America.

There will always be men who want to persecute. There were in Germany in 1933. Communism is the current hue-and-cry. But after we are "cleansed" of Communists, what then? Are we to be cleaned of the Jews, the Negroes, the Catholics—of any minority group less strong than those Americans who are the huntsmen?

An American has a right to freedom of speech—but more, he has a right to freedom of belief. Those very men who so bitterly condemn, in theory, the restriction of rights in a Communist government are most eagerly fighting for a similar restriction in practice. And it can happen here.—B.B.

## The Chapel Poll

The Chapel Committee is to be commended for its work in trying to resurrect an institution that for years has been slowly dying on campus. There does seem to be less regular church-going in America today, which fortunately has gone hand in hand with less persecution of other religious groups, but reveals the general apathy toward religion.

The committee realizes that there must be an opportunity for some religious life on campus, even though not every student will take advantage of it. They have asked questions, written a letter to the News and finally circulated a poll in order to find out what kind of a chapel service is acceptable to most.

In answer to the poll, students offered concrete suggestions and many declared they would support a chapel service more to their liking. The committee, in experimenting with these suggestions, will have done its share, and it is now up to the student, who has been allowed to air her gripes to this willing body, to cooperate with what the committee has planned.

## Lyrics and Music Brighten '49's Show

Continued from Page 1

Goldcoast Girlies. And her few drunken moments were, thank goodness, brief and amusing, not overdrawn at all.

Several people in minor parts did a most commendable job. Jean Ellis, as Mr. Lucite, showed an aptitude for parody in her reading of "next week's editorial," ("Let's not for a minute forget the red man!"). Of the reporters, Sheila Tatnall had fair comic ability, although Nancy Martin produced a more mature cynicism and less feminine hip-action; the team of four, Tatnall, Martin, LaGrande, and Pearson did some of the best and cleanest singing of the show, in "Boost and Build Your Circulation". Margo Vorys' spiel as the patent-medicine man showed almost professional skill in its variety of tone and newness of approach. Competence culminated in the performance of Sybil Cameron as Mello Ochre, who looked as if she knew what she was supposed to be doing on stage, and got the biggest hand of the evening for her husky singing of "Heart-break Blues".

### Lacks Finesse

The need for so many supporting roles, however, gave the production a necessarily spotty effect, and several episodes were a marked strain on both the humour and the audience. The Typical American Housewife could easily have been dispensed with, and in the Wells-Fargo "How do minks get babies?" "The same way babies get minks" routine, not even the clouds of pant-seat dust could obscure the well-fertilized corn. The crowd-scenes were colorful, but apt to get flabby, given the least chance by the director. The kick chorus seemed to depend on the shapeliness of its collective limbs, a quality present in many cases only from the knee down, rather than on dancing in step to attract. A thin taste of the old West was supplied by Black Jack and Ruby, two of the more effeminate desperados of our time.

### Music Commended

The songs of Big As Life were good: the tunes were easy and pleasant to hum, though perhaps nothing out of the ordinary, and the lyrics were clever when they could be heard. "One Time" and "Sagebrush Knees" seemed to be the most popular around campus this past week-end, and are good examples of the competence of Director Ann Eberstadt and Music Manager Sally Loomis. The sets for the show were excellent; Ann Seideman and her stage crew whipped up a town facade and interior of The Last Draw Saloon that showed a refreshing originality of design and color, fitting monuments to the spirit of Creeping Fingers. Gale Minton's script was skillful in more places than its delivery would lead one to believe.

## Mrs. Vining Outlines Educational Program

Continued from Page 1

handicapped by the shortage of school buildings and the lack of construction materials. Both teachers and students, moreover, are struggling against a serious food problem.

Mrs. Vining, teaching both boys and girls in the Peers' school, knows 140 Japanese children quite well. In their diaries, she reported, they express no bitterness over the atom bomb. They believe it was cruel, but since it was the key to peace they are thankful for it.

Mrs. Vining's most interesting pupil is the Crown Prince, who, as she illustrated, has become the symbol of Japanese boyhood. He is on equal terms with his classmates and is liked for his sturdiness, intelligence and alert poise.

## Opinion

### Vocational Committee Asks Cooperation Of Students

To the Editor:

Within recent years the work of the Undergraduate Vocational Committee has fallen on deaf ears. Whether the function and work of the Committee has not been sufficiently clarified, whether the conferences it sponsors have not been effectively publicized, whether its program is unsatisfactory—these and other possible reasons we hope to discover and correct, so that the committee together with the Bureau of Recommendations can serve student interest to better advantage this year.

In the past the Committee has invited six or more speakers throughout the year to advise students of job opportunities in various popular fields, requested by the college-wide polls. Attendance at these informal conferences has been increasingly discouraging, at times embarrassing.

The co-operation of all is necessary, for only by constructive criticism can information on job opportunities be brought to the attention of those who are interested. We hope all who can will attend an informal tea in the Common Room, Thursday, October 30, at 4.30, to learn more about the Committee and offer suggestions for its revitalization. Seniors, particularly, should take advantage of the information which Mrs. Crenshaw, of the Bureau of Recommendations, will make available; and students of all classes owe it to themselves to learn how the College can and is ready to help you in choosing your field as well as preparing for and locating the job you want.

### The Vocational Committee

(Nancy Martin, Doris Blackman, Jane Ellis, Molly Darling, Ruth Metzger, Jeanette Hersey.)

### Library Exhibits M. C. Thomas Papers

Continued from Page 1

more nervous, I could not sleep or eat during all this past week . . . (then follows a list of examinations). You can imagine what those five minutes of waiting were. I never felt such a sensation of choking anxiety. The message came to enter . . . the dean rose and said he had the pleasure of welcoming me as a Doctor of Philosophy of the University and informing me that the faculty had bestowed upon me the highest honor in its power to give, 'summa cum laude' . . . I can hardly believe it now . . .

Thy loving daughter,  
Dr. M. C. Thomas

The exhibit also contains the thesis on "Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight, a Comparison with the French Perceval", which earned the Ph. D. degree for Miss Thomas. This degree, together with her LL.D. from Johns Hopkins, a degree from the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique des Beaux Arts in Paris, and many others, forms an impressive collection.

### Letter from Wilson

As a record of her equally notable official life, as Dean and President of Bryn Mawr, there are on view letters from such famous contemporaries as Emmeline Pankhurst, the great English leader for women's rights, and Woodrow Wilson, a former professor at Bryn Mawr. Wilson's letter was written in 1885, when Miss Thomas was Dean of the Faculty, and concerns examinations and fellowships.

### Goal for Women

It was while Miss Thomas was travelling through the Sahara that she conceived the idea of the Bryn

### Hall Discussions, Extra To Give Information On May Day

To the Editor:

In answer to a constant stream of questions from the student body, we would like to report that the issue of Big May Day will be presented during the week of November 3-8.

It seemed advisable to delay this presentation until a complete report could be made. This involved discussion by the College Council (Oct. 15), the decision of the Board of Directors (Oct. 16), research and collection of vital statistics by us and discussion by the Faculty (Oct. 29).

There will be a News extra coming out on Monday on the subject of Big May Day; pictures and pertinent information will be posted in Taylor and on the hall bulletin boards. General discussions led by the Council will be held:

Rock: 10:30 P. M., Monday.  
Rhoads: 10:30 P. M., Tuesday.  
Pem Weat, Pem East, Wyndham, East House: 7:30, Wednesday.  
(West showcase)

Merion, Denbigh: 10:30 P. M., Wednesday. (Merion showcase.)  
A ballot will follow Thursday after lunch. We hope that everyone will give serious consideration to the issue.

### The Undergraduate Council

(Editor's note: Letters on the subject of Big May Day will be welcomed for publication in the Extra, if they reach the News' room before this Friday evening.)

## Alliance Angles

The Alliance calls your attention to the Relief Campaign which will begin on campus, November 10, and continue through the week. You not only will be solicited for contributions to CARE and the World Student Service Fund, but you will be asked to contribute to the Old Clothes Drive, sponsored by the American Friends' Service Committee.

During Relief Week, the Alliance will also conduct a "door to door" campaign in the Vill, soliciting for contributions to CARE and the clothes drive. We are all aware of the constantly pressing and urgent needs of Europe today. It is up to us to act, to give and to share.

In connection with European relief, the Alliance is sending a petition to Congress, supporting atop-gap aid to Europe until the Marshall Plan is effective. It also favors immediate consideration of the Marshall Plan and stresses the necessity for Congress passing the plan. This petition will be presented in hall meetings soon. The student body then will discuss and vote on it in a mass meeting.

Mawr Summer School for Women Workers. She kept voluminous diaries of her travels abroad, so that we know just what were her reactions and impressions at the time. The address Miss Thomas made at the opening of this school in June, 1922, testifies to her inspiring beliefs. "It came to me as a wonderful revelation . . . that these coming changes might be hastened by the deep sex sympathy that now draws all women together, that the more fortunate and the less fortunate women of the world might work together to obtain for all women the greatest treasure in all the world, a liberal education."

The publication today of Miss Edith Finch's biography, Carey Thomas of Bryn Mawr, makes this exhibit particularly appropriate.

## 12 Hockey Teams To Compete Here

On Saturday, November 1st, Bryn Mawr will be hostess to the 12 colleges that are participating in the Middle States Interscholastic Hockey Tournament. This all-day tournament is held (rain or shine) each year at either Swarthmore or Bryn Mawr. The participating colleges include: Beaver, Bryn Mawr, Chestnut Hill, Drexel, East Stroudsburg, Immaculata, Penn, Rosemont, Swarthmore, Temple, Ursinus and Wilson.

In the morning each college team will play three games of 20 minutes each. The best individual players will be selected to participate in further matches in the afternoon. At the end of the day the Intercollegiate First and Second Teams will be chosen and will play each other on Sunday. Later on in the season they will play against the Philadelphia Association and Keystone Teams.

Local umpiring tests will be given during the tournament. The Athletic Association also announces that the assistance of about 12 students will be needed from 8:45 to 12:30. Please sign by Thursday, on the list posted in Taylor, if you wish to help.

### A. A. Board

The Gym department regulations for required sports are posted in Taylor. If anyone has any questions or complaints about these rules, will they please contact Libby Bagley or some member of the AA board. The board is powerless in its function as liaison between the gym department and the students unless it receives direct student opinion. Please use your board!

### Saunders Barn

Information concerning Saunders Barn is posted in Taylor. You must let Libby Bagley or Miss Grant know at least a day ahead if you wish to use the barn. Further information may be secured from Libby Bagley.

### YOU NAME THE BOOKS

Miss Robbins has been asked to prepare a bibliography of books on American life and thought for an English school (girls, 15 to 18 years old). The News will act as a clearing house for all suggestions, which may include history, poetry, novels, and picture books.

## Bryn Mawr Ties Swarthmore 1-1

On Friday afternoon, October 24, the first team from Swarthmore tied Bryn Mawr in hockey. The hard fought score was 1-1 at the end of the game. The two teams were closely matched and the playing was good. The game improved steadily, to reach its high point in the second half when the defense was particularly coordinated, on both sides. Both the goals of the game were made in the first half, Sylvia Hayes scoring Bryn Mawr's one point.

Bryn Mawr's second team eked out a win of 3-2 over Swarthmore's second team the same afternoon. Two of Bryn Mawr's goals were made by Jane Stone. The playing was fast, and close, throughout the game.

On Sunday, October 26, Merion was eliminated from the race in the Hall hockey games when Denbigh won 4-0. This may be due to the fact that Merion's starting line-up boasted seven people only.

## Current Events

**Common Room, Oct. 27.** Two Bryn Mawr students who spent their junior year abroad, Patricia Hochschild and Jean Lutz, spoke on student systems in Europe, the physical conditions, and the general ideas of America held by Europeans.

European student systems, said Pat Hochschild, are more lax in structure, more formal in atmosphere than in America. No assignments are given and classes are not monitored. A student late to class is greeted by a stamping of feet, while the professor continues his lecture unconcerned.

European students seem to Pat interested more in facts than in method, and papers are discussed on a factual basis. They find American students amazingly non-factual and very earnest about conclusions to their papers.

As a political and economic influence the students are of major importance. They act as a body and may strike strenuously against an objectionable professor or regulation. Even to the casual observer, said Jean Lutz, the lack of food and the prevalence of the black market is evident everywhere. Most of Europe is shabby and dirty; lack of soap is general. Scandinavia and Switzerland are more prosperous but Finland is in poor condition. During her sojourn there, Jean ate fish and boiled potatoes and slept between paper sheets. To Europeans, added Pat, America means movies, GIs and tourists.

## Finch Biog. Presents Lifelike, Vivid Study

Continued from Page 1

Miss Thomas' life in connection with Bryn Mawr, interpolating anecdotes and much early history of the college. Here we see her as dean and as professor of English, shaping the traditions, planning the buildings, always under the restraining hand of President Rhoads; and later as president herself, an admirable autocrat, at one time pulled down into the mire of calumny from which she resurrects herself, her indomitable spirit unquenched.

M. Carey Thomas, the inexhaustible traveller, the upholder of women's rights, the initiator and leader of numerous projects on campus and outside the circle of college interests is not forgotten; nor are her relationships with her family, her friends, her beloved cousin Frank or her love affair with an unnamed man which is not over-emphasized, but fully illustrates her will not to give up her own work and life for any man's.

Through Miss Finch's biography, we actually see Miss Thomas with her slight limp walking around the campus that she loved so much. And surely, if we are not drawn to this violent personality, we will all agree that she would have been a wonderful person to know.

### LEOPARD COAT

LONG  
FINEST SKINS — SIZE 16  
PRACTICALLY NEW —  
\$400.00

Call RI 6-1373—after 4 P. M.

## SDA Invites You To Watch Polls

Students for Democratic Action is the organization on campus which is working for a liberal representative government in the United States, explains Margaret Baish '48, president of the Bryn Mawr Chapter. The SDA is affiliated with Progressive Americans for Democratic Action. This year the Bryn Mawr chapter will work with the Committee of Seventy, a civil betterment group in Philadelphia, on such projects as poll-watching in the November 4 mayoralty election.

SDA invited students to poll watch next Tuesday in Philadelphia at the Dilworth-Samuels election, under the auspices of this committee. If you are interested please give your name to Grace Dillingham, Rhoads, or Margie Baish, Pem East, today, as there is a one-hour indoctrination course Thursday night.

GIVE YOUR ROOM THAT

South-of-the-Border

Look —

THE MEXICAN SHOP

INC.

Ardmore

### MAYO and PAYNE

Cards Gifts

RADIO

Parts Repairs

821 LANCASTER AVE.

BRYN MAWR

### NEW BOOKS

Postscript to Yesterday

—Lloyd Morris

Four in America

—Gertrude Stein

Country Bookshop

Bryn Mawr

You Rush up to Breakfast  
And Find You Are Late,  
Do Not Worry 'Cause  
You Won't Have to Wait.

Just Come to the  
**COLLEGE INN**



*A RECORD HIT in the making!*

... It's Desi Arnaz's —  
"I Love to Dance" (RCA Victor)

\*From the MGM picture:  
"This Time for Keeps"

THIS volatile Cuban's rhythms have been aweeping the country. Everywhere he's played, Desi Arnaz has broken attendance records! And, when Desi lights up a cigarette, it's the brand that's been a national favorite for years and is now making new records of its own! Yes, more men and women are smoking Camel cigarettes than ever before!

Why? The answer is in your "T-Zone" (T for Taste and T for Throat).

Try Camels. Discover for yourself why, with smokers who have tried and compared, Camels are the "choice of experience"!

More people are smoking  
**CAMELS**  
than ever before!



**CAMEL**  
is the  
cigarette  
for me!

B. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.  
Winston-Salem, N. C.



## What To Do

For Federal government positions in Pennsylvania and Delaware, a local Junior Professional Assistant examination is announced. The options are much the same as those on the general JPA notice sent from Washington. Archaeologist and Psychologist are omitted and Historian takes the place of Social Science Analyst with some changes in the requirements. All biologists are eligible for Biologist (General).

Applications should be in Philadelphia by November 4th. Everyone who wants a position in these two states should file in Philadelphia even though she has already sent an application to Washington.

Remember the Bureau of Recommendations table in the Reserve Room of the Library. The books and pamphlets there are changed frequently.

## NOTICES

**Baccalaureate Speaker**  
The Rev. C. Leslie Glenn, of St. John's Church, Washington, D. C., has been chosen as Baccalaureate speaker by the senior class.

**Junior Show**  
Net profits from the Junior Show will total approximately \$500, reports Ann Eberstadt, director. All proceeds will go to the Undergraduate quota of the Fund.

**Campaign Heads**  
Anne Wood, '48, and Peggy Shiny, '48, have been chosen by the Undergraduate Council as heads of the current Economy and Clean-up Campaign.

**Silence, Please**  
Silence is requested in the corridors of the Library and also in Goodhart, when meetings are going on.

**Posters**  
Miss Agnew requests that no posters be put up anywhere in the Library without her personal per-

mission. No posters may be tacked on hall doors.

**Lanterns**  
Students will have an opportunity to have their lanterns serviced sometime early in December. New lanterns may also be bought at this time.

**League Representative**  
Lois Maconi has been elected Sophomore representative to the League.

**Change in Plays**  
The Rhoads Freshman play has been changed to "Hello Out There," by William Saroyan. Sue Brody is Freshman stage manager.

## Community Chest Opens BM Drive

Soliciting for the annual Community Chest Drive for the benefit of the hospitals in Philadelphia and the vicinity will start on Monday, November 3. The hospitals are operating on a million dollar deficit this year and need money desperately if they are to continue functioning.

The campus drive will last two weeks. Irina Nelidow, '50, head of the student soliciting committee, urges everyone to contribute to the utmost because of the immediate and vital needs of all the hospitals.

**TO HELP ANNOUNCERS . . .**  
1. All announcements must be written on file cards, or on substantial paper of similar size.  
2. Announcements should be typed out or written legibly.  
3. Wording should be clear and concise.  
Starting November 1, no announcement will be read out in the halls, which does not comply with these regulations.

**MEET AT THE GREEK'S**  
Tasty Sandwiches  
Refreshments  
Lunches - Dinner

SEND  
THAT  
FRESHMAN  
ACTRESS  
CONGRATULATIONS  
VIA  
FLOWERS FROM  
JEANNETT'S

Compliments  
of the  
Haverford Pharmacy  
Haverford

For Greeting Cards  
That Must be Found  
Come to  
STOCKTON'S  
and Look Around

FOR THE  
NEW LOOK  
SEE  
Tres Chic  
Skirts  
\$3.95 to \$8.95

Now on Sale in the  
College Bookshop  
Carey Thomas, of Bryn Mawr  
by Edith Finch  
\$3.50  
PROFITS FROM SALES TO STUDENTS  
GO TO  
UNDERGRADUATE FUND QUOTA



What a gal is charming Ruth—  
Smarts as paint and that's the truth!  
Sure, she caught the campus "catch"—  
She wears this stunning hose, so natch!

HOSIERY

*As You Like It*  
FULL-FASHIONED

"I'M A  
CHESTERFIELD FAN  
BECAUSE THEY REALLY SATISFY"  
*Barbara Stanwyck*  
SEE BARBARA STANWYCK IN  
WARNER BROS. PICTURE  
"CRY WOLF"

**A**  
**B**  
**C**

ALWAYS  
BUY

**CHESTERFIELD**

**A** ALWAYS Milder  
**B** BETTER TASTING  
**C** COOLER SMOKING

*The sum-total of smoking pleasure*

# EXTRA

ARDMORE and BRYN MAWR, PA., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1947

## DO YOU WANT BIG MAY DAY?

### Effect Predicted Of Big May Day On: Undergrad

By Helen Burch

The following estimations as to the effect of Big May Day upon those activities which come under the sphere of the Undergraduate Association are necessarily conjectural, based upon what has been done in the past.

Big May Day would redirect the energies of those participating in the various musical, dancing and dramatic groups on campus toward a unified artistic effort. In 1936 much latent talent was revealed because of the wide scope of the production.

This spring the Chorus has previous commitments with Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania. Therefore, Chorus members would be carrying their three hours a week rehearsal plus the general May Day activities.

In 1936 Club meetings and lectures continued as usual. The Drive Committee (it is hoped) will have completed most of its work by spring vacation. Other Undergrad committees would probably be unaffected.

Thus, with the possible exception of the Chorus, Undergrad activities could be continued, with the final choice resting in the individual.

### —Athletics

by Elizabeth Bagley

The effects of Big May Day on athletics at Bryn Mawr would be felt in two spheres: that of required physical education and that of varsity competition.

All students who are taking a required winter sport would have two hours of dancing a week instead of the sport they had originally elected to take. This dancing, therefore, would start on Monday, December 1st, the first day of the winter season. After midyears, everyone who is participating in May Day would have two hours of dancing a week.

The effect of Big May Day on varsity competition is less clear cut, in that it depends completely on the decisions of the girls interested in the various varsities. In 1936 the basketball varsity decided to continue their games as well as to participate in May Day. They did so and would probably be able to this year if enough people were interested in playing and were willing to give up the extra time. The spring sports would be harder to maintain, for time would be more at a premium after spring vacation. But in any event, all the facilities for any and every sport would be available at all times.

The overall effect, therefore, would be one of redirection with possible elimination of some varsity sports.

### Your Vote Counts

Big May Day comes up for a vote on Thursday. This ballot will determine whether 1948 will produce the first Big May Day since 1936. YOUR vote is important.

Facts have been marshalled and are being presented. In the News, on the bulletin boards, in hall discussions we have had or will have an opportunity for learning these facts, and also opinions, which are important as well as facts. Don't sit back. Ask questions. Find out how your best friend feels, how alumnae, Faculty, friends of the college feel. Weigh the pros and cons carefully. Then form your own opinion. But remember this is in no sense an election campaign. Don't allow yourself to be influenced by what seems to be a majority opinion, and don't try to coerce people into your point of view.

If you vote yes, it is understood that you will work, or at least are willing to work, for Big May Day. Once passed, Big May Day comes first in your extra-curricular activity. If you vote no, you will have no such work—but you will have no Big May Day.

When you cast your vote, consider the issue not only in its relation to you as an individual, but also in its application to the college community; think as well of the intangible values involved. Last year's ballot resulted in a decision that we vote again this year. Big May Day is in YOUR hands.

### —League

by Rosamund Kane

The Bryn Mawr League, offshoot from the Christian Union founded in 1894, was organized in its present form in 1926, and has survived nine May Days. Its function now is to act as a channeling agency for people who would like to do social work. Its activities involve over one-fifth of the student body during the current year. Some of the students participate in activities that occur regularly; others in projects that occur intermittently.

Activities such as the summer camp and the Hudson Shore Labor School sessions will be uninfluenced by May Day. The Maids and Porters Production and their dance will continue as usual. The Weekend Works Camps which are scheduled for only certain dates and involve at most, four people each time are likely to be unaffected.

Other activities would be affected to a greater degree. The enrollment of readers for the blind school is so large this year that each girl will be asked to read only once every three weeks. It seems possible that this activity could be continued under these circumstances but the decision to continue or drop it will rest with the readers. Fewer students are working at the Haverford-Community Center but work on a weekly schedule. They are desperately needed by the center every weekday morning and several afternoons. May Day preparations might curtail this activity severely but again the decision rests with the students involved. The soda fountain might also be affected.

The schedule of Red Cross activities has not yet been completed. May Day might affect some of the projects at Valley Forge but certainly would not affect others such as knitting very seriously.

In the final analysis it seems that the effect of May Day on the League depends entirely on those involved.

### —Alliance

by Joan Hitchcock

The Alliance did not exist in 1936, and it is somewhat conjectural how it will be affected by May Day. As a new organization it is still growing but is gaining recognition as a political force by other colleges and organizations.

The Alliance does much of its work off campus. Because the number of these activities has risen since 1936, more people outside the college would be affected by Big May Day. Work with such groups as the Industrial Group, and the SDA require careful planning to fit the schedules of outside organizations as well as students. These activities require about one afternoon a week, since traveling time has to be considered. It would be difficult to continue these activities on the same scale if May Day were held.

The Debate Club and the Student Federalist chapters were formed only last year, but are already sizeable and active. The Debate Club could not carry its heavy schedule if May Day were held. A good deal of time is required to prepare a debate. The SF chapter is planning to run the local Federalist newspaper this year which will require much time.

Bryn Mawr attended the ICG model congress for the first time two years ago, and has finally reached a position of importance in this congress. It takes many hours of work to prepare bills to present to the congress, with the arguments to support them. The weight of this work would come at the time of the heaviest concentration of May Day.

The Alliance work on campus would be less affected by May Day. The Assemblies and Current Events could continue. The members of IRC would have less time for adequate preparation.

### THE COLLEGE NEWS

This special issue was prepared by the Undergraduate Council, with the assistance of several members of the News Board.

### Thursday's Vote Will Decide Fate of Big May Day This Year

#### Outline Pictures Typical Festivities Of Big May Day

A picture of a typical Bryn Mawr May Day is found in an outline of the 1936 celebration. Festivities began with the sound of trumpets heralding the royal procession which started from Pem Arch at 2:45. The Queen's champion on a white horse, heralds "most gorgeously appalled in black and gold," archers, the Lord Steward with a yard-long wand, nobles and pages preceded the Queen who appeared carried on a sedan chair by her nobles and surrounded by beef-eaters in their colorful red costumes. She was followed by lords and ladies all gorgeously arrayed in authentic Elizabethan costumes, and the actors in "Robin Hood" who include Maid Marian, Queen of the May. Next in the procession were the four white oxen which drew the May Pole, covered with flowers and surrounded by dancers carrying the queen's crown.

Next in the long procession were the actors in the various plays, *Midsommer Night's Dream*, *The Creation*, *The Deluge*, *St. George and the Dragon*, *Gommer Gurton's Needle*, and *The Old Wives' Tale*. Interspersed among the groups of players were lesser but equally colorful folk including bands of Morris dancers, milkmaids and country folk, Fairy children with May garlands, "Little Scholars and their Dames," strolling singers, animals, tumblers, jugglers, gypsies, and "Stilt Walkers to amuse the Folk."

The Queen and her court remained on Merion Green but the procession continued behind Merion, down the hill toward Radnor and up Senior Row. On the Green the colorful ceremonies of paying homage to the Queen of the May and the raising of the May Pole took place, watched by the spectators from grandstands along Taylor and in front of Merion. Following this, Maid Marian was crowned Queen of the May by Robin Hood, "whereat everyone will sing 'To the May Pole let us on'" and will dance.

While the activity on the Green continued, the ringing of Taylor bell and heralds wearing placards signified the beginning of the plays which were given at various points on the campus including Merion Green, the foot of senior row by the sun dial, the hollows by the hockey fields, the Cloister, the Deanery garden and in front of the Library. Each play was given three times, at 3:30, 4:30 and 5:30 so that spectators might see more than one.

Big May Day was in reality two days and the above procedure was followed on Friday and Saturday although in case of rain, Friday's performance was given on Monday.

The required undergraduate vote after lunch on Thursday will decide whether or not there will be Big May Day in 1948. Big May Day will be given if 75% of the students are in favor of it. This percentage was recommended by a joint meeting of the Undergraduate Council with the hall and class presidents, and was ratified by the Undergrad Board.

At their meeting on October 16 the Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of holding Big May Day this spring, provided that the Faculty and the students wanted it. In a special meeting on October 29, the Faculty voted by a majority of one to approve Big May Day, if two-thirds of the "students present and voting" would support it. This "student" vote does not include the graduate school. It is understood that if May Day is passed, graduate student participation would be completely voluntary.

Big May Day is an extra-curricular activity. However, the academic year is extended by a week if it is given, so that no classes are held the week before. Big May Day is run to pay for itself.

Big May Day, long a celebration for which Bryn Mawr was famous throughout this country and abroad, has not been held since the spring of 1936; imminence of war prevented it being held in 1940. In 1945 students voted against holding Big May Day in 1946 but requested that the question be raised again. Last fall a poll was taken in which 79% of the undergraduates voted. Of these, 62% were in favor of May Day.

Because none of the present undergraduates has ever seen a Big May Day, at least during her Bryn Mawr years, the Undergraduate Council, after careful research has undertaken to present the facts and issues involved as completely and impartially as possible, through bulletin boards, a News extra, and a program of hall discussions.

### 1936 CALENDAR

Dec. 1—Dancing as required sport for all Freshmen and Sophomores.

Before Christmas—Choice of Director and Manager.

Feb. 4—Two hours a week dancing for all undergraduates. Undergraduate committees organized.

Feb. 4-18—Tryouts for plays—Open to all.

March 15—Two hours a week permitted for formal rehearsal—more, informally.

After spring vacation—Great intensification of activity in all spheres.

Week before May Day—No classes. Much rehearsing.

Thursday—Dress rehearsal. Friday and Saturday—Performance.

Year lengthened by one week—June 1-8.

# Opinion

## Editor's Note

The Undergraduate Council, as a body, has taken no definite stand in regard to Big May Day. Opinion letters have been printed in the order received. Other letters for which space did not allow but which met the Friday night deadline will be posted on the May Day bulletin board in Taylor. Please read them.

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

As the discussion of Big May Day develops, I find I wish to express a strong opinion on one point.

One of the arguments brought forward against May Day is "the state of the world." I am so fully aware that "the state of the world" is not encouraging, that, inadequately but with persistence, I have tried to do something about it. Twenty-four school children sent to camp this summer would vouch for that.

However, I cannot see any relation between May Day and "the state of the world." The disproportion is somehow shocking. I find myself quite strongly resenting the fact that the tragic difficulties of many people are made use of as an argument in so local and unimportant a problem. They deserve more respect.

It is natural that the "state of the world" should plunge us into gloom. It is, however, not proved that our gloom is of any more value in the solution of the problems that are pending than would be the representation of some Elizabethan plays on the green.

I therefore hope that we can keep our discussions free of such dubious arguments.

The reasonable ground for our debate can only be the following: Of what value is May Day to Bryn Mawr as an institution, to Bryn Mawr as a community?

Germaine Bree

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

I am against Big May Day; the game isn't worth the candle! WHY?

1. Why expend all of this energy on a fertility cult of a country several thousand miles removed and a festivity that was out of date 300 years ago. Surely a revival of American-Indian ceremonies (were this possible) or an Up-state Clambake would be no less inappropriate. May Day does not utilize nor inspire the best in British or American art.

2. Why, if Bryn Mawr needs encouragement in the creative arts (as is frequently stated), continue with a festival that has never, so far as I am aware, stimulated any poet, dancer, or artist to any creative work? It isn't a genuine peasant bean feast; it isn't an artistic contribution.

3. Is the only way to create community spirit a sort of Nazi "strength through joy" movement, of military discipline? Personally, I find every action on the campus demands cooperation. My classes, to me at least, represent activity mutual to student and teacher. My friendships reward life in this community. Must we organize our pleasure on a mass basis?

4. Is this festival worth the loss of what little remains of the most prized and today most rare reward of academic life—chances for cultivated leisure? Maybe we don't have it now but why not work towards it rather than aggravate the shortage? Spring in Bryn Mawr is divine when you have the time to enjoy it. The campus lovelies always agreeable to watch. Some recollections of Big May Day are more colored by those perman-

ent features of the landscape than mine, but to this admirer an attempt to regiment us all into organized communal spring ceremony springs from the deepest misconceptions which in other and more serious connections lead to many of the most sinister developments in the modern world.

Perhaps I am being more serious about Big May Day than it warrants, but I feel very strongly that the arguments for it are weak and those against it warrant stating seriously.

Yours faithfully,  
Caroline Robbins

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

This suburban acre du printemps smacks too much of Helen Hokinson to be worth the loss of a semester's co-operative enterprise of teacher and student.

Yours truly,  
Stephen J. Herben

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

"Let's declare war on all things slovenly and dispirited" says Eric Linklater in *Time and Tide*. This is exactly our proposal: to declare the same war at Bryn Mawr. The Battlefield is to be May Day.

Bryn Mawr's student organization has been run on the principle of decentralization for years. This system, admittedly successful, necessitates the creation of a countering element bringing unity. Big May Day every four years served this purpose. Twelve years have now passed; isn't it time that we work together as Bryn Mawr students for Bryn Mawr?

Educationally, intellectually, cooperatively May Day is an experience. It seems impossible to consider a thing selfish from which so many derive pleasure and benefit.

As to the world crisis, materially we deprive Europe of nothing—neither food, nor scarce articles.

But whether May Day be a unifying element or an experience, it can be, as Linklater says of the Edinburgh Festival "merely a festival—signifying nothing but itself—it is justified in itself. As a tall man at a bar said, 'culture by the handful, I never thought I'd like it, but by God, it's FUN!' May Day will be fun!

Ada Clayton Klein '48  
Page Hart '48  
Margo Vorys '49

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

With regard to the question of Big May Day, we feel that certain important aspects must be considered before the college enters upon such an enormous undertaking. The first of these pertains to the unquestionable lavishness of the May Day spectacle. Although pageantry and college festivals may have aroused great interest and enthusiasm in 1936, when the last Big May Day took place, their general tone has been replaced by considerations of a more practical nature. Big May Day will attract much notice and publicity to the college, but it may very well be adverse publicity—large-scale spending on non-essential enterprises does not invite favorable comment from newspapers and magazines.

The disadvantages to campus activities should be considered. Political and artistic groups now engaged in opening up more and more new fields would be forced to direct their efforts towards the single field of this Elizabethan festival, or even to drop their previous work entirely.

The opposition to Big May Day is not a selfish one, considering only its disruptive effect on campus life. We are as eager to obtain material and moral support

for the college as is anyone who understands her need of it. We do not, however, wish to see the wrong effect produced, and an appeal to tradition turned into an affront to public taste.

Barbara Nugent, '48  
Betty Coleman, '48  
Sylvia Stallings, '48  
Leila Dean Jackson, '48  
Lindsay Harper, '48  
Patricia Hochschild, '48

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Since the News has invited invited correspondence concerning Big May Day, I should like to offer two points for consideration. First, in the matter of publicity. That a May Day show would attract attention to the College is certain, but it may be questioned whether the kind of publicity we should get is altogether desirable. If certain people outside already think (I believe they do) that Bryn Mawr is too much preoccupied with what is traditional, picturesque and obsolete, I can think of nothing that would strengthen that belief better than white oxen, Queen Elizabeth and her court, and Robin Hood according to Howard Pyle. Second, I would like to urge a careful consideration of the effect which preparation for so elaborate a pageant must have, not only on the academic course, but on the activities of the Alliance and League, as on all organized dramatic, choral and athletic programs.

Richmond Lattimore

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Although consideration of whether or not Big May Day should be held again seems to crystallize in two main questions—the effect of such an undertaking on the general public and on the student body, since the primary decision rests with the latter I believe that the effect on them is the more important.

Big May Day will demand the time and energy of almost the entire student body in some capacity. However, if people will take the attitude that we are mature individuals—at Bryn Mawr primarily but not purely for an education—they will realize that no student will completely sacrifice her academic work to Big May Day any more than to other campus activities. As far as senior comprehensives are concerned, there is no problem since the main burden for Big May Day will rest on the Junior class.

Next there is the question of whether or not campus activities will suffer because of Big May Day. There is no doubt that during the last two or three weeks in April, there may be a serious curtailment of activities, but there is no reason why they cannot continue throughout the rest of the year. There are campus organizations which have weathered previous Big May Days; so why not have faith that they will last through one more. Personally, I believe that those activities which are backed by a real and enthusiastic interest on the part of the students will survive and that those which may fall by the wayside will be the activities whose support and accomplishments were never very strong. Those who fear that campus activities will disappear imply a lack of faith in the very thing they support.

Finally, I think it is clear that no one at Bryn Mawr believes world conditions are conducive to the presentation of a grandiose spectacle such as Big May Day. But on the other hand, whether or not we hold this traditional pageant is

not going to change the world situation very much—especially since Big May Day will not supplant any definite effort towards world improvement. Furthermore there is now no definite goal which Big May Day can achieve. The college as it now stands has no real 'esprit de corps, in its extra-curricular activities. Since we know Big May Day will create this, and since no better way of attaining it has been proposed, I am pro-Big May Day.

Jean Ellia '49

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

Having been a graduate student in 1936, I inevitably take a dim view of May Day. Though we did not, naturally, share the undergraduates' feelings for Bryn Mawr's traditions, as members of the college community we contributed our small bit and found that it took more time than we had anticipated.

Undergraduates spent infinitely more time and some found it too arduous. At the time, a News editorial pointed out that, when the student body voted on May Day, only Seniors, who might be guided by sentiment and faint recollections of probably minor roles in their freshman year, had experienced a May Day. It would seem to me imperative for a student to try to discover what May Day would mean to her personally in hours and energy consumed. Extra-curricular activities are necessary and valuable, but when they cut into time that belongs to the academic, they defeat their own purpose as well as that of the academic.

It seems to me wrong to present a program that is imposed from without, almost to its last detail, on the participants rather than one that represents original work or a program chosen by the student body. However, if May Day means something to you, the individuals who perform it, it is a good thing and, in a sense, your own. Since it is never sound simply to condemn, I would suggest that May Day, if given, should be curtailed. If there were fewer plays, if the participants were only those who were willing (preferably eager) and able, much less time would be required beforehand, and one day might suffice for the performance.

Delight Tolles

\* \* \*

To the Editor:

The Civil War now raging on campus over the issue of Big May Day has by this time many strong adherents to both sides. The Non-May Dayists advance tangible arguments. The usual counter-attack of the "Pros" is a refutation of these, relying largely on something more intangible, call it "cooperation," "creativity," or what you will. This last argument is a paramount one, but first let us hear a refutation of the "Cons."

1) Why could not an "impractical, elaborate spectacle" be a good idea for these times? True, a first consideration might seem morally callous. Conditions in Europe and Asia are bad. We are contributing materially to their alleviation. But are we contributing enough so that a cessation, or more likely, a partial cessation would make a difference? If we were to canvass individuals within reach of the college under a special relief plan, would this idea find sufficient support among the student body, or, among those whom we solicit? People give, and have been giving since 1939, to countless relief agencies throughout the world, yet they maintain other interests. Would every prospective member of a Big May Day audience be willing to put up the same amount for a distant, though admittedly more important, cause? Immediacy is an important factor in popular interest.

Practically, is May Day publicity harmful? That will be seen when the students vote, as we shall reflect the majority opinion of those interested in the college. Publicity, even including a small fraction of unfavorable publicity, is not a bad thing. We can see for ourselves how extensive have been the write-ups of former Big May Days, but would the alternative suggestion of a relief campaign make a big splash in any important newspaper? Must we always be known as "the toughest, soberest, and most intellectual?"

Economically, an outdoor pageant is not necessarily a gamble with the weather. Our last Big May Day was covered by insurance.

2) Past experience also decides the question of the possible lowering of academic standards. Statistically, the faculty is divided, and for that reason, it affords an argument for neither side. This is an individual matter for each student. We can do what we want to do.

The intangible arguments for a Big May Day are the exclusive property of the "Pros." Cooperation, unification of the student body, a sense of the accomplishment of something big, something lasting, are what count. They cannot be discounted by the opposition. They are the things we will remember.

Doris Blackman, '48.

\* \* \*

Editor's Note

Mrs. Michels has kindly allowed us to print the last part of her letter, which was too long to print in its entirety. She speaks as an alumna and as a faculty member.

... Spread the excitement attending on Freshman Show over all four classes and let it last for a whole semester, increasing in intensity, and you will have some idea of the atmosphere which has always preceded Big May Day. But even then you have little picture of the collapse which comes afterwards, with finals—and now comprehensives—staring one in the face. Extra-curricular activities play a vital part in college life, but should they be allowed to encroach on the work for which the college was founded and for which presumably students come here?

It is often said that the chief value of May Day lies in the sense of unity which is produced when everyone in the College shares in the same enterprise. This idea has always puzzled me. Naive as it may seem, I have always supposed that we were all, faculty and students alike, co-operating in a continuous enterprise far greater and of far more lasting value than Big May Day could ever be. Our unity should come, and I believe does come, from within, from the conviction that we are all here, each in our own capacity, to join in the search for "wisdom and understanding." The ideal unity imposed upon us by co-operation in a temporary project which, when all is said and done, has very little real meaning, can, I think, only hinder the growth of our true unity. May Day unites us only with the other members of the college community. The true source of our unity links us to a far vaster company, that of all the other men and women who ever have or ever will join in the same search.

Agnes Kirsopp Michels