Affirm. Action focuses on staff

BY IPELENG KGOSTISILE

The focus of the last Affirmative Action Advisory Board meeting was staff issues. The three areas of the staff include service/craft, clerical/technical, and administrative personnel. The Board considered the progress or lack thereof regarding minority promotions, new hires, and the overall resource allocation for the administration; there was also discussion regarding the employee handbook. Part of the meeting also focused on the role of the Board of Trustees in revising the employee handbook. The board has decided that the handbook must be revised in consultation with the staff.

Another issue this meeting was in regard to communication between staff and administration. There has been an increase in communication between the two groups. This has been noted in regard to the revision of the employee handbook. The handbook includes information about the staff's rights and benefits and procedures. It has recently been decided that the handbook must be revised in consultation with the staff. In order for positive communication to continue, a Joint Committee with Haverford is being formed to work on this issue.

In their next meeting in January, the Board will have statistics available so there can be a more concrete discussion in reference to staff issues. Thus they will create discussion in reference to staff issues, and create goals regarding the distribution of work and faculty. Additionally, ten-year goals will be set in regard to the number of women of color at Bryn Mawr College and in regard to hiring of staff and faculty as well.

Standing committee to prioritize academic needs

BY CARRIE WOFFORD

In a special meeting of the General Faculty on November 30, the faculty voted overwhelmingly in favor of creating a new standing faculty committee for long-term academic planning. This committee, the Committee on Academic Priorities, will give the General Faculty more direct power in the allocation of resources for academic priorities—which, many faculty complained, was lacking when the administration cut various graduate departments in an effort to res摆在 them. It is emphasized that the committee is ad hoc and will be comprised entirely of faculty members.

A major difference between the Academic Planning Committee and the new committee is that the new committee will be official, rather than ad hoc, and will be comprised exclusively of faculty. A new Committee on Academic Priorities will be a standing committee, written into the faculty plan of governance and given a charter by the faculty. This committee will prioritize academic needs and recommend to the Board of Trustees for action.

The majority of the work new committee will undertake falls under the rubric of the curriculum and appointments. Therefore, they, while different from the Curriculum Committee—which develops proposals and addresses the quality of programs from an academic viewpoint—will address the important questions of diversifying curricular and faculty representation. In addition to its role in curriculum development, the Ad Hoc Academic Planning Committee's work of the changing balance between graduate and undergraduate programs, and will, through their existence, address the Academic Planning committee's broader concerns and the faculty role in decision making.

The second vote, to be held December 7, is likely to pass, given that the Faculty Senate is in favor of the resolution. Support for this new committee, said Noel Farley.
We at The College News are entering a time of transformation, as we look towards a semester of coming out more frequently, and doing more of the production of the paper on our own. In our November 18 issue, a number of letters to the community were arbitrarily cut after consultation with our professional typesetters due to space. We received about twenty letters about our deadline, and, feeling obliged to include them since we would not come out for a full two weeks afterward, sent them in to our typesetter. After days (literally) of frustration with us and the new mess we had sent, he brought us out of our delusion that we could print them all. He pulled some letters, and asked us to pull others.

We are finding it necessary to consider becoming a weekly paper because campus events are prompting more people desire to have their opinions expressed in a more frequent basis than our printing schedule; because it is important that the community be aware of those letters when they are timely; and because we currently have more articles and more writers than we can fit in our bi-monthly framework.

Additionally, next semester, at the request—or shall we say demand, backed by threats of kidnapping our bank account at gunpoint—of the Budgeting Committee of the Self-Government Association, we will begin to put out our paper with less aid from a professional typesetter: our most beloved friend and saviour, Rick Conklin and company. We are hoping to make this transition smooth by receiving training, advising, and an occasional complete typesetting by a desktop publishing professional.

Meanwhile, to Robin Bernstein, Gwen Bonebrake, and our own editors, Rachel Perlman, Eliza Randall, and Meiho Takayama, who all wrote about the graffiti controversy—we extend our sincere apologies, as we know your letters are crucial to the community’s understanding and reaction to the graffiti. (The College News staff was divided on our stance on the graffiti. The placement of a pro-graffiti letter by one editor, Cheryl Kim, and the Denbigh backsmoker quote on our editorial page was switched from our original layout by our typesetters as they created space, and held no correlation with our varying viewpoints.)

To Professor Sandra Berwind, who wrote on pluralism, to President Pat McPherson, whose letter to Kathryn Freeman and Alison Louis we referred to as being on page three, to Jen Spruill and Ruth Henson, who wrote on pluralism and the group Wide Awake in America, and to anyone whose cut letter we may not be aware of, we apologize for the inadventent pulling of your very timely letters, and promise not to do it in the future. So, while we make these conversions, please be patient, and hopefully we will not have to apologize for more arbitrary and inadvertent cuts. We would also welcome most happily donations of either Macintosh or IBM compatible personal computers from any departments or individuals.

Happy winter vacation, and consider coming to work with us next semester—we’ll need more help in every area—especially layout and proofreading staff.

To the community:

Dear Editors:

In response to the editorial which appeared in the November 18th issue of The College News, we would like to express our opinion from the standpoint of Bush supporters of those who were attacked by this editorial.

We are hurt and disappointed to have fallen under such a blanket (and frankly, downright mean) generalization. How can a college which professes so vehemently a physical presence continue to wield such an ideological one? We felt that, in spite of the usually understanding environment, that those who do are politically conservative are unwelcome.

There is no use arguing politics at this time, but we would like to point out that the unfair blaming of an abstract political group for such an ominous future, seems as narrow-minded as any reactionary view. We are angry at having been considered a faceless force of evil. We are diverse people, having a wide range of opinions (which may or may not agree with those of Vice-President Bush) and we would appreciate the equal consideration to which any member of this community would be given.

We and our Bush-voting friends have received this letter in support of our opinions, "politically correct" or not.

Britt Van Kirk Benner ’92
Janelle S. Doyle ’92
Katherine Ann Maloney ’92
Kara Anne Stillmock ’92

To the Bryn Mawr Community,

On October 31, I participated in an event that some people on campus considered harassing. On November 7, a letter was issued explaining the entire action, consisting of the two separate parts, as a whole. As a result of the first effort, there were ramifications of the community that felt my position on the Honor Board was compromising. However, I would like to reiterate that I acted outside of my position.

After careful deliberation of this issue the Board decided, upon my suggestion, to allow me to reflect on my participation in the activity by exploring the impeachment procedure of other colleges who also live under Honor Codes.

I will make my findings available to the Dean’s office and the student body next semester.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Farmsmore ’89
Representative to the Honor Board

Dear Kathryn and Allison,

Thank you for your good letter of November 4. You are certainly correct in urging that it is the entire community’s responsibility to build a supportive, fair, and decent society within the College and I trust outside of it as well.

I believe that you will find students, faculty and administrators not only willing but personally committed to the enrollment and ongoing effort required.

The size of our community and the basic tenets that guide it give us special advantages. We must get these slip away as we seek good and civil discussion and as we pose appropriate next actions to move ahead with our commitments to securing a more diverse community.

Please thank the other students listed for their support, also for the effort that went into this helpful mailing.

My regards,

Pat McPherson

To the community:

We, the students of C.O.R.F. (White Women Against Racism) (Confronting Our Racism Personally) will officially be known next semester as C.O.R.F. (Confronting Our Racism Personally).

We are a group, specifically for white women, that formed to combat racism on both the personal and campus level. We hope that the name makes the intent of the group clearer.

The Bryn Mawr C.O.R.F. will be sponsoring an educational project tentatively titled "institutionalized Racism." The purpose of the project will be to closely examine American culture and this community through the media, advertisement, educational institutions, etc., which we can create a presentation much like the Rape Culture Project in 1984-85. C.O.R.F. will be holding an organizational meeting early next semester for those who are interested in getting involved.

Hope to see you there!

Justine Price ’91
co-facilitator, C.O.R.F.

To the Women of Color at Bryn Mawr:

The 1987 publication of THE COLOR ANTHOLOGY was a means through which the Women of Color at Bryn Mawr could express themselves and assert ourselves and concerns with one another and others in the bi-college community. This self-expression and united representation, through means of essays, poetry, graphic art and photography, not only rendered a creative awakening of one’s inner self, but provided an essential and powerful voice to Bryn Mawr’s Women of Color. The 1987 Anthology was the first time, but we would like say that it is the entire community that all share as members of this community and of a race which encompasses all.

Next semester I would like to publish the 1989 COLOR ANTHOLOGY. If it would touch someone as deeply as the 1987 Anthology touched me and many of my friends, then it would certainly be worth our time and effort.

The 1989 Anthology must exist without your artistic contribution, so I ask, or rather beseech you to make contributing to the Anthology one of your winter priorities. As this time point the deadline for submissions is open . . .

In peace,

namita luthra ’91

To readers:

My "A Day in the Life" article in no way reflected specific people. Rather, it was a general parody of Mawrters in general. The intention was intended to show that we all have these attributes.

Thida Cornes

To Denise Tuggle:

"A fool can throw a stone in the water and ten wise men can’t get it out!"

The stone, of course, is your article. If we attempt to find it out by offering a rebuttal, you will undoubtedly interpret our comments as racist. Such an reinterpretation of this response, however, would only allow you to justify your own prejudices. Your article, the dictionary definition of racism, was racist. Whites are not continued on page 3

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Kerry Williams
Julie Zuraw
Thida Cornes

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Kerry Williams
C.O.R.F.

Cover page:
Kerry Williams
Julie Zuraw
C.O.R.F.

Composition:
GCOM Communications Corporation.
Of what the change would look like, was would have difficulty reading it. I felt justifiable anger requires moderation if it is to be constructive, and less negative ways of addressing the follcwing way to understand homosexuality: "Behavioral pattern characterized by various degrees of sexual preference for or interaction with members of the same sex." Similarly, bisexuality is a behavioral pattern (watch only with such majors) and can be scientifically characterized and determined by degrees of a specific action. Clearly no person is 'spoiled' in the sense that we speak of the journalistic notion that "racism" is the institution of Bryn Mawr must of course seek with will means at its disposal to eradicate prejudice in the institution and it must continue to scrutinize its own use of power; but it darkens counsel to imply or assume that incidents like the one of October 30, 1989—evidence of institutional racism.

I am assuming that my disagree ment with Ms. Friedrich is semantic: if she, however, means to use the term "racism" rather than 'pre judice', my disagreement is substantive.

Sincerely yours,
Sandra M. Berwind
Associate Professor of English
Jay MacLeod organizes in Deep South

BY MARIANA OLENKO

Jay MacLeod, author of Ain't No Makin' It: Struggles for Education in a Low-Income Neighborhood, spoke on November 17 at Bryn Mawr. His talk was on "The Mississippi Delta: Unfinished Business of the Civil Rights Movement." For twenty-four months, Jay has been living in rural Holmes County, Mississippi, the 4th poorest county in the nation, working as a community organizer and bearer of witness to the effects of racism on economic, judicial and social development.

He opened his talk with some facts about the county. For example: In 1954, the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education, ordered public schools to desegregate with all deliberate speed. The speed was very deliberate in Holmes county, where a private White Academy was promptly established. To this day, thirty-four years after the court ruling, the county's schools and churches are still segregated. There are 8 whites in the public school system, all of whom are in the special ed program. Furthermore, the county's commitment of public education is expressed through a provision of $25 per year per teacher for supplies. The physical structure and condition of the school buildings is dangerous.

The agriculturally based economy maintains the dichotomy of white plantations and black sharecropping for blacks. The seasonal labor is below minimum wage. Forty-six percent of the Holmes County population living below the 1980 poverty line, and 92% of the said 46% is black. The official unemployment rate in 1987 was 26% for blacks, 6% for whites and 44% for both black and white. Sixty percent of the unemployed people do not receive unemployment benefits.

MacLeod then stated that the American Dream paradigm is a myth only useful for and relevant to a selected population. The fact that economic opportunities for blacks have been nearly obliterated in Holmes County is apparent, because the people who have had the best chance of rising to the American success are still working at minimum wage.

Newspaper running out of modes of expressing racism. The judicial system, which is supposed to be blind in its justice, has proven to be acutely discriminatory. Of the 912 defendants brought before the judge in 1986, 895 were black. Furthermore, there have been no whites brought into youth court in the last 4 years. It appears that one of the primary functions of the judicial system is to raise capital for the country through fines. The current fine for saying "damn" in a store stands at $165. Another measure of guaranteeing stability is that until recently the job of judge and public defender rested on the same man.

The courtroom is not alone in its overt violations of civil rights. Voting day brings back many people from the white cemetery, and intimidation techniques are rampant to obliterate the concept of a free, secret ballot.

In 1979, Rural Organizing and Cultural Center (ROCC) was established with the goal of developing local, indigenous leadership. The leadership and all the decisions are made by the black population; whatever work that whites do for the Center will be supportive in nature and not in leadership form. ROCC was organized after a police brutality incident, when it started an 8 month boycott of all white owned businesses in an attempt to get the police chief out. Although the police chief was not removed, the movement was successful in getting more black police officers on the police force. In addition, after a 13 month battle, ROCC dissolved the county public defender/judge position.

Over the years, the major problems that ROCC has addressed are racial discrimination, poverty, education and social services. Of the four, the lack of jobs is the problem that ROCC has the most trouble solving. Although the county has more black county elected officials than any other except one, the white community sends out the message that reconstruction will not be allowed. MacLeod further explained that Holmes County's economic distress is a product of the position of the county in the U.S. economy. Historically, in order to entice business to the South, taxes had to be kept low. In addition, the continue effects of whites to keep blacks down economically, the state government's manipulation of public resources in response to agenda set forth by the corporations, and the faith of the policy makers in capitalism. ROCC is funded through grants from foundations and welcome outside contributions. Those wishing to support the Center can contact ROCC, R. 4 Box 18, Lexington, MS 39095.

For $2.50 plus $1 postage and handling, Bloodlines, a publication put forth by the Center, is also available. In MacLeod's words it "stands as testament to what can be achieved in educational terms when local history and culture are taken seriously."

Workshops provide invaluable support for women of color

BY THIDA CORNES

Commentary

The Community Building Workshop for Foreign Students organized by Anita Poeman and Nate Terrell was a very worthwhile experience. I wish that every woman at Bryn Mawr could have attended.

Two separate workshops were held on two consecutive weekends. Both workshops were small, which facilitated a supportive environment in which the participants felt free to discuss their particular experiences, beliefs and concerns.

Anita Poeman at first felt a bit inhibited by the presence of Nate Terrell, a white male; they felt uncomfortable expressing certain things, such as anger, to a white male. However, I felt that Nate was invaluable in providing a White perspective. Now one can ask: 'Can you ever learn about that cultural perspective, since we are immersed in it?' Nonetheless, I gained some insights into White prejudice which helps me deal with it a little better. I also learned more about such issues as how to maintain loyalty to my own culture while accommodating to the norms of majority culture. We must all adapt in order to survive: the very fact that we are at this institutions indicates we have a certain extent. Anita Poeman and Nate Terrell also gave me hope in providing a good model of cross-cultural marriage. They validate their cultural and racial differences, and yet they seem to have resolved a lot of their cultural conflicts. Often in expressing and affirming our differences, we forget that there is the possibility of reconciliation if both sides work hard at it.

I went to the workshop held on the first weekend, and the atmosphere there was one of trust, mutual understanding, and growth. During the workshop, I felt very supported and protected. So much of what I learned and experienced in the workshop was of a deeply personal nature that it is difficult to express how much I really got out of the workshop. I can say, however, that I identified specific skills which I am developing to resolve cultural conflicts and overcome obstacles to the fulfillment of my personal agenda.

I really hope that they will return next year, and more women of color will be able to participate in a workshop that could be very valuable in developing a greater sense of community among women of color and improving race relations at Bryn Mawr.
Painters consider their actions in retrospect

continued from page 1

when the administration asked her to, e.g., when giving the almost 300 tours she has given for the admissions office). They have not talked about the way the administration communicated to students and faculty. Nor have they talked about their actions in retrospect.

Miller: persuaded by the forum to take homophobia more seriously

Joyce Miller, Director of Minority Affairs, has changed her viewpoint since the forum in response to the growing tension between homophobes and homophobia. She has rethought even what it means to be gay. "I've rethought what it means to be open about sexuality here or anywhere in the country... I've rethought even what it means to be gay."

Karen Tidmarsh and Alison Noyes: the graffiti: the wrong medium: the wrong forum

Associate Dean Karen Tidmarsh reflected last year in her own strong defense of the graffiti action: "I see graffiti as being vandalism, and that vandalism is wrong and destrcuctive and a misuse of resources." She expressed that she cares a lot about physical space and environment, and thinks it has a lot of effect on people, and explored Bryn Mawr students' need for graffiti: "There are people in society for whom... anonymous writing on walls... may be the only way they can express themselves... I was really disturbed by people... expressing feelings at the forum that they felt it was legitimate to write on the walls because there was no other way for them to express themselves... I don't think that someone who has this level of education, and this level of ability, and is in this kind of pressure. They should feel that there is no place to be heard, and it makes me sad that it's how they truly feel, but they aren't looking around, or they aren't creating opportunities."

Alison Noyes of Student Services (who was called away on an emergency), said, "I was angry. I didn't want to let pressure get to me, and I was already angry. People can't stand up against this kind of pressure as easily as (against) the Klan. The Klan can take my life but this kind of pressure as easily as [against] the Klan."

DiQuinzio: choosing to act vs. waiting for community consensus

Dean Patrice DiQuinzio was very aware of the impact of her actions for bians and bisexuals. She knew that it would be charged that the painting only was done in response to the affirmative graffiti (and thus out of homophobia). DiQuinzio, saying she wished she had had time at the forum to deal with people such as a colleague who was called away on an emergency, said, "...the extent to which we [covered up] someone else's self-expression... that's what I was angry. I didn't want to let pressure get to me, and I was already angry. People can't stand up against this kind of pressure as easily as (against) the Klan. The Klan can take my life but this kind of pressure as easily as [against] the Klan.

To the Paint Crew:

We wish to express our dismay at the precipitate effacement of the wall graffiti in the Thomas bathrooms. While damage to public property is not lightly to be coned, we saw the graffiti as an important public statement, and therefore wondered if it enabled her to "not feel as sympathetic as one could like, but that graffiti does not make an audience sympathetic."

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Patrice DiQuinzio established her original intentions: "The two most severe incidents of harassment we've had on this campus in the last year and a half have involved anonymity." Student Services Director, Chuck Heyduk, who was unable to attend the forum, expressed his agreement: "We've had so much trouble with anonymous statements, that while these were positive it was still that [that] medium of people writing on the bathroom walls wasn't a good way to go on statements being made." Dean Rikki Behrend further added that she was "not comfortable differentiating between positive messages and negative. The best thing you can do is make your acceptance of the possibilities acceptable... because very quickly we lose sight of the fact that we ought to be communicating hopefully face to face."

Noyes: An unsafe environment for discussion

Noyes, the only administrator to respond directly to the expressions of hurt while at the forum, expressed deep concerns about the administration's receptivity to issues of concern to minority students, and therefore wondered if it enabled her to "not feel as sympathetic as one could like, but that graffiti does not make an audience sympathetic."

We find it particularly inappropriate that the declaration issued by you and others acted to equate these graffiti with the racist and homophobic slogans to which they were a response. This stance ignores not only the absence of any equivalence between prejudice and its resistance, but also the way in which the graffiti imaginatively transformed a tradition of covert scrawls into a celebration of presence and solidarity.

The clean-up action discounts the difference between the private hatred expressed in anonymous letters directed at individuals, and the public rejection of such actions. In so doing, it serves only to reprivatize the issues, driving them out of the public arena in which they belong—however painful and awkward this may be at times. As such, we regard it as an act of official censorship which we deplore.

Ian Carter: re-choosing graffiti for communication

Ian Carter, who, with Tanya Sharon, spraypainted in very large letters "SILENCE=DEATH" on the bathroom wall during the forum (to very hostile reactions), explained her understanding of appropriate forums: "The reason people use bathroom walls is they don't have forums. And I'm not saying that I think it's the Administration's job to provide us with a forum, because if [they] did it we'd be [their] forum, and not mine."

...it was responsible to a degree but I was angry. I didn't want to let pressure get to me, and I was already angry. People can't stand up against this kind of pressure as easily as (against) the Klan. The Klan can take my life but this kind of pressure as easily as [against] the Klan.

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Jane Caplan
David Cast
William Clark
Samuel Kaplan
Philip Kilbride
Myra Love
Mary Quinn
Judith Porter
Marc Ross
Enrique Sacerio-Gari
Kurt Azade Seyhan
Robert Washington

Noyes noticed during the forum that Many administrators became "defensive" because "the anger was so very hurtful," and therefore wondered if it enabled her to "not feel as cautious, as hurt by what was said, and as trapped because so targetted... I didn't feel the fullity of reaching out."

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It's not a bad thing to learn to deal with anger

Dean DiQuinzio had a very different reaction to the forum than Noyes: She appreciated the anger expressed by some students who felt silenced, and who directed that anger at the painters. DiQuinzio has become so unsafe—it's not going to bring me to tears. I will steel myself and try to talk to people... [and about what people think of me that I can speak]. 'The dialogue has become so unsafe—it's not going to bring me to tears. I will steel myself and try to talk to people... [and about what people think of me that I can speak].

In contrast, Noyes defined herself as a "passenger" and therefore wondered if it enabled her to "not feel as cautious, as hurt by what was said, and as trapped because so targetted... I didn't feel the fullity of reaching out."

continued on page 11
The "Social Density" College Guide

"The Missing Stat" For Discriminating Students/Parents

1988 Register Of Society College Kids At Their Top-50 Favorite Colleges

The BMC's finest

Dear Ms. Hank,

I'm so confused about those big symbols that the lesbians painted in the bathrooms, and that they all wear around their necks. One of them nearly castrated me when I asked if it was a species of meanest计划生育 axe! So obviously that's not what it is, so what is it?

Nervous

Dear sweet Nervous,

I'm afraid you have jumped to several misinformation conclusions, and then sand them to support a fear you already had. Those were not huge, double-headed castration axes, they were labryses, hon. And as for those worn around wimmn's necks, surely they are too small to be effective, dear. Also, many of us know that it's pointless to insist that girls put themselves in the position of being chopped while still alive, and then chop them while still alive, and then are marred with ink, and then, to add in-sult to injury, they are not even given the courtesy of being placed on the practically written in stone, mandatory meal plan provided by the Bryn Mawr College Dining Service (BMCDs). For the modest yearly residence fee of $4,950, BMCDs astounds our taste buds with twenty meals per week. Regardless of whether or not you choose to drag your bones over to the dorm for it, you pay for it along with all your other meals; and my, what a spread is put out. When I explained dynamics of a BMCDS cheese cutlet to relatives during Thanksgiving dinner, we all looked at our turkey with a semblance of disgust. A marked sigh was raised by all, and then a dreamy far-away look passed over my eyes. What I wouldn't have given to have brought my own, what a spread is put out. In fact, many, but not all, lesbians. In fact, many lesbians do not even know what it means. So my, what a spread is put out. and how can people say that plants don't feel pain? Great vegetable advocates say that it's OK to eat plant products that the plant can live without, such as ripe fruit or grain berries, but using any product that harms the plant when you remove it such as lettuce or celery is wrong. However as a radical right-wing vegetable activist, I pick it up and fruit is tantamount to abortion. Every week BMCDs skins carrots alive, then chops them while still alive, and finally drowns them in water. It chops off the heads and tails of live snow peas, and tears to bits the heads of countless lettuce.

Head of Food service Joe Giamboli refused to comment.

But BMCDs is not the only institution responsible for such carnage. Every day tons of crushed and flattened bits of trees are marred with ink, and then, to add insult to injury, they are not even given the courtesy of being chopped while still alive, and finally drowns them in water. It chops off the heads and tails of live snow peas, and tears to bits the heads of countless lettuce. And of Food service Joe Giamboli refused to comment. And of Food service Joe Giamboli refused to comment.

A LABRYS that was painted on the bathroom wall in the Campus Center.
Continuing search for Humor

Miss Pennsylvania Coed Search is on!
Undergraduate college women between the ages of 19–23, never married, fully depleted, and of good moral character, are being sought to audition for the title of MISS PENNSYLVANIA COED—1989. The winner will receive a cash award, a beauty school scholarship, thorough exploitation as a sex object, and will make personal appearances during the period of her reign. For an application or for additional information, send name and college mailing address to Mrs. Bee Mahimbo, Campus Director, Initial Coed America Program, 4200 Ritter Avenue Alley, Jacksonville, Florida 32257 or call (904) YOU-POOL.

Editor's note: The Editors take no responsibility for damage incurred by any student foolish enough to apply.

Newest PC trend elicits protest

By Jeanie Heinsohn and Gretchen Kreiger

Last Sunday evening, for lack of a forum to attend, we sat in the Cafe, listening to our beloved dyke music. We were discreetly chatting about the new selection of java, reminiscing about the days when we used to sit in Haffen chair-smoking and sipping hot tea from drinking glasses. Those days of PC are gone; we have changed with the times. The switch came none too soon: all of our black clothes had faded to gray—now the newest shade in approved PC-wear.

Our discussion turned to debate over the political implications of bi-college funding, and whether or not we ought to use an acronym for our new wimmin’s group. We side-stepped conflict by sharing our jubilation over the fact that we still can be PC in spite of our differences. We’re struggling to let go of the old ideals of PC, but we’re still working through the process of change.

We are both lesbians, our short hair is growing out, and we no longer want to wear round glasses (we’re saving money for contacts!). Yet we remain woefully incorrect in other aspects. For instance, we do still belong to acronymed groups—LBSG, CORP, BGALA. Also, we retain our LBSG, CORP, BGALA. Also, we retain our LBSC in spite of our differences. We’re correct in other aspects. For instance, we wear round glasses (we’re saving money for contacts!), but we are process, rather than goal, oriented—a patriarchal mode). If the consensus consists of the following: Two women lie side by side (tops or bottoms are strictly forbidden—lesbians must be non-hierarchical); they touch each other gently and sweetly all over their bodies for several hours (lesbians are not genitially/orgasmically oriented, a patriarchal mode). If the women have orgasms at all—and orgasms are only marginally acceptable, because, after all, we must be process, rather than goal, oriented—both orgasms must occur at exactly the same time in order to foster true equality and egalitarianism. Margaret Nichols, “Lesbian Sexuality: Issues and Developing Theory,” pp. 97-98.

In other words, in order to be PC, you cannot come! We were proud to learn that we were no longer allowed our orgasms if we wished to remain politically correct. We saved a lot of the PC ideal when we realized that we would have to sacrifice integral parts of our being for its attainment. Always aware of integrating the newest ideals into our lives, we decided that we must become immediately active on this issue. Regrettably, we decided that Political Correctness must be sacrificed for our continued erotic fulfillment. We must all strive to

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Indigenous dorm inhabitants provide comfort

By Munize Mazur

The pet policy... that which forbids you to have any pet living with you in your room. It doesn’t matter that you are surrounded by owls, squirrels, lizards, pigeons, and the occasional rabbit every single second of your life at BMC; “No furry creatures allowed!” It doesn’t matter that your neighbor’s boyfriend, who is living with her, is furrrier than your pet, no; no; it doesn’t matter that he is the Missing Link, no; no; “No furry creatures allowed.” It doesn’t matter that every time you see the faculty walk their dogs (which is once a day) all over campus, you miss your dog desperately and think how much (s)he would enjoy running around campus, “No furry creatures allowed.” So, what’s the logic, you ask. Well... I’ll tell you... the reason you are not allowed to have pets is because ‘they’ assign you pets when they assign you to your rooms. What kind of pet you get depends on what dorm you were assigned to.

For those who live in old dorms like Rock, you have small, furry, 4-legged creatures that live in the crevices of your wooden floor. Not everyone can warm up to these creatures right away, indeed some distinctly dislike them, so much that they call Physical Plant in various levels of hysteria demanding that these ‘pets’ be removed. The people at the Plant listen to you very nicely, but decide that since you are here to expand your horizons, you have the pets should stay. So you make a deal with your pets... they remain on their side of the room and you will remain on yours. If perchance your paths should cross, they have the right to scare you out of your wits and you have the right to squash them with your shoes. Composure is the name of the game here.

For those who live in not quite new, not quite old dorms like Erdrich, you have the pleasure of having slightly larger pets. They are gray, four-legged and beady eyed. Their former homes are some call them Rats, others call them by various titles but modestly prevents me from mentioning them. The only problem with the pets is that they are very, very aggressive so don’t let them chase you around or they will chase you right out of your room. Shape up, lock those tiny critters in, please continue on page 8

Answers sought

By Anastasia Dodson

Who, what, where, why, how is the Question Woman? She is here, somewhere, waiting to ask you a stupid question when you least expect it. Beware: The Question Woman is here.

Question #1: How would you react if Bryn Mawr had a male president?

Answers: “It would be terrible.” “That’d be fine with me!” “Quite exciting, actually.” “I think it’d be disturbing, revolting, but it’s already happened once.” “I don’t think, I don’t know.” “A male president, wonderful!” “I’d be totally disgusted.” “Don’t we already?” “Hypocritical!” “Leave.” “I would set myself on fire.” “Unacceptable.” “No.” “It might be just what we need.” “Transfer” “Deeply distressed.” “Shrug” “It might be O.K. if he had a really good beard.” “Castrate him!”

Question #2: If you could pick anyone to be president of the U.S., who would it be?

Answers: Dukakis, Elizabeth Dole, Bob Geldof, Bill Cosby, Winne-the-Pooh, “Katherines,” Bill and Barbara Baker, Santa Claus, “my dad;” Charles Manson, God, Rocky, A. E. Newman, Dan Quayle, Menudo, Calvin (of Calvin and
And more answers...

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Hobben, George Bush, Reyore, "MY- SELF!" Katherine Hepburn, Ted Ken- nedy, 'Rebecca.' Peter Jennings, Rambo, R.L. Stine, Bob Woodward, Robert L. M. C., Shirley Chisholm, Bette Midler, "ANASTASIA THE GREAT FOR SUPREME BEING OF ALL!"

Question #3: What was your worst summer experience?

Answer: "I fell off a big boat in the middle of the Pacific, and the boat kept going." —Nancy

"I've never had one (a summer)." —Mark

"When my mother found out I was sleeping with my boyfriend." —Anon.

"Working in a restaurant... and serving children." —Sandy

"I totalled my dad's car." —Anon.

"I can't say it." —Anon.

"Being in a plane crash on the way to Saudi Arabia." —Anon.

"O God. I worked in a fast food store. It was horrible. I got fired. I got fired. Do you believe it? A Mawrter got fired from a fast food restaurant!" —Robina

"I lost all my luggage. I had to wear the same (pants) for a month." —Anon.

"Carrying a girl down a mountain in the pouring rain." —Anon.

"Two of our suitcases fell off and went bouncing down the highway!" —Sarah

"In Girl Scout Camp, where my nickname was 'Fuzzy-Squirrel Tail!'" —Dulan

"I came home from a summer program in North Carolina and my parents forgot to pick me up." —Allisa

"They sent my luggage to Tokyo when I was going to New York." —Cecilia

"When I was three and I had diaper rash." —Anon.

"Having to put on a bathing suit." —Anon.

"Being stopped by the cops in Iowa on the way to my parents' house at four a.m. for being a sixteen-year-old runaway when I was eighteen." —Mia

"One summer we came home from vacation and we found a crazy person had jumped through our front window and was sleeping in the couch." —Anon.

"I had to work at McDonald's. It was hideous. You know those frozen meat patties, did you know they fry fsh with those behind the grill? Then they pick 'em up and put them in-between buns, I swear! Don't eat at McDonald's."}
Graceful gowns once became us

BY SARAH MCBRIDE

Years ago at Bryn Mawr, students participated in traditions which have since disappeared. One of these was the wearing of the cap and gown, instituted in 1885 at the college's opening.

Two students from England assumed that they would need academic gowns, as worn at British universities, so they brought them to opening ceremonies. The other students liked them so much that they decided to order a supply in order for everyone to own one.

When they came, it turned out someone had made a mistake in the orders, and sent for full length gowns worn by English scholars, instead of the correct knee-length robes. Although Oxford under-graduates would have considered this mix-up a tremendous faux-pas, Mawrtters liked the more graceful gowns so much better they adopted them instantly. Apparently they suited the women—in December 1885, a University of Pennsylva-nia student remarked that the "maturest" Mawrtt College women wore co-ed or single sex, it will now be possible offering Sporadic Housing as a regular optiion actually under consideration is the

Cap and Gown Night," a typical step-sing type of evening held in the fall semester. First-year students bought their robes before the ceremony—in 1904, at a cost of $7.35—and had to protect them from sophomore thievery. Sophomores felt freshmen would value their gowns more if they ran the risk of losing them. Also, the new class was forced to band together and unify to combat the upperclassmen's schemes. The day after Cap and Gown Night, which was combined with Lantern Night from 1897 on, Posner and Thomas would give the daily chapel lecture on academic dress. Thomas felt the new gowns were a regular symbolized move in a new, egalitarian community and the solemn responsibility such membership brings, and thus should be worn with pride.

At first, students wore gowns only to classes, chapel [which took place in Taylor], the library, and traditions. But by 1902, the campus newspaper stated that the robes were "now as familiar on the [Lancaster] Pike as on the campus." (The Fortnightly Philistine, 2/21/02) Students also wore caps with tassels that clicked counter-clockwise according to class year.

Freshmen wore theirs at the left front, sophomores at the left back, and so on. However, the caps were not worn as frequently as the gowns.

By the 1970s, academic dress had lost its poe eternity. Ironically [in view of the egalitarianism gowns had represented before] students saw them as elitist and an unnecessary expense in an already costly education. Mawrtters never formal-ly dropped the tradition, but rather let it die out gradually. Now, sadly, it appears that academic robes have gone for good.

The writer wishes to thank the staff of the college archives for help in finding material for this article.
BY AUDRE LORDE

The following is an abridgement, with her permission, of Audre Lorde's essay "Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism," originally published in Sister Outsider. 

I am speaking of a basic and radical alteration in those assumptions underlining our lives. I have seen situations where white women hear a racist remark, react with anger but then remain silent because they are afraid. That unexpressed anger lies within them like an undetonated device, and it hurled at the first woman of Color who talks about racism.

But anger expressed and translated into action in the service of our future is a liberating and strengthening act of clarification, for it is in the pain and suffering of this transformation that we identify who we are as a people with whom we have grave differences, and who are our genuine enemies.

We are not...women examining racism in a political and social vacuum. We operate in the teeth of a system in which racism and sexism are primary, established, and necessary props of profit. Mainstream communication does not want women, particularly white women, responding to racism. It wants racism to be accepted as an immutable given in the fabric of your existence, like a set of unbreakable chains.

So we are working in a context of opposition and threat, the cause of which is certainly not the anger which lies between white and nonwhite women. We are working against all women, people of Color, lesbians and gay men, poor people—against all of us who are seeking to examine the particulars of our lives as we resist our oppressions, moving toward coalition and effective action.

Any discussion among women about racism must include the recognition and the use of anger. This discussion must be direct and concrete, not intellectualized. We cannot allow our fear of anger to deflect us nor succumb to a seductive belief that it is already contained in our vision of racial/class relations between white and nonwhite women. To speak about what we are trying to do.

...; if I fail to recognize them as other women...and fall into the pattern of thinking which racism and sexism are primary, established, and necessary props of profit. I am asking whether it is possible to articulate the genuine differences between women, such as those of race, color, age, class, and sexual identity. There was no apparent need...to examine more carefully the manner of presentation to the substance, to tap that anger as an important source of empowerment.

As a woman of Color whose anger has meant pain to me it has also meant survival, and before I give it up I'm going to be sure that I have not destroyed...it, to move beyond the manner of presenting the psyche of my oppressor, even if that...is mere another way of preserving racial privilege...Oppressed peoples are always being asked to stretch a little more, to bridge the gap between blindness and numbness to the fact that we are not...able to use our anger only in the service of other people's salvation or learning. But that anger is meant to pain us to me but it has also meant survival, and before I give it up I'm going to be sure that there is something at least as powerful to replace the rage.

That women here so enamored of her own oppression that she cannot see her brother's oppression as her own, as Buck's, as Buck's...What woman's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it? Women's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it? Women's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it? Women's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it? Women's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it? Women's terms of oppression have become precious and necessary to her as her own? What is it?
Graffiti
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Cohen and Parker: staff workers

Dean Jo Ellen Parker: "One of the things that had increasingly bothered me [was that] students almost took for granted housekeeping and Physical Plant cleaning up graffiti when it got cleaned up. And I liked making the symbolic gesture to make people think about us cleaning up after the graffiti. I thought it would dramatize that this is the sort of thing that does make work for people.'

Edward Cohen, Vice President of the Staff Association, was concerned about protecting the staff who would have had to clean up the graffiti, and some of whom, he understood from McPherson, had experienced conflicts with students who staff caught writing on the walls. 'The Housekeeping Staff feels that students are being immature... They were... worried that the students may just start doing it again because' one member cleaned off a bathroom stall, and the next day there was a message saying, 'I don't want to clean it again because' one staff member tried that the students may just start doing it again. 'I'm going to write on it again.'

Dean Parker: hoping for trust

'I would hope that some students who may question my own role in the painting over of the graffiti [and that of the other administrators]... would hold up against that memories of conversations or interactions they've had with me on other occasions in forming an impression about whether I am or am not sensitive, or am or am not aware, or am or am not trustworthy on these issues.' She added that messages of support from the administrators 'in the one-on-one context can be very apparent to me that many students feel very isolated, and feel as though they're not being supported. And that makes me feel bad about what people's perceptions are, or the ground that we have to cover in order to try to change those feelings.'

Meeting to rebuild trust

Dean Myers stressed as her primary concern that "we do resume" talking. 'We're allies, we're not against anybody' and added that she wanted to learn what to do to support lesbians and bisexuals and foster a better climate. She helped to call a meeting between BGALA representatives and the administration. On Wednesday, November 7, concerned lesbians and bisexual women met with President McPherson, Minority Affairs Director Miller, and Deans Myers, DiQuinzio, and Tidmarsh (at the administration's invitation) to discuss current needs not being met and to foster communication. The needs discussed ranged from staffing (a lesbian counselor, Student Services representative, and full-time Minority Affairs Director), to curriculum (Diversity Requirement and courses on gay people in history and literature), to recognition (updated harassment policy, statement from the President, listing in college handbooks of sexual minority groups, a floating fund for events and literature, and a better BGALA lounge), and outreach/leadership trainings for heads of student groups—among other needs.

It was agreed that they would meet again in January as part of an ongoing approach, and the administration was committed to working on these needs, and was excited about some of the very new ideas. Most involved are pleased with the beginning of a positive work and a good relationship.
Hoopsters edged out in championship

BY CATHARYN TURNER

The Bryn Mawr Basketball Team opened the 1988-1989 season on November 18 with a win over Caldwell College at the Hunter College Invitational. Bryn Mawr played hard and well, but lost 51-60 to Hunter in the final game of the tournament. It was a tough fight, however, and the team played a consistent tight game. Senior Cornelia Hay and Junior Julie Zuraw were named to the all-tournament team.

On December 2-4, Bryn Mawr hosted the Seven Sister Invitational. Bryn Mawr won its opening game on Friday night, against Mt. Holyoke with a score of 55-46, and went on to play Wellesley in the semifinal playoffs on Saturday. Wellesley as seeded third and Bryn Mawr was seeded second, so the game promised to be an exciting one, especially as last year, Bryn Mawr also faced Wellesley in the second round of tournament play. Wellesley played a tight game against Bryn Mawr, matching every point, and there were some costly turnovers which hurt Bryn Mawr. However, the team's usual headstrongness soon returned and Bryn Mawr pulled away at the half. Bryn Mawr was able to maintain its two point lead of 55-53 during the tense final seconds of the game, and so went onto the championship game against Smith. Last year, the Mawrtys faced Smith in the championship and lost by five points. This year, the Bryn Mawr team had hoped to defeat Smith.

In the first half, Bryn Mawr came out strong against Smith with a tough defense and a nice offense, and was able to amass a fifteen point lead of 35-20. However, as the second half began, Smith ame out strong, and narrowed the lead. Then Smith nailed a three point shot and drew within one point of Bryn Mawr. Then Bryn Mawr suffered some penalties which helped Smith move ahead two points. Smith blocked a shot, and with a few seconds to go took control of the ball, so Bryn Mawr couldn't score. Bryn Mawr fell to Smith College 55-57 which gave Bryn Mawr the seed it captured last year, and brought the season record to 3-4. (Bryn Mawr also lost to Drew University and Neumann College.)

Despite these losses, the team is looking strong, and has great potential. For example, juniors Jo-Anne Meyer and Julie Zuraw were selected to the All-Tournament team at the Seven Sisters Tournament. Hopefully these set-backs will prove to be temporary, and things will improve as the season progresses.

The next home games are December 7 and January 24 at 7 p.m. in the Bern Schwartz Gym.

Ride the edge—successfully!

FROM THE STUDENT HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

"STRESSED? Who, ME, stressed? Why should I be stressed? Just because I have a million papers due and exams to take in the next two weeks? No, of course I'm not stressed." This attitude becomes more and more common on the Bryn Mawr campus as exams approach. So it seems appropriate at this time of the semester to remind everyone of the counseling services available at the Health Center.

Every student is allotted six free counseling visits in a year. Despite this, once-popular myth, you don't have to be "crazy" or "on the edge" to see a counselor. Counseling is for anyone who thinks it might help them feel less pressured and more in control. Things don't need to reach the crisis level before you can seek counseling and, hopefully, if you talk to someone before whatever is bothering you reaches a crisis level, it will not get out of hand.

If you decide to call for an appointment and are told that the next appointment isn't for two weeks, you have to decide how urgent your need is. If you feel that the problem is reaching crisis level, make it clear to the receptionist that an appointment in two weeks probably will not help. The counselors and the receptionist will both appreciate your honesty. They want what is best for you.

It is important to realize that, because the counselors are very busy during exam time, you may have to miss a class or activity in order to squeeze in an appointment. Someone will always make time to see you if it is urgent, but scheduling difficulties may arise. Consider seeing a counselor during class time if that is the only time slot open.

One final point: the counselors are not your only resource on campus. The Deans and Hall Advisors are also around, and they are ready to help if they can. The most important thing is to find someone to talk to when you need to talk. If you don't want to see a counselor, do try to find someone else who could be helpful. And remember, exam period is only temporary. It will soon end and then we will have an entire month to sit back and relax! Happy Holidays!

Editor's Note: Last issue's Students' Editor, Ashley Varner, is on the winter break, so Domenica Pugliese wrote the article.