

Bryn Mawr College

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11-18-1987

### The College News 1987-11-18 Vol. 9 No. 5

Students of Bryn Mawr College

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#### Citation

Students of Bryn Mawr College, *The College News 1987-11-18 Vol. 9 No. 5* (Bryn Mawr, PA: Bryn Mawr College, 1987).

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# THE COLLEGE NEWS

VOLUME IX Number 5

FOUNDED 1914

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

November 18, 1987

## Community meeting poses questions of policy and constituency

by Rachel Winston

In response to the disclosure by members of the SGA Steering Committee revealing their role in the APATHY coup, dorm meetings will be held later this week and into next week, in an effort to "heal the hurt and rebuild the trust in this community."

Representative to the Faculty Beth Posner commented, "I definitely think it [the coup] was the wrong thing to do, but I support the people involved. I think the entire community needs to be given a chance to say that."

Two Committee members will be present at each meeting to respond to questions and to participate in a dialogue with students to be mediated by dorm presidents.

"We're trying to reach as many people as possible in as short a time as possible," said Honor Board Head Lauren Suraci at last Sunday's SGA meeting, adding that the meetings would be a good opportunity for the community to get together and evaluate what happened.

### Issues of Concern

At the "meeting for the people" on Sunday, November 8th, a group of 250 students were present to hear SGA Secretary Una Gandbhir read a statement detailing the involvement of the SGA Steering Committee in the formation of APATHY. Reasons for their participation in the coup all focused on a general feeling of frustration, according to members of the Committee. This frustration was mirrored by those in attendance at the meeting.

While several people questioned the methods used by APATHY and the Steering Committee, discussion of this issue was primarily saved for a meeting the following Wednesday so that the intent of Sunday's meeting was not lost.

Issues such as constituency, participation in voting and elections, administration policy, the Diversity Requirement, and the Honor Code were raised at Sunday's community meeting. Broader concerns, includ-

ing the effectiveness of the present structure of the SGA and instilling a sense of empowerment in the student body were also discussed.

### SGA: A Reactive Body

Lack of student input in forming policy was the primary issue dealt with at Sunday's meeting.

"SGA has, in many ways, become a reactive body," cautioned SGA Treasurer Beth Fussell. She explained that the Assembly is acting like a "rubber stamp" for Administration ideas and often takes weeks to make a decision, by which time "we've stalled so long, we don't have that many choices anymore."

"SGA should be a meeting where we do consider all the choices and we form policy," said Fussell to a round of applause.

Added Freshwoman Jaye Fox, "You have to make things happen. It doesn't count if you read the minutes after they come out. It's great that you know what's going on, but we

have to do something to make that go on."

### Policies and Student Life

Senior Lillian Daniel along with Junior Carrie Wofford brought up their mutual concern with policy. After leafing through the Student Handbook, Daniel and Wofford noticed many policies that weren't voted on by students.

"Policies are being put into effect that we have nothing to do with," said Daniel.

After researching student representation in the decision-making process for college policies, Daniel and Wofford became concerned. At the community meeting they read off a list of policies and corresponding student input in the formation of those policies.

Daniel cited the Pet Policy and Parking Policy as "the worst examples of what can happen" without student input. While there were student representatives for both these

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## Physical Plant improves security

by Thida Cornes

Head of Physical Plant John Kelch said, "Our highest priority is security in the dorms." He stated that rooms on ground floor level were high priority.

Sonya Mehta, warden of Erdman and Rock, said that the Erdman basement residents gave Security a list of problems with locks and windows two months ago, and some of the rooms still haven't been fixed. Kelch said, "I thought we had addressed all of them. I understood that we had taken care of it." He added that if one of those Erdman residents had not heard from Physical Plant, "I would like to know about it."

Kelch said that Physical Plant's "policy is anytime there's an external locking problem, it's considered an emergency." If it's during the weekend, when the physical plant locksmith isn't there, the physical plant worker on duty is authorized to call in a locksmith or call security to keep watch on the dorm. In the case of an individual room, they are authorized by security to call in the locksmith.

I then asked him why Denbigh's front door, which can be opened anytime without a key, has still not been fixed after several weeks. He said that he had noticed the door himself, and had asked for it to be fixed. He stated, "I have no idea why it took so long." He added that now Physical Plant has authorized a contractor to fix the door, but "it shouldn't have taken so long."

When asked what Physical Plant was doing about security, Kelch stated that right now Physical Plant has authorized a contractor to start work on changing the doors of Pem West, Radnor, and Denbigh to self-locking, so that residents do not have to re-lock doors when they come in at night. The doors of Pem East, Merion, and Brecon are next. Kelch explained that they have older doors, and so are harder to fix, but that Physical Plant has the proposal from a contractor and he has approved it.

He added that they were trying to fix the timers for the lights in Taylor, Erdman, and Pem West, and also deal with problems with the Rhoads and English House lights.

When asked about ground floor windows and the fact that some students have windows which will not close or lock, Kelch stated, "windows are really the same as doors, they should be lockable." Alecia Domer said "they [Physical Plant] fixed my windows after a month." She does not have any storm windows. She said, "I don't know why nothing was done. Dean Behrend did everything she could. She wrote a note to the supervisor of Physical Plant, and then his supervisor."

Kelch said, "there's no excuse for that [people not getting responses]." He stated that he would like those people to "call me or if I'm not in, call my secretary and leave a message." He added, "If an individual calls about a lock on an external door or an individual's room, a physical plant worker should show up the same day, if not call me or my secretary." He said that if external locks can not be fixed the same day, Security is notified.

Kelch denied that there were communications problems. He stated "sometimes an individual [Physical Plant worker] fixes it [a problem] and it works fine, and then the student uses it for a while and it doesn't work again."

He added that he hoped to resolve a lot of the problems by having "follow-up on security problems." He says he is planning to have his student employees phone students to find out if their locks, windows, etc. have been fixed.

He also admitted that often things are fixed when they should probably be replaced. However he added that Physical plant does replace things when necessary. He gave as an example the Erdman door. He said that there is a problem with the hinges, and they are going to be replaced at a cost of \$1000.

He stated very clearly, "It's never been a question on the part of the administration of an expenditure on security." Kelch said that if Physical Plant does not fix a security problem "it's a fault of processing, not money." He added that Physical Plant has always been supported by the administration on security. "It's never been a budget issue. It's our fault if we're slow." At the end of the interview, Kelch reemphasized "Physical Plant has never been restricted financially on a security matter" and "If you don't get a response on a security problem, I would be very happy if you would call me."

However some people are disabling Physical Plant's and Security's efforts by propping open side doors or disabling their alarms. Mehta stated, "We just don't have enough security personnel." She called Security about a man who tried to open her window. Security came about ten minutes later, but by that time the man had left. Just as the security man came, he got a message on the radio that someone was breaking into Rhoads. However, Mehta also affirmed, "members of the community are as much to blame" for breaches of security. She said people don't close the dorm door, don't lock their doors, and don't close their windows. She added, "If we don't watch out for ourselves, no one else is going to do it."



MEIKO TAKAYAMA

## Merwin reads unpublished poems

by Lynne Bowers  
Review

As part of the Marianne Moore lecture series, created by a fund for the study of poetry, W.S. (Silliam Stanley) Merwin presented a reading of his poetry on Nov. 5 in Goodhart Auditorium. Bryn Mawr was fortunate enough to grab him for an evening as he was en route to Hawaii, where he now lives with his wife, in a place named, appropriately, Haiku.

Merwin was born in New York City in 1927 and grew up in Union City, NJ and then Scranton, PA. He graduated from Princeton University class of '67 with a degree in foreign languages. This led to various jobs as a tutor, and as a translator of French, Spanish, Latin and Portuguese. Examples of his translations include work in the genres of French Provencal poetry, which he considers especially beautiful, Italian Renaissance poetry and Spanish ballads, of which he published a book entitled *From the Spanish Morning*. Beyond his upbringing and education in the United States, Merwin has lived in Spain, England and France.

Merwin prefaced the reading of his own works by introducing and presenting the poetry of two other poets. He began with a poem by Marianne Moore titled "Silence," explaining that he felt he shared much with Moore, particularly regarding the theme of man's manipulation of nature. This led into a discussion of the prose of Muso, a Japanese garden expert who came to the art of garden design late in life. Muso transmits the keen

aesthetic sense that he brings to garden design to his poetry: short, beautiful poems with vivid imagery of the mountains and lakes that surround him in northern Japan. Merwin read two of Muso's poems, one of which was called "Old Mountain."

Following this introduction, Merwin selected several poems from each of his four books of poetry: *The Lice* (1967), Pulitzer Prize winner *The Carrier of Ladders* (1970), *The Compass Flower* (1977), and *Opening the Hand* (1983). He did not include poems from his earlier collections published before his college years, *A Mask for Janus* (1952) and *The Drunk in the Furnace* (1960).

Several of his poems had the photographic effect of conveying an instantaneous image, a single mood or detail like the click of a shutter. An example is one of the first poems he read, "Dusk at Winter" from *The Lice*. The photographic technique is similar to the effect of Mr. Muso's prose. Other of his poems, rather than having a purely esthetic purpose, deliver a message, like the poem "The Last One" about the destruction of the rainforests of South America. The poem is about the absolute ablation of a place. He tries to explain this unnecessary and inconceivable destruction by saying that "humans are born with a damaged sense of place."

Merwin's poetry is often identified by his use of myth. A poem that he pointed out specifically as a "myth poem" was "Robin" from *The Compass Flower*. Interestingly, he balances these myth-poems focused on everyday life. He read one poem which was a

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## Letter to the Editor

Just a note to clarify the parking policy. The Parking Regulations (distributed to all students) this past summer, states in Section II, paragraph 8, that:

"Haverford students living at Bryn Mawr must register their vehicle with the Bryn Mawr Safety and Security Department. Bryn Mawr students living at Haverford must register their vehicle with the Haverford Security Department. Vehicles with Haverford student permits will not be permitted to park on the Bryn Mawr campus between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Vehicles with Bryn Mawr student permits will not be permitted to park on the Haverford campus between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students may only register their vehicle at the institution at which they reside."

Section VI, paragraph 3 includes the following warning:

"Warning: Vehicles with a Haverford student permit parked on the Bryn Mawr campus between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday are unauthorized and will be towed. Vehicles with a Bryn Mawr student permit parked on the Haverford campus between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday are unauthorized and will be towed."

I hope this helps to clarify the regulations.

Michele Myers  
Dean of the College

## Letter to the Editor

Many thanks to *The College News* and reporter Eva Saketoo for your coverage of AIDS awareness week. Thanks too, to Robin Selman, Amy Wall, Kim Godsoe, Katherine Sherk, and the student employees who made signs, stuffed mailboxes, etc.

Shelly Fitzgerald, Dr. Kay Kerr, the Wellness Program faculty, and I worked together to offer the 'week-long' program to begin the process of educating the Bryn Mawr Community about AIDS. In the weeks ahead, AIDS programs will be offered to members of the staff and faculty. In the Spring, another special week of events will be sponsored and peer educators will offer films and discussion groups about AIDS.

In another article in the 11/4/87 edition, "mismanagement" of Student Investment Committee proceeds was suggested. No funds provided by that group were used for the AIDS Awareness Week. The brochure and flyers were provided by Student Services and the Health Center. Those of us who worked as volunteers to present this program recognize that publicity could have been better.

I certainly applaud the generosity of the Student Investment Committee's commitment to support AIDS awareness and look forward to the benefits that their contribution to the College will provide in the months to come.

Sincerely,

Chuck Heyduk  
Director of Student Services

## Needs of handicapped not accommodated on Parents Day

by Michele Taft Morris  
Commentary

My so-called inspiration for this article arose after an enjoyable but particularly inconvenient Parent's Day last weekend.

My mother had polio as a child, and as a result is paralyzed from the waist down. She walks on crutches with braces on her legs, and although she can drive a car, and even climb stairs with difficulty, for her the smallest tasks are a large production, and take much more time and energy.

On the whole, I feel Parent's Day was very well organized, but I was very surprised not to have noticed, or received notice of any information regarding handicap accessibility on campus. Surely the College, and the Events Office who organized the weekend, realized that there must be parents needing certain assistance? I was disappointed with their lack of readiness to handle these situations.

For example, Saturday morning I had been fretting away, in my usual manner, as to how I was going to get my mother into the Cloisters for the picnic. As I had not been told there was an elevator in Thomas, I was picturing endless flights of stairs, up and down. Luckily for me, a savior sitting at the information desk in the Campus Center informed me that there was indeed an elevator available. She called Security for me and explained the situation, and arranged for an officer to meet us at the handicap entrance, which is on the side of the building facing Canaday Library.

When we arrived, however, the officer explained to me that the elevator was locked, and asked if I knew who had the key. Needless to say, I was shocked and rather annoyed. I realize that Security is understaffed at this point, and many officers are still in training, but I felt that the incident was badly handled on their part, as I ended up having to take her up and down the stairs anyway.

Another example of the College's lack of provision for handicapped visitors was the number of Parent's Day lectures held in Taylor Hall. This building is one of the most inaccessible on campus. My mother and I would have greatly appreciated it if these lectures had been held in a more convenient location, seeing as it took a lot of time and energy to get her up the front stairs and into

the building.

As far as students are concerned, Bryn Mawr does do a fairly good job. The College does have a policy to meet the needs of students and staff. Their statement is as follows: "The College is firmly committed to the principle of making reasonable accommodation in all aspects of campus life to physically disabled students and staff. We have found that this is best achieved by meeting the needs of persons with various disabilities on an individual basis." [as taken from a memorandum to President McPherson from Registrar Julie Painter, 11/25/86]

Director of Student Services Chuck Heyduk admits that "there are a lot of renovations and improvements to be done on this campus," but our willingness to adapt to specific needs of individual students is impressive. That is, it's better than may be found in many other places and many other schools. The college will even schedule class sites and meetings around the physical limitations of individual students, says Heyduk.

Beth Michener ('90) has a disability, and she comments, "Last year when it snowed it got the point where I couldn't leave the dorm without people with me because I would fall . . . the walks were never cleared enough." Last year she had difficulty in getting transportation to her physical therapy because Security said it was not their job to take her, even after she was told by Chuck Heyduk that they would. Eventually the College did make a concession by allowing her to keep a car on campus as a freshman. This was necessary, she said, because she was also unable to catch the Blue Bus to attend her classes at Haverford. Michener feels that handicap inaccessibility is "just another form of discrimination . . . it's just not fair."

For anyone who needs to know, this is as good an opportunity as any to inform you that there are elevators in Thomas, Canaday Library, the Campus Center, the Computer Center, and the School of Social Work. Keys to these elevators are available upon request through Student Services. If you are aware in advance that you or someone with you will need assistance, contact Student Services at X6243. Otherwise, on the spot assistance is best received by calling Security at X5217. Just make sure you are specific in your request.

Dear Michele,

I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you about the College's policies for accommodating disabled persons for your article for the *College News*. Thank you for pointing out the need for more clear-cut directions to students with family members and/or guests whose special needs require assistance or special scheduling to participate in College programs. When I received the *Student Handbook*, I discovered that "guests" are mentioned only in the heading and not in the entry on "Handicapped Students and Guests" on page 11.

Enclosed for your information is the revised text. I would appreciate any suggestion you might have on ways it might be improved. I will then distribute the revised entry and a renewed invitation for participants on our advisory groups to all students.

I was very sorry to learn that the Parents' Day arrangements caused undue difficulties for your mother and that there were problems using the entrance and elevator at Thomas even when you sought special help from a security officer. Please be sure to let me know about your future need for keys of scheduling, so that your mother can participate fully in events or other activities for which she comes to campus. I hope you will convey to her our regret that we did not have our service in order.

Be sure to contact me with questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

Chuck Heyduk  
Director of Student Services

## Handicapped Students and Guests

*The College is firmly committed to the principle of making reasonable accommodation in all aspects of campus life to physically disabled students and staff. We have found that this is best achieved by meeting the needs of persons with various disabilities on an individual basis . . . contact Chuck Heyduk, Director of Student Services (x6243).*

## Racism not a joke

Letter to the Editor

A build-up of what I consider blatantly racist incidents in the bi-college community has provoked me to write this article. It is scary to see how much has gone on this semester in terms of unthinking and insensitive attacks on issues considered vital to the existence of others in this community. And "others" seems to be the key word. Whether the attacks are racist, sexist, homophobic or simply personally obnoxious, they are violation and indeed a denial of the humanity of the victim. It is on the racial attacks that I shall dwell.

These incidents include the casual use of racial insults, with one justification being that these terms are often used within the groups referred to, so why not in the wider community. The other justification being intoxication. A woman, when confronted about wearing a scarf with the Confederate flag on it, defended her own right to wear anything that she wanted. The Haverford Honor Council refused to deal with incidents of racism presented to them because they "did not perceive the racism."

People of Color are not paranoid. It is neither fun nor entertaining to formulate incidents of racism against ourselves. We just don't do it. Racism is not a joke—it is a sickness. Too often we have been told to look at every incident "objectively," to try to understand, to try to teach and discuss, maybe we could all learn something. How can a person be objective when her very existence is being attacked? How can one be calm when the stereotypes associated with her skin color are being laughed about? There is a difference between a sense of humor and a sense of identity.

Hence I say do not expect either objectivity nor laughter if it is not readily offered. It is unreasonable to do so. Do not ask for objectivity, expect anger.

Sia Nowrojee '89

## Wyndham dress code embarrasses

by Lorrie Kim  
Commentary

On June 1, 1987, the search committee for a Director of Minority Affairs interviewed the three final candidates for the position, joined by an ad hoc group (of which I was a member) of Bryn Mawr undergraduates of various different ethnic backgrounds. When we arrived at the lunchtime interview at

Wyndham, we were extremely taken aback when we were informed that one student would not be allowed into the dining room because the shorts she was wearing violated the Wyndham dress code. She was then directed to the women's restroom, where we were told she could put on one of the two skirts kept there for such exigencies.

The procedure seemed absurd to us because it was 95° outside and the student was not dressed in any unusual or indiscreet manner; but what raised our indignation was the insult and humiliation of an adult being packed off to change into someone else's clothes. Furthermore, none of us had been told of the existence of such a code; had we been aware, the humiliation could have been averted.

To complicate matters, after the student had changed, we saw a man in shorts who had obviously not been asked to change. A Wyndham employee explained that the man had not been told to change because he was member of a private party, and that he and his party had been moved outdoors to the terrace. She rather curtly referred us to Joan Woodcock, manager of Wyndham, if we had further questions and "want(ed) to make an issue of this."

Accordingly, I called Joan Woodcock, who has managed Wyndham since 1976, to learn where the dress code came from, why it is implemented, and why we had not heard about it in time to prevent the incident. According to Ms. Woodcock, she "kind of an inherited the dress code, although I agree with it." As far as she knows, it has always existed

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*The College News* is a Bryn Mawr publication serving the entire College community. People interested in joining the staff should contact one of the editors. Deadline for letters to the editor is Friday preceding publication. *The College News* is published every other week on Wednesdays while classes are in session.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** *The College News* seeks to provide a forum for the students, faculty, administration, and staff of Bryn Mawr. While articles on topical subjects will be published, each issue will seek to examine in-depth an issue of relevance to the College community. *The College News* welcomes ideas and submissions from all members of the community, as well as from outside groups and individuals whose purpose or functions are connected to those of the College.

## Community meeting questions policy

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policies, the real decision in its final form was received by students "in their mailboxes over the summer," said Wofford.

The college's policies on AIDS, room lockouts (students may now be charged to be let into their own rooms), checks at the Comptroller's Office, and posting signs in the Campus Center, all were put into effect without student input.

The Student Life Committee, responsible for formulating "almost every policy you've gotten in the past six months," has no student representation, said Senior Madeline Marcus.

The Alcohol and Drug Policies did receive student input, but, as Wofford pointed out, "the only one we found that was done purely by students was the Party Policy." In addition, Daniel pointed out that this policy "could be negated by the Alcohol Policy."

None of the policies listed in the Student Handbook state who was involved in their formulation.

"If I were a Freshman looking at these policies I would probably think that because we have a Self-Government Association, these were all voted on [by students]," commented Daniel.

She brought up the problems SGA has had passing the Drug Policy, pointing out "that's not so surprising because you look at things like the Parking Policy and the Pet

Policy and they appear to have fallen from the sky...."

After the meeting Daniel said, "These are by no means the most important issues on this campus. We chose the issue of policies because it is larger than whether or not we can park or have pets. These two policies just happen to point out a lack of student involvement. I expected many students to come to the community meeting with other concrete ideas, but they didn't. So unfortunately, it might appear that all we did was talk about cars and ferrets."

### Plenary

Wofford reminded the meeting of the policy passed at Plenary last year stating, "Only policies approved by the vote of the Self-Government Association (all students) fall under the jurisdiction of the Honor Board."

This resolution, she explained, does not give students the right to form policy, but students are not accountable to the Honor Board for any policy formed by the administration and not voted on by the SGA.

"I'm not satisfied with just that," said Wofford, "I think that we should change this."

Wofford informed those present that the way students "got self-government in the first place" was through a faculty protest on behalf of the students.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to all

administrators stating that the student body will not accept any policy that has been written without a large representative student input. Many at Sunday's meeting called for a copy of policies that have been passed without student input. A possible Plenary to amend the constitution is in the planning stages for second semester.

"I really, now, understand the urgency of this," commented Beth Posner. "All of us, including the people who [formed the coup], should feel a little ashamed that that's what it takes. Because we're not children and what

SGA is about is being adults, being self-governed."

### Constituency

The absence of "direct constituency" for many elected representatives, some of whom represent the entire undergraduate population, generated much discussion.

"People should be represented in the sense that they feel there are specific people that would vote with their opinions on certain issues in mind," commented one student. She suggested breaking down the constituency into a more manageable size so that "we know who each representative represents."

## Haffner wins TV and VCR

by Chris Zamkotowicz

The residents of Haffner have pulled off a feat seldom attained by even the most ingenious: they have succeeded in using sheer brainpower to obtain a free color TV and VCR. The Haffnerians are the lucky winners of the Dorm Discretionary Fund (DDF) contest. Following the demise of BMC's "Ten O'Clock Tea" tradition, the Budget Committee invented the DDF as an allotment to each dorm wishing to give a tea or party. The contest aimed at extracting creative ideas for the DDF by awarding prizes to the dorms presenting the most original suggestions. The Student Residence Council set down the general regulations for the DDF: the money cannot be spent on alcohol; it should be used for dormitory-oriented entertainment rather than large campus parties; and it should cover a minimum of three events during the present semester. The suggestions were submitted to Dean Tidmarsh for judging. "It couldn't have been a very easy decision," speculated Caroline Sim, Haffner Co-President. "Lots of dorms had some really good ideas."

The Haffner proposals, however, held their own against the competition. The Tower of Babel tea, a potential showcase of international foods and culture, capitalizes on Haffner's status as the "language dorm" as well as home to a large number of foreign students. Game Day features Clue, Trivial Pursuit, and many other interesting selections designed to allow the residents an intellectually challenging study break. And for the jet-set, cosmopolitan party people, there is the semi-formal Casino Night, complete with M&M "chips" and prizes for the winners.

Nor are the events necessarily restricted to the specified minimum three. Haffner recently used some of the DDF to sponsor a successful Drug and Alcohol awareness tea. Other suggestions are also pending. "Now that we're getting our TV, we think that a Couch Potato Day might be a good idea," laughed Sim.

Closely tailgating Haffner's winners are the residents of Erdman, who came in second place. The dorm's upcoming Halloween Study Break consists of apple bobbing, ghost stories, and the traditional spooky staples. The Dance Marathon, potentially slated for the end of November, will raise money for the homeless through sponsorship of its participants. Also contemplated is a Quilting Bee in early December, in which squares belonging to each resident will be sewn together in a large dorm quilt. "It's possible that this could be the start of a dorm tradition," stated Erdman Co-President Thida Comes. In between events, Comes hopes for the possible installment of Moonlighting Teas on Tuesdays, as well as the resurgence of, yes, the traditional 10:00 Teas. "For such a large dorm, it would be a great way to get people to come together." The Erdwomen are presently unsure about whether they want the intended pool table or "something of equal value" as their second prize, but they plan to vote on their options in the near future. Both dorms deserve praise for their original schemes (as do all others that entered), and congratulations on their new prizes!

## Pran speaks on real life *Killing Fields*

by Cindy Stevens

On Tuesday, November 10, members of the Bi-College community packed Marshall Auditorium to see Dith Pran, the Cambodian photo-journalist whose story is portrayed in the award-winning movie *The Killing Fields*. "I am not a hero or a politician," Pran declared in the opening of his lecture. Pran emphasized that he is only one of millions of Cambodians who have suffered due to the atrocities committed by the communist Khmer Rouge. Pran then proceeded to brief his audience on the recent history of Cambodia and its involvement in the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam War, neutral Cambodia was of vital interest to North and South Vietnamese forces. North Vietnam transported arms from China to its forces in South Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which cuts through Cambodia. South Vietnamese forces, thus, began launching attacks on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and destroyed Cambodian villages, killing innocent people in the process. In Pran's words, "Cambodia was a victim of both sides."

Meanwhile, when Cambodian Prince Sihanouk was abroad, members of his cabinet ousted the Prince in a coup that was to significantly affect the Khmer Rouge's rise to power. Sihanouk sought refuge in China, and, through Chinese radio, he ordered the Cambodian people to support the communist guerrillas, known as the Khmer Rouge, and aid them in overthrowing the new Cambodian leader.

The Khmer Rouge grew powerful and ousted the Lon Nol government, which brings us to the frame that *The Killing Fields* encompasses. Pran expressed that he and Sidney Schanberg (the American journalist who worked with Pran in Cambodia) were very pleased with the accuracy of *The Killing Fields*. Pran did comment that some of the atrocities depicted in the movie were actually much worse in reality. For example, the killing field that Pran encountered on his escape to Thailand was actually much larger and strewn with many more bodies. Pran explained that he and Schanberg requested that the malice be toned down so as to prevent audiences from thinking that *The Killing Fields* was unrealistic and propagandistic. The fact that so many people attended his lecture, Pran noted, shows that the movie was successful in arousing concern for the Cambodian people.

In several instances, Pran drew parallels between Khmer Rouge's massacre of two

to three million Cambodians and the Holocaust during World War II. Pran expressed concern that the world did not learn from its past mistakes. In a personal interview, Pran stated that he never lost hope during his

four-year imprisonment in Khmer Rouge labor camp, because he "knew Sidney cared about (him)" and would find him. Pran also looked forward to being reunited with his family in the United States.

Although Pran's plight is essentially over, he implored his audience to help Cambodians rid their country of the Khmer Rouge. What was depicted in *The Killing Fields* still goes on, Pran said, and it is up to the American public to demand that the United States government addresses the Cambodian problem.

## Feminism alive in Kenya

by Sia Nowrojee  
Commentary

In response to Kusimba Makokha's comment in the 1st issue of *The News* which stated that "feminism is here at Bryn Mawr, and not in Kenya," I would like to present an alternative opinion based on the following facts. As a Kenyan woman I was horrified to read the comment and feel that it is dangerous to leave such a comment in the air without correction. On talking to Kusimba I discovered that he had not followed up his comment as much as he would have liked to and he was supportive of my stance.

First of all, I would like to re-quote Kusimba saying, "Feminism is everywhere," and it most certainly is in Kenya. Secondly, "feminism" is not a monolithic construct. Women do things differently, so it becomes problematic to actually define what "feminism" entails. In Kenya I have seen what I define as "feminism" well developed on two different levels. First, there is the most Western manifestation in terms of organizations (over 11,000 in the country), meetings, conferences and use of the media, an example being this article. The most well-known organization is Maendeleo ya Wanawake (Development of Women) started over twenty years before the UN Decade for Women was declared in 1975. It has membership at all levels of society and all over the country. Others include The Professional and Business Women's Association centered mainly in Nairobi, the University Women's Associa-

tion, the Kenyan Women's Society and various other organizations. These all provide a wide range of services and forums. Women's conferences are hosted regularly in Nairobi, the most well-known being the UN Decade for Women Conference in July 1985. On the political platform, women are recognized as "the backbone of the Kenyan economy" by President Daniel Arap Moi.

This takes me to the second level of manifestations of feminism in Kenya. The President's observation is indeed true. Women do most, if not all, of the work in the small scale agricultural sector of the country. Women run enterprises at all branches of the economy, contributing markedly to nation-building. What this economic involvement entails is pure hard work. A woman who walks miles to carry water back to her home, who works in the shambaa (or field) all day to provide for her family, who travels to the market to sell her produce, is a feminist. For "feminism" to exclude such women who don't have the luxury of sitting at a conference table or writing an article is counterproductive. Feminism is not an abstract ideology, it is a way of life, it is practical and a means of survival. This manifestation of feminism in Kenya is rampant, and cannot be ignored or dismissed.

There are of course many problems and Kenyan women have a lot to fight for and against. But, as a Kenyan woman whose awakening came at home, I can affirm that *Feminism is in Kenya*.

## Wyndham

(Continued from page 2)

but has never actually been written down. The skirts in the restroom were donated four or five years ago by an alumna who thought they might be useful; otherwise, "there has always been the terrace, with no questions asked, and there is the Back Room—which is new as of last year, a different type of service—a la carte, you can take food out—for those who come in shorts."

The need for such considerations stems from the fact that, although "it's not that we are non-student," Wyndham exists primarily to serve groups other than the undergraduate student body: the Alumnae Association, administrative offices and academic departments, individual alumnae/faculty/staff, trustees, and friends and neighbors of the college. "Everyone at the college has been affected by the Cambridge Report, and Wyndham has been working in its own ways," Woodcock explains. "Our greatest source is the wider community. And when you come to dressing, for instance, people come with certain expectations—expecting a certain ambiance."

Ms. Woodcock insisted that "our normal group of faculty and staff do know" about the dress code, but added that "there are not many faculty members on campus when it's hot," to explain why we had not been notified and forewarned. "We always welcome students to come with a separate entity," she stressed. "It (being asked to change) can be, I'm sure, a very distressing situation." She reports that she is aware of only one such "distressing situation"; those who were present can testify that it was humiliating and undignified as well, and should be prevented by all possible means from occurring again.

# Bryn Mawr Self Government

## SGA officers in 1926, 1954 frustrated with apathy

by Catherine Payne

Bryn Mawr College has never been governed by the administration. This is a fairly impressive fact considering that so many colleges and universities today are still under the influence of their administrators and have little say in the functioning of their respective institutions. Bryn Mawr students developed their own form of student government in 1891 and have never been without one since.

The history of the organization of the Self-Government Association parallels the changing values of Bryn Mawrers throughout the years. From a complete absence of any form of college government during the first years of Bryn Mawr to the morally rigid Student-Government Association of the turn of the century to the democratic Self-Government of today Bryn Mawr has seen the birth and development of a truly democratic Self-Government Association.

In the beginning there was chaos. Bryn Mawr's first president, James E. Rhoads, gave the first dean of the college, M. Carey Thomas, the responsibility of governing the students. Interestingly, Rhoads believed that it was not the role of a man to govern a women's college.

Thomas decided to leave the governing of students up to the students themselves. Her philosophy was that, without a governing body, the students would overstep the boundaries of expected behavior yet, in their own desire to be respected and trusted, they would demand a form of self-government. Having never been under the jurisdiction of an administrative body, and demanding the independence to which they had been accustomed. Bryn Mawrers logically did just that!

In 1891, six years after the founding of Bryn Mawr College, the administrator announced the need for restrictions for the rapidly increasing student body (169 students) and the students responded with the demand for a Student-Government Association.

Since the beginning of self-government, Bryn Mawrers have had a strong desire for democracy and for honor. Thus, the members of the original Student-Government Association were elected according to a strict democratic voting process. Elections were important occasions during the spring and positions were defined by grade status giving the government a very structured appearance.

Positions of increased responsibility were allotted to members of higher classes. The high value for honor was evident in the responsibilities of the Student-Government Association. Rules and infractions of those rules were created and dealt with by the Student-Government Association.

Up until 1971 two associations existed in order to govern the student body. The Student-Government Association, as has been previously mentioned, was responsible for the moral governing of Bryn Mawrers, whereas the Undergraduate Association was responsible for representing the opinions of the students, administering undergraduate activities on campus, and acting as a liaison between the undergraduates and the administration.

The president of the Student-Government Association was a member of the executive board of the Undergraduate Association as were the president of the Athletic Association and the editor of the *News*, among others. The two organizations together worked much like the Self-Government Association of today.

Speaking of S.G.A., how did we get to where we are today? The evolution of the Student-Government Association into the Self-Government Association reveals many of the changes which have taken place in the Bryn Mawr community and also reveals

some of the traditional Bryn Mawr values.

In 1926, Minna Lee Jones, then president of the Student-Government Association, referred to her presidency as attempting "to run a machine for which there was no fuel." She and her executive board threatened to resign unless the constitution of the Student-Government was revised. This early frustra-

tion with student participation and dedication was addressed through a constitutional amendment which required fewer numbers for plenary quorum, thus keeping the system at a contemporary level of operation.

Similarly, during the Second World War when the students felt the rules set by the Student-Government Association were

somewhat restraining, the government was able to respond to the current views of the students.

In 1954, thanks to the 1927 amendment, the Academic Honor System was added to the constitution of the Student-Government Association in order to involve the students in the government, thus preventing further apathy on the part of the student body.

## Coup breaks SGA "contract of apathy"

by Lillian Daniel  
Commentary

Those who compare the recent coup of the Self Government Association to the covert actions of Oliver North or the overthrows of governments in "banana republics" would do well to consider how they trivialize the above mentioned issues and hold their tongues, lest they embarrass themselves again.

Last week, former CIA agent David Atlee Phillips spoke to a crowd of 200 from the bicollege community. Phillips, now part of a slick propaganda machine for retired intelligence officers, spoke eloquently of his experiences in Guatemala, where he was instrumental in overthrowing the Arbenz government, in Chile, where the US displaced elected president Allende and the resulting coup led to many deaths. This crowd, in the spirit of tolerance for all points of view, allowed Phillips to speak uninterrupted for over an hour, laughing at anecdotes about his exciting life abroad, and politely tittering their way through obvious omissions about US activities in these countries. But when members of the Philadelphia group 'Pledge of Resistance' ventured outside the genteel question and answer format that had been set up, they were silenced with hisses and boos.

Since this lecture, in which many questions were asked, most of which were left unanswered, there has been no community uproar. The controversy that did arise was about members of the Philadelphia group who asked so many questions that the over \$14,000 per-student-per-year bicollege community felt "shut out." Instead of shouting at Phillips when he alluded to murders committed in the name of American interests, people shouted at a woman holding up protest signs that they imagined Phillips might find offensive. In this community, it is clearly one thing to commit murder terrorist action, and another thing entirely to disrupt a meeting. Heaven forbid we should threaten the free speech of a man who has been paid to promote the CIA on the lecture circuit for twelve years now.

But just when it appeared the bicollege community had learned nothing from Mr.

Phillips' lecture or any of the events of the last fifteen years, the social historians among us rose to the occasion after the APATHY community meeting last week. The actions of the SGA assembly members who helped to organize their own coup and kept quiet about it for a whole week afterwards seem to have inspired people to heights of political awareness heretofore unheard of.

But lest you think any of this has been directed in a positive direction, think again. In strange comparison between twelve people keeping a secret for a week and the horrors of terrorist activity around the world, people are revealing unimaginable, even to the most cynical among us, shallowness and superficiality of thought here at this elite, expensive institution. Resignations are demanded over discussions in the bathroom and people are getting huffier than ever. Others leave town to avoid the pressure that they feel from a select few, while most people don't even know or care what's going on. As spleens inflate egos on all sides of the controversy, we can't see the forest for the noxious weeds, and we all get bogged down in our own petty entanglements.

At the talk being given by Mr. Phillips, the issues have lost any natural sense of priority. At the CIA lecture, the issue of giving opposing viewpoints a fair shake went so far that other view points were violently shouted down. And a result of this SGA coup, the original issue of self empowerment and student apathy have been over shadowed by the outrage of the "covert action" used to implement it. While many good points and valid criticisms have been brought up by some, others are using the event to call attention to themselves, get out of doing jobs they haven't enjoyed doing all year or as a final, incontrovertible excuse for apathy.

Right now it is easy to take pot-shots at those involved in the coup. The flaws and inconsistencies in the plan were many. It is also easy to sit back in indignation and give up on the system and the officers involved. What gets forgotten is everything that has happened up until this point: the hours the officers of SGA spend in meetings every week, the busy work that is essential to the

smooth running of the community but never gets noticed because there is always someone responsible enough to do it. These are the things that are dull and would hardly draw a crowd of 200 into the campus center on a Sunday night. But this is really what student government is about. Shock tactics can work, or they can backfire. This does not obviate the hard work that a few people have consistently put into your "self" government all semester long, and for longer than at any other college in the country.

The actions taken by the APATHY assembly members appear to have been taken in their roles of individual members of the association. When we look at the fact that most of the members of this administration ran unopposed, the present calls for resignation seem ludicrous at best. Noticeably absent from past election ballots are the names of most of those pushing petitions around. Officers considering resignation would also be taking an easy and myopic way out. It is easy to criticize from the sidelines, and to step in when things are bad. It is easy to step out of the fray and jump on the bandwagon of dissent. But it is difficult to stand behind risks taken within an organization that grants initiative little legitimacy.

Perhaps the qualities students want in a leader are the exact opposite of those admired in a State senator. In our states there are always important issues going on whose outcome can radically change people's lives. For example, raising the minimum wage for teenagers can mean the difference between good and bad nutrition for some families. At Bryn Mawr, there are no such pressing issues entrusted to SGA. Here we like our "leaders" to go to meetings, type up long documents and post them on some pretty inauspicious walls: the jobs we may in the future assign to a secretary but hardly to a state representative. So perhaps what people are really outraged about is the fact that our leaders broke a contract. This is not a contract of trust but a contract of apathy. They took action when they were supposed to work through the existing bureaucracy. When what we really wanted was to do our homework or apply to graduate school, they thought and made us think.

### Reconciliation needed

by Carrie Wofford  
'89 Honor Board Representative

Should they resign? Should they be forced to resign? Did they violate the Social Honor Code? Everyone has a different way of addressing the fact that some SGA officers initiated the APATHY coup d'etat.

One way is to follow the Social Code—especially if you think they violated it—by confronting them directly and personally, and listening to their response.

Conciliation meetings/explanation sessions were suggested by members of the community and are being planned by Dorm officers. These Dorm meeting sessions will be attended by Dorm Presidents and Honor Board Representatives who feel they can adopt a neutral position necessary to mediate (to help if emotions begin to run high).

Please attend, air your views, listen to the feelings and ideas of the people involved, and help come up with resolutions.



SGA board posts the weekly agenda of the Assembly meeting.

MEIKO TAKAYAMA

# ... a history of controversy

## Early social regulations: structure and roles of SGA

by Carrie Wofford

Prior to 1971, the Executive Board of the Self-Government Association acted as the equivalent of our current Honor Board, while what they called the "Undergraduate Asso-

ciation" performed all duties we consider the Assembly's governance: these officers represented the student body to the administration and faculty, coordinated student activities, as well as budgeted and oversaw the

clubs and committees (such as Curriculum Committee).

The following is an account of the issues and structural changes involved in the evolution of our Social and Academic Honor Codes.

In 1892, the Trustees recognized the new Student Society for Self-Government, and granted this body the right to legislate in matters of student life and conduct *outside the classroom*.

The original constitutions, therefore, deal not only with the set up of elected officers and their terms, but also with what we today call a social Honor Code (although some of their issues of student conduct would, today, be considered hilarious). An Academic Code was not be formally integrated until 1954.

### Student Regulation of Social Conduct

In 1892, Anne (Nan) Emery, the first SGA president, and her Executive Board, spent the first days of their terms creating the rules for student conduct in dormitory life. Although Dean M. Carey Thomas talked over the resolutions with the students, she chose not to control the decisions.

The difficulty lay not in convincing the Board of Trustees to approve these Resolutions, as both President James Rhoads and Dean Thomas argued for them, but in later getting the 170 students to agree on the particulars of each Resolution.

Defining acceptable noise levels and controlling theft have always been problems at BMC. M. Carey Thomas called "petty thieving" what we today still have problems with (missing food from pantries and clothes from laundry rooms). Nan Emery in 1892 said "noise is what disturbs other people"—a definition we as a community have also come up with in our 1984 and 1987 versions of the Social Honor Code.

Anne Hobson Freeman, in "Pledged to an Idea: An Experiment in Self-Government," quotes Nan Emery as having said, "The students of Merion Hall used to say that they had never been disturbed by noise until the Executive Board held midnight meetings in my room to discuss the necessity of 'quiet hours'."

### Some Early Social Regulations

The Constitutional Resolutions regarding

student conduct were placed in a section of the Constitution called "Resolutions, Senses of the Meeting, and Executive Board Decisions concerning a System of Self-Government."

The 1910 Resolutions include:

- quiet hours from 8 am to 1 pm, 2 to 4 pm, 7:30 to 9:15 pm, and after 10 pm. (These hours were necessary as the Curriculum mandated 15 class hours weekly, and not more than 9 hours of daily study. Beth Posner, Representative to the Faculty, is preparing to advocate for this 'rigorous purity' in future communications with the faculty.)
- no men in students' studies (rooms?) or in the corridors after dinner.
- one dollar fine for not signing out (listing address) for overnights.
- no contact with male professors outside the classroom
- no trips off campus after dark in 'parties' of less than three.
- chaperones (to be hired through the Treasurer) must accompany students on the trains, at entertainment or athletic events, and always at night.

In 1910, one student was suspended for dressing her brother as a woman and parading him outside at a costume party on the hockey field, while another, in 1912, received the same penalty for defying an SGA ban on travel into Philadelphia during a street car strike, in order to attend a lecture.

Four girls were expelled in 1916 for sleeping outside near a stable the night before an early morning horse ride, and then lying to the Executive Board in order to protect a friend.

In 1923-24, students were allowed:

- no hazing (as in freshman orientations or customs week).
- no smoking, except in private homes within 25 miles of BMC (this liberal rule caused one national paper [NY Times or Washington Post] to claim Bryn Mawr would collapse within a few years).
- no drinking or gambling, except in houses in Bryn Mawr or the vicinity.
- 50¢ per hour charges for chaperones to be paid to the student government Treasurer.
- chaperones needed—as in 1910—except when at the Academy of Music (!)
- no cheering in the dining halls.

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## Assembly members explain coup

Letter to the Editor

As people involved in the suspension of SGA, we would like to give an account of the development and unfolding of the suspension of the Assembly of Self-government on November 1 and the subsequent Community Meeting on November 8. At the planning meeting of SGA held last Wednesday night, November 11, the people involved in the suspension of SGA gave an account to a group of 40 or 50 people. We decided that explaining the suspension clearly to the entire community is a necessary step to resolving the controversy of this action.

It is necessary to preface this account with background information about the activities of SGA during the last year. One of the most important student issues over the past several years has been the Diversity Requirement. This proposed requirement involved a great deal of student input and support, but it was not accepted by the Faculty. The Cambridge Report Forum also elicited student input but the actual decision to make changes was not greatly influenced by students. These forums made use of the "accepted channels" for student input but the outcomes were frustrating.

Perhaps this frustration became manifested in the elections in which each of us was elected. Nine out of 17 candidates ran unopposed. Other campus-wide votes such as the Alcohol and Drug Policies which occurred last year and this year had difficulty in receiving enough votes. In fact, the Drug Policy has yet to be passed after three attempts to reach quorum. In the most recent election for nine Members-at-Large only six candidates ran. These facts have contributed to the frustration which caused us to take measures toward stimulating interest and activity among the Self Government Association members.

At a bi-weekly Steering Committee meeting where we discussed our frustrations and student disinterest, only half the members of Steering Committee were in attendance. They were Mili Cisneros, Sharon Levitch, Una Gandbhir, Beth Fussell, Lauren Suraci, Laura Stamp, Laura Cella and Lynne Bowers. Those at the meeting thought that a community-wide gripe session would be a great "forum" for bringing up new concerns and discussing issues at hand. However, we all felt that a traditional forum would not attract enough students. Our next step was to decide how to stimulate student interest. The idea of resigning from our positions as a way of doing so did not seem logical because we all feel very dedicated to our positions in SGA and a resignation would not have encouraged other students to participate more. We felt that a symbolic action, such as the coup, would encourage this interest and still show our feeling that we needed students to work together. We felt that the suspension of SGA would be a levelling procedure to break down the perception of a hierarchy, so that we could be viewed as peers and not only as representatives.

We could not do this ourselves because we felt that the impetus had to come from outside to demonstrate that students had the power to take action themselves. For these reasons, we approached a number of members of the community with our ideas. The people we talked to were for the most part enthusiastic about it, but some chose not to participate directly in the coup. The three students who became known as APATHY participated out of their own concerns. At

that point, the idea and the responsibility for the suspension of SGA was totally handed over to Andrea Carlsen, Laura Miller and Helen Qubain. The statement they presented to the Assembly on November 1 was conceived and written by them.

At the November 1 SGA meeting, more non-Assembly members than usual were present. APATHY had asked them to come to the meeting in support of their action. The Assembly was in the middle of discussing the Alcohol Policy, when APATHY entered the room and requested that Assembly members suspend their duties for a week. They called for a community meeting to be held in place of the Assembly meeting the following week. People were confused and did not agree with APATHY's statement. Many questioned the appropriateness of suspending their duties. It was decided that that would be a personal decision. The meeting was not officially adjourned, but came to a close when people began leaving.

***We felt that the suspension of SGA would be a levelling procedure to break down the perception of a hierarchy, so that we could be viewed as peers and not only as representatives.***

Those members of the Assembly who had previously known about the coup did not address their involvement at this time because we wanted people to question what was happening in SGA and to come to the community meeting to be held the next Sunday.

We spent the next week discussing the community's reactions and organizing the Sunday meeting. Within the community, many people were more concerned with the "correctness" of APATHY's actions and how these could have otherwise taken place. Others did realize that this was the time to make new concerns heard. Everywhere people began to think about the role of Self-Government in our community and how it should and does function. We decided that it was important to explain how the coup had come about but also not to dwell on the issue of who had been involved any longer than necessary. We wanted to generate positive and constructive plans.

The community meeting did this. One of those plans was to have a meeting with the faculty and administration about the formation of policies, the Academic Honor Code, and student involvement in the Committees which form policy. The Wednesday, November 11 meeting was meant to be a planning meeting to set the agenda for the faculty-administration-student forum. Instead, that meeting became a discussion of the involvement of Assembly members in the coup.

Following a suggestion at that meeting, there will be dorm discussions regarding our involvement with the APATHY coup in the upcoming weeks. A couple of us will be present at each discussion. These will be coordinated by the dorm presidents and we hope that informative and useful discussion will come out of each of these meetings.

Lynne Bowers '88  
Sharon Levitch '88  
Laura Stamp '88  
Lauren Suraci '88  
Andrea Carlsen '90  
Mili Cisneros '88  
Beth Fussell '88

## Uninvolved student inspired by coup

by Laura Engel  
Commentary

In the past week I have learned much about SGA and what it means to be a part of the Bryn Mawr community. Since I am not personally involved in the inner workings and politics of SGA I did not feel "betrayed" or "deceived" by the members of APATHY. I was actually grateful that there was an outreach into the community that enabled me to confront issues that I had otherwise considered SGA business. SGA really wants my opinion. SGA wants all of our opinions. The meeting last Sunday was a rare and special opportunity that made me feel a part of a group of women who share similar fears, hopes and concerns.

Yet, the "issues" of the week have become confused and misleading. An action that was supposed to bring us together is an "honor code violation," a "breach of trust" and something that "can never happen again." If I was a member of the SGA assembly and I wasn't allowed to formally express my frustrations, I would be upset. Speaking as a member of the association who never attended an SGA meeting before Sunday, what right do I have to be angry? All of a sudden people are fascinated with the meaning of the honor code. It's almost as big as the disappearance of free coffee hour doughnuts and the reduction of tuna fish. I think we

need to ask ourselves when we got so concerned, and why?

In many ways APATHY accomplished what it set out to: the community has gotten motivated. Unfortunately, Sunday night was the beginning and in some ways the end of the "community" effort. That Wednesday there was a meeting to discuss the "agenda" for a meeting between students and faculty. This was essentially an SGA meeting with very few members of the association present. I have realized that in this community the "survival of the fittest" theory is applicable. The loudest, most assertive and concerned people are continuously recognized while many less assertive people assume, "the same people are going to talk, why should I bother?" However, these more assertive people have asked us for our help.

Some people at the Wednesday meeting suggested that the voting structure of SGA be changed so that anyone attending an SGA meeting would be allowed to vote. (Currently only SGA members can vote on issues presented at meetings.) There were rumors of having a plenary this year. People were actually saying that they "felt better" about what had happened. Hopefully in the future our negative energy can be turned around and instead of feeling like outsiders we can focus on what we can do to get involved.

## Coup seen as responsible act

by Tanya Sharon  
Commentary

I had no knowledge of the SGA coup until sometime after the event. My first gut-level reaction when I heard about it was "that's great". I assumed that it had been done with a serious purpose, and I awaited with curiosity to see what the explanation would be, and how people would react. I was (naively, I suppose) quite surprised to discover people talking heatedly of betrayal and irresponsibility.

What those nine people did seems to me to be an act of extreme responsibility—they were the ones talking our Constitution most seriously. At the meeting last Wednesday, Beth Fussell and other Assembly members spoke of the incredible frustration they've felt trying to represent a constituency whose apathy is so great that we regularly have to talk people into running for positions, and frequently find it difficult to get community input on major issues such as the Drug Policy (for which voting has been going on for more than year). As a senior, I've often experienced the frustration of seeing turnout for student groups go predictably and steadily downhill through the course of the semester.

The coup may have been a poor means to achieve their ends, but we shouldn't forget what those ends were: to give the Association, all of us students, a sense of self-empowerment and an awareness of our communitarian responsibilities and power. I find this talk of betrayal completely off the mark. The student at Wednesday's meeting who kept repeating that "you can't do this to the Constitution" is failing to see a critical point: that our Constitution was created by students for students, and is not something sacred and untouchable.

To stage a coup is to take ourselves seriously, to say that the present state of apathy in a supposedly self-governing assembly of students is unacceptable. Instead of talking about impeachment, we should ask ourselves why five key members of our Assembly were driven to such an act.

## Code's early stages remembered

(Continued from page 5)

- no exiting through dorm windows.
- tennis on campus on Sundays only after 2 pm.

An interesting 1953-54 resolution was that students could drink in the Deanery (the former Alumnae house and Faculty dining room—similar to Wyndham today) only at formal entertainments or with their parents in rooms above the first floor. And in 1964, students could drive on campus or in Philadelphia only if with a relative of their parent's generation or older (I wonder if young college sweethearts posing as cousins were the cause of this resolution).

Students in 1966 and '67 presented a formal request to the Board of the College to abolish all rules dealing with sexual conduct in the dorms.

### Structure of the Board, and Penalties

Susan Franklin, the second student government president, and Nan Emery decided that students suspecting violations should urge confession out of the student in question, and if this failed, report the student to the Executive Committee.

Only in 1963 did the students create our current system of reporting oneself, and urging those we see to report themselves. Confrontation and mediation are not mentioned until 1972.

In each dorm there were three or more Proctors, and one Head Proctor (what we call dorm presidents) who were elected to deal with problematic student conduct.

They worked in conjunction with dorm Wardens. This remained the case until 1970, when the social honor system revised the role of Hall Presidents to deal with minor offenses, while the Executive Board of SGA handled more serious cases.

Beginning in 1910, the Executive Board formed the "Low Court," which dealt with violations, while the entire association formed the "High Court," a court of appeals.

The Charter of 1892 requires that the Executive Board meet with the Dean and President of the College to discuss cases. In those days, the students would recommend a penalty (such as suspension or expulsion), which would have to be approved by the President of the College.

It is suspected that while Dean, and later,

President, Thomas did comply with student requests and decisions, she also may have persuaded them to make decisions in one way or another—according to her own beliefs as to a young lady's conduct. Marion Edwards Park, who replaced M. Carey Thomas as President in 1922, was herself a Bryn Mawr alumna and former SGA president, and she was said to have let the students do what they thought best.

### The Development of Student Responsibility for Academic Honor

The first mention of an academic code came in 1903, when students proposed an academic 'honor system' in response to faculty rules tightening the proctoring of exams.

The faculty refused to allow students to have such a system, and repeated this stance in 1914, when students asked to be responsible for regulating their own attendance at lectures (classes).

This second student-faculty conflict resulted from widespread and frequent "cutting," which mobilized the faculty to impose grade reductions for all cuts.

The Undergraduate Association then presented a petition to the faculty suggesting that, given their new understanding of the faculty attitude toward cutting, students would regulate their classroom attendance without the imposition of any rules. They asked the faculty to allow them temporary self governance during a probationary period of the rest of the 1914-15 academic year.

The faculty refused, saying that it would be "inexpedient" to let students regulate their own attendance, and that there would be no further student-faculty communication on the matter.

Further student protest, citing the "sense of individual responsibility which freedom from rules at Bryn Mawr has always fostered," resulted in a petition sent to the Trustees signed by 354 of 365 undergraduates. The Board of Trustees forwarded this petition to the faculty, who then chose to leave attendance rules to the discretion of each professor.

In 1922, Marion Park, as the third College President, carried out her strong Quaker ideals by developing a new curriculum which included an 'Honors System,' al-

though the faculty resisted it.

In fact, Miss Mabel Lang, BMC Greek Department Chair, points out in her article, "Rise to These Responsibilities: Faculty Powers and How They Grew," that faculty resistance to student self-governance in these early days resulted in part from the lack of faculty power in college decision-making.

Prior to 1954, a 'Faculty Senate' dealt with academic offenses, hence a formal Academic Honor Code detailing what were considered offenses, was not deemed necessary. The different amended versions of the Constitution include only three or four sentences about students being responsible for their own integrity and honor.

The Constitution handed out to each student at the beginning of the 1954-55 school year included a separate section called the Academic Honor System. This is very much like the Academic Code we have now, both in form and in content.

The responsibility for dealing with infractions shifted at that time to an 'Administrative Board' composed of officers of SGA, and representatives from the Faculty and Administration—much like our current Academic Honor Board.

In March of 1971, the Board of Trustees amended the original 1892 Charter for student self-government to entrust "full authority—formerly granted to the Self-Government Association—to the Honor Board of the Student Government Association of the undergraduate school."

At this time, what had formerly been the Self-Government Association merged with the Undergraduate Association to form the Student Government Association which we have today (although we changed the name back to SELF-Government at some point between 1971 and 1984).

Hence, the smaller Honor Board (as a branch of the larger organization) inherited most of the responsibilities of the early Self-Government.

*I would like to thank the staff of the Canadian Library Archives for making available to me the original documents from 1891 on, as well as the new book, A Century Recalled: Essays in Honor of Bryn Mawr College, edited by Patricia Labalme—from which I got most of my information.*

## APATHY members explain involvement

### Letter to the Editor

I write to clarify my actions in APATHY, and why I got involved. I am frustrated because I feel that all trust and commitment to our Constitution is gone and has been for a long time.

The Constitution, Article I Section II states, "Each member of the Association is responsible for the governing of the student body." In the year and a half that I have been here, this has not occurred; the majority of the student body takes the Constitution for granted.

Consequently, I feel that this lack of fulfilling our duties on the part of the students has led to an unofficial suspension of the Constitution many years ago. I have heard the words "impeachment" and "resignation" used by students when referring to the executive board of SGA. Well, under the same reasoning, I would then call for the impeachment of every member of the Association. I say this out of my frustration in that I see students becoming involved, which was one of my personal goals, but I see their actions as negative and unconstructive. I am not judging whether the SGA executives broke the honor code, but I am saying that we all are at fault, and I am only proposing that we begin to take positive steps to change this.

When APATHY interrupted the SGA meeting on Sunday, November 1, students cried, "So who do you represent?" and throughout the next week people constantly stated, "We elected these people to represent us, and how can APATHY call for the suspension of these people?" Well, I do not see the student body as allowing themselves

to be represented. As a whole, the SGA Association is not in contact with their representatives. This is all exemplified by the fact that the SGA members involved in APATHY did not feel that they, as representatives, could effectively ask their constituency to think about the problem and then come to a meeting. I ask the community: why couldn't these people call a meeting with the expectation that their own constituency would show up?

I feel sad that these people felt, and I believe rightly so, they had to go to such extremes to get people involved in their own government. SGA is not just Sunday 7pm meetings, and to be active in SGA we do not need to be members of the Assembly. For me, that is what APATHY is about. We did not get together in a dark room with only one bare lightbulb dimly protruding through the smoke-filled room as we puffed on our cigars and drank our vodka and gin as we sat in our overcoats, discussing how we could "put one over" on the students.

When I was approached by the SGA Assembly members involved, they were very vague and uncertain about what exactly they wanted done and how they wanted APATHY to proceed. They conveyed many frustrations to us, but basically left the concrete planning up to us. Each member of APATHY proceeded out of their own personal ideas and created APATHY to be what it was. We talked our ideas over with many people to try and get them to come to the SGA meeting on Nov. 1, and we wrote our own statement of purpose. None of the SGA Assembly members involved heard the Statement of

Purpose before we read it at the SGA meeting as far as I remember. Yes, APATHY did not originate the idea of the coup d'etat, but I acted under strong personal beliefs and problems that I saw throughout the com-

munity. And I hope that people do not lose sight of these problems. People do not participate or originate coups d'etats to take power away from themselves and place it back with the people.

Helen Qubain

### Letter to the Editor

In the past week, I've answered several important questions: Why did you become involved with APATHY? Didn't you feel deceitful? What really went on?

First, I'd like to say I accept responsibility for my actions in APATHY as well as for my involvement, as a member of the Steering Committee, in creating this whole situation. I'm in the rather awkward position of being a participant as well as an instigator, and perhaps because of this, I have a different perspective from either group.

I entered into this with good intentions (as we all did), hoping to stimulate the community's interest by presenting an issue which would make it think. I participated in APATHY both for the above reason as well as for a personal favor in that I wanted to help an individual through my direct participation. After all, I felt it was the only "right" thing to do. However, as the whole situation evolved, my ideal of "right" diminished, and other elements appeared. Within this group, personal motives and ego all came into play, and, as a result of my participation in APATHY, my views were no longer considered relevant.

My personal views became just that—personal. There was enormous dispute as to when the truth should come out; as everyone directly involved knows, I felt strongly that it

should come out at the meeting. However, according to some, a "higher good" was at stake, so this course of action was thought to be unnecessary as well as unwise. Two hours before the community meeting, an unusual turn of events took place. Ironically, there was a new interpretation of this "higher good," and it was decided that we should reveal the complete story on Sunday night instead of a week later at the SGA meeting.

One may think that the timing of our admission is irrelevant because our basic premise was wrong. To some extent, I agree. However, one must realize that, during the week prior to the community meeting, this was a critical issue that caused enormous anxiety and doubt, both for myself as well as for everyone involved.

As I stated at the beginning, I accept full responsibility for my participation in the deception of this community. But that is not the only reason I'm writing this letter. In addition, I'm trying to understand several things, such as the dilemma of conflicting conceptions and the role, as well as the limits, of friendship in this type of situation. I now realize that, from the outset, there were disagreements as to what was our ultimate goal. I hope this letter will help me to both resolve these issues as well as provide an explanation for the community.

Andrea Carlsen '90

# A • R • T • S



Bryn Bennett and Christine Brown play the lead roles in the second act of "Waiting for Godot."

ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN

## "Godot" worth waiting for

by Margaret Jewett  
Review

Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" is a difficult play to present to its fullest advantage, given its elusive subject matter, ambiguous characters, and lack of a traditional plot. Considering these difficulties—or even without considering them—the Bryn Mawr Haverford Theater Program's production of this innovative play does it justice.

The success of this production is in part a result of thoughtful directing. Although the cast is usually made up of five men, in this production the roles are played by five women and two men. In the first act, the characters Vladimir and Estragon are played by Julia Ten Eyck and Daria Maazel, respectively, while in the second act they are played by Bryn Bennett and Christine Brown. Pozzo and Lucky re played in both acts by Lane Savadove and Eliot Angle. In both acts the "boy" is played by a woman, Corey Rubin.

Both the cross-gender casting and the double-casting are effective in this play, because they emphasize the ambiguity of the characters and the impression of time passing and changes taking place in the characters between the two acts. The ambiguity in the characters is shown by the fact that they have no specific age, occupation or social class (or at least not a class that stays constant throughout the play). The cross-gender casting shows that the gender of the characters can also be ambiguous, and that in this setting gender is as irrelevant as any of the other usual ways of pigeon-holing people.

In the first and second acts, Vladimir and Estragon are played by different people, while many of their mannerisms and lines remain the same. This paradox emphasizes the fact that these two characters have been waiting in the same place and doing the same things long enough to change drastically in their outer appearances, but that this eternal stagnation does not allow for real growth.

Another interesting directing decision was to have Vladimir bring out a copy of the play and appear to read from it during one of his monologues in the second act. The appearance of the book during the performance, and Vladimir's direct contact with it, emphasize the artificiality of the scene and the extent to which it has seemed to become real by this point, late in the second act.

Each actor interpreted his/her role in a distinctive way, and the actors related to each other well, while also being able in their

monologues to show effectively the private sides of themselves that the other characters could not reach. Vladimir is a study in contrasts—sometimes gruff, bossy and prone to anger, while also seeming more committed than Estragon to their friendship and to their external wait for Godot. Both Ten Eyck and Bennett were able to play these sides of Vladimir, even when "his" mood changes were dizzyingly rapid. Estragon was very different in the two acts. Maazel portrayed "him" as almost childishly hopeful and playful, while at the same time continually frustrated and disheartened by the waiting. Brown showed Estragon's more pragmatic and pessimistic side with depth and often with actions rather than words.

Savadove played Pozzo with energy and emotion, and provided the strong presence needed for Pozzo's comically exaggerated personality in the first act. He showed very well the changes in Pozzo between the two acts. In the first act, his voice and manner were big and authoritative, while in the second act he was able to seem helpless, although still commanding and defiant. Angle, as Lucky, performed the difficult task of staying in character while remaining quiet and motionless much of the time. He rarely had the chance to use his voice or facial expressions and was still able to convey emotion through his stance and gestures. Rubin also used movement well, to appear either hesitant and fearful or smug and controlling as the messenger of the mysterious Godot.

The set was bare, as called for, but thoughtfully assembled. The scrawny tree, referred to at one point as depicting Nature in general, fit the hopelessness of the characters' situation. It offers nothing to the characters but a few leaves, and not in a million years could it offer the suicidal escape often contemplated by Vladimir and Estragon. The intricately painted floor is thought-provoking and appropriately ambiguous and unnatural. The barrier between the audience and the stage is cleverly indicated at the beginning of each act.

Overall, this production of a play too often seen as "depressing" or even "boring" is full of life and brings out many of the play's themes, while not trying to roll them all into a single interpretation.

(P.S.—The program is also a treat.)

Performances continue in Goodhart on November 19, 20, and 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free to tri-college students, \$4 for others, and may be reserved in advance through the Arts office in Goodhart.

## Puppets satirize Athenian philosophy

by Charlotte Taylor

Marionette artist Peter Arnott performed Aristophanes's *The Clouds* on Friday, October 23 in Goodhart Hall. The play was sponsored by the Greek and Latin Departments as one of the series of Classics Colloquia. In his one-man show, Arnott displayed his virtuosity with puppets and his dramatic ability with voices.

*The Clouds*, a clever satire of fifth century B.C. Athenian philosophy, pokes fun at the Sophistic way of argument, and especially at Socrates, although he was himself not associated with the Sophists. A farmer, Strepsiades, enrolls his son in Socrates's school so that his son will be able to argue with his

creditors and enable him to avoid his numerous debts. His son does learn to do this, but ultimately turns his skill at arguing against his father, who then sets fire to the school.

Arnott's puppetry was masterful. The puppets were incredibly life-like as they were moved adroitly through the miniature set of Athens, and Arnott gave each character a distinctive voice that contributed to the realistic impression. However, for those not knowledgeable about Greek philosophy, the play itself was not as accessible as other works by Aristophanes (such as *Lysistrata*) and, despite Arnott's consistently high energy level, the play moved slowly in places.

## One-acts receive praise

by Lisa Arellano  
Review

On Friday, November 6, and Saturday, November 7 three one-act plays were performed in Marshall Auditorium at Haverford College. The plays were directed, performed, and produced entirely by students under the auspices of The Student Theater Company (STC).

The first of the one-acts on the program, Strindberg's *The Stronger*, was directed by Hilary Gelber and featured Suzanne Haviland (as Ms. X) and Liz Levy (as Ms. Y). The piece required exceptional vocal skills from Haviland and an outstanding command of physical skills on Levy's end. For the most part, the piece went smoothly, each woman solidly holding up her end of the exchange. *The Stronger* did, however, tend to drag toward the end. Ultimately, the relationship of the two women seemed a bit contrived and forced; perhaps unavoidably under the stage conditions imposed by Strindberg. Levy's unending silence, highlighted by constantly changing ways to gasp, shudder, and glare, was the highlight of *The Stronger*.

Woody Allen's *Death (A Play)* directed by Elisabeth Friedman and Meghan McCauley was the second one-act of the night. For a work that can seem too long and confusing, this piece was well performed—primarily

due to Mark Hudis's portrayal of Kleinman. *Death* was highlighted by remarkable comedic moments from Rachel Coppelson (as Anna) and Rachel Sapers (as Doctor), but Hudis's consistently strong performance was the real basis for the success of the play.

The final one-act was *Line* by Israel Horowitz, directed by Jonathan Karp. *Line* was, by far, the most striking of the three performances. So powerful was the effect of the piece on Friday's audience that Saturday's performance began with Lane Savadove (a member of the STC Board), apologizing to the audience for the potentially offensive aspects of the play. For so volatile a piece, the performance was outstanding. Jonathan Karp's work directing the play resulted in an appropriately disturbing and challenging production. Whether or not *Line* was too extreme (either as a choice of script, or in manner of production) is difficult to say. The work of the student performers, particularly Jeanne Torlidas (as Molly) was impressive, and the play remained smooth and cohesive for a remarkable long time. If the piece was unusually thought-provoking or questionable, it was all the more to the credit to the students involved with the performance. *Line* was a powerful end to an evening of good work. The fall one-act festival was, overall, well worth attending.

## One-act play provokes criticism

To the Editor:

Having just seen the performance of *The Line*, a one-act play, as directed by Jonathan Karp, we have one question to ask:

WHY?!

The play was offensive, insulting, sexist, and numbing in its disregard for the feelings of the audience. Many audience members left and although we were equally offended, we decided to see the rest and judge the play as a whole. The play did not redeem itself—nor did any message justify the use of destructive, sexist stereotypes such as having the sole female character literally "screw her way to the front of the line" and referred to repeatedly as a "fat, ugly bitch."

We want to make it clear that we do not condone censorship. Yet we do feel that the

Bi-College Student Theater Company, if it is to be supported by the community, must recognize its responsibility to the community-at-large—that is, to think about the meaning and impact of the plays it chooses to produce. If you go to an "adult" theater, you know what you are getting into and you can leave at any time. The nature of a play dictates that it must be seen in its entirety to be fairly judged. We assumed that a play presented at Haverford College would be chosen with the sensitivities of the Bi-College community in mind.

If this play was food for thought, it was indigestible.

Sarah Gelperin '88  
Matt Fisher '89  
Rachel Rubin '90

## Exhibit of Mason and Blitz opens

by Lynne Bowers

On Friday night, Nov. 13, there was an opening reception for the exhibit of works by Alice Trumbull Mason and Ava Blitz which will be shown through Nov. 25 at Haverford's Comfort Gallery.

Alice Trumbull Mason (1895-1971) was a founding member of the American Abstract Artists group, which gives you some clue as to what her art represents. The exhibit is a collection of her etchings and woodcuts which are based on abstract forms and are largely compositions of geometric shapes. She works a lot in her printmaking with color and texture and manipulates these very difficult techniques to produce some interesting and very beautiful effects. One is reminded, in seeing her prints, of the abstract squares of Piet Mondrian and there is also a direct connection with the work of Russian artist Wasily Kandinsky whose prints are also presented in the exhibit as well as one stunning print by Miro that is part of the col-

lege's collection.

Ava Blitz is the Fine Arts instructor at Bryn Mawr and teaches both drawing and printmaking, which includes silkscreen, etching and woodcuts. However, her recent works exhibited here are prints of a different kind. They are silver prints, or photographic prints, some that stand as is and some that stand as a series of painted prints. For example, her Mexican series is a group of black and white photos taken in Mexico that she then painted over in certain parts, leaving part of the photographic image showing. It is an interesting combination of mediums since one is so precise, so exacting and the other so loose. Besides the photographs there are many of her paintings in opaque watercolor and two sculptures of heads that are very much influenced by African art. Unlike Alice Mason, Blitz's subject matter is almost entirely people and a few abstracted landscapes.

Comfort Gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 2-6 p.m.

## Are you a Bryn Mawr student who volunteers?

*Bryn Mawr Now* is planning an article on students who volunteer their time and talents to help others. If you are involved in Kid's Connection, the Devereux Foundation, or any other program, or if you've established something on your own, I'd like to share your involvement with our 29,000 readers (including parents, high school students and guidance counselors, and alumnae).

Please call Susan Scott, x5136, or stop by the Office of Public Information, Taylor. Thank you.



## Badminton misconceptions challenged

by Sarah Davis

Last year, when it came time to take the plunge and start working on the fulfillment of the loathsome Gym requirement, I perused the list of Winter Sports offerings, and my eye lit with interest upon Badminton. "What ho!" I thought, "An easy sport, a relaxing way to spend the winter, the sport of the very young, the decrepit, those with a penchant for picnics and family reunions!" Putting thought into action, as is my wont, I ambled down to the Gym to sign up, thinking myself very canny indeed to have found such a simple method of avoiding any real physical exertion. As I passed the basketball team, I smiled smugly, since they were a panting, sweaty, red-faced lot, while I was about to partake in an activity where panting, sweating, and the like are unknown phenomena.

Like many Americans, including Joseph Berger of the *New York Times*, who, in a recent article, characterized badminton as a "modest exercise," I had fallen prey to the usual misconceptions about badminton—the sport, not of the decrepit, but rather of the insane. As anybody who has attempted to return a Cindy Bell-powered backhand smash will tell you, badminton is among the most challenging, dangerous (well...), and demanding sports known to mankind. The shuttlecock (that's "birdie" to the layman), can travel at close to supersonic speeds, and has been known, when hit with sufficient force, to vaporize matter which has not been appropriately shuttlecock-proofed!

Hyperbole aside, badminton is an extremely taxing game which requires endurance, agility, speed, and a killer instinct. No wonder Mawrtys excel at it. And, oh, do we excel... Last year, the Bryn Mawr badminton team had an 11-0 record, winning every match of the regular season, and earning second place at the PAIAW championships. In the PAIAWs, Bryn Mawr women swept first and second places in the doubles competition, with Kanni Wignaraja and Anjali Bhattacharji narrowly defeating Donna Carpenter and Ruchel Ramos.

According to Coach Cindy Bell, the team looks equally strong this season. "We're going to be undefeated again this year," said Bell confidently, adding, "The team looks terrific." Returning team members include Karen Lewis, Hwaok Kim, Tina Tong, Ruchel Ramos and Barbara Ann Baker. Freshman Kathleen Crowther brings new strength to the badminton team. Coach Bell states that Crowther "looks very promising," having brought badminton skills with her from high school.

When asked their opinion of badminton, many team members declined comment, saving their breath, no doubt, for the grueling workout which loomed ahead. Some seemed too overcome by strong feeling to reply, but Senior Karen Lewis broke through this wall of emotion to state: "Pant, Pant; Huff, Huff; boy, is badminton tough." Warming up to her theme, Lewis further averred

## Merwin reads poetry

(Continued from page 1)

description of his old apartment in New York City. The central image is rubber bands on the windowsill, beneath the radiator and on the desk. Another striking image was at the end of his poem "Late Wonders" from *Opening the Hand*. In the poem, he describes the fantasy world of a movie studio tour and juxtaposes it with the horrors of the real world of downtown L.A. He tells us not to worry, "It's only a movie, only a beam of light."

Beyond presenting a synopsis of his already established work, Merwin gave the audience a sense of his new artistic direction by reading several recent poems from manuscripts that are yet unpublished. These included such poems as "The Solstice" and "History," and two pieces that imitated voices of other people. One was called "Manini," based on the mispronunciation of someone's name. Keep an eye out for Merwin's new poems in bookstores in the near future.

that "Badminton turns me on." On a more serious note, Senior Barbara Ann Baker commented that "Badminton is the second fastest sport, next to Jai Alai," but that she "loves it anyway."

The first Home match is January 21st, and spectators are encouraged to come. Other Home matches, which all begin at 4:00 p.m., include:

January:		
25 Monday	Ursinus College	
February:		
4 Thursday	Swarthmore College	
16 Tuesday	Harcum Jr. College	
18 Thursday	Drexel University	
26-28 Fri-Sun	MID-ATLANTIC OPEN	

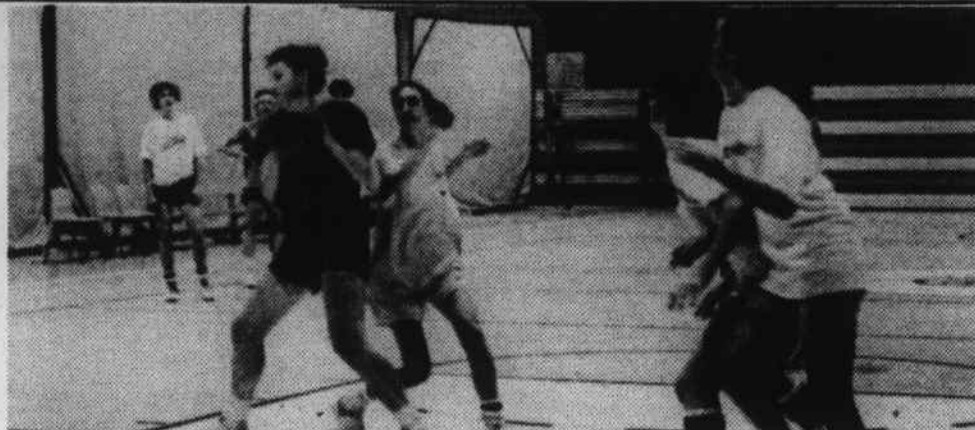
## To your health

During these cozy snowy days before finals, the outdoors does not attract one as a possible site of procrastination. Playing Frisbee in the slush, and bicycling on black ice seem to have recently lost their charm. We of the BMC Health Center Student Liaison Committee, in conjunction with the Health Center Staff would like to suggest that the next time you feel the urge to drop all work for a few minutes, you take the opportunity to do a little impromptu winter house-keeping. In a way, we want you to "detox" your closets! Many of us have old expired drugs lying around that ought to be thrown away. As a general rule, you should finish the pills of any prescription given to you according to the doctor's orders. However, in the event that you find yourself with old unused drugs, the best thing to do is destroy them and dispose of them. NEVER give prescription drugs to a sick friend, even if he/she has taken that drug in the past. You are quite likely doing her more harm than good. Incorrectly prescribed and administered drugs can worsen a condition, cause potentially deadly allergic reactions or half treat and thereby mask a more serious problem. If a friend asks you for drugs, help her get them by walking her to the Health Center. Sometimes a little compassion and moral support is all a person needs to motivate him to get professional health care.

As for your own defunct drug supply, certainly throw out anything that has passed its expiration date. Also, it can be very dangerous, even on a new prescription for them, to take old antibiotics, so take what you are supposed to, and stay on the safe side by throwing the rest away. This goes for antibiotic and steroidal creams as well. DON'T take that tetracycline you got from the dermatologist in highschool for your college stress-induced acne without express approval of a physician who approves both the drugs and prescription NOW.

Another reason to be so careful is that drugs can interact with one another, and may either facilitate or counteract each others' effects. You should always ask questions about just such effects when you get a new prescription (or at least read the over-the-counter drugs' labels).

For the drugs that you normally keep in supply, it is a good idea to keep all medications in an enclosed, cool dry place where



The BMC basketball team proved victorious in last Thursday's scrimmage against Lehigh. MEIKO TAKAYAMA

## BMC Basketball defeats Chestnut Hill

by Catharyn Turner

The Bryn Mawr College Basketball Team opened its season on Thursday, November 12 with a scrimmage against Chestnut Hill College.

The team traveled to Chestnut Hill where they displayed a fine-tuned defense and a seemingly unbeatable offense. With a tight defense the team kept Chestnut Hill from scoring in the early part of the game, yet they managed to score 30 points. The score at half-time was 30-13.

The team then led a mighty charge against the Chestnut Hill defense. Looking for holes and finding them, the team was able to score frequently and consistently. The team was able to very effectively use a person to person defense that caused numerous turnovers and enabled Bryn Mawr to control the game. The final score was 65-28 in favor of Bryn Mawr.

The team forms a nice unit that is capable of many things. This season will surely prove to be a fruitful one. The next time the Bryn Mawr team will be in action is November 17 at Widener. The first home game will be Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 p.m.

## BMC swims despite snow

by Shannon Heath

A week ago, it appeared as if this year's swim season was going to begin as last season had ended back in February—with a drive through a snow storm. But the first meet was postponed until Thursday, November 12, due to the weather. The postponement caused Coach Wallington's squad to shrink considerably as several swimmers had class conflicts they were not able to change with only 24 hours notice. But with a stalwart group of 10, Coach Wallington finally arrived at Lehigh's ivy-covered gym.

Although Lehigh is a Division I school, several individuals showed Lehigh's swimmers and divers that Bryn Mawr competitors could not be taken lightly. In particular, Lyndsey Wollin started her season off with a splash as she placed first in both the 1- and 3-meter diving. As the lone senior on the team, Wollin also played the critical role of leading the team cheer (I won't try to spell it, but you all know which one I mean—the one that the traditions mistresses say a senior has to start.)

Among the swimmers, both captains, Andrea Johnson and Meredith Miller, also put in strong performances. Johnson posted the unusual feat of swimming a life-time best time in the season's first meet as she cruised in at a 2:52.0 in the 200 yard IM. Miller was not far of her own best times in any of her three events, the 100 breast, the 200 breast and the 200 IM.

The freshmen constituted half of the squad at the meet and certainly let their presence be known. Frosh Melissa Daniels swam the medley relay, the 200 fly and the 100 fly, to race 350 yards of butterfly in one two-hour meet. Freshman Monica Shaw also showed strong performances in the 100 fly, the 100 back and the 100 free. Coach Wallington was pleased with the team's attitude throughout the meet and hopes that with some work on starts and turns the team will look even stronger against Glassboro December 1. (That's a home meet at 5:00 p.m.)

neither excessive heat, the elements, or children can get to them. These sounds like silly precautions for a college student, but it is always better to take these steps before a situation arises.

In a bulletin recently sent to college Health Services, the Federal Drug Administration says that there are certain responsibilities of communication that fall on the patient receiving medication as well as the health care professional. The patient must volunteer the name(s) of every other medication she is taking (including vitamins and psychoactive or recreational drugs) to the caretaker in order to minimize adverse reactions and attenuation of drug effects. Also, the FDA stresses that it is the patient's right and responsibility to write down and/or repeat back all information she is given on her medications and treatment in order to minimize misunderstandings. Requesting additional written information is also a good way to get the details. Patients must feel comfortable asking questions of any health care professional. Some good questions include: what drug trade and generic name is, what its expected effects are; how, when, and for how long to take the drug; what food, drugs, and activities might interact with the drug, and should therefore be avoided; possible side effects and appropriate responses to them; and the availability of understandable written information on the drug. Again it is the patient's responsibility to volunteer such information as her drug allergies or intolerance even when this is not asked for.

Finally, we have some committee news! First, the notice board for "Who's on [call]" first has now been hung by the Health Center entrance, and we are now planning for someone to bundle up and stand outside long enough to hang up the appropriate info. Stay tuned.

Also, we'd like to welcome the new members to the Liaison Committee (remember to contact Madeline Marcus at C-739, the more the merrier), Ashley Varner, MBC '91; and Nancy Kwan, MBC '89. We just need a couple more to make a team!

For now, keep your head, ears, and fingers covered, take baby steps on ice, and HEY, LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

BMC Health Center  
Student Liaison Committee

## X Country completes season

by Shannon Heath

The Bryn Mawr cross-country team completed its first season with the regional meet in Allentown last Saturday, November 14.

Conditions were slick following Wednesday's snow fall—forward motion is caused by friction, and the wet course tended to reduce this important friction. Freshman Margie Zeller investigated this physics phenomenon closely in the second mile of the race, as she attempted to swim through the mud. Despite her fall, Margie finished in strong form, but her white uniform was noticeably darker.

Sophomore Tamara Lane of Haverford

placed second to earn herself a trip to Michigan for Nationals this weekend. Bryn Mawr was led by freshman Cathryn Payne, who placed 18th on the difficult course. SENiors Larissa Karpovics, Michele Schasberger and Susie Gerhardt finished their final cross-country meet as a team, crossing the finish line within 10 seconds of each other. They all hope to continue running after graduation, possibly even coaching.

Coach Ousey was pleased with the team aspect shown throughout the first season, and sees great potential for improvement as the runners gain more competitive experience.