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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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THE COLLEGE NEWS

VOLUME XII NUMBER 11

FOUNDED 1914

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

MAY 13, 1991

The Bryn Mawr of Yesteryear

By Shana Weiss

PASSYA OSTROFF REEFER

I am a Bryn Mawr senior, class of 1991. My great-aunt, my grandmother's sister, came to Bryn Mawr in 1917. She was thrilled because she was one of the first in the family (perhaps the first, I'm not sure) to attend college, and she came to Bryn Mawr on a full scholarship. She lived in Rockefeller Dorm one year, and when I was a frosh in Rock, I found her name plaque in someone's room. She has had a very fulfilling and exciting life and has traveled extensively. She is now 94 years old and living in California. She is also a writer. Several years ago, she decided to write a book about her life. She included a chapter about each of her nine brothers and sisters, and also wrote a chapter about her life at Bryn Mawr. When I graduate in May, it will be 70 years, almost to the day, since she graduated. I thought some people might be interested in reading her version of how life was at Bryn Mawr so many years ago. Surprisingly, some things hardly seem different at all. Here are some of her excerpts:

But now, back to Bryn Mawr College — at last within my grasp! It was an exhilarating, wonderful feeling, really a very heady one; but also a fearful one. Would I be able to meet with any degree of success the high standards of BMC? Most of the students there came from private prep schools, which specialized in preparing their students for high academic standard colleges.

On top of that I was about to enter a new world, a new life, which in some aspects was quite foreign to me. But these thoughts did not last long; how could they in those beautiful surroundings? The campus was so beautiful, with its spacious lawns, like lovely green car-

pets, the Japanese cherry trees, the dogwood trees and the abundance of other trees all over the campus, as well as the ivy-covered buildings, some with turreted towers. It was just too wonderful to be true, that this was to be part of my daily life for the next four years! The very thought of it almost hurt, it was so marvelous. It was wonderful for one whose life had been spent in the barren confines of a city.

The only disappointment with Bryn Mawr College was the fact that they did not accept negro students. I found that out when a negro classmate of mine in high school told me how she envied the possibility of my being accepted at BMC. This information both puzzled and troubled me. I have known several Friends, or Quakers, and even attended some of their Sunday meetings. Their attitude of all-embracing brotherhood of mankind appealed to me greatly. Those Friends, that I knew, seemed to be inbred with that principle. Bryn Mawr College was founded by the Quakers. It seemed incredible to me that they would exclude anyone because of race, color or ethnic origin. And yet they did not accept Negroes at BMC! It seemed so out of keeping with their philosophy of real world-wide brotherhood of mankind. How puzzling at times are man's behavior and attitudes. However, I chose to attend BMC because it was, and is, one of the best educational institutions. For a number of years now, this exclusion of Negroes has been discarded. But quite a bit of the lustre which I had ascribed to the Friends was gone for me.

Since 1917 was a war year BMC decided to accept more students than usual for that Freshman year. To accommodate the extra students, the College rented a

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Feminists turn attention to the Gulf

By Elizabeth Hogan

"They got in cars and they drove. Most of them lost their jobs because of it. And they're being discriminated against because they did that." Elaine Fliegelman, a staff member of Philadelphia NOW, speaks grimly of the recent episode in which a number of Saudi Arabian women demonstrated for their right to drive. She deplores the idea of women who, in her words, "don't even have their own kids," and is convinced that the future of the National Organization of Women lies partly in the struggle for women's rights in the Middle East.

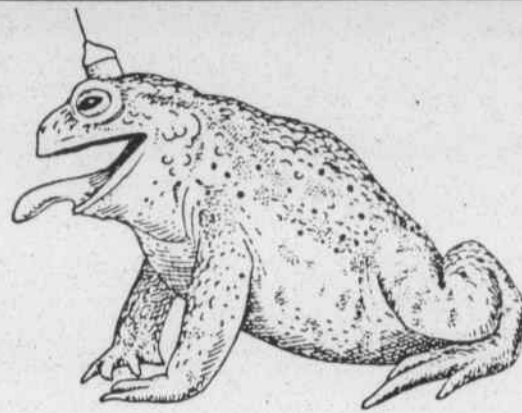
Fliegelman isn't the only one who feels something ought to be done. The media coverage of the Gulf War gave many Americans their first experience with an intensely foreign culture, leaving them indignant and anxious to right the wrongs they perceived in it. In a letter to *Newstweek* a woman writes, "I hope that when the Emir of Kuwait considers enfranchising women in his country, he

will bear in mind that several thousand female soldiers helped liberate Kuwait and return him to power."

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, American women are being faced with the wrongs of their own society: unequal pay for equal work, inadequate federal child care provisions, the infamous 'second shift, rape and sexual assault, domestic violence, the struggle for the right to control one's own reproductive process, and the fact that all medical research done in the past has worked under the assumption that male biology is the norm. Add this to the idea that 'feminist' is beginning to be used in the pejorative sense and it becomes evident that there are enough problems for women in this country to keep any dedicated feminist busy for a lifetime.

Why then the pull for action in another culture? Obviously it is painful for American women enjoying rights so recently won to see Arab women still under restriction. In a sense, modern

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Seniors and their hoops race gleefully to the Moon Bench and Graduation.
— photo by Lena Kopelow

Costa Rica suffers worst earthquake since 1986

By Kaia Huseby

Costa Rica and parts of Panama experienced the worst earthquake in the region since El Salvador's quake that killed 1,200 people in 1986. The earthquake that hit Monday night, April 22, measured 7.4 on the richter scale, with aftershocks recorded at 5.3. The richter scale is based on a logarithmic progression, so an 8 is one million times more forceful than a measurement of 2. Any earthquake above an 8 causes the worst possible destruction. Assessed on the intensity scale, this means that while damage is negligible to buildings of good construction, damage is significant in areas where structures are poorly built. The regions most devastated are in southeastern Costa Rica, where houses are mainly wooden and therefore extremely vulnerable. The damage was less severe in the nation's capital of San José, where several older buildings were knocked down.

Damage was concentrated in and around Limón, the epicenter of the quake and also the nation's major port. There is uncertainty over how many have been killed; approximately 79 people were killed in Costa Rica and Panama combined. An estimated 400 people have been injured. Communications and electricity were knocked out for the first night,

and information has still not been received from two large Indian reservations in the mountains around Limón. Thousands of people have been left homeless with the loss of approximately 10,000 houses.

The country's infrastructure has also been severely affected. Tony Avirgan, a reporter from San José, described the area around Limón as a slab of soft clay that someone had scooped sections out of. He reported that the major highways have been ripped apart, bridges have been torn to pieces, and most buildings in the region have been knocked down and blown off their foundations. The force of the quake has reversed the flow of a major river north of Limón and several islands have been flooded due to an intensification of tide and wave activity.

Relief aid, rescue efforts, and food supplies have been provided by various international organizations, the U.S. and Britain in particular. But due to the severe damage to roads, there are difficulties moving supplies to the regions where they are most needed. Helicopters are now being used to bring supplies to smaller pockets of the country. The government of Costa Rica, led by President Calderón, has received \$60 million in aid from the World Bank to help with the recovery effort and the long and difficult task of rebuilding roads and houses.

Czechoslovakian environmental policy hampered by economic change

By Rachel Winston

Two students, Julie Meling and Rachel Winston, along with their professor, Carol Hager, attended a Central European conference on the environment last month. Their trip was sponsored jointly through the Dean's Office, the President's Office, the Political Science Department, and the CEES Planning Committee.

During the second week of April, I flew to Bratislava, Czechoslovakia to attend the first Central European Environmental Seminar, sponsored by a coalition of American and Czechoslovakian university students.

Entitled, "If not we, then who?": Information and Responsibility for Environmental Education," the conference consisted of four days of lectures, panel

discussions, and workgroups, focusing on the role education will play in coming years, as Central Europe begins to tackle its enormous environmental problems. The conference fostered important networks between American, Western, and Central European environmental activists.

The meeting also provided an invaluable cultural exchange between Czechoslovaks and Americans. Living with Bratislavans, enduring their problems with pollution and inefficiency, eating their diet, working through misunderstandings caused by poor translations, and listening to their worries and concerns, did more than anything else to bring home the importance of cultural sensitivity and awareness in the forma-

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criticism and praise: Seniors speak on four years at BMC

see centerspread, pages 10 & 11

Eating disorders: where humor has no place

To the College community:

We each have our different definitions for what constitutes humor, and *The Howl* shows us different forms of humor from different perspectives. The readers and creators of the magazine also have differing opinions on which articles are humorous. While we support the objectives of the magazine, we are writing this letter because we feel that one particular section was insensitive and hurtful. The particular piece reads:

SITUATIONS WANTED

98 lb. bulimic searches for caterer will ing to fulfill food fantasies. "91/2 Weeks" all over again. Dial 1-800-UP-CHUCK.

The purpose of this letter is not to condemn or tell people what they can or cannot publish. Our only wish is to increase people's awareness and knowledge of a very serious issue. Don't immediately judge us as humorless. First, take some time to look at a serious emotional disorder that affects 30% of the Bryn Mawr campus, and women and men everywhere.

Eating Disorders

Anorexia Nervosa is "characterized by severe weight loss or failure to gain weight. Individuals with anorexia nervosa have an iron determination to become thin and an intense, irrational fear of becoming fat, both of which often increase as weight is lost. In the attempt to reach and/or maintain an unhealthy weight, persons with anorexia nervosa often employ severe caloric restriction, fasting, relentless exercising, use of diet aids, and diuretic and laxative use."

Bulimia Nervosa "consists of episodes of binge-eating followed by some form of purging and/or severe dietary restraint. Purging the food may take the forms of self-induced vomiting, laxative or diuretic abuse, fasting, diet pills, or strenuous exercise. The binge/purge

cycle is normally accompanied by self-deprecating thoughts, depressed mood, and an awareness that the eating behavior is abnormal and out of control."

Eating disorders generally share the characteristic of an excessive link between food and emotions, resulting in obsessive behavior. While anorexia and bulimia have been studied, they are not the only eating disorders. Much less studied is the disorder that consists of consuming great amounts of food for emotional purposes with a lesser emphasis on dieting. Some people call this abuse compulsive overeating. While this behavior has only recently been considered an eating disorder, for many years people have suffered the emotional and physical consequences of its link between food and emotion.

Last year, the Health Center sponsored an Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This was part of an international program supported by the American Medical Association and sponsored by support and self-help organizations, mental health professionals, nutritionists, dieticians, physicians, dentists, nurses, educators, coaches, athletes and the media. Among the consciousness-raising goals of the week were:

1. To encourage awareness of healthy attitudes toward psychological and physical development, body image and self-esteem by influential individuals (i.e., parents, educators and health professionals).

2. To challenge cultural attitudes regarding thinness, perfection, achievement, and expression of emotion which contribute to the increasing incidence of eating disorders.

3. To promote a level of public understanding of eating disorders that will result in compassion, rather than judgement or rejection of people currently engaging in eating disorder related behavior.

It is not a shameful thing to have an eating disorder, but suffering from an

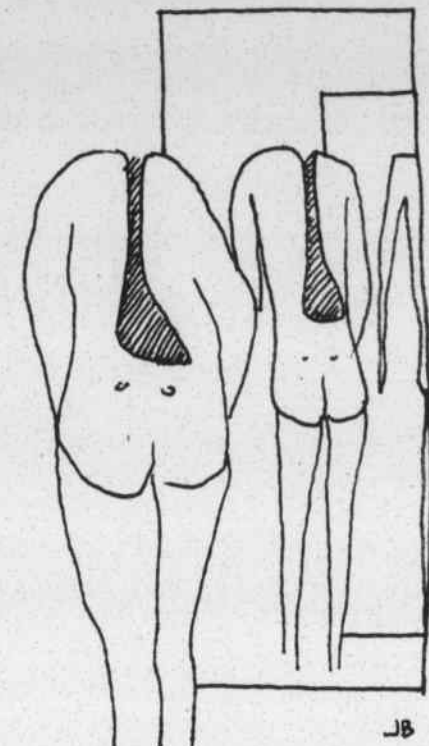
eating disorder is not a "fantasy." It is more akin to a nightmare, laced with feelings of depression, self-hate, non-acceptance, shame and pain. If someone exhibits the symptoms of an eating disorder or suffers from a negative body image, we suggest that she or he get professional help. The Health Center is equipped to deal with eating disorders, and has helped many to reverse the effects of the disorder. By ignoring the problem, some people reach the point of severe physical and mental damage, hospitalization and even death. Please, *be aware* of the seriousness of the issue.

Eating disorders need to be dealt with and looked upon with sensitivity and good judgement. We are not individuals without humor, which is why we believe our community in particular needs humor that is constructive and lends perspective. However, cracks about eating disorders create an atmosphere of judgement and shame that prevents people from recognizing the problem and seeking help. Insensitivity has hurt us, is hurtful, and certainly doesn't help to heal.

Those who have signed this letter represent a diversity of people. Among us are people with eating disorders, people recovering or recovered from eating disorders, people concerned about the issue, and people concerned about friends with eating disorders.

Anissa Cadar
J.P. Gabarro
Basheera Abdus-Sabur
Margaret Kim
Julie Cho
Gina S. Kim
Vicky Maxon
Alexa Chigounis
Siyon Kim
Kavita Polineni
Namratha Kandula
Erin Adamson
Jessica Booth
Annick Barker
Becky Greco
Sharon Stankevich

MIRROR, MIRROR
ON THE WALL...



Reassessing Western feminism

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Western women are confronting aspects of a past that was once their own — a past in which women can't drive cars or 'have' their own children or be allowed to live after committing adultery — an uncomfortably ugly past we missed out on by virtue of being born in the late twentieth century. We somehow think that in the feminist liberation of Kuwait a new world gender order will emerge.

In criticizing the conditions of others we divert attention away from ourselves. It was appallingly easier for the United States government to spend its intellectual and financial resources on problems in the Middle East than to use them for equally pressing domestic ones. It is to be hoped that the American feminist movement will not fall into the same trap.

THE COLLEGE NEWS

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE VOLUME XII, NO. 11 MAY 13, 1991

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"WE LOVE YOU!!"

Thea Gray, Patti Savoie

This is the last issue of the college news for the academic year 1990-1991. If you are interested in writing next year, or being on the Ed board, or doing graphics or doing just about anything, please come to our first meeting next year (Thursdays at 9:30 in the College News office over the Language Lab in Denbigh). We will accept articles written by women and letters from men. All opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only and not representative of the opinions of the Ed board.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The College News is a feminist newsjournal which serves as a source of information and self-expression for the Bryn Mawr community. Recognizing that feminism is a collective process, we attempt to explore issues of interest to all women, both as members of this college and of the larger world community. Through this continuing dialogue, we seek to promote communication and understanding and to foster self-confidence and independence in expression.



Administration's silence on harassment investigation deemed irresponsible

Dear President McPherson,

As a member of the Bryn Mawr Community, I have been officially informed that a student suspect in the homophobic harassment case has been identified. "The suspect has been asked to leave the college and she has complied."

Unofficially I know perfectly well who this woman is. This is not because the women who were involved more closely in the investigation acted with any impropriety. It is not because of any fault in the security surrounding the investigation conducted with outstanding efficiency and sensitivity by Steven Heath.

There are many students in the community who know who this woman is because we were close to her in one way or another, and because we are not stupid. However, we have not and will not be officially informed because the administration of this college does not see fit to do so.

This is a grievous error on the part of the college. As students of Bryn Mawr College, as women concerned with the resolution of a homophobic harassment investigation, and as thinking adults, we have a right to information in this case. We are entitled to know this student's identity and whether or not she has admitted to the homophobic harassment.

We are entitled to know whether or not this student has been expelled from the college as a result of her actions, what the administration's reaction to the act is, and whether or not the college intends to pursue this matter further.

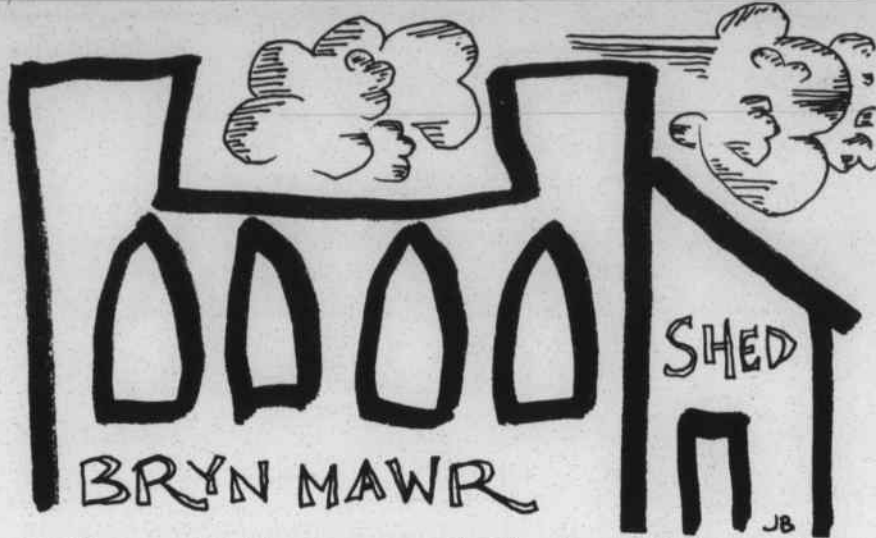
If the college does not intend to do so, we need to know why. We also need to know what the college intends to do if this situation should arise again.

The administration's inadequate response to this issue is forcing students to come to their own conclusions, which they will do, regardless of any official policies. If individual conclusions are wrong, the potential effect could be very damaging to the cohesion of the community.

Women who have known the suspect and been involved in her life are experiencing many difficulties dealing with the issues surrounding the harassment. They have many questions, an important one being, "What if we are accusing the wrong person?" There is no official way of answering this.

The situation points to an utter failure of the administration of this college to address the needs of the students which it serves.

Sincerely,
Eleanor H. Chin '93



"Diversity" survey fails to address its own questions

Howdy Gang! It's me again. Believe me, I don't have time to be doing this, except it's important.

The Deal is this:

Today I got a slip of paper in my box with a survey about the Diversity. There were 10 questions and we were encouraged to circle more than one answer if we felt it was appropriate. The box number on the survey is a student box #, but there is no other information about who is doing this survey or why.

Let me tell you about this joy of objective public opinion collecting.

Question #1 — What does diversity mean to you? a) learning opportunity. b) social cleavage. c) political correctness. d) much ado about nothing. e) pluralism. f) too many -ims. g) other

What is 'social cleavage'? What does 'political correctness' have to do with diversity? Why does this question imply that a diversity is a negative thing?

Ques #4 — How would you describe a homosexual person (the first thing that comes to mind)?

If you want to investigate the attitudes about homosexuality on this campus, well and good, but why stick one question about a major issue into the middle of this survey which is already asking questions about race?

Ques #5 — If you are not a person of color, can you imagine what it is like to be a person of color?

The chances are, no one who is not of color will understand why this is an extremely insulting question. It is not a condition that can be 'imagined' like a trip to Disneyland or a bad acid-trip. Being a person of color is *real*, not something that we do so white people can 'imagine what it might be like'.

Ques #6 — Have you ever had to confront racism in one of the following roles? a) victim. b) perpetrator. c) uncomfortable bystander. d) outraged activist. e) other.

Does anyone ever have to be the know-

ing perpetrator of racism? What is meant by 'outraged activist'? Are all activists outraged? Are they the only people who confront racism? Maybe it's just me, but I could almost think that people suspect 'activists' of making up racism just to have something to be 'outraged' about.

Ques #7 — Have you ever had cause to feel racist? Homophobic?

'Cause'!? Please clarify or I would be forced to suspect that what you mean is "Have you ever been so offended by someone's mere existence that you have been forced to treat them in a bigoted manner."

Ques #10 — Having a diversity requirement at BMC would be a) redundant (unnecessary). b) a good idea. c) excessively burdensome. d) meaningless. e) other.

I would like to thank the provider of this survey for defining 'redundant' for us, and for providing the wide variety of choices, of which we are encouraged to choose more than one. Incidentally this is the first time the words 'diversity requirement' have been mentioned.

I am left wondering what precisely this survey is asking, and why not everyone is getting them, as the questions seem to be on quite substantial issues. It would also be nice to know who is distributing them and what they intend to do with them at this late point in the semester.

Obviously I have not replicated the whole survey, for reasons of space. However, I have tried to capture the general tone of it.

I wasn't being sarcastic when I said that this survey deals with substantial issues. The diversity requirement, pluralism in its various incarnations at BMC, and racism and homophobia are all important topics which it is valuable for the community to discuss. However, this survey is *not* the way to do it.

— Eleanor Chin

Professor DeBarnardi urges renewed commitment to Anthropology at BMC

To students in the bi-college community:

I am writing to thank you for your recent show of support following my non-appointment to the tenure-track position in anthropology, and the continuation of the search until next year. I have now been offered and have accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Alberta, in a four-field department which emphasizes graduate training and research. I am taking a position left vacant by the departure of Regina Darnell, a distinguished linguistic anthropologist and scholar who as it happens is a Bryn Mawr B.A. and a Penn Ph.D.

I have enjoyed teaching at Bryn Mawr: Bryn Mawr's students are its greatest strength, and have given me great strength in the course of recent events. In the five years that I have taught here, however, I have not enjoyed the persistent conflict between the Bryn Mawr administration and the department of

anthropology. The anthropology department, devoted to the study of non-Western and non-elite cultures, despite its proven excellence, has found its contributions to the college and the profession all too often unnoticed at Bryn Mawr. This lack of regard was noted by the external review committee of anthropology, which in its 1988 report advised the administration to "reiterate its respect for anthropology as a discipline." And an internal review committee noted in 1989 that the abrupt decision to terminate the graduate program involved reliance on "incomplete data and oral opinion in formulating judgements about quality." It would appear that the judgement of professionals in the field of anthropology about the quality of the graduate program was less important than the views of certain members of the Bryn Mawr community who hold the discipline in low esteem.

Pluralism is not simply a matter of allow-

BMC campus development: choosing tool sheds over symphonies

You may have walked on the second floor of Taylor Hall a dozen times without ever noticing the large and solemn 1934 map of the campus hanging there. The map depicts a classical Bryn Mawr that never was to be, a formal campus, banded with axes and cross-axes and intimate little courtyards. There are additions as well, a series of new buildings that would have vastly enlarged the campus without damaging its character. Only Taylor Hall itself is missing; in the eyes of the 1930's it was hopelessly stodgy and frumpy, ripe for demolition, a Victorian tantrum best forgotten. But the drawing itself is a masterpiece, one of those splendidly luminous water color essays that a few wayward architects could still manage to turn out in the turbulent and modernist 1930's. Go and see it.

The design is the work of Ralph Adams Cram, the legendary architect of the cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, and the grand old man of the Gothic Revival. But more important than Cram's architecture is the fact of the plan itself — or more precisely, the notion that Bryn Mawr College in 1934 actually had a master plan for its physical development. Which brings us to the present.

The past decade has wrought far-reaching changes on the Bryn Mawr campus, new buildings and alterations to old buildings, and even more are projected now. But in the absence of a policy for long-term growth, something of the sort that Cram proposed, the college has been forced into a terrible and damaging piecemeal approach. Each college institution and department must now clamor for its own little bit of extra space. For example, the overcrowded Art and Archaeology Library is to expand into a new wing that is to be built in the rear of Thomas Hall, forming a low sloping shed set into the hill. This is a handsome and competent design, but in principle it is simply a shed, the kind of lean-to addition that Dad might have tacked on to the garage when he needed more room for the lawn mower. But this is not the end of it. Now we learn that the Great Hall of Thomas is ill-suited for formal gatherings in part because there is no nearby room to store chairs and tables. So it is proposed that one of the end walls be built inwards *into the hall* to create a closet space — in effect, another shed.

But a college cannot grow by adding a shed here and a shed there. No matter how good the individual sheds are, that is Dogpatch architecture, not the architecture of a beautifully composed campus. Is it not better to concentrate Bryn Mawr's Resources rather than squander-

ing them piecemeal, and build new buildings according to a comprehensive scheme? By throwing up additions and new buildings randomly, we lose the coherent character of the whole campus, so wonderfully perceived by Cram. A well-planned campus is to its individual buildings as a symphony is to its individual notes: each building strikes its own note, superbly clear and distinct, but they add up to something more. Our current policy is the equivalent of turning a Mozart symphony over to a series of boards and committees, none of whom are speaking to one another, and each of which is eagerly tampering with the pitch, the tone and the timber of an individual note.

Bryn Mawr needs a master plan, something on the order of vision, thoughtfulness, and poetry of Cram's scheme. What would such a plan look like? A few common sense rules suggest themselves. First, there ought to be a clear mandate to protect the historic core of the campus — the original quad from Rockefeller to Merion — from unnecessary changes and additions. If the college is to expand into new buildings, they ought to be sited on the perimeter of this traditional campus, as was done when Erdman, Haffner and the Science Building were intelligently and unobtrusively folded around the edges of Bryn Mawr. Secondly, there should be an oversight committee which speaks for the comprehensive architectural environment of the campus, and avoids such well-intentioned but costly blunders as the new metal window surrounds in Taylor.

A campus is like nature in a sense, and, within certain limits, has the ability to repair damage to itself. And Bryn Mawr remains, despite its changes, one of the nation's great campuses — a rich marriage of the picturesque English tradition with the formal planning of the Beaux-Arts. But time grows short and, like nature, the campus can reach a point where too much has been tampered with, exploited and overbuilt, and the original character is gone. We would do well to study Cram's quaint, fading drawing. This campus needs an advocate once more.

Dr. Michael J. Lewis
Growth and Structure of Cities

Editors' note: The following statistics refer to increases in class size in the Anthropology Department over the past few years.

101: Introduction to Physical Anthropology
1986 Fall 79
1990 Fall 117

102: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
1987 Spring 58
1989 Spring 71
1990 Spring 92
1991 Spring 118

106: Sex, Culture, and Society
1986 Fall 27
1988 Fall 117

206: Conflict and Conflict Management
1987 Spring 20
1990 Fall 34

211: African-American Culture and Community
1987 Fall 27
1989 Fall 59

236: Evolution
1987 Fall 16
1990 Fall 40

303: Cultural Theory
1987 Spring 11
1990 Fall 26

— compiled by Sara Rubin

Starting in the late fall, you may find me in multi-cultural Canada, at:

Department of Anthropology
13-15 HM Tory Building
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Canada T6G 2H4

Friends, colleagues, and students, please stay in touch!

— Jean DeBarnardi

BMC: the more things change, the more they stay the same

continued from page 1

large house on a road across from the campus. It was called Llysafan Hall and afforded most of the conveniences of the other dormitories on campus, except that it had no dining room. For meals each student was assigned to one of the other dorms. Most of the rooms were large enough to accommodate 2,3 or even 4 students. There was only one room, which was quite small, [that was] used as a room for one student. It was the former sewing room. It contained a narrow bed, a desk, table and two chairs. Besides that it had a large built-in closet and several deep drawers.

I was one of the students assigned to that house and lucky me, I got that room. Besides the precious privacy it gave me, I had another reason for hoping to get it. I did not want anyone to realize the paucity of my wardrobe. It was the bare minimum, after the additions I had to purchase, such as gym bloomers, red corduroy hockey skirt (red was the class color), books, etc., to carry on satisfactorily.

Once my sister-in-law, Bea, John's wife, asked, early in my college days, how I could feel comfortable in that rich girl's college with my meager resources and clothes. How could I describe to her how rich I felt, with the opportunity of attending any college, and especially Bryn Mawr?

How could I convey to her that marvelous opportunity to participate, not only in the courses that I took, but also in the various activities that were newly opened to me, and oh, how satisfying. Yes, I felt sorry at times that I could not attend certain functions, such as the receptions given by President Thomas to the Freshman Class, because I lacked the proper clothes, but what a small price that was compared to the exuberance and joy that I received from most of my experiences — experiences that I thought I could never hope to have. Thank fortune my values were different from Bea's.

Everywhere that I turned there were riches for me to enjoy. Sometimes these were a response to rather simple things, like the walk on the campus late on evening in the winter. I can still feel the soft, tender snowflakes on my cheeks, the light unsullied snow under my feet, the singing I hear through the lighted windows of one of the dorms that I passed. For one who had lived all her life in a large city, where snow almost immediately turned to slush, this was a treat indescribable.

I felt fortunate that I was a part of that fine academic institution. It offered so many joys for me, both intellectual and emotional. Some courses opened up new horizons or added further material to those I had gathered from the books I had read, whether it was in psychology, biology, or some phases of the evolution of mankind or other areas of the world we live in. I lapped it up like a famished person sitting at a banquet table.

President Thomas was a colorful person with a strong, powerful personality, and left her indelible mark on the college. She felt that Bryn Mawr College should strive not only for high scholastic aims, but also for the education of heart and soul. Foremost in that desire was the hope that the students develop a capacity for caring and sympathy, and above all gain an interest in the world around them.

Another pleasant aspect of studying at Bryn Mawr was the rather close relationship between many of the professors and the students. This is hardly possible in . . . very large universities with their thousands of students. A classic example in

my experience was the time that we, the students, in Dr. Smith's class, upon finding out that she had a birthday in the near future, decided among ourselves that it would be nice to invite her out to dinner to celebrate that occasion, which we did.

TRADITIONS

Our skits and plays, our Big May Day celebrations, and some other special events such as Lantern Night when we first entered college gave our families and friends an opportunity to see us in action. Lantern Night was quite impressive. On that evening, the Freshman class was inducted into the hallowed halls of learning. The Freshmen solemnly marched into the Library Cloisters and lined themselves up against the columns or pillars of the cloisters. Then, the Juniors, in caps and gowns, carrying lit lanterns with red panes of glass (the color of our class) and singing Pallas Athena Thea (a Greek song to the Goddess of Learning), marched in and stationed themselves next to each of us and handed the lanterns over to us.

The Big May Day celebration occurred once each four years. Every student and faculty member was dressed in a costume of the Elizabethan era. There were those of us who performed in the Shakespearean play "Much Ado about Nothing," which was performed on our athletic field. Others, dressed as chimney sweeps, cavorted all over the campus, while ladies and cavaliers, dressed in costumes of that period, were seen here, there, and everywhere. The huge Maypole, bedecked with colored ribbons, had its contingents of dancers. In other words, it was a gay and jolly day for the college and its guests.

Before the graduation exercises, it was the custom of Bryn Mawr to have a party a few days earlier, for our families and friends. It was held outdoors, where tables with all kinds of goodies were placed on the lawn. Each of the graduating class arranged any suitable chairs of theirs here and there on the grounds for their guests, who could walk up to the

tables and get whatever food appealed to them.

Even the campus was at its best on that lovely spring day. The blooming trees added gaiety to the additional color of the tastefully arranged food tables, the colorful cushions on many of the arm chairs that had been taken out of our rooms, as well as to the colorful clothes of the faculty, students, and guests. So my college days were coming to an end. Within a short period of time after the above described party, came graduation day. Westudents and the faculty, dressed in our college caps and gowns, marched gravely on the stretch of lawn between the rows of trees, to the chapel to receive our degrees and honors, after the speeches which are usual at all graduation affairs.

Well, here I stand
With a degree firmly clutched in my hand.
Many pastures before me
So green and inviting
So many roads before me
Some, oh so dull, others exciting.
The expectations of those so near and dear to me
My own dreams and goals of fulfillment
Which shall they be?
My face is aglow,
My eyes may be smiling.
I stand atop of this hill
Inside, oh so trembly.
Dear God, lead me gently
Oh so gently,
To a goal worth attaining.
Passya Reefer 1921
Shana Weiss 1991



Environmental abuse: Czechoslovakia confronts its negligent past

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tion of environmental policy (or any type of policy, for that matter).

Czechoslovakia, along with most former Soviet-satellite nations, endured forty-five years without environmental protection laws, or other restraints against government and industrial environmental abuse. The resulting ecological devastation has garnered Central Europe the dubious distinction of being termed, by environmental experts, one of the most polluted regions on the planet.

The pollution wasn't hard to miss. Crossing the border between Austria and Czechoslovakia with a group of conference participants, I noticed a haze enveloping the horizon in the direction of Bratislava. Clouds of thick, black smoke billowed out of the exhaust pipes of most cars on the road. These were highly polluting Trabants and Wartburgs — automobiles with two-stroke, oil and gas burning engines, found throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Within minutes after arriving in the city of Bratislava, my eyes were watering and I was short of breath. A huge industrial complex, with more than a dozen smokestacks spewing toxic burn-off from various refining processes, greets visitors to Bratislava, which serves as the capital of the Slovak Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Massive, concrete buildings blot the landscape of the city. These cookie-cutter, Stalinesque slabs serve as the primary form of housing for most of the inhabitants of the city. According to two Slovak students I talked to, these high-rises were built by the government about twenty years ago, when it was in a hurry

to end a critical housing shortage. As a result, little thought was given to community planning or the impact of such development on the environment. Builders used inferior materials in the construction of these apartments, along with carcinogenic asbestos insulation. These structures have already begun to decay, and in some cases, literally fall apart.

Unfortunately, as with most of the environmental problems in Central Europe, these apartments represent the level of past governmental awareness concerning the impact of environmental destruction. The Communist government gave little thought to the living conditions of its population, choosing instead to focus on central planning and production quotas. As a result, living conditions are quite poor, and the morale of the general public is low.

To compound problems, the government is currently implementing an austerity program — raising prices and devaluing the national currency. A week before I arrived, utility bills increased 300% and food prices leapt upward 150%.

Lack of money and lack of awareness of the impact of environmental destruction on a population's efficiency and morale, represent two of the biggest problems facing Central Europe at the present moment. Two other serious problems that could potentially hinder the cleanup of environment are: the growing nationalist tensions throughout the region, and the lack of even basic decision-making skills on the part of the general population — both of which are remnants of over 45 years of authoritarian control.

Questionnaires to facilitate salvaging sophomores from slump

By Jennifer Almqvist

Only about one third of Bryn Mawr sophomores have completed the eight page anonymous questionnaire compiled by the Dean's office regarding sophomore perceptions of academic life, social life, diversity and honor code issues during the year reputedly most difficult for Bryn Mawr women. This questionnaire forms part of the system devised by Deans Marcia Hall and Chuck Heyduk in alliance with others in the last eighteen months for obtaining data about the dreaded "sophomore slump." According to Dean Heyduk, the purpose of this system, which will be evaluated and improved for ongoing use, is to see what it is about student life that might need improvement and return to sophomores feedback which will assure them that "they aren't the only ones" who perceive the year as difficult.

Although oral interviews were originally intended to take place in February

to accompany the written data in order that a broader scope of information could be evaluated and returned to the community, all of the Dean's office projects interfered with accomplishing this goal. The oral interview would have afforded each sophomore an opportunity for personal contact with a faculty or staff member, and would have provided some additional reassurance regarding choosing a major, one of the crucial issues facing a second-semester sophomore.

In addition, Dean Heyduk noted that the staff or faculty member would hear about perceptions of Bryn Mawr that overstepped the bounds of his or her particular area of responsibility. For example, Dean Heyduk might obtain feedback about social life or dining services through an oral interview that he might not be privy to in his constant dealings with room draw and other areas of student life.

Recently, sophomore boxes have been

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Students offer new interpretations of family and poverty in the Mississippi Delta

This is the final segment of a three part series on the Mississippi Delta written by students and faculty of the Bryn Mawr College Sociology Department following their trip to Holmes County, Mississippi during Spring Break. Previous segments have addressed political and economic infrastructures in the Delta, Mississippi's educational system, and the role of religion in African American communities in Holmes County.

The Family Andrew Cohen '91

There has been one force, in particular, of many major forces, which has enabled black people to cope with racial, economic, and political oppression time and time again. This force has a stable structure which has dealt positively with a history of external stains, such as slavery, World Wars I&II, the Jim Crow era, as well as many contemporary structural constraints. It has altered among black communities in the north; but its origins can be traced to the rural south, in regions like Holmes County, where black Americans first settled in the New World as slaves. The force that I am describing is the southern black family; its organization is complex, versatile, and extremely structured.

In Holmes County, we saw the existence of this family network manifest in



the extended family, the informal kinship network, the cooperative and communal nature between families and their acceptance of outsiders, the informal adoption and raising of other peoples' children, the strict disciplining of children, the oral tradition, and the strength of the single black mother.

These are just a few examples that each of us found existent in the different families we stayed with. For example, Murphy Gwin, whom Judy Porter stayed with, is a seventy-six year old single mother who works full time as a domestic. She has raised two of her own children and several of her grandchildren. She is currently rearing Chrissy, a thir-

teen year old great granddaughter, who was sent to her at birth by Ms. Gwin's granddaughter. After a break-in in her Chicago home, Chrissy's mother thought it would be safer for Chrissy to grow up in Mississippi with her great Grandmother than in the area of Chicago where she was residing.

It doesn't stop there. Ms. Gwin is also rearing Kimmy, a five year old neighbor's child, because Kimmy's family is too large for her parents to manage financially. Neither Chrissy and nor Kimmy are unhappy in their home. In fact, both refer to Ms. Gwin as their "Mama."

The family with whom I stayed con-

sisted of Barbara Ann Thurmond, a single unemployed mother who was about 25 years of age. She has a six year old son named Ronard. Ronard sees his father, who lives on the other side of Lexington, about one mile away, once a week. Also in the household is Melvin, Barbara Ann's boyfriend, who is about the same age as Barbara Ann. Melvin has a four year old daughter named Deanna to whom Ronard is very close. Deanna and Ronard, though not biologically related, refer to one another as "brother" and "sister."

Melvin's mother and sister also live in the household. Ronard and Deanna refer to them as "Aunty" and "Grandma." All

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Hopi-Navajo conflict veils federal intrusion

By Lilli Perez-Ten Fingers

I would like to share a story with you, a story that is the result of many stories that I have heard and read about as we progressed on our mission to 'study peace.' This story is my version of the perceived reciprocal relationship that the Hopi and Navajo nations have with their land and how that has shifted considerably.

Often when we hear of progress we anticipate a situation that is an improvement over what is current. On the other hand, progress can result in decline. Existentialists view progress as producing anxiety. The point made by them is that as humankind progresses there is the consequent distancing that occurs between humans and nature. As this distancing continues between the individual and his environment there is also disjunction that occurs within the person, leaving an individual "out of balance."

Once upon a time both the Hopi and Navajo lived in harmony. The Hopi shared their knowledge of agriculture with the Navajos and the Navajos shared their knowledge of herding with the Hopi. There was even inter-marriage. Each nation cared for Mother Earth the way the Creator had instructed them to do. So this was then.

Many moons have passed and there have been considerable shifts in the amount of land 'reserved' for the Hopi and Navajo [1850-1991]. Where the Hopi once claimed an area larger than that of the Navajo, they now have lost much of their reservation to the encroachments of the Navajo nation who have become skilled in the utilization of political power exercised in the forms of 'Executive Orders' and 'Congressional Acts.'

Soon 'encroachment' became 'encirclement.' Ultimately the Hopi reservation was encircled by the Navajo Reservation through a series of expansionist tactics first employed in 1850. Many quarrels followed regarding reservation boundaries. Locales designated by the federal government as Joint Use Areas provided channels to vent inter-tribal hostility. One could characterize them as modern-day battle grounds.

Efforts to restore balance were attempted. Compromises were made within and between the two nations, and with the nations and the federal government. Within the Hopi nation compromise was exercised by relinquishing land originally theirs to the Navajo for grazing. The Navajo compromise consisted of those who had resided on the Hopi reservation uprooting their families and moving onto the Navajo reservation. Inter-tribal compromise is seen in the

joint efforts of the Hopi and Navajo negotiating with international coal companies for use of land located on both reservations. Inter-nation compromise for the Navajo is witnessed in their dealings with the federal government in selecting relocation areas known as the New Lands. The inter-nation compromise of the Hopi is their request to the federal government to intervene and assist them in settling the land dispute.

In affording some of these compromises the balance between the people and the land was upset. The Hopi and the Navajo have placed between themselves and their sacred land — distance. For the red race who see themselves as care-takers of the land, this distance is a dishonor. They have also upset the balance within producing feelings of 'disconnectedness' that are heightened by the anxiety born from the fight for sacred lands.

The internal imbalance manifests itself in self-destructive behaviours. The alcohol death rate of American Indians to all US races is over 4 to 1. The suicide death rate of American Indians to all US races is 15 to 11.7. The tuberculosis death rate of American Indians to all US races is 5 to 1. The tuberculosis death rate was selected to indicate the socio-economic and health related conditions that exists for American Indians. [All ratios are age-adjusted per 100,000 population for 1987](1). Poverty is high among American Indians: in 1980, 28.2 percent lived below the poverty level, compared with the 12.4 overall in the U.S.(2).

Envision the imbalance that exists between the tribe and the land as well as within the individuals themselves. It is blatantly evident that they have distanced themselves from each other. Many do not see that together they are members of the Red race of people.

Imagine a situation where group differences are played up by outside interest groups. In this scenario the feelings of insecurity and instability are intensified by one group (the Hopi) being physically surrounded by the other (the Navajo) with no acceptable resolution to the tension in sight. In a stretch of the imagination, one could almost predict the subtle presence of group paranoia in Hopiland. A paranoia manifested in tribal legisla-

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Breach of the Peace

The editor of *Lies of Our Times* ("a magazine to correct the record") has granted *The College News* permission to reprint the following article. K.P. Foerstel is a political reporter based in Washington, D.C. The article appeared in the April 1991 issue of *LOOT*.

By K.P. Foerstel

More than 200 women from ten Arab countries, the United States, Europe, and Asia — many with their children — set off December 5, 1990, from Tunisia on a peace ship bound for Iraq. Organized by the Union of Arab Women, the ship stopped at ports along the Mediterranean and Red Sea picking up food and medicine to deliver to the children of Iraq and Kuwait. While the trip was scheduled to last just two weeks, the women did not reach their destination until January 14, two days before the U.S. began bombing Iraq. The delay was caused when multinational military forces, led by the U.S., stopped and boarded the peace ship, beating the women and holding them captive for ten days.

In the December 27 *Washington Post* article, "U.S. Sailors, Crew Scuffle on Iraqi Ship" (Guy Gugliotta, p. A20), a Navy lieutenant was quoted saying that the Navy sent a "small boarding party by helicopter" to determine if the ship was carrying cargo prohibited under United Nations sanctions against Iraq. A *Los Angeles Times* article the previous day quoted a navy commander saying the

assault lasted for 30 minutes during which time sailors fired a smoke grenade and a noisemaker grenade "for crowd control." The commander said the ship was then "secured" and escorted to an anchorage ("Gulf 'Peace Ship' Stormed, December 26, p. A1).

A Violent Assault

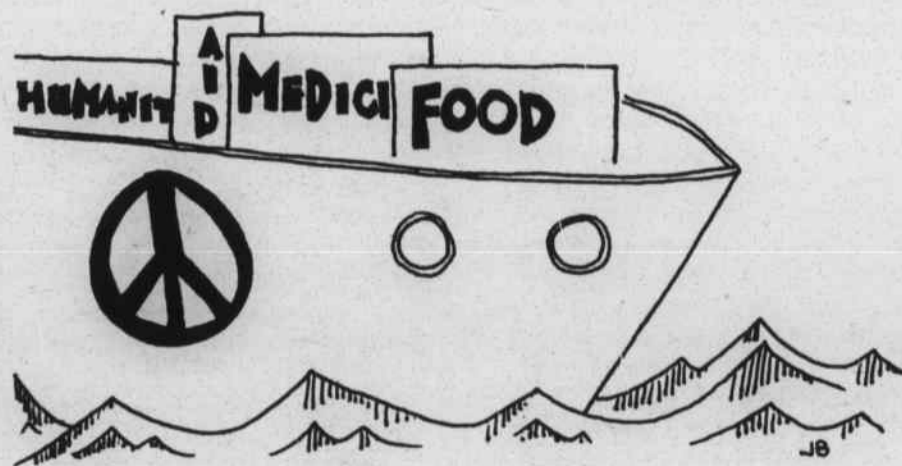
But in an interview with this writer, Faye Williams, one of two American women on the ship, said the assault, which included life threats to the women and crew, continued for ten hours. At one point, Williams found the ship's captain handcuffed. A sailor was sticking a gun in the captain's neck, threatening to shoot. "Marines came from all sides with their guns," Williams said. "They didn't give us any orders. They came on board hitting and kicking... firing shots over our heads."

Williams, an aide to Rep. Mervyn Dymally (Dem.-Calif.), said more than 75 sailors — described by the *Post* as an "inspection team" — boarded the ship from helicopters and surrounding warships. Several of the sailors entered the bedroom of a Japanese woman suffering from multiple sclerosis and began hitting her with the butts of their rifles. Two other women who were pregnant began hemorrhaging from the blows to their backs, chests, and stomachs. In the days following the assault, another woman became violently ill with an intestinal disorder, Williams said. Her condition had been aggravated by the dwindling supply of water on the ship. A Navy doctor brought aboard found the

woman's blood pressure to be dangerously low. A helicopter was called, and the woman was flown to a hospital. But the *Post* reported that a Navy lieutenant said the doctor sent to the ship found no serious illness. "The [captain] agreed the passengers did not need medical attention," the lieutenant told reporters. A Pentagon spokesman told the *New York Times* that "several unarmed members of the ship's crew lunged for the weapons carried by the American sailors" (Philip Shenon, "Ship with Iraq Aid Is Seized Off Oman," December 27, p. A13).

Williams said that before the assault the women had been instructed not to physically resist the sailors. She said some women tried to engage the sailor in conversation, while others prayed or sang peace songs and held banners. The few

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International community ignores human rights abuses in Northern Ireland

By Sharon Stankevich

"It has long been a tradition at the New York Times to paint the Irish as a naturally and irreconcilably querulous lot. Never mind the fact that they have endured nine hundred years of violent colonial rule, genocidal famines and wars, torture, partition, disenfranchisement, de-culturalization, and bowels of British slave ships (yes, the Irish stood shoulder to shoulder with Africans in the flesh markets). They're depicted as an inexplicably bellicose bunch..."

- Gerry O'Sullivan

At the Socialist Scholars Conference held 6-7 April in New York City, I attended a panel discussion entitled "Ireland's Unfinished Revolution: 75 Years On." The speakers were Mary Nelis, a community activist from Derry, Ireland; Gerry O'Sullivan, co-author of *The "Terrorism" Industry*, with Edward S. Herman; Margie Bernard of the Institute for Policy Studies; and Anne Gaughan, an attorney from American Protestants for Truth About Ireland.

To begin with, I learned that the depiction of war in Northern Ireland as a Catholic versus Protestant conflict is simplistic and, in many ways, completely false. It is more a battle of Nationalists—who seek the right to self-determination and the abolition of Ireland's status as a British colony—and Unionists. Unionist positions and support is complex. Many Unionists wish to maintain the status quo—they really want Ireland to remain a British colony. Others feel they lack sufficient power to change the current situation; and others remain silent out of fear. Nevertheless, because about 90% of Nationalist support comes from Catholics, religion is a factor often used for divide and conquer purposes by both the British government and the British Press Agency. And religious discrimination in Northern Ireland operates much like racism does in South Africa.

The problems of Northern Ireland are no different from those in any other colonized or neo-colonized region. There is, first and foremost, widespread abuse of human rights by the occupying power. Additionally, as Margie Bernard pointed out, Northern Ireland has virtually no industrial base and has been victimized by underdevelopment (i.e., capital flight, resource underdevelopment, destruction of infrastructures, etc.). She said that the reason Northern Ireland is not recognized as being part of the Third World is simply because the British government does not recognize it as such, and the British government's global influence ensures that the World Bank and the IMF pay it no mind. Consequently, no one ever reads about Northern Ireland in textbooks on development.

Mary Ellis, 56, has long been active in the struggle for liberation in Northern Ireland. She spoke to us about life under British occupation, including "house searches" (a euphemism for destroying personal property), arrest, detainment and interrogation, employment discrimination and legal discrimination. To illustrate the conditions under which people live, here is an in-depth explanation of a "house search." Bear in mind that in the past 20 years, this has happened (in varying degrees) to 400,000 homes. This has occurred even though only 175,000 homes are designated as being nationalist. Mary Nelis said:

"If you don't open the door when they knock, they take a sledge hammer and open it themselves. They come in with their guns and their uniforms and tell whatever occupants are there to leave the room while they search. They told me and my husband we had to go into a room and stay there—at gun point they're

doing this to me... when I resisted and said that I'd like to see what they're doing, they told me that by law I could not. I hadn't known that, but then the laws change so often there, it's hard to keep track of them. Of course, it has been known for them to plant bombs, or plant ammunition. It's also known that they may steal your property..."

"They bring a dog with them; the dog is trained to sniff out explosives. Then behind the guys with the guns come these other guys. They carry boxes with a wide variety of tools... power drills and hack saws and hammers and whatever. They're the guys who are going to take up the floor boards and knock down walls, or destroy your furniture. Then there's the guy with the clipboard who goes around your house and checks to see if anything has changed since the last time they were there..."

"When they were in my house, they were very abusive. When I asked them why they were searching my house they told me, 'If you want to know, you can go to the morgue when this is finished.' That alarmed me considerably. Those of you who have been to the north of Ireland know that when your children go out you've no guarantee that they'll come back again. Twelve nationalist people had been assassinated in two weeks, so I was worried. I thought maybe some of my children had been killed."

"And all through the house search they kept passing remarks and even called themselves Irish names. One would say, 'Well, Shamus, have you ever been to the morgue?' And the other guy would say, 'No, Matty, I never been to the morgue.' And it got to the point that I said something and he struck me across the face..."

"It took them 2 1/2 hours. One of them reads all your papers, your books, even little bits of paper in your wastepaper basket; they open your cash tin, look at your bank accounts. There's a guy who sits there specifically in order to copy down all the addresses and phone numbers in your address book... I was lucky—all they did was take up a few floorboards in my daughter's room and one on the top landing; at least my house was still habitable... I've seen houses where the people have to move out because their water mains have been cut, or the

floors dug up or their walls knocked down."

Mrs. Nelis also spoke in great detail about the massive human rights abuses which have been thoroughly documented. For example, she said:

"There is a whole record of torture and inhuman treatment that goes on in the interrogation centers. I'm not talking about Chile or Argentina or El Salvador or South Africa. I'm talking about a place that prides itself on democracy and justice. I'm talking about a government that allows poor and innocent human beings in interrogation centers to have hoods put over their heads, and to be probed with electric shock, and to be taken up in helicopters and dropped out... Of the 11 cases that were taken to the European Court of Human Rights, you might be interested to know, 10 of those people have since died. They died because of the treatment they received in the interrogation centers."

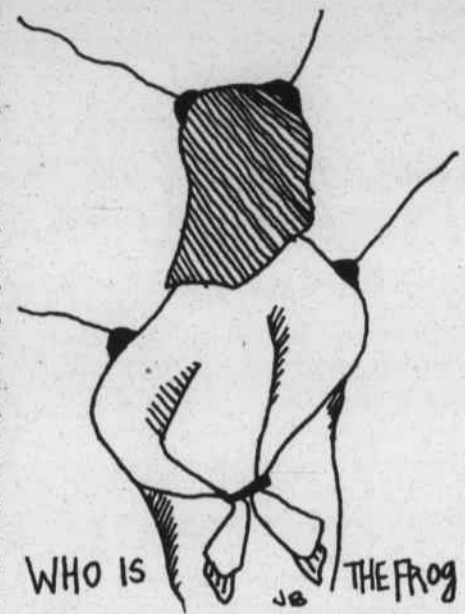
Job discrimination, based on religion (in the assumption that religion is the absolute determining factor of one's politics), is such that the unemployment rate is constantly above 50% in Catholic areas. The most basic legal principles, such as the right to remain silent, do not exist. "If you talk while you're being interrogated, if you make a confession, you are charged. If you remain silent, you are also charged," says Mary. Additionally she informed us that,

"A new law is being enacted this month, in April. It states that if you have in your possession items of a 'suspicious' nature—and they give you a list: fishing line, batteries, coffee grinders—if you are found with those items in your possession and they decide you are suspicious, the charge is conspiracy, and the penalty is life imprisonment."

OUR PAPER OF RECORD

Gerry O'Sullivan presented an analysis of *New York Times* coverage of Ireland from 1916 to 1988 (his empirical analysis can be found in *The "Terrorism" Industry*). He summed up his findings as follows:

To the *Times*, the Irish are "a people without politics or history. They only have complaints. And most, if not all, *Times* stories on Northern Ireland carry Lon-



WHO IS THE FROG

don datelines. Readers are thus guaranteed the British-eye view of events there."

This bias is now legally entrenched under the October 1988 Temporary Provisions Acts which make it "illegal to print or broadcast statements by Irish nationalists or their 'sympathizers,'" despite the fact that three of eleven banned organizations are entirely legal. The strife in Northern Ireland is always depicted in the U.S. mainstream press as a primeval blood-feud, the nationalist community is painted as a nest of mindless terrorists, and the six counties are habitually identified as 'Ulster.' To call the North 'Ulster' is, essentially, to take sides in the struggle—'Ulster' is a unionist/loyalist label, and its continued use is encouraged by groups like the British Press Agency. And *Times* writers such as Sheila Rule are always happy to oblige the BPA insofar as this semi-official body has become her sole source of information about Ireland..."

Not only are Americans spoon-fed disinformation about Northern Ireland; we are subject to crude censorship as well. For example, a few years ago Mary Ellis was scheduled to do a live television interview here in Philadelphia. About five minutes before air time, sponsors of the program telephoned the studio and pressured the station to cancel it. The sponsors had received a phone call from the British Embassy shortly before call-

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Social Darwinian scholar traumatized by change in elite marital patterns

By Katie Kerr

Because of the positive response to the last article I presented, I dug up one more I thought would be of interest.

I hope that the president of Harvard and professors at Columbia find better uses of their time these days!

OHIO STATE JOURNAL, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1903

GIRL GRADUATES DO NOT AS RULE MARRY

Educational Culture, Statistics Disclose, Has a Tendency to Discourage Matrimony, Especially Among Women

State Journal Special Dispatch

NEW YORK, Feb 11: The declaration of Charles W. Elliot, president of Harvard University, that education reduces the reproduction of the human species, and the publication of a group of statistics to prove his assertion, has startled the college world.

Careful research in the field of vital statistics by eminent physiologists in this city confirms Professor Elliot's findings generally.

While Harvard's professor has ascertained that college men failed to reproduce themselves, falling 28 per cent short of it, a vastly more astounding condition is found in the case of college women.

Only about one-half of the American girls who graduate from colleges marry, and in one instance that is a matter of statistical record, and is here made public for the first time, one child was the net production in 14 years of a class of 26 women graduates from Bryn Mawr college, ten of whom married.

ONE CHILD ONLY BORN

This was the class of '89, and the child is Margaret Rhoades Ladd, the daughter of Mrs. William Coffin Ladd of Haverford, Pa., who married five years after her graduation. Margaret is now 4 years old.

Strangely contrasting with this, it is pointed out, the government statistics show nine out of every ten American women marry, and in 1900 an average of 4.7 children had been born to each wife.

Professor Edward Thorndike, head of the department of physiology in the Teachers' College of Columbia University, found, by statistics gathered at the New York university, that about seven-eighths as many college men marry as do native-born white males. He also discovered the fact that the ratio of college women who marry, to the average, is as "four or five to eight."

FEWER EDUCATED PEOPLE WED.

"It cannot be denied that fewer highly educated people marry than do the aver-

age, and that the production of children is less," he said. "I have given considerable time to this question, especially in the case of women college graduates."

"In Copenhagen, Denmark, if my memory serves me correctly, a record has been kept for any years, showing comparisons between the results of marriages of uneducated artisans and the highly cultured classes."

"It was found that in ten generations, I believe, the families of the educated classes became entirely extinct, while those of the artisans multiplied normally and the children of the latter rose to the professions, sciences and arts."

Professor Thorndike produced a number of statistical findings he had recently made and conclusions reached bearing on conjugal conditions in America.

Selecting haphazard 1128 names of eminent Americans, all of whom were possessed of high, if not college, education, the professor formed this table:

MARRIED MEN FORGE AHEAD.

"Of 286 eminent men between 60 and 70 years old, 88 per cent are married, whole married population of that age being 93 per cent."

"Of 347 eminent men between 50 and 60, 88 per cent are married; whole popu-

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Recalling the other side of glory

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men passengers, husbands of some of the women, were told not to get involved.

Williams said that after the initial attack, many of the sailors privately admitted they had been told the night before the raid that the ship had been on a mission of peace and that the passengers were mainly women and children. She said they expressed discomfort with the assault.

Eventually, after the ten-hour assault, military officials told the women they wanted to search the ship to be sure it was not carrying any supplies prohibited under United Nations sanctions. Williams noted that the ship had been under surveillance by military ships and planes since beginning its mission, but it was not until it entered the Arabian Sea on December 26 that an assault was launched against it. She added that before their departure the women had informed the U.N. of their mission — to bring food, milk, and medicine for children — and the U.N. had voiced no objections.

"We were not breaking a trade embargo," Williams said, "We weren't trading anything." After searching the ship, Navy commanders demanded the removal of sugar, which they evidently felt did not qualify as humanitarian food and medicine. The ship was detained for another two weeks. On January 10 a letter from the U.S. embassy arrived with an additional list of supplies said to be in

violation of the resolution, including rice, cooking oil, and spaghetti which had been brought for consumption by the women themselves. The women agreed to give up the supplies on the condition they be delivered to the children of the Sudan.

The ship finally was allowed to reach Basra, Iraq, on January 14. The U.S. had threatened to start bombing on January 15. Williams and many other women caught planes out of Baghdad on the morning of January 15. U.S. bombing began less than 48 hours later. Williams said she believes the ship was destroyed by bombing raids before its contents could be distributed.

Lies of Our Times
Institute for Media Analysis, Inc.
Sheridan Square Press, Inc.
145 West 4th Street
New York, NY 10012
(annual subscription price \$24)

Sharon Stankevich '91 responds:

I have but one fundamental question: Should we continue to show our support of such abhorrent acts of aggression and brutality against pregnant women, women, children and men as these, with symbols as unifying as yellow ribbons and American flags? Read this article a second time. Examine your conscience. Obtain the facts before jumping onto this nation's bandwagon blindly. There is no glory in war.



Surveying sophomores to evaluate student life

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stuffed with the questionnaires so that those who have not yet completed a survey may do so. Once the data is compiled from this larger group of sophomores, it will be compared to the perceptions of the smaller group who returned their surveys earlier in the year to evaluate the ways opinions of Bryn Mawr vary from semester to semester. Moreover, a faculty/student committee will be appointed to work with the deans next year as they evaluate the data and begin to advocate change on campus. The data from the sophomore survey will also be distributed to a "broad range of departments, services, and student leadership groups," said Dean Heyduk.

Now that the survey portion of this system is in place, Dean Heyduk foresees that the oral interview phase will indeed take place next year, complementing the surveys already collected. Over time, these questionnaires and interviews

will function much like the senior exit interviews. In fact, the data may be compared to senior perceptions in the past and two years from now to assess whether those areas that were found by sophomores to be lacking at the college differ from senior perceptions and whether two years from now, when the same group is interviewed as they depart from the college, some change has been effected satisfactorily.

Most of all, this information will be useful to ascertain the ways the college atmosphere as changed over time. Once various groups on campus have a better sense of sophomore experience, perhaps some measures will be taken to rid the second year here of the difficulties it has entailed for many sophomores. Although Dean Heyduk feels the data will have many uses, one primary function of this system will be to formulate "an ever-more articulate perception of the value of Bryn Mawr as a women's college."



Family networks and survival in southern black communities

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the adults in the household take responsibility for raising the children. When Deanna and Ronald need help or assistance, they are equally apt to call upon their Aunt as they are their mother or father. Ms. Gwin and Barbara Ann's families illustrate only a fraction of the southern black family's uniqueness. Both clearly illustrate the flexibility and informal organization of the family, but understanding properly why these features exist and their functional value, for the outside observer, simply requires an open mind. Researchers studying the black family in northern and southern regions have often misinterpreted households like Ms. Gwin's and Barbara Ann's as being illustrative of disorganization and abnormality.

On the contrary, this familial network is highly organized and very important. In fact, its existence isn't just functional to the family, but additionally to the needs of the community. Kenny Sallis, a fifteen year old boy whom Eric and Louis stayed with, stated that homelessness is not a problem in Holmes County, because there is a general belief among families that no one should live without a roof over their head. Because it is unusual for persons in the Southern black community to be without kin, whether biological or informal, those in need of shelter are usually taken into the home of someone in the community.

Also, the family structure helps to compensate for the disproportionately large number of female headed households in the Delta region. The number of female headed households is incredibly high. Because there are very few job opportunities for black men, many have migrated out of the Delta in search of employment to northern cities, such as Chicago, Detroit and New York. Many of the men residing in the Delta are considered unmarriageable by the women, because they have no steady source of

income. As a result, many women consciously have children out of wedlock, and raise them, in some cases, with the assistance of their fathers. However, in many instances, they raise them with the assistance of a boyfriend, like Barbara Ann, and always with the help of extended and informal kin.

The assistance from kin is very important. There's always an adult present to care for the children if, as is often the case, the mother needs to work fourteen or more hours a day, or the father or boyfriend must leave the region in search for employment to support the family. Assistance will always be present, either from a parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent, informal kin, or neighbor, to give the child guidance, encouragement, protection, and discipline.

During my stay, I noticed that Deanna and Ronald, Melvin's daughter and Barbara Ann's son, were extremely well behaved. When they approached me for assistance (most often, to pull their toys down from high shelves), they would usually say "please" and "thank you." When they forgot to use these and similar terms (which wasn't often), Barbara Ann was quick to notify them of their mistake. She would say in sharp raised tone, "Go back there now and say 'Thank you Andy' or 'I'll give you a whuppin' you won't be thankful for.'" Barbara Ann's threat and its deliverance are not unusual. Discipline is a strict aspect in the family household and it can come from any relative, informal or biological.

In addition, when "whuppings" (the use of a belt or a strap on a child) are administered, there are informal norms which govern its course. Barbara Ann told me that a child is rarely given a whupping by an adult immediately after the misdeed. Instead, it is done at a later period of time (hours or even days later) when the adult is less angry, and therefore, less apt to inflict injury to the child.

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Men are afraid to marry women with superior minds

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lation, 92.

"Of 342 eminent men between 40 and 50, 88 per cent are married; whole population, 89.

"Of 243 eminent men between 30 and 40, 85 per cent are married; whole population, 85 per cent."

Of college women, some of Professor Thorndike's conclusions are:

"The living graduates of Vassar, Smith and Wellesley furnish us with a representative body of several thousand college women whose conjugal relations I have ascertained from alumnae catalogues. I find that of graduates from 1880 through 1884, 55 per cent married. Of graduates from 1898 through 1899 only 5.5 per cent married. I find that the proportion of college women who married has been growing smaller and smaller in the last twenty years.

"About 45 per cent of all women college graduates marry, while of the female population at large who reach 40, 90 per cent marry.

"It is absurd to suppose that college women differ enough from others in not possessing equal attractiveness to account for this peculiarity.

LESS INCLINED TO MARRY.

"We are, therefore, led to conclude that the reason for it is that the college graduate has been growing less and less inclined to get married, or less able, or both.

"It has been said that college training unfits women for marriage and prejudices them against it — that intellectual pursuits weaken womanly instincts.

"The Collegiate Alumnae association has alleged that the explanation of failure of college women to marry was their adoption of a higher standard of husbands. This report also pays a tribute to male modesty in emphasizing the unwillingness of men to marry college women because they feel themselves intellectually inferior.

"The influence upon women's attitude toward marriage, of the chance to gain an independent income in the professions, trade and industry is hard to measure.

"The last explanation is the mere fact of the withdrawal of college women from opportunities of marriage for four years."

Honour Board Abstracts

The following are two abstracts of cases that the Honor Board sat upon. One is social, the other is academic. The facts that are presented in these abstracts are the facts presented by the individuals involved through their written statements, and the testimony of the students and all other involved, present at the hearings. In cases of exclusion, or separation, the Honor Board can only make a recommendation to the President of the College. The president then has the right to uphold, overturn or ask for a new hearing. All names have been changed.

The case of the missing exam

It was brought to the attention of the Honor Board that someone had taken an exam from Thomas that belonged to someone else. The Person it belonged to did not take it as she was in the office of the Professor who gave the exam at the time that it was taken. The Professor notified the student whom he thought had taken the exam and informed her to report to the Honor Board which she did. The formal charge was that the student removed an exam from Thomas (during self-scheduled exams) under false pretenses. It was an exam for an advanced level course in her major. (The name used to sign out the exam was that of a graduate student in the class).

The student denied at first that she

was in Thomas; later in the questioning, however, she confirmed that she had been around Thomas at approximately the time the exam was removed. The student was unable to say anything with certainty, and during deliberations, it was discovered that the student misrepresented herself several times. When she was recalled by the board to answer further questions, inconsistencies began to surface repeatedly. After contacting people whom the student claimed to be with the day the exam was taken, it was determined that she did sign out an exam that was in a line consistent with the last name signed for the exam, and inconsistent with the last name of the student.

After receiving this information the

Board reviewed past conduct of the student as she had been involved with the Honor Board in a previous case. The other case involving an exam that was taken and then returned. Bearing in mind the decision of the previous case, the false statements made regarding her actions, the premeditation involved in the act of removing the exam, and the students apparent disregard for the Honor Code in regards to academics, the Board recommended to the President of the College that the student be excluded. An automatic appeal was undertaken, and the President upheld the decision to exclude.

Contenders in mimetic dual sacrifice all in the name of love

The following abstract is presented to the community with the evidence that was presented by the involved students. These are the facts as were presented to the Honor Board. An abstract is not meant to dispel rumors about any case in regards to it; it is meant as an example of what the Honor Board does behind closed doors. Abstracts allow you, the community, to see what sort of things are brought before the Honor Board, and how they are handled. They are meant to allow you an insight while maintaining confidentiality. Due to the size of this community, it is impossible for every community member to be ignorant of the identities of the person(s) involved. This is the reason for the time lapse that occurs between the hearing and an abstract. I apologize for the lateness of these abstracts. They were meant to come out in March, in accordance with the Plenary resolution. These cases were heard at least one year ago, in concordance with the Plenary resolution.

This was a social dispute involving Marie and Susan which has been ongoing for a period now in excess of two academic years. It appears to have started in October of 1987 when it became apparent to Susan that she was dating the same man, Alan '90, a University of Pennsylvania student, as Marie; the ensuing attempts to resolve this situation generated considerable hostility and ill-will. The problem was first brought to the attention of the Honor Board in March 1988 by Susan, who expressed great concern regarding alleged acts of harassment and slander. It was obvious even then that this dispute stretched beyond the two protagonists to include a large number of others.

A series of mediations took place in March and April of 1988 — the resolution of these mediations was that both parties attempt to ignore the gossip circulating and rather than indulge in further escalation, if either party had specific concerns they should contact the Honor Board. Soon after this resolution was reached, the Board was contacted by the Dean's office expressing concern about this nature of the dispute. It was their recommendation that both parties seek counselling, individually and together. The Board concurred and a letter urging such action was sent in April of 1988.

At this juncture, it is important to highlight the unwillingness of either party to acknowledge responsibility: neither Susan nor Marie could cast themselves as anything other than the victim in this situation. This propensity to deny involvement also lead to a distinct inability to follow any resolution the Board could make. Notwithstanding, the dispute continued.

However, while the Board was aware of further incidents, the case was not brought to the Board's attention for action again until February 1989. In the in-

terim the Board was informed of the "bitch" letters [Susan received at least two letters, sent to her home address, which contained a single sheet of white paper with the word "bitch" inscribed and circled in red. These letters arrived during the summer of 1988; a further letter arrived during the Christmas of 1988. They were postmarked variously from Florida and Chicago. The Board are not in possession of these letters] and the dead flowers [Susan claims to have received on Valentine's Day 1989, a box of dead flowers, gifted wrapped and bedecked in black ribbons. The Board are in possession of said flower box and ribbons.]

The case was brought to the Board's attention by Susan who claimed to have been physically assaulted by Alan at a concert in Founders Hall during late February. She confronted both Alan and Marie by letter — the ensuing responses were of such a nature that Susan thought it necessary that the Honor Board convene a Hearing. In consultation with Susan, Marie and the Dean's office, the Honor Board determined that a hearing was indeed warranted. Initially scheduled for March 22, it was postponed a week when Marie was involved in a car accident.

The Board convened at 7:00 pm to read statements and to discuss procedural matters. The Board anticipated that the hearing would begin at 8:00, however, as it was necessary that Marie's statement be transcribed and copied, the hearing could not begin until 9:00 when the copies were completed. In the interim, Marie encountered Susan and was so distressed by this meeting that her initial reaction was to withdraw from the hearing. After an hour of shuttle mediation between the parties and determining the logistics of the hearing [Initially, Marie felt it necessary to be supported by Alan during the taking of testimony. However, as this was not procedurally sanctioned, a compromise was reached such that Marie could call for time out at any point during the hearing and go to Alan], the Board began taking testimony at 10:00 pm. [In the course of this testimony, Marie produced a statement written by an ex-suitemate testifying to Susan's instability.] Evidence was taken until 6:00 am when it became apparent that members of the Board were no longer capable of dedicating necessary level of attention and energy to the task at hand. At this point, the Board had completed hearing testimony from Susan, her witness Anne, Alan and had heard about 10 minutes of preliminary comments from Marie. It was already apparent that this dispute was far more serious than was initially believed. Accusations of harassment, slander, libel, theft, trespass, threats of physical violence and mail fraud were made by both parties and the recitation of events implicating either party seemed endless. It was also clear that this dispute had expanded to encompass approximately 30 members of the Bi-College

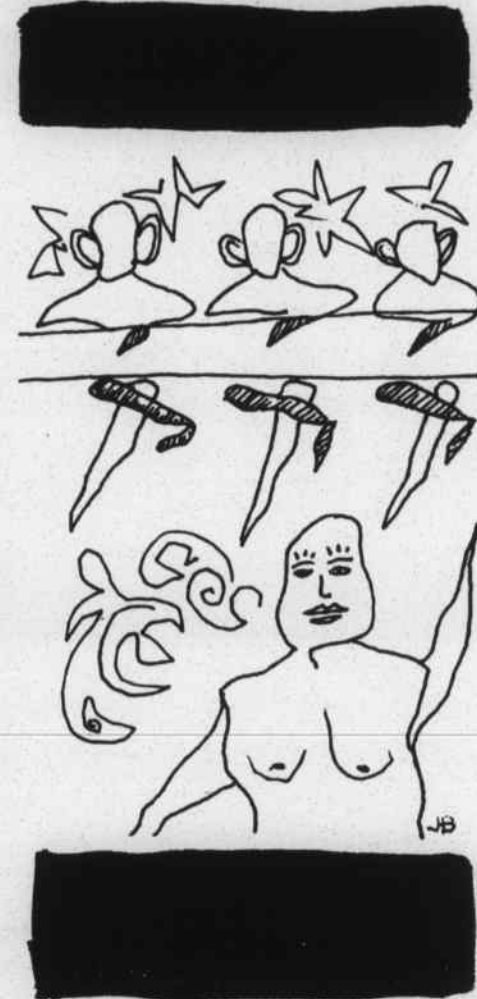
community.

Plans were made to reconvene the same evening, however, the Head of the Board became ill and was confined to the infirmary. Furthermore, Susan had returned home to Chicago the following day and Marie had gone to New York. The hearing was resumed on 5 April, 1989 at 7:30 pm and the board began taking testimony at 8:30. The Board heard from Marie for the next 4 and 1/2 hours. Deliberations lasted until 4:30 am. (In the course of those deliberations the Board listened to the answering machine messages left by Marie for Susan.)

A number of issues were raised during deliberations. Board members expressed great concern regarding the stability of either party. The tendency recognized earlier to cast oneself as the blameless victim continued and it was impossible for either party to acknowledge any hint of responsibility. Indeed, although the Board is not qualified to determine psychological well being, it was the Board's opinion within the Board's limited experience that both parties were undeniably disturbed. The Board felt that it was vital that they obtain professional help immediately. The Board was also concerned by the irrepressible manner in which this dispute spread beyond the protagonists. The involvement of countless others made it impossible for the dispute to end quickly or quietly — the community's well being was put in jeopardy by this persistent factionalism and siege-like mentality. The Board was determined that the community no longer be exposed to this level of hostility.

Furthermore, there was considerable concern that both parties were not demonstrating any real understanding of the Honor Code or of the values it enshrines — the absence of respect for others, responsibility for self and personal integrity are at the heart of this case. Tangential to this disrespect, there were a number of occasions when, by cross-referencing testimony, it was obvious that both parties were not telling the Board the entire truth. It was also obvious that both parties had, at various points, attempting to circumvent due process — a number of extremely disruptive, threatening and even illegal incidents were not reported. This failure to report incidents to any of the appropriate authorities including the Honor Board, the Honor Council, security or the Police calls into question both their authenticity and the motivations of either party.

A further area of concern was the degree of involvement which could be ascribed to Alan in this dispute. It was the opinion of the Board that he played a greater role than was readily apparent. There was considerable disquiet at the thought of his continued access to the Bi-College community. Although at the time there was little substantial evidence to demonstrate his culpability, subsequent to the hearing the Board has been made



aware of a number of alarming facts — Alan worked for the University of Pennsylvania BioMedical Research Unit where he was responsible for dissection among other things [Marie claims to have received a box through the mail containing a dissected rat and fecal matter]; allegedly he is also responsible for acts of physical violence toward one Mawrter in particular. The Board recognizes that his actions are not the responsibility of Susan or Marie, but the Board is still concerned about his access to Bryn Mawr.

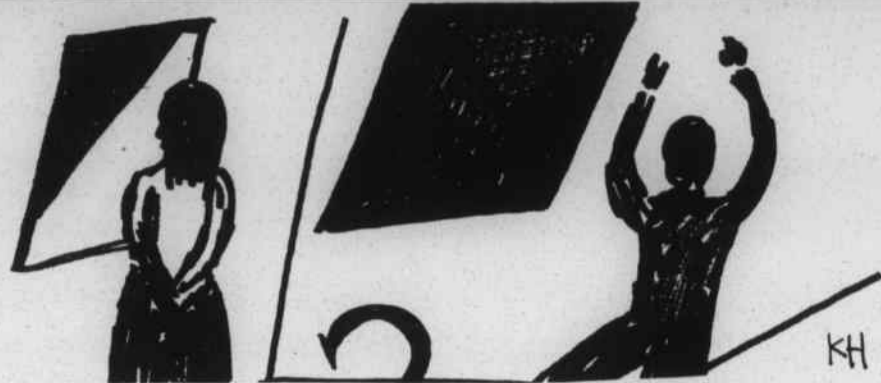
This whole complex of issues is founded on two basic concerns: firstly for the well-being of the students involved and secondly, for the well-being of the community at large. It was these concerns that underwrote the Board's resolutions which were presented to Susan and Marie on April 7, 1989.

After careful consideration, it was decided that owing to the protracted nature of this dispute and its inherent inconsistencies, that any attempt to ascertain the actual sequence of events and their perpetrators was futile, and so, apportioning blame was therefore impossible. The Board therefore agreed that any resolution must affect both parties equally.

Be it therefore resolved that Marie and Susan must undertake the following:

- 1) before the end of the Spring Semester 1989, joint counseling sessions must take place. The aim of these sessions is to develop a less destructive pattern of interaction;
- 2) prior to resuming at Bryn Mawr, individual counselling must be in progress and should continue to the satisfaction of the counsellor; and
- 3) for the next year of Bryn Mawr enrollment, residential privileges shall be restricted — access to tri-college housing shall be denied. It has been determined that although the Board can not stop this

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"New Visions for Women's (Corporate) Leadership" conference disappoints

By Vicky Maxon, Catherine Payne, and Sara Rubin

"New Visions for Women's Leadership," a conference hosted by Bucknell on the weekend of April 5, was attended by Mawrters Jessica Heard, Vicky Maxon, Catherine Payne, and Sara Rubin.

We thought it very surprising that the conference was organized and carried out as if women at the conference were starting from scratch, or reinventing the wheel. The focus of the discussions were debates which were resolved in the women's community twenty years ago: among the organizers, the keynote speakers, and the vast majority of participants there was no sense of women's history or community. Even more frightening: there was virtually no mention of "real world" patriarchal opposition to the aims of the feminist movement, and blame for "failures" — such as the failure of passing the ERA Bill in Congress — was put solely on the women of the movement, not on the Congress which would only allow it with a time restraint and eventually would not even pass it.

The conference organizers and some workshop leaders spoke of the women's movement (or "radical feminists") as if it were a thing of the past, an anomaly that existed only for one brief moment in the sixties, and never previous to or after that. Participants in the conference seemed to have no background in feminist or any other theory, and a lack of preparation or understanding of basic feminist principles.

The "new visions of women's leadership" presented at the conference seemed applicable only to the future corporate managers of America. Patriarchal oppression (though not conceived as such, and certainly not mentioned as such) was vaguely addressed in the sphere of Wall Street and such elite jobs as CEOs, but not in any other less-elite careers or other social institutions such as the family, education, religion, for example.

Women and their achievements were removed from the social context of patriarchal oppression which essentially put the blame of "failure" on the victims by removing the oppressors and their motives for not sharing power from the

formula. No outside economic, political, or social forces were explored and the result was a narrow focus on women which did not relate to other oppression of women in the world today or through time. Case histories presented in the panel discussion and the keynote lectures made these women sound as if they were extraordinary in this man's world, and would remain so.

No sense of sisterhood with others at the conference or those not able (or not invited) to attend, such as women of color, was considered. The entire weekend's message seemed to be targeted toward white, upper middle class women, with no mention of those absent. (Men were actually in leadership positions in the conference.)

Despite the organization of the directors, there were some elements of feminism in the workshops, though they did not seem to be recognized or highly promoted. One workshop that worked — "Choices and Challenges: Women in School Administration" — provided information about access to positions, support networks, and organizations, and made no assumptions about how women (as a biological entity) lead in any particular fashion.

A brief summary of the keynote and featured speakers may give a clearer picture:

Sally Helgesen, author of *The Female Advantage: Women's ways of Leadership*. Writes speeches for Fortune 100 company leaders and freelances for *Vogue*.

Betty Williams, peace activist, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Ireland. Called feminists "dirty, smelly, needing custom-made bras, greasy haired." Wouldn't stop with stories about how her sons are afraid to cry, how they're sensitive, etc. Finally someone asked her if she had daughters, and she replied, "two." *Carole Napolitano*, founder of "Synergies," or communication counseling for larger companies, corporations, the military. She gave us the NASA Moon Exercise (most of you probably tried this in Junior High) to facilitate consensus decision making. This exercise seemed designed to make us feel good about ourselves early on, to make us think

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Coming to terms with the failings of Alcoholics Anonymous

By Kelly Farrelly

Many addiction treatment programs have been re-evaluating their methods in caring for women. These support groups and agencies are realizing that women's needs are not being addressed in mainstream programs. Most of the traditional rehabilitation programs were designed by men for men in recovery. Women are not treated as women, but as men, in the structure of the traditional methods. Detoxification units and inpatient treatment centers are not usually designed to accommodate women with children. This unspecific treatment contributes to lower success rates in recovering women. There is a move to redefine the old methods of care in order to successfully treat women in rehabilitation.

An article in the magazine *Ms.: The World of Women* examines the effectiveness of the Twelve-Step Program for women. Many women are using a twelve step program based on Alcoholics Anonymous for their recovery from drug

addiction, incest, compulsive eating, sex, etc. Recently, many women have begun to question the values of this program.

Female dissatisfaction with AA is not a new thing. In 1976 Jean Kirkpatrick founded Women for Sobriety. However some women seem reluctant to discuss their difficulties with the program. Psychologist Charlotte Davis Kasl says women are hesitant to talk about their dissatisfaction because they are afraid to lose something that has helped them. She says that women who question the steps in their training program are often threatened with expulsion from the program. Kasl states women are taught to believe male models of almost everything are better than whatever they can create for themselves.

Many women are satisfied with what they receive from twelve-step programs. The program offers peer models, support and understanding with no cost. Kasl points out that there is no one method of treatment that is effective for

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U.S. media mystifies conflict in Northern Ireland

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ing the station. The show was cancelled.

But this should come as no surprise. Subtly coerced censorship is the normal order of things in this country for any person or group conveniently marginalized by U.S. elites — e.g. Native Americans, Noam Chomsky, pro-Castro Cubans, former members of the National Security apparatus, etc. It's in the best interests of media conglomerates to comply with the wishes of their sponsors — they are eager to please for the simple reason that they derive most of their revenues from corporate sponsors. And it's cushy for journalists to report the "facts" dropped gently into their laps by State Department and White House officials — this does not occur only during war time, as it did so blatantly during the Persian Gulf adventure. Journalists report the government line as "fact" simply because it not only saves valuable time and money, but gets them promoted as well. O'Sullivan concluded:

"Nothing has changed in 76 years of *New York Times* reporting on Ireland. While the British continue to enforce a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland, they are praised for their generosity and restraint. The nationalists are still called terrorists while members of the SAS (the British Special Air Service) regularly conduct murderous raids in neighborhoods in the six counties. And the 'statelet' illegally carved out by the Ireland Act of 1920 will always be Ulster, despite the term's overtly loyalist associations. Ireland's political situation continues to be occluded and mystified by a paper which insists on calling open warfare against the Irish people 'the troubles,' and which describes British counterinsurgency as a 'Protestant-Catholic conflict.'"

The *Times*' portrayal of the occupation and resistance in Northern Ireland as being a "faith against faith" conflict corresponds to its regular portrayal of well-coordinated assaults on South African townships as being "black on black" or "tribal" violence. What this demonstrates is that we have been subjected to lies, omissions of facts, and propaganda by major media. To defend ourselves from suffocating under the fluff of the mainstream press, therefore, it is imperative that we begin arming ourselves with actual facts. Before believing any story on conflict, we must ask the following serious questions:

-What can police legally do to individuals in accordance with a region's legal system?

-How is the education system structured?

-What are the basic demographics of a region's employment situation?

-Why is the army in the streets?

-And how many people die from the weapons of the occupied resistance compared to the numbers killed by the occupiers?

Instead of receiving factual reports, we are provided a picture of the Irish as being a cheerful lot who drink too much and blow up innocent civilians by mistake. Think about it: *What exactly does it mean to live in an occupied territory?* We know that there are armies of occupation, paid for by the powerful, in Northern Ireland, Palestine, and Soweto. And yet, without pause, we accept that the people living under occupation — Palestinians, South Africans, Northern Irish — are the main perpetrators of violence and are most responsible for their own suffering. Something is clearly wrong with this picture. We need to ask many, many more serious questions before accepting any reports on conflict as Truth.

The following are sources of further information:

Books:

Black on Green by St. Claire George
Daughter of Derry by Margaret Bernard
Manufacturing Consent, Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman

Organizations:

American Protestants for Truth About Ireland
PO Box 357
Gwynedd, PA 19436

Equality Working Group
108b Andersonstown Road
Belfast, Ireland

Dovehouse Community Resource Center
Derry, Ireland

Publications:

Just News
Northern Ireland Civil Liberties Council
45/47 Donegall Street
Belfast BT1 2FG
Ireland

Northern Ireland Human Rights Report
Northern Ireland: Unionist/Protestant Community, 1990.
(both are published by Am. Prot. for Truth About Ireland)

Lies of Our Times
(subscription info listed under "Breach of the Peace" article, elsewhere in this issue).

Professor Quotes

(Find the Professor...)

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. You leave after the weekend and presumably whatever has happened to you has happened. | a. Katrin Burlin |
| 2. You push down on Jello, and its squirts out the sides. | b. Al Albano |
| 3. If you live virtuous lives you get the correct answer. | c. Bob Washington |
| 4. Taking a man seriously at my age is almost inconceivable. | d. Neil Abraham |
| 5. This guy could not go into a 24 hour make-up-your-glasses store and expect to find a pair to fit his nose. | e. Al Albano |
| 6. If you can do it for two, you can do it for infinity. | f. Janet Monge |

Answers: 1. C, 2.D, 3.B, 4.A, 5.F, 6.E

The Final Word on BMC: Senior

Assessing past five years brings insight on BMC's shifting priorities

By Rachel Winston

With two weeks until graduation, I've been spending what little time I have (and a lot of time I don't have) thinking about my past five years at Bryn Mawr.

I suppose institutions are always in a state of flux, and this college is no exception. There have been a lot of changes since I arrived here in 1986 for my first year, some important — some not. In fact, it's hard to determine what I feel have constituted really significant changes in this institution. What seemed important my freshman year — the *Cambridge Report* — is hardly ever alluded to today. New concerns are dominating the campus now, like the issue of harassment.

Improvements and Problems

Three years ago, members of the SGA Executive Board staged a "coup," and disbanded a meeting of the Student Government Association in protest of what they perceived was student apathy. At the time, no one could have imagined how effectively students would organize themselves this year, to protest the harassment of a lesbian student with virtually no SGA Assembly support for their actions, very little SGA discussion of homophobia, ignorance, and hatred, and little initiative on the part of the SGA to do anything but apologize.

Five years ago, President McPherson sug-

gested to the coordinators of the *Gay Peoples' Association* that, "...it's not a bad thing to learn to be discreet..." This year, she was seen wearing a pink triangle at an anti-harassment rally.

A lot of students are unhappy about the way the Administration has handled this most recent case of harassment. In one sense, I think students have a right to be upset. Members of the Administration made some serious mistakes, especially in their treatment of the victim of this harassment. She has been left to navigate a "sea of grey," in terms of what information she has been authorized to share with the community. This has put her in the awkward and painful position of having constantly to weigh what she can and cannot tell her friends and classmates about the case. As the victim in this case of harassment, she now finds herself having to protect the First Amendment rights of her harasser.

Despite my criticism, I can't help but remember just how far the Administration, as a whole, has come. Gone are the days of administering lie detector tests to recipients of anonymous threats. Becky was not called hysterical, not asked about her "persecution complex," and not told to keep quiet about the notes she received. Security, in the past, did not publish reports about assaults, robberies, and suspicious activities on campus — news of crime on campus used to be spread by word of mouth. Most significant, a sus-

pect was identified in this case, and she was removed from the community. Things were different in 1986 — different even as recently as 1990.

I suppose it's the nature of a Bryn Mawr senior never to be satisfied with the pace of change at this school. This state of affairs probably stems from the fact that there remains much at this institution in need of change. In fact, the longer I've been a student at Bryn Mawr, the more problems I've found with the way this institution is run...

The College's Changing Mission

In 1985, Bryn Mawr commissioned the Cambridge Associates, a financial consulting firm, "...to study its current and projected financial picture and to offer guidelines and recommendations for reaching and maintaining a state of financial health or 'equilibrium.'"

The *Cambridge Report* found that Bryn Mawr was spending too much money. Specifically, the college was draining the size of its endowment — a situation that threatened the college's long-term financial security. The Report's bottom line was that Bryn Mawr had to reduce the size of its total operating budget to preserve the size of its endowment. In response to this recommendation, the college's Board of Trustees called for a "five year" plan to bring the college's operations "...within guidelines that [would] ensure the future fiscal health of the institution." In other words, the Trustees wanted a plan of budget cutbacks so the college would stop slicing into its endowment.

The Administration answered the Trustee's request with the *Plan for Achieving Financial Equilibrium*. Though the Plan considered cutbacks across academic as well as non-academic programming, its most significant proposal was the elimination of seven of the college's graduate programs: anthropology, English, French, history, philosophy, sociology, and Spanish. This cutback grew out of the *Cambridge Report's* observation that Bryn Mawr was attempting to operate a huge number of graduate programs given its small size, posing a large financial burden for the college. The Plan also called for a reduction in the number of faculty "...through the natural process of attrition," [italics mine] and an increase in the college's undergraduate enrollment.

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Congratulations
To The

"P.C." critics complete
the p

By Natasha Seaman

The first year I was at Bryn Mawr, P.C. referred to the collection of ten or so people who sat in the front smoker of Haffner and drank tea from glasses. If you'll excuse the cliché, times have changed. P.C. has become the catchword for our generation, and a lightning rod for criticism. According to conservatives, people who are P.C. are ideological clones; in the process of "getting it right" they eliminate discussion and abridge the free speech of others. P.C. has been condemned as a scourge of political liberalism that is ruining our colleges and universities by removing the traditional curriculum and replacing it with the hocus pocus of multiculturalism. However, I would like to argue that this backlash is not against the idea of thought control in our universities. Propaganda has always held a strong if covert position in our school system. Rather, the attack on P.C. was launched by conservatives who have suddenly realized that they are losing control over the college and university system.

The main tool of defense of the conservatives is the reduction of social movements to one term: P.C.. Totally different social movements are branded with this mark; the only element that the movements share are their threat to the status quo. Backlashers also like to highlight just one facet of social change movements, and that is their current trendiness. This cannot be denied; since being aware of the conditions of others than yourself is currently in vogue on campus, there are those, eager to fit in, who take the path of least resistance and learn the vocabulary and wardrobe of the stereotype of socially aware people. I do not condemn these people, but only ask that all social change movements not be judged on the basis of the presence of a few people who have not come to their political beliefs based on deep thought, but rather by the need to fit in. Opinion pieces by people of Color show us again and again that many liberals are prone to poor judgement, racism, and some pretty unsolid arguments.

However, simply because a few people have a shallow understanding of the move-



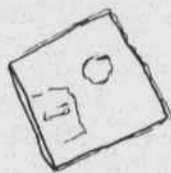
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NTS'91

The corporate ivory tower: BMC edu

By Patricia Savoie

Oh, where to begin? I will soon be graduating, the forces of nature willing, and I feel inclined, nay, duty bound, to share with the community some of my thoughts about this college. My comments are offered with a certain amount of affection, though at times I may sound a bit harsh. You must understand that I want nothing more at this point than TO GET OUT OF HERE. Yes, this has been a marvelous, valuable, enriching experience, one that has contributed immeasurably to the person I am now. But I'm so tired. And it hasn't all been peaches and cream, as They say. Since most people recognize the happy, fruity part of the Bryn Mawr Experience (you know, windowseats and weeping cherry trees and some pretty hip, intelligent women), I will share with you some of my thoughts on the Bryn Mawr College Improvement Plan. Given the fact that my energy is at an all-time low despite a caffeine level at an all-time high, I'm going to focus on just a few parts of my Bryn Mawr Experience.

I have had an extremely hellish time paying my tuition bill each and every semester that I have been here, save the very first. I do receive financial aid, which is calculated based on my parents' earnings and with the expect-

tation that I will contribute around \$1500 from summer earnings. But the problem is that my parents don't support me. They don't pay the "expected family contribution." They haven't from the very beginning. They can't afford it. And they have not declared me as a dependent for three years now. By federal standards, I am an independent student. But the college "does not recognize students as independent, under any circumstances" (a direct quote from a college administrator when I approached her in tears during my first year). So I am expected to pay my "parents' share" as well as my own. A difficult task, at the very least. Impossible is more generally closer to the truth.

I have been very lucky. I have worked as a waitress the past three summers, and I've had a much higher income than most college students can expect over a three month break. I have a very good friend who has helped me out a number of times; without her I most certainly would not have made it. And I have been able to hold off-campus jobs as well as my work study. But I have known people who have had to leave, who were in basically the same situation that I was. And at times the stress of being in that situation is enough to make you want to leave anyway.

I am not complaining about individual

ors Bitch, Moan and Complain

NS
class of '91'

tely and utterly miss
oint

ment they proclaim to represent does not mean that the movement can be thoroughly discounted. One element of P.C. that receives much fire is the self renaming of marginalized groups. Critics discount this as the violation of freedom of speech rights and inanity. Why should the words "handicapped" or "crippled" be passed over in favor of "differently abled"? Or, "third world country," for "country in development," or "Black" for "African American"? You might ask what is wrong with the original word. After all, "handicapped" describes people with a handicap pretty well, you may think. The problem with those words is that dominant society came up with them. What is the right of dominant society to name those whom it marginalizes?

The author of the headline "10 years of babes at the Ford" did just such a unilateral naming. Then, in response to criticism of this headline, someone urged that women just de-stigmatize the word "babe" in the way gay people did the word "queer." Sure, women could do this, but it won't be at the behest of men. It is the responsibility of the dominant class to learn to call people and groups of people by their proper name; it is the prerogative of these people to change this name when they want. This isn't mind control or abridgement of free speech that is being demanded: it's good manners.

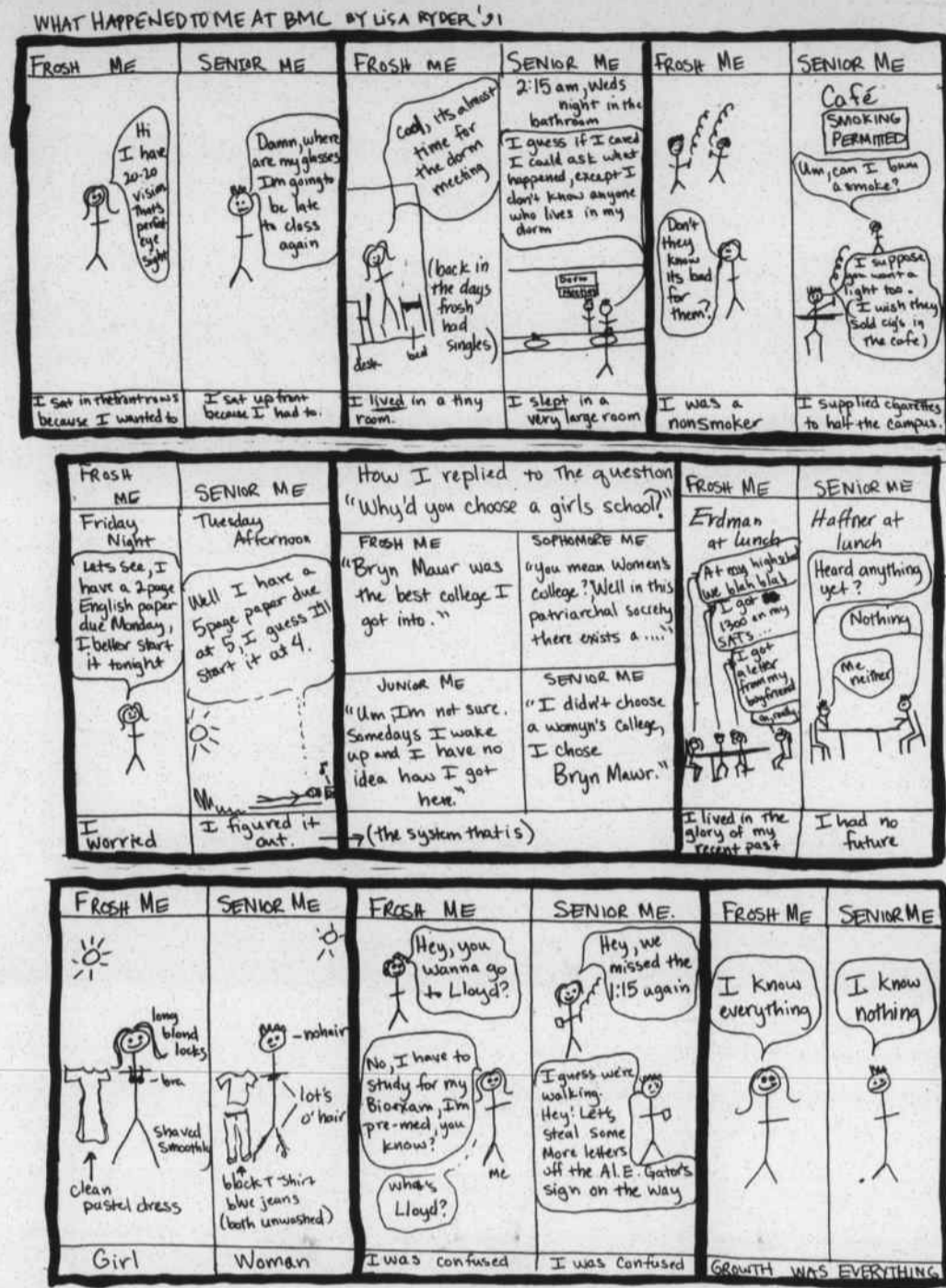
There are many more points that I would like to argue with the critics of P.C., but I am tired and I want to graduate. I only want to ask those who are left here and those who are arriving to think, before writing off — or joining — a protest because its been named P.C.. Think about what the protest means to those who have launched it; question it, challenge it, but do not judge it right or wrong until you can say that you are speaking from your own personal understanding of the issue. Also, think: why are conservatives afraid of that which they call P.C.? They are obviously threatened by the thought of a generation of people with an understanding of the United States as a multi-cultural and inclusive country. This tells me we might be on to something.

ation for a price

administrators. Karen Tidmarsh has time and time again calmed me, reasoned with me, inspired me. Nancy Monnich has been extremely concerned and helpful. I can't express enough gratitude to the comptroller, Maria Wiemken, who helped me find ways to pay my bill every semester. And Carrise Mangano . . . thanks, Mrs. Mangano, for letting me cry on your desk every September.

But there is something seriously wrong. I came to Bryn Mawr and was amazed to be treated as an adult, an independent and intelligent woman who could take care of herself. A sense of my own ability and potential has perhaps been the most important thing I have gained during my four years at Bryn Mawr. I would venture to say that imparting a sense of self-esteem and confidence to all of her students is fundamental to the college's mission. But there is a deep and painful contradiction. A contradiction that has far-reaching and frightening implications. Money is a primary tool of oppression. Historically, marginalized groups have been denied any form of economic control, and that has been a primary factor in the continuation of their oppression. By denying students economic independence, the college is using the oppressive practices of the dominant culture.

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To come of age at Bryn Mawr College

By Margot Hipwell and Mandy Jones

Freshman Year:

We thought Bryn Mawr was beautiful but we were impressionable. As Brecon Frosh (who rule!), we were roughed up daily for our lunch money by the Squirrel Mafia. But we survived and maintained the best legs on campus. My frosh year was a whirl of verbs of motion, Wyndham servitude (literally), and beer slime on Founders' porch. Her frosh year was spent scantily clad at Haverford (eeuw), not clad at all at Lehigh, and clad in BMCFS yellow and gold finery at Bryn Mawr. We did not know each other then. We did not want to. But we both remember "Excuse me, but may I sit with you?" and the corresponding automatic answer "I'm sorry, but this side of the dining hall is saved for my many friends who are coming right now oh there they are!" We remember DAKA. Unfortunately. We ate all our meals with our customs groups. We thought Mary Pat was a goddess. We enjoyed that Black and White Russian party in the Campus Center. But we never went to Lloyd. We thought we'd never be seniors because they were so cool.

But where's the football team? Where's the Animal House-like parties and the tall handsome men? Sure it's a girls' school, but isn't Haverford supposed to be right next door? And aren't there a lot of tall, handsome, mature men there? What about those small, intimate classes? Why don't we get dinner at our professors' houses every week? Honor Code?! That'll never work. How come I'm not making friends I know I'll have for life like in that Maxwell House commercial?

Sophomore Year:

We thought Bryn Mawr sucked. BIG TIME. As Pem East sophomores, we were too close to the cafe. We ate in Erdthing, free of the threat of amphibious slime monsters. We lived in a cloud of smoke. Every kind of

smoke since we were trying to decide which brand we liked best. We drank a lot. We were practically poster children for ASAP. I adopted Margot into my customs group. And she became a customs aunt to my frosh. It was just like a Bryn Mawr Hallmark Card. Except for the drugs and alcohol, that is. We pulled all-nighters every week and drank a lot of java and then went jogging at three in the morning. We went to forums and then went home and wrote away for transfer applications. We made mixed tapes out the butt. What an attractive expression. We learned to knit. I knit thousands of mittens but never got them to match. Margot knit over twenty scarves. Margot cut off her hair. Margot henna-ed her hair. Big mistake. Margot pierced her nose. Very yucky. Margot got a tattoo (chez Butcher in the city of York). We unfortunately got involved in traditions and in a drunken stupor decided to run for the heinous head honcho positions. We never went to Lloyd.

We didn't expect anything from sophomore year. So we weren't disappointed. Or pleasantly surprised. We still never thought we'd be seniors, they were such bitches.

Junior Year:

We thought Bryn Mawr was a stress pit. We were right. As Brecon juniors, we hid there a lot from people we knew. We quit smoking. We had no time to drink. We ate with each other. We recovered from a frightening summer in HPA. We went to SGA every Sunday. We developed ulcers. Margot passed out on the Green. Margot cut off what was left of her hair. She got another tattoo. Then another. She took that thing out of her nose. We made more mixed tapes. The Howlers began to howl. The Nude Jogger began to jog. We wished we'd gone abroad. We never went to Lloyd. And we thought we'd never be seniors, we just wouldn't survive.

Senior Year:

We think Bryn Mawr is a nice place to visit but we wouldn't want to live here. Anymore. As Merion and Brecon seniors, we get a lot more work done. We smoke and drink in moderation. We escape this stress pit a lot more. We still make mixed tapes. We don't knit as much (except for Pat's scarf). We are too old for all-nighters. We drop-kick squirrels now. We are so tired of SGA. And we know of what we speak. Sometimes we would like to drop-kick underclassmen. But we usually don't because we do not want to scuff our footwear. We miss Gary. Well, Margot misses Gary. We miss Frogman because we have finally compiled a lot of things to say to him. We still eat with my customs group. We don't jog anymore; we are Nautilus women. I finally got my driver's license and Margot finally got another tattoo. Margot's letting her hair grow.

We are both stressing out about new things now. Like what happens when you don't even have an eternal pasta bar to sustain you. Like the fact that the Real World does not hold Room Draw. Like the fact that jobs only exist for retired Army colonels and Vanilla Ice. Like the fact that we are going to move away from the friends we are supposed to have for life. Like the fact that we are going to have to drive miles and miles to do laundry. Like the fact that we will not be able to enjoy any more Mark Lord white-face-coin-spewing-plotless-solipsistic-housework-in-the-buff extravaganzas. We are sad. In the legendary words of Prabhupada who built a house the whole world can live in, "[We] have no friends, no family, no money, no job, no husband, no wife, no siblings. It is misery. But it gives [us] a laugh. [We] sit alone and laugh."

We are seniors and we still can't believe it. And we still haven't gone to Lloyd.

Harassment at BMC: who is responsible?

Note: The following paragraphs are excerpts from Joanna Ho's thesis, which will be available in its entirety in the BGALA lounge as of next year (there are also a few given as May Day gifts that are circulating). To call this contribution a "handbook on harassment" is an understatement. Among other things, it is a desperately needed source of information, evaluation, criticism, appreciation of the BMC community's (i.e. the administration, SGA, Public Safety Office, staff, students and others) response and lack thereof to the homophobic harassment notes that were sent to Becky Greco. We selected the following segments with the intention of supplementing

human mistakes end and ignorance and incompetence begin. Incompetence coupled with power that refuses to admit its own errors constitutes malice.

One student who received a series of anti-hispanic threats under her door over a long-period of time was asked by the administration to take a lie-detector test. She was asked why she had a victim complex. A student group called the Minority Coalition was accused of plotting and executing the whole thing to get attention.

Lesbian students' parents have been called without the students' permission when the student has gone to the Health Center for counseling. Calling parents and telling them that their daughter is flipping out because she's a lesbian when the reason she's flipping out is because she can't tell her parents that she's a lesbian is not responsible. The file on the anti-lesbian harassment in 1988 referred to one student as an "alleged lesbian" when this woman had walked into the Security office and made it clear that she was a lesbian and had no qualms about that. There are dozens of cases of harassment or violence against target groups that have been actively covered up by the Dean's and President's office. There is no reason to trust these people, and if you do you are taking a risk...

11 Ways to Become Useful in Dealing with Hatred and Harassment

1. Don't assume anything.
2. Examine your own hatred. Place it on a spectrum with hate crimes being one extreme. What is the origin of that hatred? What sustains it? Do you want to keep hating? Why?
3. Think about the difference between anger and hatred. Examine your own anger. Are you generally more or less angry than other people? Why? Think about reasons that people who are not you have for being angry. Think about how you tend to deal with other people's anger. Do you get defensive? Feel guilty? Deny that they are angry? Get angry? Is it okay for people to be angry and express their anger? What are acceptable ways of expressing anger? What makes

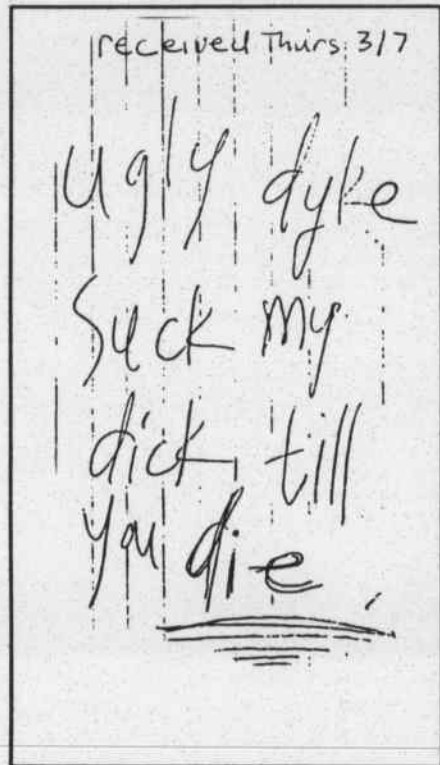
feel silenced. If you do, think about why. Are you afraid that — you won't like what you hear yourself saying? That someone won't understand you? That no one will understand you? That people will disagree with you? That someone will argue with you? That someone will dislike you? That someone will hate you? That someone will hurt you? That someone will kill you? Count the number of times that you have been afraid that someone will murder you because of something you say. Does the number you come up with have a base in reality? Think about which people are usually killed because of something they have said. Think about the number that other people might come up with and why this number is bigger or smaller than yours. If it is smaller, try to imagine what is like to be afraid that someone will murder you — not because you have said something, but because you exist. If you are afraid of what someone will do to you if you speak, you have the option of not speaking. If you are afraid of what someone will do to you because you exist, not because of something you do, you learn to live with that fear or you learn to disappear.

10. Ask yourself — What does any of this have to do with me?

11. Think. Listen. Speak. Act...

... During spring break I had a number of conversations with Becky, Donna Uettwiller, Amy Radbill. We decided that our first action would be to call a meeting of the lesbian community for the Monday after our return from break. The night before the meeting I woke up the middle of the night and wrote, trying to get my thoughts out of my mind and onto a piece of paper so I could sleep. I was having bad dreams that I would be sitting there alone, trying to organize everything myself or with three other people.

Harassment is a tremendous burden for one person to bear. It can literally destroy someone - alienate, enrage, and frighten someone until she is no longer able to function. This happened to me as a freshman. I



the administration's recent announcement: "we have good reason to believe that no further acts of harassment will come from the individual confronted." It is clearly impossible for us to determine what is most important for us to print in this issue of the College News. We urge you, as a participant in this community, to read Joanna's thesis in its entirety when it becomes available. While revising the harassment policy is critical, there is clearly much more to dealing with harassment of members of our community than altering words on paper. It has become painfully clear that this community has avoided addressing some very fundamental contradictions regarding its commitment to respecting each individual's claim to safety and sense of self-esteem. The administration and others tell us that there are insurmountable (i.e. legal, constitutional, societal) barriers preventing us from fully addressing these contradictions. Joanna's thesis gives us a little more to work with, but ultimately it is up to us, as individuals and as a women's community, to continue to question the fears and priorities of this institution.

— Annick Barker

By Joanna Ho

... I think it's ridiculous when we refuse to make their screw-ups public out of "tact." Telling someone who is being harassed that maybe they should write a letter to the college newspapers as a method of informing the community that she is receiving anonymous threats is frankly beyond the realm of "tact." There is a point when other people are rude that whether or not you choose to be tactful should depend only on whether tact will be an effective strategy for you to get what you want (1). The idea that we should respect people just because they have power over us is preposterous and dangerous. Respect is one of the only things that makes institutional power work, and if you stop giving it when it isn't longer due you're doing yourself and a lot of other people a big favor...

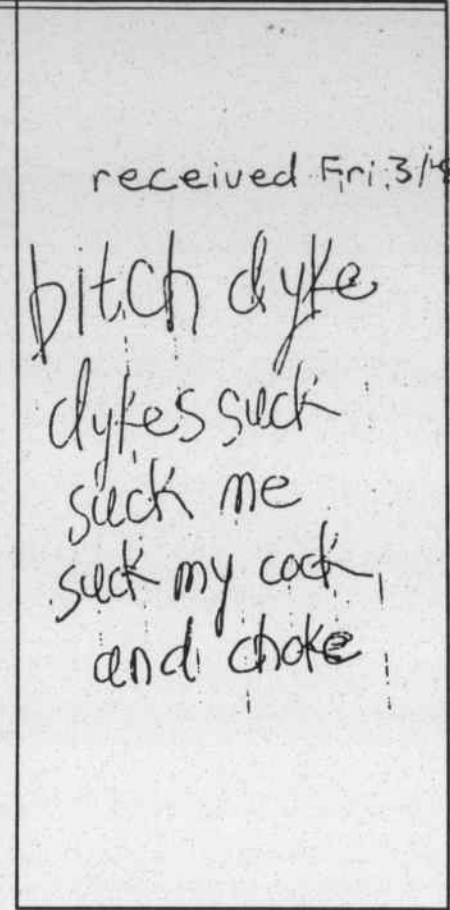
... I am not saying that administrators are not human beings who make mistakes. It's not too difficult to see, however, where

them acceptable? What are unacceptable ways of expressing anger? What makes them unacceptable?

4. Think — What if this had happened to me?
5. Then think — Would this ever happen to me? Why or why not?
6. Who and what are you most afraid of? What are your fears based on? Are your fears realistic?
7. Think of things that you feel guilty about. Think about why you feel guilt and what effect it has on you.
8. Take a moment to determine whether, in a general way, your existence on the planet contributes to or works against hatred and injustice. How do people contribute to hatred and injustice without realizing that this is what they are doing?
9. Think about whether or not you ever

dropped a class, cut myself off from most of my friends, and slept with a baseball bat next to my bed until almost a year ago.

If every person who is concerned enough to come to this meeting is willing to take on one tiny part of that burden then we can minimize the alienation and fear. The purpose of harassment is to silence lesbians by using foul words, by invoking the powerful and disempowering language of male sexuality, by making rape threats and death threats (2). If lesbians on this campus respond by being more present and more vocal than they have ever been before, this one person's intent can be destroyed. This action was designed to pick out one person and separate her from the community that in part gives her her identity. If we show support for people who are being harassed through action, and not just with



words, if lesbians on this campus are more unified than they have been in recent memory, we can not only stop, but reverse the harasser's intent. This could be happening to anyone in this room. It has happened before. It will happen again...

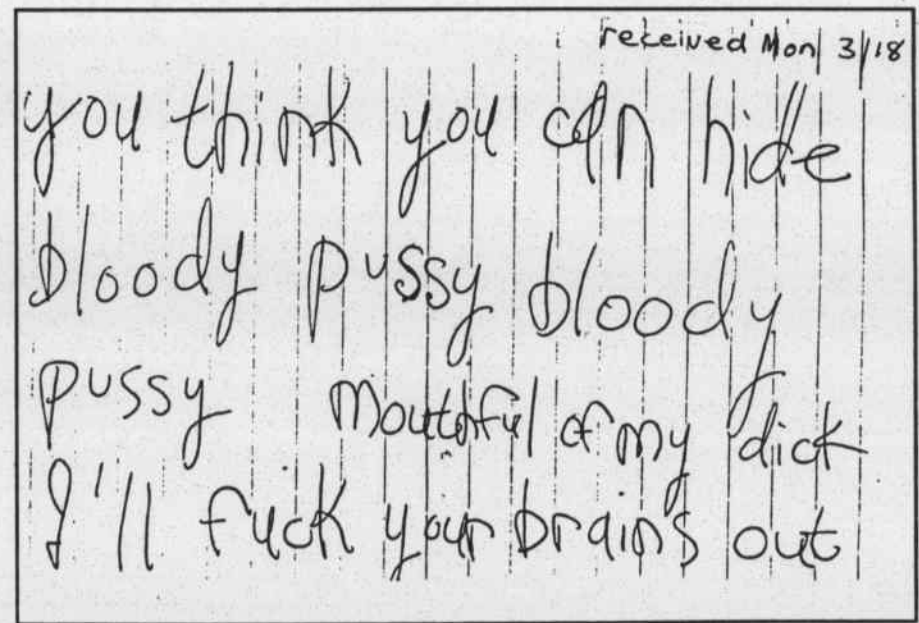
... SGA meetings were definitely some of the lower low points of the entire semester. Never before have I dealt with a more inefficient, uninformed and ineffective body of people. I don't want to sound nostalgic, but the transformation of SGA that has taken place since 1987 is overwhelming. If you are interested in figuring out what the turning point was, you might do a little research on the APATHY coup of 1988.

By going through the minutes presented to the community sentence by sentence I will try to point out why I am perfectly comfortable calling certain members of SGA "fascists" despite the fact that I don't think this is a word that should be used lightly. When you distort information to either make it non-information or to make it say something it wasn't intended to say, when you erase the existence of an entire group of people by pretending they don't exist or by being patronizing, when you say that you would do something but you don't know what to do without being told, so you will therefore do nothing - all these things are the signs of fascism. Read Paulo Friere's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. He does a good job of analyzing the kind of people we were trying to deal with in these meetings. Right now SGA should be called "administrators in training" because the games are the same except they're playing with fake money

The secretary simply wasn't writing down what people were saying, so as my only record of SGA meetings, my criticism is aimed first at her and her minutes, but also toward what people were saying. I have tried to clarify what people actually said wherever I could.

Note: All italics and brackets are mine From March 24 minutes:

... "Mary Elizabeth responded to Armaity. People in SRC have been trying to address these issues by holding dorm meetings, getting the deans involved. She was upset [?] by the info about the notes [about the info given about them or about the notes themselves?] and was very happy to see that SGA doesn't have to start everything. [As far as I can remember, SGA hasn't ever started any action concerning acts of hatred or harassment. There were signs up inviting the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and supporting community to the Monday night meeting and as far as I know no members of SGA attended. More about SGA attendance at the march later.]...



Leadership conference offers little more than "pretty rhetoric"

continued from page 9

positively about the conference as a whole. But it wasn't quite relevant to anything else — in a real decision-making situation, with a more difficult issue such as education, people would have stronger opinions and would not have been as willing to listen to each other. Marcia Taylor, a singer/songwriter, was hired as entertainment for Saturday evening, and also led a workshop. As folk music and alternative music (and lifestyles!) have always been central to the women's movement, it seemed a good but surprising idea to invite her. An anonymous woman said, "her performance seemed almost antithetical to the conference."

The panel speakers, Nancy Neuman (Former National President, League of Women Voters), Elsa Porter (Vice President, Maccoby Group) and Betsy Zaborowski (Psychologist) each lectured about their fight for success. Their overall

message was the importance of individual self-reliance, (the American Way, and family support (which participants interpreted as only "support of father" in their questions after the panel). None felt they were subordinated as women, and all ignored the existing hegemonic structures that let women succeed who fit male models or male expectations.

The entire weekend (besides a few genuinely interesting workshops) treated women as if we are in a vacuum, a sort of bell jar that protects us from the real world. It was pretty rhetoric, but akin to having a conference for African Americans and speaking to them from a pre-civil rights perspective. The conference, by ignoring the real issues (concrete and important ones) almost invalidated and de-legitimated the problems of women, and therefore the problems of the world. Acknowledgements of real forces that affect women's work, such as men intentionally giving women setbacks by not voting for the ERA, were never given.

Ms. Hank 

Dear Ms. Hank,

Every time I look at a computer I vomit. I'm not kidding, I can't help myself—it's pathological. Pathological, disgusting, and expensive. I've paid to have more keyboards cleaned than I care to remember, and the folks at the Computer Center know my face a little *too* well. If I'm not careful I might turn into a rabid Luddite. But the real problem is that I still have a 20 page paper to write, and a stupid computer project to do. I may be a whiner, but I am not an idiot; I do not think that the pencil/paper/abacus route is a sensible one. As much as I don't want to admit it, I've become dependant on this

machine — it's a love/hate thing.

Ms. Hank, please help me. I'm in a real bind.

— Vomit Bags
(Industrial Size, Please.)

Dear Vomit,

Just how many hours have you been staring at that computer for?

Let me run a few ideas past you. Write your paper out by hand and then pay a friend mucho bucks to type it for you. Don't bathe for a few days, and then go to a smoky café in the city and sit in the furthest back corner, sipping strong black

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Honour Board decides antagonists need "space and time"

continued from page 8

dispute from continuing, it can protect the community from further repercussions. Living with others in a close-knit environment requires certain skills and understanding. It is hoped that this year will allow for their development.

Included within the Board's statement of resolutions was a clause binding both parties together.

Should any of these resolutions be broken or any additional incidents occur, a Social Honor Board hearing will be convened immediately. If at that time, sufficient evidence can be demonstrated as to the responsibility of either party, both parties shall be asked to leave.

It was the opinion of the Board that one of the most difficult factors in this dispute was the manner in which it tended to be perpetuated. One party would provoke the other until the other responded, the first party would then deny such provocation and wonder why she was being attacked. By linking both parties in an agreement which held each accountable for the other, the Board hoped that this sort of escalation could be curtailed.

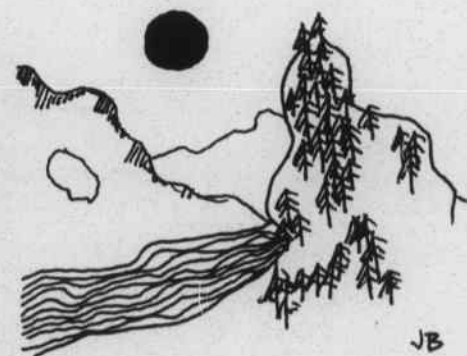
The final portion of the resolution stipulated provisions for appealing and for reopening the case. An appeal was lodged by Marie on 12 April 1989 and an appeal committee was convened. Their recommendation written in early May, was to uphold the Board's original resolution — they went as far as to suggest that the Board had been lenient. In the period between April 7 and May 11 a number of further incidents took place. I was approached by an independent party seeking justification for the Board's decision to deny housing access to Marie and expressing alarm at the Board's disregard for her needs. Other Board members were also approached informally by

various parties who knew far more than was necessary. (The general atmosphere was one of readily available information.) Of equal concern was the manner in which Marie chose to pursue her concerns with other people. Marie was afforded the opportunity to appeal the finding to the Appeals committee — such an appeal would be directed to the President. However, she chose not to pursue this course of action knowing it would delay the mediations she sought with several other parties — all of whom were friends of Susan's. Susan claims that Marie's interactions with these parties were harassing and threatening — characterized by talk of subpoenas and court cases. Marie, in response, alleged that Susan had sent her subscriptions to the magazine SASSY among others, and had also posted her number as a possible contact for the sale of kittens. The general tone of these four weeks was not one of good will or resolution rather it was one of escalation and continued hostility. It reached a level such that both Susan and Marie also directed their hostilities toward the Board itself and Board members specifically. Marie telephoned repeatedly, leaving extremely unfriendly and hostile messages. It was in the light of this undercurrent of discontent, and protracted hostilities, that the Board found it necessary to reconvene, thus following the Board's own directives.

The hearing convened on May 11 was not in fact a social hearing. Rather it constituted an investigatory hearing, in which the Board attempted to ascertain whether or not the resolutions of April 1989 had been followed. As such, there was no confronting or confronted party — there were no charges and no accusations. The Board took testimony from both Susan and Marie (receiving a statement from Susan but not Marie) concerning any further incidents and steps taken

toward the Board's resolutions of April 1989. It was the consensus of this body that further incidents and escalation had, in fact, taken place, warranting a response. This further activity included the anonymous phone calls, magazine subscriptions, kitten advertisements, and alleged harassment of other members of the community that were brought to the Board's attention by both parties. Viewed in the conjunction with the ever present hostility and bad feeling, seen in the light of their past histories, and considered alongside the taunting, harassing nature of this dispute, the Board felt it necessary to place responsibility for this further escalation firmly back with both parties. Therefore, in compliance with the Board's directives, it was deemed necessary to make a recommendation for the exclusion of Marie and Susan from the college community.

The President of the College asked the board to reconvene, at which time a resolution was made that would separate the students from the college for a period of three years, giving both the community and the students space and time to grow. The final resolution accepted and imposed upon the students was a separation from the college for a period of two years.



JB



KH

PERSONALS

Albany Crew — goddam. Ya'll are gratiating! WOW! The Question: What'll BMC be without you? The Answer... love, Sprout

Hey there — you came in and out of my life, whirlwind creation and destruction. maybe I should feel lonely now, but I've got the world... from here, sitting at the top of the tree, I wish you every happiness.

Renée F: Not Goodbye 'til we die. See you on the other side Si..Pero (aka...)

Arachnid Annick and Little Worm Jessica: Take care of each other and weather the storm of Luna the Wonderdog with the Megabraid. It can be done. — Rattlesnake

You know who you are — ahhh. Our love is as refreshing as fire can be, and I'll miss you in the years to come. Thanks also for the night in the Reserve Room. uh uh uh ...cackle. sweet dreams... yr. lovemonster

Fire o' my desire, honey o' my flaring anominates — what say you to a night o' salacious futon wrestling? My futon, or mine? Fire up the ol' dye and lase my heart, cuz you can throw me to my dustbunnies and I'll still want to suck on yer toes.

(does it count as a love poem? ooh ooh does it? hun?)

Miss Winston regrets she's unable to lunch today. (She's in the College News Room struggling to get out)

Budget constraints challenge college's commitment to non-Western scholarship

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In an interesting paradox, the Plan's authors noted that, though one of its reasons for wanting to achieve financial equilibrium was to provide greater financial security for faculty salaries and research funding, in order to do so, it would have to decrease the number of faculty college-wide, along with graduate programs that were highly-valued for their research orientation. Nevertheless, the Plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1987 — and, in many ways, the college has been adjusting ever since.

Living with Less

In a financial sense, Bryn Mawr has been squeezed — tightly. The evidence of this is everywhere. Departments have not replaced retiring, or departing, faculty. The Growth and Structure of Cities Program, once prominently advertised in admission's materials, now consists of one permanent faculty member. The English Department made its Senior Thesis optional this year, citing an inability to handle the workload of both advising students and grading their papers. Student/faculty ratios have increased. Course offerings have decreased. Financial Aid has a waiting list for admitted students who are ranked on the aid list based on their admissions rankings. Even the budget for the daily "Coffee Hour" (which used to be a daily "Donut Hour") has been slashed for next year. Clearly, Bryn Mawr does not have a lot of money.

As available funds become increasingly scarce, Bryn Mawr must face two important consequences. First, decisions about how to spend available money become more and more important. Second, members of the community must adapt to a situation where there are many people taking slices from a shrinking pie. In this climate of fiscal restraint, the college's hiring decisions have become extremely difficult.

Which departments will get to replace departing faculty? What disciplinary specialties should departments look for in potential candidates? Should departments conducting faculty searches keep the needs of allied departments in mind? Who gets financial aid? How much funding will each department get? Who will decide?

Will They Ever Change?

Like it or not, departments are changing — in size, scope, and emphasis. This, in turn, is contributing to the changing 'mission' of the college (i.e. determining what constitutes a liberal arts education). Unfortunately, there are few people, either in the administration, or the faculty, who seem capable of articulating what this newly emerging 'mission' is, or ought

to be. I would go so far as to say there are those who would prefer the college not to acknowledge that its traditional Western emphasis is changing, both due to budget constraint, and community consensus on the importance of pursuing a non-Western focus.

I am concerned that the few original, intelligent persons willing to articulate their view of the emerging 'mission' of this college, are being silenced by those who are threatened by change. For different reasons, Bryn Mawr is losing four excellent, young professors next year — each of whom was willing to challenge the status quo, and nudge an ever more sluggish college in new directions. Some might respond that these professors are leaving because they want to leave, or that their "visiting professorship" status has ended. The fact is, these professors should not be leaving the community — and they are. Few, other than students, have made much of an attempt to keep these professors here.

It is unlikely that Bryn Mawr will be lucky enough (or willing) to find equally pragmatic professors as the four who are departing next year. In any case, Bryn Mawr simply does not have the money to hire many new faculty members. In the absence of money to hire new professors with non-Western specialties, change will not come quickly from outside Bryn Mawr. We must look to ourselves to initiate needed dialogue.

This is just what a group of students in the English Department has done this semester. Raising serious questions about the structure and content of the 101/102 English program, these students have been working with faculty in an attempt to restructure the course. Professors are being asked to teach more critical theory and more non-Western literature. For many professors in the department, these topics are outside their area of specialization. These faculty members, in essence, are being asked to educate themselves, and to teach outside their individual specialties. A number of faculty have chosen to take up this challenge. A disturbing number have not.

The next few years, no doubt, will reveal just how much change the current faculty, and administration, are willing to embrace. My hope is that professors and administrators will not feel threatened by newly emerging community priorities, and will, in typical Bryn Mawr fashion, cautiously accept the need to define a new 'mission' for the college.

My fear? Well, just remember four names you won't be hearing next year...DeBernardi, Elam, Kilson, and Lewis.



American Indian suspicion of U.S. government rests on 500 years of oppression

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tion authorizing the search of all visitors, in denying access onto their reservation, and in prohibiting unauthorized reproduction of their culture (no photographs or recordings permitted).

On the other hand, maybe this paranoia is not subtle at all. After all, what would possess an Indian group to appeal to the federal government to settle a dispute? This being the very entity that placed Indians on reservations? This being the very entity that ceded Hopi land to the Navajo and is now in the position of ineffectively trying to rectify the result of its own action? This being the very entity that has yet to keep one of the nearly 300 treaties made with the

American Indians in almost 500 years?

And now I must leave you. No, this story is not over. I cannot finish telling it to you. We have the next 500 years to bring about a 'happy ending.' In the heart of Grandfather, we are all related. Mitakuye Oyasin.

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Trends in Indian Health 1990 Indian Health Service.*
- (2) National Center for Children in Poverty. *Alive and Well? A Research and Policy Review of Health Programs for Poor Young Children.* Colombia University, School of Public Health. 1991.



Restructuring education in Nigeria

By Sara Rubin

Dr. Egerton Osunde, Senior Lecturer at University of Benin and Visiting Lecturer at Ohio State University, spoke on educational development in several African countries at Perry House, 22 April. The title of his lecture was, "Patterns of Educational Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: the Case of Nigeria," but included discussion of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda (East African countries which Osunde characterized as having comparatively larger amounts of land for relatively smaller populations), and Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Senegal (West African countries having comparatively smaller amounts of land for relatively larger populations).

Dr. Osunde initially explained the importance of education in "developing countries." Education can help to achieve the economic autonomy of Africans that was impossible under the colonial system of education, which basically turned out Africans for menial jobs while the whites took the highest-paying jobs for themselves. In order to do this, Nigeria has had to change the British (imposed) focus of their education: from English and European history to Nigerian history and cultural heritage.

Since Nigeria's independence from British rule in 1960, numbers of children attending primary school have risen to 17 million in 1990 from 2 million in 1960; numbers of children in secondary school

have risen to 1,155,000 in 1980 from 25,000 in 1960; and numbers of students at the university level have risen to 25,000 in 1980 from 5,900 in 1960 (however, these statistics were not controlled for population changes). Yet Nigeria has still had its share of problems in hammering out an educational structure acceptable to the fifty different ethnic groups, as well as for both the rural and the urban, the southern smaller states and the northern larger states.

The educational inequalities today, Osunde pointed out, stemmed from economic differences: the rich are able to provide books, paper, and other supplies, as well as tutors (who help the children do better on entrance exams for the best schools) which the poor are not. Because English and French are the media for education, the tutored upper classes are better equipped to deal with these languages in the schools. In order to combat some of this inequality, a policy was enacted which allowed the first three years of elementary level education to be taught in the child's own language. But this is still only a grace period, after which, the child is expected to be able to function fluently in English.

Another common educational inequality is based on gender, specifically female students. Osunde explained that this gender inequality is because of the high demand of male workers and relatively low demand of females in the job

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Sociolinguist Labov brings his voice and others to BMC

By Sara Rubin

Professor of Linguistics at University of Pennsylvania, Dr. William Labov, spoke on linguistic diversity in the U.S., 18 April at Bryn Mawr. His lecture, "Great Speakers of the Western World: the Narratives of a Pluralistic Society," was preceded by the film "American Tongues," and was followed by discussion.

Dr. Labov is one of the founders of the field of sociolinguistics. He is specifically known for his groundbreaking work beginning in the 1960s on social stratification of language and the validity of Black English as a language with a logical grammar and lexicon (rather than as it was popularly perceived by academics and other racists as a non-language without grammar rules or even a vocabulary). Further, Labov has helped to dispel some ridiculous myths about Black English speakers, such as one that Black children do not know how to speak, by exposing the "scientific testing" situation as biased by the testers, and as one that can be threatening and encouraging the tested to silence.

In his lecture, Labov represented some of the very different life experiences and perceptions of English speakers by quoting the narratives of his linguistic informants, in their own dialects. His stories included: a white male Scottish farmer, a white Protestant lobsterman from Martha's Vineyard, a South Philadelphia Jewish woman, a South Philadelphia Irishman, a South Philadelphia Italian

man, a white male from rural Dundee, Michigan, a white male from rural Duncaster, PA, a Black male preacher from Hillsboro, NC, a white male from East Atlanta, and a Black male urban Philadelphia speaker.

Each of these very eloquent and moving speakers were from the working and lower economic classes, except for one speaker from the upper economic class. Labov quoted his informants only from the upper and the lower classes of American speakers because, he stated, the middle class are boring speakers. Their speech has been stifled by their loss of ethnic identities (and ways of speaking) in order to assimilate, and the linear-argument academic style of discourse that is taught in the schools and valued in the academies — the price of upward mobility. Further, Labov found, the middle class speakers have a tendency to focus on listing their emotions, which are very difficult to translate effectively to others, rather than describing the events which caused these feelings and which often give people more of a sense of an emotional state. His example of this was that a middle class speaker describing an event would say, "I was really really afraid, I have never been so afraid in my whole life, really." Whereas the working class speaker would describe the event which caused the fear: that once he was in a bar and some guy started to argue with him. This guy came up behind him and all of a sudden he's lying on the ground with blood around him. Some-

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Poverty in Mississippi rooted in white corporate control and meager industrial base

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Three strikes with the belt, Barbara Ann stated, is considered enough to get the point across.

Talking to Barbara Ann about issues like discipline was extremely interesting because it gave me a point of reference to view similar normative modes of behavior among northern blacks. Staying in peoples' homes was what made this trip extremely valuable. Reading and taking courses on the community, family structure, politics, history, etc., on the Mississippi Delta, provides some knowledge, but not enough. What we gained by living with people and listening to their fascinating stories was a realistic picture of life in the Delta. I think I speak for all of us in stating that this was truly a trip to remember.

A Comparison of Urban and Rural Poverty Louis Bonilla, GS '91

Having grown up in a poor and working class African American and Latino neighborhood in New York, and since I'm now working in North Philly, an even poorer neighborhood, I'll compare urban and rural poverty. I went down to Mississippi wondering which one was worse, urban or rural poverty, but I soon realized that this approach was too simplistic. Although one can quantify some of the dimensions or manifestations of poverty, much is lost unless you also look at the social or qualitative aspects of poverty. I'll try to do both.

One of the largest differences between North and South is structural. Power and income relations in Mississippi are much more raw than they are in the North. Simply put, Mississippi is the poorest state in the country. Because there are fewer jobs in Mississippi than in other states, the pay scale is lower, and because there are job ceilings for African Americans, a smaller percentage of Mississippi whites are poorer than in the north and, conversely, a higher percentage of African Americans in Mississippi are poorer than in the north.

Whites completely control the few industries that exist in the region, and, unlike in the north, African Americans often don't own any of the businesses which operate in the areas in which they live. With massive unemployment in African American communities, *de facto* residential and social segregation, and a few tightly controlled industries for an economy, owners of these industries have a large surplus labor pool to draw from and keep wages down in the region. I should also note that the caste system there reserves the higher paying jobs for whites and lower paying ones for African Americans, which you see to a lesser extent in northern industries or service sectors, except maybe at the corporate level.

As I've suggested, the Mississippi Delta has virtually no economy outside agriculture — or certainly not a large or diversified one — and it is no longer able to attract businesses because companies now find it more profitable to invest in the second and third world, which makes alleviating unemployment all the more difficult. Thus, as in the north, there are fewer jobs than 10 or 20 years ago. To the extent that industry exists in Mississippi, it is generally in the area of highly exploitative agricultural or commercial chicken and catfish farming. In the fringe Delta towns we were in, for example, the local plantations were often the major sources of employment, and as a result of mechanization there is now massive unemployment in these towns. The few stores which exist in these towns are almost always owned by whites, but the few African Americans who were employed in these stores were largely employed as cashiers.

The kinds of businesses which employ poor people in the north don't exist in

Mississippi. Local mom and pop stores, for example, which abound in some areas of north and west Philly and all over New York, have been supplanted in Mississippi and put out of business by huge corporate chains like Walmart, which can offer discount prices and one-stop shopping.

Although de-industrialization has had a disastrous effect on unemployment and increasing poverty in the north, it has not occurred in every industry, whereas the mechanization of plantations has occurred all over Mississippi. Many towns which were often one-company or one-plantation towns are almost entirely without a major source of employment, which drives wages in the region down even further.

Another factor which reinforces and maintains African American poverty in Mississippi which occurs less in urban areas or in the north is that mid-level jobs such as factory managers or sellers of expensive machinery are held by whites. Not only is there less of an economic infrastructure, but there is also less of a government agency infrastructure as well. Thus, not only are state and local governments unable to alleviate poverty through direct employment of the poor or near-poor, but poor African Americans in Mississippi simply have fewer recourses available to them. In Philadelphia and New York, for example, housing and other public welfare agencies may be inefficient and bureaucratic, but at least they exist, and often employ large numbers of people. In Mississippi, they often don't even exist.

Here are some examples of how what I've been describing is manifested:

As Eric (Falkenstein) has said (*The College News*, 4/4/91), welfare qualifications are among the most stringent in the country and are the least generous; and General Assistance does not even exist. Welfare offices, when they exist, are literally few and far between. Since this is still a very rural area with a population that is spread out over dozens of miles, getting to these offices can often be difficult, especially if you don't have a car. Needless to say, public transportation does not exist. In addition, other agencies such as hospitals or family planning clinics are either nonexistent or are severely understaffed. You have, for example, one doctor who will be shared with several other clinics in the county, and thus only work part-time at each. Individuals who don't have any insurance or who are not under the care of one of a handful of local doctors will not receive treatment, even for emergencies. African American patients are often transferred to the University Hospital in Jackson, which is an hour away. Whites, on the other hand, generally don't have to worry about this because they see private doctors. We were told that all difficult pregnancies which come to the local public health clinic, for example, were, without exception, transferred to Jackson for delivery. There is also apparently an unstated policy of not allowing more than one African American doctor on the hospital staff at a time. Coupled with the lack of any health outreach efforts, this amounts to few resources — economic or otherwise — being put into poor African American communities. Because Mississippi spends the least amount of money on its public welfare programs of any state, agencies and programs which would create employment and address issues such as AIDS, teen pregnancy, adult literacy, job training, and nutritional concerns are luxuries which are difficult to fund; that these issues are not addressed often means that access to higher incomes are blocked to an even greater extent than they are in the north.

The Mississippi political structure also operates to maintain poverty differently than in the north. Whereas the north has

largely seen the decline of the political machine, Mississippi still operates on a "good ole boy" network, and plantation owners still control much of Mississippi politics. Needless to say, they are definitely not interested in increasing real estate or corporate taxes or welfare payments. While northern cities have reduced services to the poor in part because their tax bases have been eroded by white and middle class flight, white-owned businesses in Mississippi are often able to get away without paying any state or local taxes.

In addition, especially in these small towns, middle class jobs which have been traditional avenues of upward mobility for African Americans, such as teaching or other school jobs, are still determined by white patronage, as both Sarah (Birch; *The College News*, 4/18/91) and Eric have noted. Where African Americans have been able to exert political control on their own behalf, these victories have



On bridging the gap between Taylor and the undergraduate community

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The college's refusal to recognize me as economically independent undermines everything that the college as an academic institution has been trying to teach me. I realize that when it comes down to it, it is the difference between the college as a business and the college as an institution of higher learning. But that isn't good enough. How can any student believe that this school cares about her when it is obvious that she is, on at least one level, just another \$10,037.50 check every semester?

Let's see... what next? How 'bout that Dean's Office? I think we'd all agree that we have a pretty good set of advisors and mentors on the second floor of Taylor. Even the most jaded and angry among us can usually name at least one dean of whom she is somewhat fond. But while I personally can't complain about the guidance that has been offered me (thank you, Dean Tidmarsh!), I have heard from well over 3/4 of the students that I've talked to about Deanly matters that they are less than satisfied. Disappointed. Frustrated. Furious. I know a large number of students who have been given horrible advice and false information, which has then caused them untold amounts of stress and pain. And approaching anyone in the administration with reports such as these often seems too risky to students who already feel threatened by the forces of Administrative Power.

Why is there no system set up for a regular student evaluation of the Dean's Office? Why aren't students allowed to voice their views about their advisors the way that they are their professors, dining service, and hall advisors? The absence of such an evaluative process reinforces students' concerns that they are powerless in the face of an omnipotent Administration that is not forced to be accountable for its treatment of students, is not held responsible for the mistakes it makes, does not have to listen to the voices of the students it purports to serve. I think that simply setting up an evaluation process that the administration took seriously and acted upon would help to bridge the momentous gap that currently exists between second floor Taylor and the undergraduate community.

been hollow. African Americans have only been allowed to gain political control over towns which have experienced economic collapse as a result of the mechanization of the plantations. Although some have argued that African Americans have gained control in declining cities, the towns we visited which had African American mayors in Mississippi had collapsed completely.

Because it's an interesting example of the extent to which white business owners control Mississippi politics, and what poor African communities are facing, I'd also like to briefly discuss a growing industry which exemplifies much of what I've just discussed. The industry is the growing catfish industry, or what I'd like to call the new plantation system. In it, as Alicia (Distler) has said (see *The College News*, 4/4/91), high unemployment and racial boundaries allow factories to get away with paying as little as possible.

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All this belligerence is beginning to wear me out. But there's so much more to be belligerent about... bear with me for one final bout of ranting, please.

The college is realizing that our curriculum is in desperate need of diversification, and some progress is being made toward that end. Many argue that it's not being done fast enough; others argue that it's not being done well enough. My point for the moment is neither. Instead, I'd like to look at one of the professors that Bryn Mawr will be losing with the class of 1991, and to ask the college to reexamine its priorities and the basis upon which it hopes to ground a "diverse curriculum."

Diane Elam was hired in 1988 as an Assistant Professor of English in a three year position. Her effect upon the course offerings within the English department and on the students who have studied with her has been immense. As a feminist and a literary theorist, Elam has brought to Bryn Mawr extraordinary talent and expertise, and challenged students in English, philosophy, and many other disciplines to reexamine the way that they interpret texts and, more generally, the world in which they live. She urged students to question, to think critically and in ways that they never had before. She demanded honesty and original thought.

Elam's work is of fundamental importance to opening the curriculum to voices that have always been silenced. As the college adds these voices, they must do so with an awareness of the inherent dangers, an awareness that Elam has helped students develop. When Bryn Mawr loses her it will be losing one of the few professors who challenges mainstream assumptions and cultural constructs daily.

I urge the college and the English Department to make a sincere attempt to find another theorist who can continue the work that Professor Elam has started. We cannot live without it.

Well, I'm off to finish up the last of my academic work. It's not that I don't have more to say, just that I haven't any more energy to pour into Bryn Mawr College. I will miss this place, at least in some sense of the word. But it is really time for me to go.

Conservative backlash slows the dismantling structural segregation in Mississippi

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But because the factories are technically cooperatives and not corporations, they are legally exempt from paying any state taxes. Local county taxes are determined by individual counties, which are also controlled by the catfish factory owners, so the industry is largely untaxed and there is very little money to channel into social services such as education or better housing. The catfish industry doesn't even have to pay any of its research and development costs because the Mississippi state university system does that for them. Lastly, because the catfish growers are also the factory owners, they can argue that there is no money for factory wage increases, for example, by charging high prices for their catfish as farmers. Lastly, it's in the interests of the existing industries to keep other industries out so that a low wage base will be maintained.

I'd also like to make some urban/rural comparisons of other issues. With respect to AIDS, there are fewer AIDS cases in rural Mississippi. Most of the cases seem to have been acquired in the north, particularly in Chicago. However, just as many poor Puerto Ricans PWAs here in Philly go home to Puerto Rico to die, African American PWAs go back home to rural Mississippi to die. There are also fewer AIDS-related services in rural Mississippi, and no outreach. Many northern urban areas have community health outreach workers and educators which go out into the community and educate and give out free condoms and AIDS literature. In Holmes county, people who wanted information had to go to the local health clinic, and request to see a nurse who would give out condoms and literature. Also, there is less counselling available for people who are HIV+.

With respect to drugs, as in urban areas, there's a lot of crack use. Intravenous drugs exist to a lesser extent, and marijuana is available, but you don't see the number of different drugs that you do in many areas of New York and Philadelphia. The other difference is that these drugs in Holmes county are 4-5 times more expensive than they are in Chicago, which is probably where they're brought from.

The number of female-headed households is also high because, as in the north, there are no jobs for men. African American family patterns are also very much alive in the rural south, but because they are more extensive and relationships in the south are closer than they are in the north, there is less homelessness because, as one of the people Eric and I were staying with said, "everybody always has some kin to take them in."

The last comparison I'd like to make is that, as in the north, it's now un-PC to be openly racist, and so, using some of the liberal terminology of the 60's and 70's, the word "welfare" has become one of the codewords for African Americans. Whites in the south are now, like their sisters(?) in the north, not *anti-black*, but *anti-welfare*. Whites now don't openly complain about African Americans, but instead complain about all the people on welfare, who are primarily African American.

Mississippi: Is This America? Judy Porter

The findings reported above raise some important issues. Before I address some of those issues, let me briefly discuss the changes and the continuities over the past 25 years in the Delta. Approximately 25 years ago, the civil rights movement was active in Holmes County, combatting the severe racial segregation and oppression that existed at that time. Holmes County had an active civil rights movement, based mainly not in the churches but among the independent

black owners of small farms, which were eked out of marginal land. Things have changed since that time. The overt racial harassment and Klan presence of 25 years ago has abated to a large extent (though not totally); in fact, 25 years ago we would have run the risk of being killed had we attempted this trip. When I asked the 76 year old woman I was living with what had changed in her lifetime, she answered, "Honey, 25 years ago I would have been killed if I had been caught riding with you in the front seat of this car." ROCC could not have existed in as organized a form 25 years ago; the building would have been bombed. There have been changes in the state government over the past 25 years. Governor Ross Barnett, a vigorous proponent of segregation, has been replaced by Ray Mabus, a southern liberal and a Harvard graduate who has tried to improve education and social programs in the state but whose programs have been blocked to some extent in the Delta by the rural white power structure. Blacks could not vote in Mississippi in the mid-60's. Now, the Holmes County Board of Supervisors has a black majority and ROCC has organized voters so that even the city has a black minority on city council. Sharecropping has disappeared, as has work on plantations which have become fully mechanized. And legal restrictions on racial discrimination (for instance, the Voting Rights Act), make it possible for Holmes County to appeal to the federal government. Hunger is not as acute, because of the food stamp and other welfare programs. However, there are many things that have not changed. Although there is no longer legal segregation, extreme racial separation exists in every sphere of life. Racial stereotypes and racial discrimination still fuel a number of policy decisions, from the administration of public programs to bank loans to hiring for jobs. Overt racism has been replaced by stereotypes of the "welfare poor," but it is a common understanding that this means "black." The catfish plants are the new plantations, paying minimum wages and with very poor working conditions and few benefits. The schools are completely segregated and political intimidation is still common. The things that sustain the black community—religion, kinship and community ties—have not changed.

Hollis Watkins, one of the major activists in the Mississippi civil rights movement during the 60's, met us at a community meeting in Greenville and said, "This looks like the summer of '91." I assured him that he had a much tougher time in the summer of '64. "That's true," he said, "but we still need you down here." There are many continuities with the past and change is a slow process.

I initially posed the question "Mississippi: Is This America?" In some ways, it is a unique part of America whose conditions are local. The Delta faces the particular problems of plantation based agriculture and its mechanization, with very little economic diversification. It is rural, isolated, and has a weak infrastructure, making it unlikely that the economic base will increase. It has an entrenched and powerful tradition of racism that is more open than the rest of the country, with a black population that has been systematically deprived of adequate education and services for historical reasons.

On the other hand, however, the answer is "yes." Mississippi is very much America. It is part of the national economy. Folks in the Delta used to migrate to Chicago for jobs. Now, with the deindustrialization of our cities, there are no jobs for unskilled labor in Chicago. Just as plants are moving out of Chicago to other countries, so the small industrial base in the Delta is leaving; a GM parts plant with 80 jobs moved to Mexico last

year, because the labor was cheaper. Racism doesn't exist only in the Delta. There is little difference in the attitudes expressed in the Delta and in the attitudes expressed in Bensonhurst or Howard Beach. And I might add, we see some of the same attitudes in more subtle form in everything from college campuses to the Willie Horton ad which fueled the last presidential campaign. In the past decade, poor people have increasingly been stereotyped as dirty, poor and unmotivated and there has been a tendency to "blame the victim," while the distribution of income not only in the Delta but in the U.S. at large has become more inequitable. In both the Delta and in poor urban areas, poor people lack the resources to mobilize politically and feel that the political process has shut them out. Poor people in all areas of the country face the same federal policies. In the Delta, as in the rest of the country, the cutbacks in social services of the last decade have impacted on poor populations, leaving poverty all over the country at an unusually high level. We can find millions of dollars to spend on a war in the Gulf; we cannot seem to find the resources to spend on education, jobs, and housing either in our cities or our rural areas. "Mississippi: Is This America." In many important ways, yes. but we leave you with a question. Is this the America we want?



Labov commended for work inside and outside of the academy

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one says, "Don't move your head, your throat's been cut."

When asked in the discussion why almost all of his examples were taken from male informants, he responded that he interviewed about half males and half females and that it was just coincidence that he chose to speak the male narratives. He added that he should have thought more about his audience, and seemed genuinely sorry that he hadn't.

He said that women needed to keep reminding men to give equal representation of women.

Professor Labov stayed after to speak with individual students and seemed to be genuinely interested in the interaction. His optimistic attitude toward social change was grounded at least as much in the work he does outside of the academy as well as inside. It was refreshing to hear an academic who values action as much as speech.

Feminists re-examine the Twelve Steps to recovery

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everyone. The steps of AA were influenced by white, male, middle-class values of the 1930s. The focus of the program is to deflate an exaggerated ego and place dependence on an all-powerful male god.

The AA program has been beneficial to thousands of people, but its focus does not apply to every woman. Most women suffer from a lack of a healthy ego and need to develop their sense of self. Other addictions and the will to recover are heavily influenced by *cultural oppression*, such as poverty, racism and sexism. Successful treatment programs should provide concern and an understanding for these issues.

Kasl is especially critical of steps 4-9 because they ask women to focus on negative aspects of themselves:

4. *Make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*

5. *Admit to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*

6. *Be entirely ready to have God remove all defects of character.*

7. *Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings.*

8. *Make a list of the persons we have harmed and become willing to make amends to them all.*

9. *Make direct amends to such people whenever possible except when to do so*

would injure them or others.

Kasl says women must make a fearless inventory of how the culture has burdened them with shame before they can recognize the harm they have done to others. She suggests these steps:

1. *Examine our behavior and beliefs in the context of living in a hierarchical, male dominated culture.*

2. *Share with others the ways we have been harmed, harmed ourselves and others, striving to forgive ourselves and to change our behavior.*

3. *Admit our talents, strengths and accomplishments, agreeing not to hide these qualities to protect others' egos.*

4. *Become willing to let go of our shame, guilt and other behavior that prevents us from taking control of lives or ourselves.*

5. *Take steps to clear out all negative feelings between us and other people by sharing grievances in a respectful way and making amends when appropriate.*

This new interpretation of the twelve step program places the power of recovery in the hands of the woman. Women are encouraged not only to confront the hurt they have done to others, but the hurt that has been done to them in an oppressive society. This interpretation focuses on women recognizing their shortcomings but also encourages them to develop a sense of self.

(Charlotte Davis Kasl. *The Twelve-Step Controversy*. Ms. vol. 1, number 3 1991)

MS. HANK

coffee, and Create. Get some tortured text down in a small black notebook — what it lacks in presentation it gains in effort. Or, alternately, you can just go to bed and forget about it all.

But really, I can empathize with your love/hate relationship traumas. My advice is to wean yourself slowly; a few hours, a few days, and then *Blammo*, Warm Turkey. Try reacquainting yourself with that small portable electric that's been hiding under your bed. And don't stress too much about it — they always said undergraduate work didn't matter anyways.

Death to the Patriarchy,
Ms. Hank

Dear Ms. Hank,

I have a moral dilemma. I am a soon-to-be graduating senior completing the remainder of my academic work, and am well aware of the senior tradition of ringing the bell after everything is finished. While on the one hand I would be quite pleased to count myself among those ringing the bell on or by the 11th, I also remember how much it irritated me as an undergraduate to hear it. So my question is, should I wait until everyone is done, or should I go ahead and ring it as soon as I legitimately can?

— Ethical

Dear Ethical,

While I admire your commitment to ethics and morality, your solution is not entirely practical for the sole reason, of which you are certainly already aware, no one is ever "DONE" at this fine institution of higher soul searching. The question, therefore, is not *when* to ring said bell, but *how*. Yes, there are alternative routes to respectful bell ringing.

First, purchase several large bags of cotton and leave in five major sources of academic angst: Guild Hall, Miriam Coffin Canaday Library, Dalton, the PSB, and Taylor. (You might also consider donating empty egg cartons to cover the walls of *The College News* office.)

Next, send yourself on a trip to historic Philadelphia, and request permission to touch the sacred bell of liberty. If this is not satisfying enough, invest in a miniature replica of the sacred bell (be sure to get one that rings).

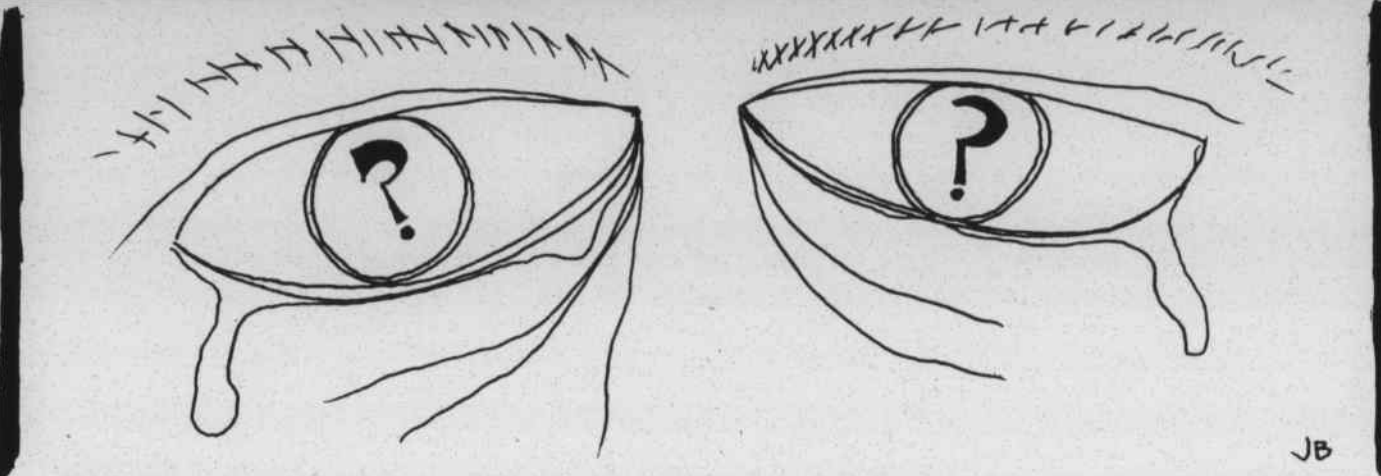
Return to your Bryn Mawr abode, climb to the top of the sacred bell tower of Taylor and commence ringing your mini-bell. It is likely that you will encounter a pack of ruthless fellow seniors clambering for their turn to give That Bell a hardy shake. But pay them no mind. Stand proud as you gingerly (and oh so quietly) shake your new acquisition. If all goes well, the others will cower with shame and slink back to the respective holes leaving The Bell undisturbed, many underclasswomen (and last minute seniors) at peace and your sense of ethics well fed.

Death to the Patriarchy,
Ms. Hank

Nigerian educational reforms risk magnifying inequalities

continued from page 15

market, plus the "domestically relevant" need for females in the family. Osunde explained that part of the problem is that some people (especially the Hausa and Fulani ethnic groups, he said) remove their daughters from school as early as age seven in order for them to be married. One wonders, though, how much of this gender segregation was caused or exacerbated by the colonial experience, such as that in Kenya when the colonizers gave the Kenyan men the seeds for cash crops (as well as the currency to interact economically with the British)



SGA response to harassment raises question of representation

continued from page 12

... Arati said that, further, this is not about homophobia or women, it is about harassment. She said that this whole thing should be coming together for ALL people on campus, not just lesbian/bisexuals on campus. [This goes down as Becky's number-one least favorite thing that anybody said throughout the whole semester. Arati was referring to the signs that said there would be a meeting of the "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Supporting Community." She was saying that she felt that anyone who wasn't gay was essentially not allowed to be at that meeting. Since homophobia, or homophobia, is clearly the cause of and motivating force behind homophobic harassment (instead of harassment causing homophobia) then the root concern at hand is homophobia, not harassment. If harassment were eradicated, hatred of lesbians and gays would be expressed in a multitude of other ways. If homophobia was eradicated harassment of gays would no longer be a problem.]...

... Lee Fortmiller (Brecon President) was just elected Brecon president Wednesday night. She thanked Joanna and was also very upset [she actually said that she was thoroughly disgusted] by the SRC meeting. The level of concern wasn't there in her opinion.

Mary Elizabeth said she was sorry if she did not show enough support. [She looked directly at me and said, shaking her head in what looked like pity but it could have been guilt, "I'm sorry if I didn't show enough support. I'm so sorry. I didn't even know about the march."]

Melissa wanted to know if there is an action we can take to show our support.

Armaity said that we can have a letter to show our support.

Melissa made a motion to show our support to the different groups involved. [By groups she meant BGALA and LBSG. (3) At this point one of us tried to re-iterate that there was no one in charge, no group with an identifiable lesbian leading it, to which they could send such a letter. We tried to explain that we were just a bunch of people who felt passionately that something needed to be done about the "incidents" who got together, talked for a while, and then did something. Neither BGALA or LBSG was directly involved in organizing or executing any community action.]

Giulia Cox said that she did not approve of this "non-language." The Dorm

Presidents should be more aware of what is going on in their halls.

Ingrid Johnson ('91 President) said that she likes the idea of doing something with regard to pluralism. We need to let the outside community and next year's freshman know about this. We need to share our problems about this. People are dealing with racism, sexism [What ever happened to homophobia? I guess that's what "this" meant.] all over. We should contact the newspapers...

... from the April 7th Minutes:

"Armaity Bharucha (Sr. Rep to the Trustees) announced that Steven Heath has one suspect on the Brecon incident [Okay - at this point I feel like I really need to explain why this word offends me so much. I'm calling on two people around me to help me describe why I think it's so dreadful. Two metaphors offered to me: "It's like a little blip on the corner of a screen" (4). Explanation: calling something an "incident" makes it seem completely unconnected to a continuing series of events. There is no sense that the word allows to think about what caused it, if it will happen again. It was, and now it's not, and you don't have to worry about it anymore. "It's like a blank rolled up piece of paper entering a room" (5). The word simultaneously conceals everything and says nothing; it's both broad and narrow; no value judgement, no sense of whether something is good or bad. It's a word that takes no responsibility for the meaning it transports. "What would be the difference if she (the SGA secretary) had used the word violations? threats? attacks?" (6)]...

... On Monday, the 29th of April, I posted signs calling for a follow-up meeting of the meeting after spring break. Once again I had written up something to say, this time to explain my filtered litany of what I could and could not say. What Dean Tidmarsh said I was allowed to say:

The investigation was narrowed down to one suspect who was identified on the basis of handwriting samples brought forward to Public Safety by students who had previous suspicions about the suspect. The handwriting evidence was submitted to 2 independent forensic document examiners (handwriting analysts) who have had adversarial court testimony in the past. The suspect's handwriting was submitted along with random samples so that the analyst would have to pick it out. Both examiners returned a positive response with high probability (70% and 80%) that the suspect's handwriting was the same as that on the notes. Both analysts said they would be willing to testify in court.

The suspect is a Bryn Mawr student. She was confronted with the evidence against her, has been asked to leave and has complied with that request.

(I also made a statement that another student left the day after the suspect, and that rumors had been floating around that it might have been her. I said her name and confirmed that the suspect was not her.)

I started the meeting after spring break by saying that harassment of this kind is designed to silence lesbians. It is excruciating for me to sit here and say that I know who this

person is and I have to remain silent. Plenty of people in this room can and will be able to figure out who it was by the information I'm allowed to give you. I am repulsed by the symbolism of not being able to speak someone's name because some closeted college administrator has waved her magic wand of silence. Quite frankly I am ashamed that I'm not willing to bear the possible consequences of saying someone's name. My reasons are that if I stand here and speak a name to you there are practical consequences that would involve harm being done to someone other than myself. If you stand up for an ideal and in so doing cause trouble for the one person who has been your only dependable ally and advocate to date, you're giving up too much. I hope that that reason is good enough for you because it's not good enough for me. I think that there are several people who would give an awful lot to be able to offer this community the difference between "I believe it was this person." and "I know it was this person." Fortunately I think you all will be able to make up that difference on your own...

... I honestly don't think they thought she would get caught. It seems that they were essentially bluffing.

The people working over in Taylor seem to be under the illusion that they can whisk someone away and declare that we should protect her identity and we will promptly stop talking about it. We are all moral beings who can make our own decisions about what is and isn't appropriate without (and despite) being told what to do.

... Courage and knowledge are the only legitimate weapons for fighting hatred, and neither is often possessed or used. My own experiences have brought me to the point where I believe that ignorance is easier to destroy than cowardice. That a college-age woman uses the language of hatred as well as she does is frightening. That a 45 year old college administrator won't stand up and take responsibility for the decisions she has been given the power to make is terrifying...

... What does it mean for me to sit in front of a room full of people and say "I can't tell you that" in response to questions that we all know I know the answers to? I painted "We will not be silenced" on a sidewalk a few weeks back in broad daylight. There are people who will never say the things they know. There are people who do not know but we still keep listening to them. The power to speak is most often possessed by those who have nothing worthwhile to say...

- (1) conversation with Renata Razza
- (2) When I talk about the purpose of harassment I'm not necessarily talking about the motive of the individual harasser might have. I'm referring to a network of history, of language, of complicity, and of denial that supports such acts because this society silences lesbians and gays. It is in that sense that the purpose of harassment is to silence—nothing is done about it because it is an expression of the will of a culture that wishes to silence.
- (3) Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Alliance and Lesbian Bisexual Support Group.
- (4) Beth Stroud, conversation 4/30/91.
- (5) Becky Greco, conversation 4/30/91.
- (6) Becky Greco, conversation 4/30/91.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Dictionary of the Khazars:

Dream hunters and colliding butterflies

By Ellis Avery

Dictionary of the Khazars, a lexicon novel, Milorad Pavic. Translated from the Serbo-Croatian by Christina Pribicevic-Zoric. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

This is an amazing book to spend a summer with. Once you leave Bryn Mawr, if there is a library (or a bookstore, I guess) in your area, go and find this book: I've put off this review all year, as *Dictionary* is neither short nor new, but it's a favorite. So.

The Khazars were a tribe who lived thirteen hundred years ago between the Caspian and Black seas. They disappeared in the tenth century, shortly after their conversion to Islam, Judaism, or Christianity. Sources are contradictory: thus, this book. Some forty-odd entries (which take five or ten minutes to read apiece), arranged alphabetically and by religion, present stories about the Khazars and their historians from the time of their conversion to the present.

These stories are like fables, miracle- tales, magic realism at its least abashed. They fold into themselves like Klein bottles; there's always some twist at the end, some elusive fillip — the stories have a koan-like clarity: they elude logic the better to clobber understanding. Pavic's (there should be an accent over the 'c'; he's Yugoslavian) writing is lucid, surreal, complex, and specific: "A book can be a vineyard watered with rain or a vineyard watered with wine..."

The Khazars had mirrors made of salt; they hunted dreams, in the hope that all the dreams brought together would re-compose the body of the first person (whose scattered fragments form our dreams) and thus stop time. Once the Khazars were gone and scattered, their historians tried, just as the dream hunters had, to gather together all the information they could find on the people — some tattooed on a messenger's back, some memorized by parrots — and thus in some way reconstitute them.

The experience of reading the *Dictionary* is similar: the entries can be read — over as long a period of time as one likes — in any order, and it is the reader, through choosing what to read when,

who composes the book. Last semester when I took Conceptual Physics, biology professor Paul Grobstein came in and lectured, saying that chemistry cannot be reduced to physics, nor can biology to chemistry, nor can dreams and imagination to biology. If one brought together all the molecules found in a human body, one would not have created a human being: what's as important as the materials is their arrangement. Each reading, each reshuffling of the elements, brings forth a new book; the reader takes part in a novel that celebrates its own composition: reading is a creative act.

As if that weren't enough, the book is printed in two different editions, male and female, which are identical except for one page. This was not in fact a scheme on the part of the publishers to make people buy two copies of the same book; the idea is, rather, to continue the project of the dream hunters and Khazar scholars by gathering and trading knowledge by finding someone else with the different edition and swapping books. Any pick-up lines this generates are intended by the author. I read Nabokov's *Pale Fire*, to which *Dictionary* is very similar, at about the same time, and in the same way that (by one reading) Nabokov treats homosexuality and literary analysis as metaphors for one another, *Dictionary* is as much a scholarly tribute to heterosexuality as anything else, playing with the idea of masculine and feminine words, sentences, numbers, rivers, keys, and days of the week.

Just as if you were going to read any other dictionary: there is a measure of pretentiousness inherent to the work; the dedication reads, "Here lies the reader who will never open this book. He is here forever dead." Pronoun aside, there is something sinuous and bookishly decadent, here: a book about the pleasure of reading. For now, a story:

"Long ago when I was a child I saw two butterflies collide in a meadow; specks of colored powder shifted from one wing to the other, they flew off, and I forgot all about it. Last night on the road a man mistook me for someone else, and struck me with his saber. Before I continued my journey, my cheek showed not blood but butterfly powder..."

Indigo Girls return to Philly for spring concert

By Vicky Maxon

In my November concert review of the Indigo Girls, I opened with a tableau, a lonely stage with angular microphone stands and softly gleaming guitars, into which the Girls suddenly ran, energizing the scene. This description could only come from someone relegated by circumstance, as I was, to the 50th row of the Tower Theater.

Now I want you to imagine a slightly different scene: a crowded open-air field at the fringe of UPenn campus, a horde of somewhat rowdy and drunken Spring Flingers dancing and singing, and a group of extremely sensual women from Bryn Mawr, Philly, and beyond sitting in the extreme front, their blankets spread to the barricades, surveying the scene. Makes for a slightly different pre-show atmosphere.

The first act of the annual Spring Fling April 19 was a reggae group, which seemed to please the men and women of the University of Pennsylvania, who began to gyrate slowly and become obnoxious even faster. The crowd looked like a mixture of true Indigo Girls fans and other Penn students who didn't think a six-buck ticket was too much to spend on a good time (as long as there was beer). But this did not stop the fans from having their own good time.

The Indigo Girls also brought their own opening act from Atlanta, guitarist Gerard McHugh, whose voice sounds much like Michael Stipe's and who used to give Emily Saliers guitar lessons. He and his percussionist played a short set of beautiful originals, and came back on stage for the closing encore.

It was a clear and bitterly cold evening by the time the headlining act appeared (Emily wore jeans and a UPENN sweat-shirt, Amy a paint-splashed pair of jeans, a t-shirt, and combat boots) and the Girls continually blew on their hands to keep them warm. This probably led to the (unfortunately) shorter show than the one performed at the indoor Tower in November.

But a shorter show doesn't mean a bad show. The Girls did most of the songs from their newest LP, *Nomads-Indians-Saints*, and also played some relatively old ones, opening with 'Secure Yourself' and recalling their early Atlanta days with 'Nashville' and "a song we used to do in the bars," 'No Way to Treat a Friend.' Emily played 'History of Us' — "a lullaby," she said — to calm the (at first) restless crowd, and Amy covered 'Romeo and Juliet' by request. Both were very conscious of the audience; lights were shone on us throughout the show, and Amy even climbed over the monitors to receive a note from someone who happened to be a member of the Philadelphia Women's Rugby Club.

They seemed to be having extreme fun, smiling and joking with each other and the crowd, Amy dancing all over the stage during Emily's solos. And they weren't alone — this time around they brought along Barbara Marino on alto saxophone and bongos, and Sara Lee, who recently gigged with the B-52's and recorded on *Nomads*, to play bass. The Girls didn't stick to originals either. They did a thrillingly languid version of 'Summertime,' Emily scatting behind Amy's low vocals, and encored with 'Uncle John's Band,' a rousing jam that they recently recorded for a Grateful Dead tribute album to benefit the rain forests (Emily again referred us to the Greenpeace contingent that always travels with them).

So why do we like the Indigo Girls so much? Besides their obvious charm, I think it's their sincerity and their genuine enthusiasm for the music. They have so much fun sharing their talents, and I'm sure they have so many fans because they choose to share their cares with us in the form of their often gut-wrenching songs. An anonymous concert-goer said: "The beautiful harmonies . . . they just speak to you."

I was so ecstatic to catch a sneak preview (we arrived during the soundcheck and were able to watch them warm up), and was ready to do almost anything for a chance to get backstage. A ploy to use my status as a member of *The College News* editorial board failed only because it was the policy of the concert's organizers to keep it closed to any press but UPenn's. But the time I spent eagerly agonizing over questions to ask them was anything but wasted. If thinking about them is all I will ever be able to do, that can give me as much entertainment as meeting them. For aren't our own personal conceptions of people those which keep us happy?

As it happened we were the first at the Spring Fling gates besides a group of women from Ithaca, New York, who follow the Girls everywhere and were just as excited. We exchanged addresses in order to share our bootleg tapes of the Girls and Melissa Etheridge, another sincere performer, and exchanged speculations and stories of other concerts. Could that be another function of groups like the Indigo Girls? A certain ambiguity about them which allows us to continue to identify with "successful" and (we hope) satisfied women?

Whatever the reason for the attraction, people from all over the country continue to buy the albums and go to the shows of the Indigo Girls. For those of you in the area, The Girls are performing on June 6 at Mann's Music Center. Who knows, you may meet a certain group of women from New York in the front row.

Ravenous vegetation takes on student body

By Alessandra Djurklou

The best thing about this show was definitely the plant. It was incredible. It upstaged the actors whenever they did a scene with it, it was supposed to, (upstaged by an overgrown venus flytrap!); yet the ensemble of Broadway South's Little Shop of Horrors bore up well despite their delectable vegetable. Some numbers, especially towards the end, however, lacked energy. The force that had been built up dissipated somewhat by the last number, "Don't feed the plants," but this can be attributed partly to the large load each actor had to carry.

The cast of twelve might have well been augmented by some extra actors, who could play bums on Skid Row, (in addition to Christopher Ptomey, the director, who did an all too convincing impersonation of a drunk).

All characters were convincing, and most of the singing was excellent (sometimes the low notes were a bit hard to hear) and the band, hidden offstage, faithfully represented the zany music in this production.

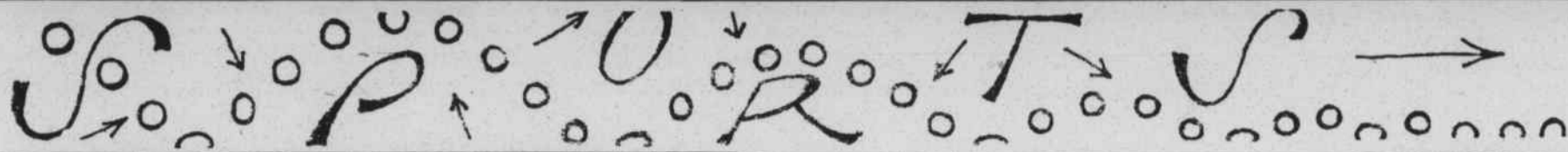
Some of the staging I found a bit too presentational, too much facing front which was not really necessary, even for a musical, and the number "Downtown" was again lacking hordes of bums to

wreak harmony, though it was otherwise well sung and danced.

Colin Rule, as the dentist, gave his audience a strange mixture of himself, Elvis, Steve Martin, and Hannibal Lecter, at times confusing but otherwise quite amusing. His number could have been staged more creatively, however. With the revolving stage, the director could have put him in his office, acting out his profession with a terrified patient. True, this would be much like the movie and there would also be time constraints to consider, but the number was strong enough to consider adding some embellishments.

Arielle Metz has an incredible voice, and

did a great job with "somewhere that's green," with a great twist that is not to be found in the movie version (why does Hollywood always ruin everything?) Other Honorable Mentions go to Randy Kravitz as Seymour, lovable nerd, who had a great relationship with the plant. Bill Toll did justice to Audrey II, and Nat Johnson did a good job lip synching. The revolving set was well made and very professional looking, commendations go to Grantley Pyke and Wendy Semsel. Few flaws aside, I really enjoyed this production. Now that Broadway South has veered into dark comedy, perhaps they will stage Sweeney Todd in one of their upcoming productions?



Athletic Association honours BMC athletes

By Kitty Turner

The Athletic Association held its Twelfth Annual Awards Banquet on April 25, 1991. Each year this banquet is held in honor of the students who went the extra distance and juggled an intense Varsity or Junior Varsity schedule with an equally rigorous academic schedule. The Awards are great distinction which the athletes take pride in receiving, and which the Athletic Department is pleased to announce.

For those of you who are unaware of the athletic program at Bryn Mawr, the college sponsors ten varsity athletic teams. They are: Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Diving, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis and Volleyball. There are over 120 student-athletes at Bryn Mawr who spend anywhere from 10-12 hours per week practicing, and anywhere from 12-25 hours per week in practice and competing. This is equivalent to taking an entire course load complete with two lab sciences. This is not an easy task by any stretch of the imagination.

Who are these people that have time to do these things, you may ask? They are Anthropology majors, Biology and Chemistry majors, Physics majors, they are English majors. They are future doctors, lawyers, professors, coaches, teachers, business women. They are scholars who believe that a healthy mind should have a healthy body. They believe that an educated mind should have an educated body. They work hard to represent Bryn Mawr College, on the field, on the court, and in the pool. They are a dedicated group, ready and willing to rise to the challenge, and more often than not emerging victorious.

The Athletic department in conjunction with the Athletic Association takes time every year to recognize these athletes and their contributions with special honors. Among the awards that are given to student-athletes are: Seven Sister Scholar athletes and the Delano award. There is also an award given by the Department indicating exemplary service to the department, dedication and commitment, The Yeager award.

This year there were four seniors who received the honor of the Seven Sisters Scholar Athlete Award. Requirements for this award are at least three years of Varsity Participation, competition in at least one Seven Sisters Championship Tournament, and a GPA of at least 3.5. The seniors who rose to that academic challenge this year were Lisa Wells — Basketball; Miriam Allersma — Swimming; Catie Hancock — Field Hockey and Liz Chang — Lacrosse. The Delano Award, which is given to the senior who has performed at a consistent level of excellence, both in her athletic career as well as academic career, was awarded to another Field Hockey player, Amy Roberts. The Yeager award this year went to a Field Hockey Player, Jana Ernakovich and a Volleyball Player, Kitty Turner.

Congratulations to all of these student-athletes and may their experience at Bryn Mawr and through athletics hold them in good stead as they enter their fields of choice.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Field Hockey Team played well and hard this past fall, ending their season with a record of 7-10. The team was coached by Jenepher Shillingford, who was assisted by her daughter, Beth. The Field Hockey captains were Jana Er-

nakovich, and Heidi Glick. It was a good season despite the record, and it was a great learning season for the underclasswomen who will return next fall to give 'em hell. They will bring experience and provide depth for the team.

Though it is always good to have experienced freshman return for their sophomore year, it is also always hard to say goodbye to the seniors who have stuck it out for so long and been the reliable upperclasswomen. This year the field Hockey team is losing six seniors: Jana Ernakovich, Heidi Glick, Jen Schickler, Amy Roberts, Lakshmi Sadasiv and Catie Hancock. These players were well skilled and formed the core of a great hockey team. Among them were two athletes who stood out. Amy Roberts, who was named PAIAW Hockey Player of the year, and received that award, was voted by her teammates Most Valuable Player, was named to both the PAIAW and the Seven Sisters All-Star teams, and led the team with 11 goals and seven Assists. Because of her extraordinary efforts, she was the winner of the Delano Award. Catie Hancock also stood out among the field hockey players, she was named to the CFHCA Scholar Athlete Team and was a Seven Sister Scholar Athlete.

The team will be co-captained by Becky Koh and Sandy Horning next fall. Good Luck.

CROSS COUNTRY

Though the cross-Country team is small, there are none more dedicated than they. They run whether it's cold, raining, snowing or scorching hot. The letter carriers for the Post Office have nothing on this team. The team was coached by Cassy Bradley and captained by Senior Margie Zeller. The team is young — this is only its fourth year as a Varsity Sport — but the athletes on this team manage to shine. They placed at the PAIAW championships, and Margie Zeller, the team's only senior, placed tenth at Seven Sisters.

Zeller, who is an excellent athlete, was named Cross-Country's Most Valuable Player, receiving the Outstanding Cross-Country Award. She has Captained the team for three years, and received many honors in that time. These include: appointment to the Seven-Sisters All-Star team — three years, appointment to the PAIAW team — three years, and MVP — two years.

VOLLEYBALL

The Varsity Volleyball Team had a tough season this year, and finished 13-17. While it would appear that the team did not have a winning season, or even a .500 season, the team was able to outscore its opponents overall. Further, the Volleyball team finished the season ranked seventh nationally, for service ace percentage in NCAA Division III. This effort was led by Sophomore Co-Captain Laurel Wong, and Junior Sara Rubin. The Team was coached by former BMC Volleyballer, Karen Lewis and captained by Laurel Wong and Senior Kelly Lock.

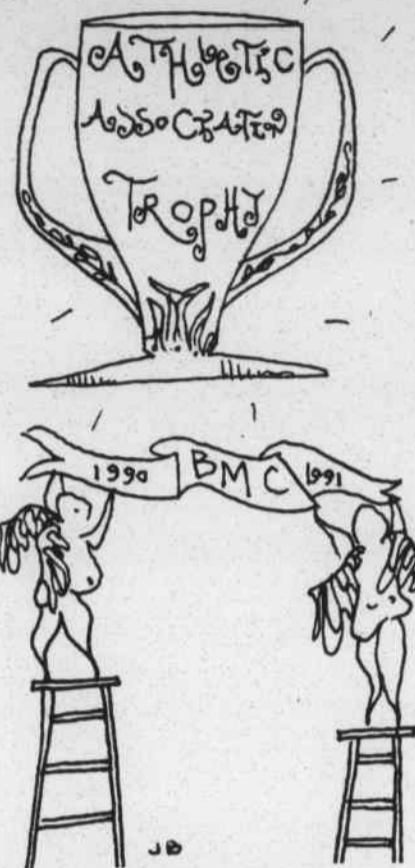
This year, the turnout for Volleyball was so great, that a JV team was formed, and had a separate schedule. They were captained by Sarah Wilkinson and Julie Miller. The JV team showed great enthusiasm and effort, and played well against their opponents, including some Varsity teams. The JV Volleyball award was given to JV Co-Captain Sarah Wilkinson.

The winner of the Varsity Volleyball Award was Senior Kelly Lock. She was also nominated for the PAIAW Volley-

ball Player of the Year. To her credit, she has two Seven Sister All-Star team appearances, two PAIAW all-star appearances, and two MVP awards. She was a three year captain. It might be said that captains are those with exemplary skill and outstanding leadership, for the other co-captain was named to the Seven Sister All-Tournament team, Laurel Wong. Laurel was one of six chosen from a field of more than 120 Laurel also led the team in Service Aces, and was key in defensive play. Freshman Jen Duclos was awarded the Most Improved player award.

Highlights of the season include beating cross-town rival Swarthmore three times in one week, a repeat performance of last year, defeating bi-co rival Haverford at Seven Sisters, to avenge an earlier loss to their team, and winning the fifth game of the last home-match against

continued on page 20



Horned Toads ready for more

By Vicky Maxon

As was the case in the fall, this rugger missed out on several matches in the spring season, but this time because of illness, not injury. Though I did not actually play in some of the matches reported here, I feel it my duty to provide avid rugger fans with a brief wrap-up of the activities of the BMC/HC Horned Toads this spring rugby season of 1991.

The majority of our games were scheduled at home this season, and the arguable highlight of it all was when we hosted the first annual Seven Sisters Rugby Championships. Though only two other teams, Wellesley and Radcliffe, could attend, their presence made the weekend of April 13 a success, besides giving us an excuse to sell cool t-shirts. (If you don't have one by now, contact team president Jen Reed. She's in the finding list and she'd love to hook you up.)

We played Swarthmore College April 20, extending that winning record by three tries to two. Princeton University, the best in our conference and vice-cham-

pion of the tournament held the weekend of April 5 in Virginia, travelled to Bryn Mawr April 27 and had to settle for a 3-3 tie. Our final match, on May 4, was less a competition for points than a contest of wills (the Alums were willing to play through their hangovers and we were willing to let them). The 18-4 result only shows how much fun both sides had, and how much they were looking forward to the traditional post-game party.

As I said last season, if any of this sounds remotely interesting, we encourage you to come out and join us. If the beginning or end of the year is especially hectic for you, don't worry — we welcome players at any point in the fall and spring seasons, and our coaches continue to cover the basics.

(If you happen to be around this summer with time on your hands, we are organizing sevens games. For details contact Jen Reed, Eleni Varitimos, or Carla Tohtz.)

It's a fun game, and we'd love to share it with you. Just remember: "life's a pitch, and then you try."

Tennis team draws strength from new recruits

By Kitty Turner

The Bryn Mawr College Tennis team ended its season with a better than five hundred mark. The team was able to earn a 5-4 record. In this year of tough losses for the Bryn Mawr College athletic teams it stands as great testimony for the team to yield a winning season.

The tennis season began last fall as the team practiced outside, and continued as they moved indoors when the weather forced them to use inside courts. The first highlight of the season was when the team traveled to Hilton Head, South Carolina over spring break. Coach Cindy Bell said that this was an opportunity for the team to come together, and the team rose to the challenge forming a cohesive unit, in what otherwise might be looked upon as an individual sport.

The team played well against all of its opponents and was able to defeat Moravian, Muhlenberg, Drew, Widener, and Drexel. The team fell to cross town rivals Haverford and Swarthmore, as well as Ursinus and Princeton.

Coach Bell was very much pleased with the overall performance of the team, especially since she had three freshmen playing the top three positions. She expects that the difficulties they had this year will be things they can learn from and build upon; that this experience will make them seasoned athletes and ready to perform to a high level of excellence next year.

The team will only be losing one senior, Christina Schneider. Her talent and ability will be sorely missed. Schneider was a four year Varsity player, and three of those years she was a co-captain. While the team is losing Christina, they are gaining some fantastic talent in the underclasswomen.

Helping in the coaching arena this year was assistant Coach Karen Lewis. As it is very difficult to play three seasons, one can imagine how difficult it might be to coach three seasons, which is something Lewis did. Lewis is also a former Bryn Mawr Tennis player, and brought personal as well as coaching experience to the young team.



BMC athletes: how do they do it?

continued from page 19
Muhlenberg.

The team is losing three seniors Anne Cesa, Kelly Lock and Kitty Turner.

SOCCER

The Soccer team had a good season overall, posting a .500 season of 7-7-2. This team was captained by Liz Hogan and Debbie Murphy, and will again be captained by these two, plus Pearl Tessler in the fall. The Soccer team "gave that extra effort" according to Coach Ray Tharan, that is necessary to win. The Soccer team was able to defeat Swarthmore 1-0 after losing to them at seven Sisters, and tied Haverford College.

Pearl Tessler and ZB Borneman were named team MVP's, and ZB was also named to the Seven Sisters All-Tournament team. ZB was praised for her outstanding efforts as goalkeeper, praise that was well-deserved. Liz Hogan was also named to the Seven Sisters All-Tournament team. This year, the team introduced a spirit award. It was awarded to co-captain Debbie Murphy.

BASKETBALL

There has probably never been a team more plagued by injuries than this year's basketball team, except maybe last year's basketball team. The Basketball team finished with an NCAA record of .500 (8-8) and an overall record of 8-9. The team was coached by Ray Tharan, and Senior Lisa Wells and Junior Julie Demeo were Captains.

This team overcame many odds this season as they lost player after player to injury. Freshman Amy Keltner was the first to be injured. She tore her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) during pre-season, and was unable to continue the season. During the game with Neumann College, Senior rookie Lucinda Kerschensteiner, also suffered a knee injury, causing her to miss the first half of the season, however, she did return to have a most excellent finish, and gave an incredible performance for Bryn Mawr. She was given the Captains award for

her tenacious display of athletic dedication and ability. Although Lu played Basketball for only one year, it was a fantastic year. The Captain's award was well deserved. Sophomore Mary Beth Janicki suffered an ACL injury also, that sidelined her for the remainder of the season, and Freshman Ellen Benson fractured her ankle in the same game that Mary Beth was injured. Benson was also unable to complete the season. The team's other senior, Lisa Wells, who Coach Tharan describes as "the perfect foul shooter" was awarded the MVP. Sophomore Erin Adamson was named to the Seven Sisters All-Tournament team, for the second consecutive year, again one of five from a field of more than 120.

Next year's team will be Captained by Erin Adamson and Julie Demeo.

SWIMMING

The Swim team had a successful season, posting a 3-6 record and breaking several earlier Bryn Mawr College records. The team is losing six seniors among them co-captains Natalie May and Julie Smith. Also graduating are Miriam Allersma, Amy Mahan, Bethany Picker, and Monica Shah. Coach Barb Bolich stated that she is sorry to see these seniors go because she will miss their "character, personality and leadership."

The underclasswomen shone in the pool this year, given special recognition among the was freshman Lida Hanson. Lida was awarded the Swimming Award given to the person who accrues the most points for the team in a season. Lida is an excellent swimmer and her record clearly shows it. In the thirty appearances she made in the pool this year, twenty of them resulted in first place wins, and ten were second place performances. She gained 373 points for the team and is well-deserving of this award.

Highlights included placing in the Top 16 forty-two times this year, and defeating seven sister rival Mt. Holyoke. The team will be co-captained by Lida Hanson and Jeanne DeGuardiola next year.

DIVING

Ingrid Johnson is the Diving team. No, really, she alone is the diving team. She owns all of the Diving records at Bryn Mawr College, seizing them as a freshman, and breaking them every year. In the first home meet of the year, she broke her one-meter record in the first round of diving. This year she broke a total of three records, finished third in Seven Sisters for both one and three meter diving, and executed some of the most difficult dives known. Coach Bolich cited her as a "very courageous athlete" able to rise to any challenge.

BADMINTON

Bryn Mawr Badminton finished their regular season with a record of 7-3. The team under the tutelage of Karen Lewis, had a very strong season that was achieved through the solidness and depth of the team. Co-Captains Jen Hunt and Marisha Wignaraja led the team to a winning season. The team, entirely made up of sophomores and Freshman, were able to accomplish many things this season.

Badminton, for those of you who think that it is merely a picnic family sort of game, has the second fastest reaction time of any sport. Second only to Jai Alai. The sport requires a great deal of physical endurance, quick reactions, and great judgement. The birdie is not like a ball and therefore not as predictable. The young Bryn Mawr squad was able to master the basics of the sport, and that shows in their winning record.

In individual play, sophomore Marisha Wignaraja, shone. She played first singles and did very well in both PAIAW tournaments as a semifinalist, and in the Northeast Regional Collegiate Championships. Freshman Tina Carey and Jeanne Oh were able to win the consolation doubles in PAIAW tournament, and Freshman Que Van and Orin Roth led the team to victory by going undefeated in regular season play, finishing with an overall record of 7-1.

The Ethel grant Award was given to Que Van, and Marisha Wignaraja captured the Feathers award.

TENNIS (see page 19)

Amy Roberts was awarded the PAIAW award for the 1990 season. A three year varsity tennis player, Amy Roberts had a singles record of 20-7. The Ethel Grant award for tennis was awarded to two players this year, Christina Schneider, and Ariel Kernis.

LACROSSE

The Lacrosse team started it's practicing last semester and continued with pre-season through early March. The team traveled to St. Petersburg, Florida for a week of fun and excitement at the American Lacrosse Camp.

The Lacrosse team according to their coach Beth Shillingford is "A lesson in patience and perseverance." The team is doing well, with a current record of 4-5. The team will travel to Wellesley for the Seven Sisters Lacrosse Championship Tournament. The Team is Captained by Liz Chang, Shira Fruchtman, and Lucinda Kerschensteiner. The team is losing seven seniors: Charlotte Paige, Christina Cuomo, Jen Schickler, Liz Chang, Lucinda Kerschensteiner, Louise Zimmerman, Karena Rush, Kim Gorsuch.

This years Lacrosse MVP award went to Lucinda Kerschensteiner who currently has a total of 46 points with 39 goals and seven assists. According to Coach Shillingford, Lu "really found her groove, and hit her stride this year."

TRAINERS

Those athletic teams and the athletes who form them would not be able to stay alive or together without the help of the student trainers. A special thanks to all of them: Sadaf Ahmad, Ellen Benson, Christina Cuomo, Seble, Cadi New, Erika, Ida, Mia Shapiro, Jen Schickler, and Jen Morse. Also thanks goes to the two year trainers Sarah James and Kitty Turner and our West Chester University Student Trainers Kim Kleinbach and Tracy Morello.

Dykes To Watch Out For



Suffragette City

