1992


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Lynn Yeakel: a view of women in politics

By Erika Merschroed

This past weekend, the Bryn Mawr community had the exciting opportunity to participate in a panel discussion involving some very important women (and a couple of men) from today's political scene. Among the more famous guests invited were Hillary Clinton, a no-show due to campaign demands, and Lynn Yeakel, candidate for the United States Senate.

Lynn Yeakel, a resident of Rosemont, is familiar with the public service scene both on a local and national level, so she was well acquainted with both the hindrances and the advantages to being a woman in the male-dominated political arena. She was, therefore, a natural choice to introduce Saturday morning's panel on "Getting Elected: Advantages and Obstacles."

In her opening remarks, Yeakel mentioned that the Clarence Thomas hearings (or rather, their transformation into the Anita Hill hearings) inspired her to join the senatorial race in January. At the time, she said, she didn't know that so many other women would also be running, which shows how lacking we women are when it comes to networking with other politicians.

Ms. Yeakel stressed the importance of coalitions and the power in numbers, citing as an example the great success she had in taking Women's Way from a struggling group of fund-raisers to a strong coalition that provides much-needed assistance to women in this area and nationwide.

Which brings us to the issue of money. As Clare Wofford said later in the day, politicians spend most of their campaigning time (and a large part of their elected time) seeking funds and creating a resource network. For a woman, as one could well imagine, the time needed to raise an equivalent amount of money as compared to her male counterparts is so disproportionate that this alone discourages many women from becoming involved in running for elected offices and prevents many of those who do run from obtaining those offices.

Despite setbacks produced by scarce funds for women candidates, lack of strong, female backing or "old girl" networks, and blatant sexism, not to mention a history of frightened men who have quelled our every move toward equality of the sexes, there are a few advantages to being a woman in politics. In Lynn Yeakel's case specifically, being a newcomer and an "outsider" (most women being viewed as outsiders) has made her a symbol of change and hope. As a member of an oppressed minority (namely women), she will most probably sympathize with other disenfranchised groups such as the elderly. All of this can be extended to a more general view of a woman challenging a male incumbent.

In summary, Lynn Yeakel expressed a feeling that women have a very important place in politics as women and as promoters of change. All issues are women's issues, and so-called "women's issues" are actually issues that affect our whole society.

"Women in Politics" at Bryn Mawr

By Elizabeth Lyzenga and Erika Merschroed

"Should we fight not to be special but equal, or fight to be special and articulate in the ways in which we have been special?" This question was raised by Billie Gaines, moderator of the first discussion panel, "In and Out: Do Women Have a Special Role in Politics?" of this weekend's symposium, "Leaders — Born or Made? Women in Politics." It continued to be an important topic of debate for the remainder of the weekend, as many women (and two men) who hold political positions in the professional and volunteer arenas convened to salute the growing presence of females in power.

The first panel involved three women, two of whom could be seen as having a direct conflict of ideals: Kathryn Roth is working for the Clinton campaign while another, Lisa Shiffren, writes speeches for Dan Quayle. An interesting diversion occurred when, in response to an audience question, Shiffren stated that gender was a non-issue when women formed their political opinions.

Roth countered with her own opinion that a woman's perspective must necessarily be different than a man's, and a brief argument ensued. Unfortunately, this departure from the format was interesting almost immediately, but not before two opinions had been presented as being in opposition, namely whether the woman or the politician is the moving force of a woman politician.

Continuing in this vein, in another panel Clare Wofford, wife of U.S. senator Harris Wofford, suggested that women politicians, more so than their male counterparts, are honest and concerned with domestic issues. Marjorie Margolis Mervisky, candidate for U.S. Senate, agreed that a woman's perspective is different than a man's, but she proposed that the difference lies in the popular perception of women as outsiders and elements of change.

The dispute continues over whether or not we, as women, have something special to offer the political scene in the United States and around the world. Although the symposium was tedious and inconclusive at times, it brought exciting people to Bryn Mawr and excited people to Bryn Mawr. This past weekend, the Bryn Mawr community had the exciting opportunity to participate in a panel discussion involving some very important women (and a couple of men) from today's political scene. Among the more famous guests invited were Hillary Clinton, a no-show due to campaign demands, and Lynn Yeakel, candidate for the United States Senate.

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Despite setbacks produced by scarce funds for women candidates, lack of strong, female backing or "old girl" networks, and blatant sexism, not to mention a history of frightened men who have quelled our every move toward equality of the sexes, there are a few advantages to being a woman in politics. In Lynn Yeakel's case specifically, being a newcomer and an "outsider" (most women being viewed as outsiders) has made her a symbol of change and hope. As a member of an oppressed minority (namely women), she will most probably sympathize with other disenfranchised groups such as the elderly. All of this can be extended to a more general view of a woman challenging a male incumbent.

In summary, Lynn Yeakel expressed a feeling that women have a very important place in politics as women and as promoters of change. All issues are women's issues, and so-called "women's issues" are actually issues that affect our whole society.

Fear of a campus of color?
Admissions' reassessment

By Tania Sloan and Lourdes-marie Prophete

A very complicated and powerful agency of Bryn Mawr has made serious decisions that affect the whole student body — every race and class. The "quiet" decision made by the Admissions Office there exists conflicting stories. Some offices will tell you that Asian-Americans are a "grey area" right now — we are not sure how to classify them. Others will tell you that they are no longer "priority." Still others will say that yes, Asian-Americans are minorities, but minority recruitment will focus on African-American and Latino students since the Asians are "over-represented" at Bryn Mawr.

Some extremely serious issues arise from this decision. Why should the Hispanic and African-American students' gain be the Asian-American students' loss? Who has the power to decide what ethnic group will be considered "minorities" for the year or how many of an ethnic group is considered enough? Admissions seems to think that Asian-American students are doing quite well at Bryn Mawr. Well, if this same reasoning were applied to the Caucasian population, then why aren't we cutting back on their recruitment and focusing completely on other minority groups? I guess it's a fear of a campus of color. Instead of saying we do not need to focus on their recruitment, why not recruit from "under-represented" Asian-American communities?

This is part of a larger issue. How does Admissions' recruitment, especially minority recruitment, actually work? What is Bryn Mawr's policy on diversity? Is there a quota of minorities they want to reach and then no more?

Most of the students at Bryn Mawr come from very similar socioeconomic backgrounds, even the minority students. Admissions officers will explain to you that, because many high schools consisting mainly of minority students have a lower quality of education (i.e. no foreign language) and therefore lower SAT scores, they are having to make exceptions to bring them here. Does the Admissions Office have a Minority Recruitment plan? The Minority "Coordinator" (not recruiter) has two and a half geographic regions to cover and knows that her position is very temporary. The office is planning to hire a recruiter by June. Until then what is being done for the class of 1997 and 1998, besides searching through a few computer databases of minority students?

Three student intern positions were formed. At 460 a semester (an important position obviously, at that pay), these students will assist the Minority Coordinator. The Admissions Office expresses the hope that the positions will be filled by one African-American, one Asian-American and one Latino student, but also pointed out that, in the interview process, such a neat result is not guaranteed. Until then what is being done for the class of 1997 and 1998, besides searching through a few computer databases of minority students?
Gary Garber's "Disorientation Guide"— the bi-college answer to consumer reports

To the Community:

1 Sept 1992

I have read Gary Garber's "Disorientation Guide" for Haverford and Bryn Mawr very carefully. Some parts of it seemed very mathematical, and I wondered if they had been taken directly from a magazine. I am also very familiar with the Guide, and I was not impressed. While I am less familiar with Haverdents, either intellectually or emotionally, I was certainly things which I actively hate.

It seems to me that the Guide is a necessary publication, not because it is a fact about our lives at Bryn Mawr, but because it is a product of the specific students. In the Guide, administrators are public figures and are not representative of the opinions of the Ed board. Come to the

Non-smoker's demand for action, for all of our rights

To the community:

Do we really need more discussion on the new smoking policy? Do I need to point out that the administration totally disregarded our rights with the policy? That they waited for those couple of weeks between the end of Summer Session and the start of Fall Semester so that there wouldn't be any dissension from us pesky students? It doesn't matter whether or not you are a smoker, you should stand up and demand that the administration apologize for their under-handed tactics.

Regardless, I can understand the enforcement of the policy in the Caf and in Haffner. In both of those areas, there is no way to enclose the smoking section. But I am unable to comprehend why the Erdman smoker has been changed to non-smoking. I sat in there for most of last year. The doors were sometimes open and sometimes not. It all depended on how people felt and if those by the doors were happy.

They don't own a copy. They are bound to hear about it, even if they don't own a copy. While a mere student's opinion may be set aside, I would like to point out that colleges are primarily for students. Again, this should be an obvious statement, not a reflection of popular opinion. The Guide is by students, for students. In the crudest possible terms, the clientele are evaluating the students who write it. The Disorientation Guide is Consumer Reports.

Eleanor H. Chin, BMC '93

SEP. 24, 1992

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THE COLLEGE NEWS

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This is the first issue of the semester. The deadline for the October 8 issue of The College News is Friday, October 2 at 5 p.m. Letters and articles should be submitted to the news office (c-1227). All submissions should be on a Mac disk; disks will be returned (we promise). We will accept articles by both college and non-college writers. All opinions expressed in articles and letters are those of the authors only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Ed board. Come to the

THURSDAY night meetings at 9:00 p.m., or call one of the editors if you are interested in contributing to the issue.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The College News is a feminist newspaper 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 feminism through the experience of the Bryn Mawr community as well as through experiences of members of liberal arts colleges and of a larger world community. Through this continuing dialogue, we hope to promote communication and understanding and to foster self-confidence and independence in expression.
The smoking debate analyzed

By Laura Brewer

Though Bryn Mawr College smokers looked forward to lighting up with their friends in Haffner and Erdman Dining Halls and the Café upon their return to college this year, they were soon to be disappointed. Indeed, they were to find 'no smoking' signs posted in those places. Within the first few days of classes, a petition, initiated by Sarah Rockwell and Patti Gadicka, among others, began to circulate on campus questioning not only the decision itself but also the manner in which it was made. Indeed, according to Health die of the Bi-

College News, the petition and an accom-
panying letter, were submitted on Sep-

tember 4th to President McPherson, Dean Tidmarsh, and several Dining Services officials. On September 6th, Sarah Rockwell and Micki McElroy, among others, began to voice their concern on the issue was obvi-

ously significant. As smokers and non-smokers ex-

pressed their opinions, the sources of this concern came to the surface. Smok-

er students were astonished and, in some cases, hurt by the decision. The letter accompa-

nying the petition revealed these feelings.

The decision was characterized by smokers as in-
tolerant and un-
fair.

Patti Gadicka, a 'once-in-a-while-

smoker', de-

clared, "I was surprised because I saw Bryn Mawr as more tolerant and will-
ing to back the mainsteam." Referring to neighboring Hav-

erford College's non-smoking policy, Gadicka added, "Haverford, there are many smokers here."

That the issue of smoking has been festering on campus now seems obvious. The administration's decision merely fueled a debate that had been waiting to happen.

The Admissions Office has increased the tension between the students of color organizations. What students must re-

member is that any ethnic group is hurt, all of us are harmed. We do need to increase the African-American, Latino, Native American, and mixed popula-

tions on this campus. However, don't let by hurting one minority ethnic group supposedly help another. Students must rethink how their orga-

nizations are working to bring about change.

The practice of "looking out for our own" only supports the present practice of recruitment. Students will never over-

come this "Minority Ceiling" that is in place by fighting one another.

A solution will not present itself over-

night, but even if a small dent is made in the established system, something will have been accomplished. Question those in power, willing to work with them, and communicate with the authorities. In other words, put your damn books aside, and unite to conquer the establishment.

The College News, September 24, 1992
**Boot up, log in, drop out:**

**Neo-hyper cyber madness now at Guild Hall**

By Nina Karp

Yes, paving the way towards your thesis, English paper or lab report are five brand new computing machines, shiny, ergonomically designed and just itching to serve you.

By name, they are two DEC 5000/240, fondly known as hobbes and “cc.” Three Sun SPARCstations, kelvin, hopper and, sentimentally, “math,” round out the new family, with 2 Silicon Graphics Indigo workstations expected in the near future.

Workstations? You may ask, DEC1 Sun? The callow youth may even ask “Guild Hall? What’s that?”

Guild (pronounced Guy-id and commonly mispronounced Gild, as in Ye Olde Computing Guild) is the computing center. Nestled between Daltor and Denbigh, traditionally low-rent housing for several families.

The VT100 terminals have been converted to many terminals, which will be conducted over the next week.

**Will new FDA legislation take vitamins and herbs away from consumers?**

By Emily Cotlier

Imagine this: in the fall of 1993, you get a cold. You go to the drugstore to get some Vitamin C tablets. However, at the local Thrift Drug the shelves that used to hold vitamins are filled with chemical deplorables and hair trimmers. You ask the pharmacist, “Do you have any Vitamin C?”

“Certainly,” she says, “may I see your prescription?”

There are three Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bills currently pending in Congress—HR-3642, S-2135, and S-1982—that could make just this scenario a reality. Currently, with those three bills, the FDA is trying to increase the power that the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA) of 1990 gives them over dietary supplements.

A new bill is going to give the FDA the ability to determine whether or not a product is actually a vitamin. This bill would also permit health claims based on nutrition, under the FDA’s supervision. (The FDA has been notably reluctant to act on this bill, refusing, for example, a Kellogg’s bran cereal to include on its packaging the information that a high-fiber diet helps prevent colon cancer.)

Dietary supplements are a wide range of products that straddle the line between “food” and “drug”: vitamin and mineral pills, herbal extracts, pills, and teas, and hyper-nutritious drink powders. As consumer awareness of alternative medicine and nutrition science grows, so does the demand for dietary supplements.

The three FDA sponsored bills pass, dietary supplements will become much more difficult to obtain. The FDA would have the authority to recall “food, drug, cosmetic and medical devices” without any tangible proof of the substance’s harmfulness. The FDA could also seize and/or embargo products without scientific evidence or judicial review, and issue subpoenas and tremendous fines when there is “reason to believe” that violations have occurred.

The three bills pass, these measures could be set in motion at the discretion of FDA inspectors—a level of power unsettlingly close to that of police-state enforcers. Due to the nature of civil and administrative lawsuits, the burden of obtaining legal and judicial responses to any FDA action will be shunted onto the citizens and businesses theyaggrieve.

What does this mean for you?

What does this mean for you?

The main issue at stake here is the right to try and heal yourself or improve your own health, at your own discretion, in the way you want. Many nutritionists, chiropractors, and doctors give advice on what supplements to take for everything from bodybuilding to cancer and AIDS.

Individuals read books about herbalism and nutrition, and get the supplements to treat themselves. Often, people who turn to this kind of alternative medicine are fed up with the conventional medical establishment, and tired of chemical medicines and invasive treatments that do not work for them.

The FDA, freely可供 the benefit from the three FDA bills are those involved in the established pharmaceutical industry, the FDA, and some doctors.

In several cases, the FDA has systematically harassed doctors who did nutritional therapy using allergen-free B-12 and amino acids. After searching their offices and records and making threatening statements, the FDA declined to press charges.

The FDA has also been seizing herbal remedies such as Evening Primrose Oil (EPO). EPO was seized the grounds that it is an unsafe and unapproved food additive. EPO has been the subject of clinical studies because it contains gamma Linolenic acid and has proven very useful in alleviating the discomfort associated with menopause. It is widely used here and abroad as a supplement; the capsules are not opened and mixed with food, as a food additive would be.

A few months after the FDA legislation was proposed, Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah introduced the Health Freedom Act of 1992, S-2833. This bill was created to support freedom of access to dietary supplements. It prohibits the FDA from regulating dietary supplements, either as drugs or food additives.

It would also permit health claims for such products that are not misleading and that have good scientific basis.

A companion bill, H.R. 3748, has been introduced in the House of Representatives. If these acts pass, the makers and users of dietary supplements will have more access to information about what they are using and will be protected from further FDA harassment. You will continue to be able to choose to use supplements as a boost during exam time, a treatment when ill, or an aid for athletic training.

Neither of the two sets of bills has been passed yet. They will be voted on before the year is over. If you want to make a difference, write these members of Congress (names and addresses listed below) and tell them where you stand on the issue, or get involved in a volunteer group.

In the House of Representatives:
- Bill Richardson, NM, 332 Cannon Bldg., Wash, DC, 20515-3103
- Peter M. Kostmayer, PA, 2346 Rayburn House Office Bldg, Wash, DC, 20515-3808
- Barbara A. Mikulski, MD, 320 Hart Office Bldg, Wash, DC, 20510-2105
- Christopher Dodd, CT, 440 Russell Senate Office Building, Wash, DC, 20510-4072

To Volunteer:
- Citizens’ Alliance for Progressive Health Awareness, Box 394, Wayne, PA, 19087, 609-845-8283

Information sources for this article are available if requested.
Proudly presenting the Traditions’ Mistresses:
The new and somewhat non-traditional mistresses of our hallowed campus rituals have decided to forego the usual traditions’ column in favor of the following:

Why Don’t Girls Play With Trucks and Boys Play With Dolls?
What Does It Really Mean to Call Someone A Faggot?
How Many Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual People Do you Know?
Why Are Lesbian, Gay, and Biseexual Students Harassed?

What Can You Do About It?

CHANGE!
Campus Homophobia Action and Greater Education
Let’s make changes in our community and our lives! We are an alliance of people of all sexualities and backgrounds committed to educating the college community about homophobia and heterosexism. Become a peer educator, an activist, or just a member of CHANGE. Join now!

Meetings are currently Saturdays at 5:30 pm for dinner in the Erdman Front Smoker.

Contact Catherine Herne, box C-1329, X7519 for more info.

Dykes To Watch Out For

Thomas Great Hall, after extensive renovation, is now once again open to students. Presently housing a sculpture exhibit, the hall should now once again be a regular space for lectures, parties, and for students to study in more elegant surroundings than Canaday has to offer.
Are Women, Womyn or Wimmin?

By Lena Kopelow

On the evening of Saturday, September twentieth, Bryn Mawr student Ann Smith and sophomore Inga Henson threw the women's party, an unofficial yet notorious college tradition. As in the past, the party took place in the Erdman living room. Halfway into the party the chips and soda ran out—but not because of an overwhelming attendance; the crowd remained sparse and reached a peak of about thirty people at 12:30 A.M.

The hostesses featured eighties pop as the musical genre of the evening. Familiar classics such as Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" washed out of a small tape player on one side of the room and quickly dissipated into the cavernous space. The sole decoration, a lava lamp next to the radio, did little to enhance Erdman's well-known somber interior.

Despite the small crowd and disappointing ambiance, the party-goers enthusiastically danced and sang along to tinny-sounding Prince and Madonna songs. One senior speculated that this women's party seemed less spectacular than previous ones because it was only the beginning of the year. "There isn't any tension to let go of yet. People get wild and crazy at these things later into the year when they're under more pressure. Also, the Freshmen haven't been initiated into this women's stuff yet.

Indeed, Juniors and Seniors made up the bulk of the crowd. But what exactly is this "women's stuff" and why would students need initiation into it? One would think that students at a women's college would have no qualms about attending a women-only event.

Not so, as I found out earlier that day when I'd spoken with students who didn't plan to go to the party. Although some of the students whom I questioned answered that they didn't have time or simply weren't the social type, some students admitted that they weren't going because they felt inhibited.

A first-year Mawrter graduate frankly replied "I never went to those things. I feel that they're exclusive and not open to hetero-sexual women. Did the posters advertising the party say women with a y?"

During my freshman year at Bryn Mawr I, too, had heard that by the end of the women's parties everyone was dancing in their bras. Although such behavior sounded outrageous at the time, after I'd witnessed it a couple of times I decided that it was rather apropos. Most of the women sported black and red bras which, on a dark dance floor, looked remarkably similar to a tight revealing item that one might wear to a dance club.

However, the fact that men often try to go to the women's parties continues to shock me. Last year a senior boycotted one of the parties because the bouncers, out of principle, allowed students whom I questioned answered that they were a women-only event.

He found his boyfriend denied entrance. He summed up the experience as "pretty fun."

Another Haverford man anticipated problems at the door and arrived in a gold lame dress. He told me that the bouncers conceded to let him in only after another Mawrter vouched for him. "After all, he did make an effort," she pointed out.

While at first the idea of an all-women's party may not sound problematic, the fact that it evokes such a variety of responses in our community raises some provocative questions. Why did the party divide women rather than uniting them? In theory the whole school should have showed up.

Equally ironically, the two men at the party attained "womynhood" by simply putting on dresses and lipstick while some Mawrters, who had the added advantage of already being women, still felt that the term "womyn" didn't apply to them.

Clearly, there's some confusion about the meaning of the word and stigma which it carries. In short, it all depends upon whom you ask.

I wonder if sometimes we're exclusive in our attempt to foster an inclusive community. On the other hand, maybe certain students themselves are at fault for perceiving an elite called "womyn." Does the college, also an all-women's environment, experience these same politics on a larger scale?

Just as the women's party graciously opened the whole school should have showed up. Equally, some members of the class of 1992 who didn't plan on attending the party were shocked that they were admitted.

"This definitely is not Southern California."

The author who everyone referred to as the "Blue Bus" turned into a little parking lot in Bryn Mawr College. I began to get a bit nervous. Everyone was told to get off and get out of the cars. We all crammed into a little room at the front of a building labeled "Public Safety." I felt like a herded animal at that point, but I nevertheless, wrote my name, dorm, and room number on the green card handed to me.

While I waited for my key, a uniformed man asked me for the sunglasses I was wearing. I was shocked that he talked to me. I must have looked stupid or scared because a third year Mawrter stepped in and said, "That's just..." she called him by name. That confirmed my initial suspicions: everyone here knew everyone else and I knew nobody. We were one big circle outside of which I was trapped.

I reboarded the bus. It rolled forward a few hundred feet. I was told to get off and take my luggage. I dragged all of my bags off and looked up at the large stone arch before me. I read Denbigh Hall. The front door was open, so I walked in and up the steps. When I finally got to my room, on the third floor, I was convinced that this was not the place for me. First, I felt like an outcast, then I found myself to be one. I was shocked that he talked to me. I must have looked stupid or scared because a third year Mawrter stepped in and said, "That's just..." she called him by name. That confirmed my initial suspicions: everyone here knew everyone else and I knew nobody. We were one big circle outside of which I was trapped.

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Nicole Luckey appropriately clad for the Womyn's Party.
And four years later...

By Alessandra Djurklou

Well, I guess I'm a senior. Finally. Only it didn't quite hit me until I was in my major adviser's office, whining and wailing over my future, and he smiled and said, "It sounds like you have a classic case of senior anxiety."

That's when I realized, "Oh, I'm a senior. Hmm..." And I just thought it was a general early twenties angst, of the variety that conceptually crops up on those hip new shows on Fox...but no, it's just that I'm a senior, and in a few months (provided all goes well and the dean's office doesn't kindly suggest that I shouldn't take any time off), Bryn Mawr will be giving me the ceremonial, flower-clad, diploma-crowning boot.

As a freshman, I was anxious not to fail in my first semester, and I was completely intimidated by all of the strong, opinionated, completely together wimmin.

As a sophomore, I was ready to carve a niche for myself in the community. I started clubs. I hung out with groups of cool women. I was as helpful as possible to the freshwomen, probably almost patronizing in my sympathy. I was blissfully aware (or rather, unaware) of the fact that there was life after college.

And finally, junior year. Last year, freshwomen were nonexistent. Sophomores only slantly more visible, since I had hung out with them the year before. Most of the clubs were dropped, free time mostly spent working or with friends. Second semester I felt slight pangs of discomfort at hearing words like thesis, or GRE's, but these uncomfortable words were distant by some months, and I knew if I didn't think about them they would go away.

And now it's September '92, and people are asking me what I'm going to do next year. My mother wants me to check on the reservations she made in Wyndham September freshman year for this May. We were seventh in the waiting list then, and she wants to know if we've crept up a notch. But there are, of course, the privileges of seniorhood. I get to sing certain songs, walk up on those new shows on Fox...

... I just thought it was general early twentines angst, of the variety that continually crops up on those new shows on Fox...

By the time I graduate from Bryn Mawr, I will be splendid litigator and devil's advocate...maybe law school then, is the answer...? Oh well. So much for the embryonic stages of seniorhood. I will go forth, with a sense of confidence achieved by surviving here for three years, that is, until someone asks me the quintessential senior question..."What are your plans for next year?" AAAARGGGHHH!!
The smoking debate

article continued from page three

windows. Erdman residents, however, complained by leaving notes in Erdman Dining Hall. They contended that cigarette smoke rises into their rooms and pervades their breathing space.

Julie Fanburg, who is allergic to cigarette smoke, strongly affirmed that smoke spread through the air of the Cafeteria and Haffner Dining Hall, so much so that she said the air was "contaminated" with smoke. Jennifer Simpson was quoted in the Bi-College News as having said, "I feel that if people want to smoke they can do it outdoors instead of subjecting others to their smoke." Michele Magrino added that she simply "does not like smoke in her food." In light of scientific discoveries concerning the dangers of second-hand smoke, it seems indeed clear that non-smokers' dissatisfaction was legitimate.

That the issue of smoking has been festering on campus now seems obvious; the administration's decision merely fueled a debate that had been waiting to happen. Action has been taken to ensure discussion between smokers, non-smokers and the administration. SGA has formed a group of four students (Marlies Bull, Micki McElya, Julie Fanburg and Sarah Rockwell), who spoke with Debra Thomas, and plan to meet with Craig Goodrich and Phyllis Lachs, the College attorney, before the end of this month. Although smokers hope to see their smoking areas returned, it seems more likely that some form of compromise will be reached. What this compromise will be is unclear at the moment. Julie Fanburg suggests that long-term solutions should be considered, especially concerning ventilation.

Bryn Mawr College Performing Art Series presents: Donald Byrd/The Group

In the world premier of Drastic Cuts, on Friday, September 25, 1992 in Goodhart Hall at 8:00 p.m. Admission for Tri-College students is $1. There is a master class for Intermediate and Advanced levels on Thursday, September 24 at 3:30 p.m. in Schwartz Gymnasium. For tickets or information, call 5210 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Pink Melon Joy Experience
Ambiguity, intertextuality and stunning visuals

By Dori Tunstall

"If you enjoy it, you understand it," wrote Gertrude Stein. This phrase was the key to understanding the experience called Pink Melon Joy written by Stein and performed by Mark Lord's Potatch (plays and spectacles) at the Philadelphia Art Alliance. Directed by Mark Lord and designed by Hiroshi Iwasaki and Jonathan Sher, Pink Melon Joy was a joy in its cinematic theatricality. In a fashion similar to Mark Lord's production of Hamlet, the play was presented in a series of vignettes with the audience moving from each exquisitely designed room.

From the opening scene, which begins with a woman crossing the street and entering the play from the theater entrance and playing a game of checkers on a black and white checkered floor with photographs of the characters, played by BMC alumnae Cheryl Gilbert and Janet Finegar (which we later find out are guests at some strange party), I thought that this was going to be an experience of semantic projections where the meaning of everything goes over my head.

Like the rest of the audience, the first third of the play exchanging looks of incomprehension with others as we tried to figure out the only plot, but also the relationships between the four main characters: a femme fatale, a detective, a dead man, another play directed by Mark Lord, last year and didn't want the same thing that happened then to happen again, a death of a salesman, I spent most of my time thinking "What the hell are they doing?" I kept feeling that if I was just a little smarter I would know.

It was very stressful. Someone mentioned to me later that it was supposed to be a very good comedy. Then I really felt lost, because I could not just understand anything; I will just let "art wash over my head." When I am not going to try to understand anything, I have spent the rest of the evening thinking: I will understand, I will enjoy myself. I will! Damn it, be out! And then there were about five people who laughed often, and seemed to understand everything. There were only few people frustating. If everybody looked like they were just as confused as me, it would have been much easier for me to just sit back and watch, but the fact that there were five or six people who laughed uproariously with the play, and not at the play, made me feel like there was something I must be missing, that I should try harder to understand.

The Experience
The play moved around the building and the audience, limited to 30, followed them. I just realized how symbolic that was. I was following them, but, in both a physical and metaphysical sense, I understood their experience called Pink Melon Joy.

Notes on confusion and angst
By Loudermilk

I can't write a review of Pink Melon Joy. I can't get past the feeling that I should understand something if I want to critique it—especially since this is public writing. But, I can write about my experience of seeing this Production.

Before I even went to the play, I prepared myself. I had seen Death of a salesman, another play directed by Mark Lord, last year and didn't want the same thing that happened then to happen again. I, like the rest of the audience, spent most of my time trying to figure things out.

That was the moment the play came alive. Each vignette became a mood reflecting recognizable images from cinema and literature. The femme fatale, deftly played by BMC alumnae Cheryl Gilbert, became a caricature of Betty Davis', then Gloria Swanson's, femme fatale. Bantree's engaging detective was deceptively charming. The Play was directed by the head of our theater department, Mark Lord, and presented by the Philadelphia Art Alliance. I was told before I went to the play that Gertrude Stein is a verbal virtuoso of the experience of which was Pink Melon Joy. I could not tell you if I understood it or even if I knew what was going on. All I can tell you is that I enjoyed it. And in that sense, Pink Melon Joy was all the understanding I needed.

By Yuko Nakanishi

If you're one of those people who can only think about food right around five o'clock, or if you're just the type of person who enjoys a nice big meal after an enlightening meal, or if you simply like to eat, you're in the right spot. Think about all the fabulous ethnic restaurants awaiting your visit!

Dahlah is definitely such a restaurant.

Before you eat at Dahlah, a Philadelphia serving Ethiopian food, Dahlah evokes visions of a country rich in natural resources and magnificent scenery.

The following are just a few entrees you wouldn't want to miss:

- The Shrimp Aliche: shrimp cooked in a mild sauce with garlic, onion, butter and spices with sour cream ($6.75)
- The Addis Tibs: beef cubes sautéed with pepper, onions, tender ginger ($6.50)
- The Ethiopian Potato Salad ($3.50)
- The combination plate: platter ($9.00 per person)
- The Shrimp Aliche ($5.00)
- The Spicy Beef Cubes ($6.00)
Possessing the Secret of Joy
An Alice Walker book

By Ellis Avery


Page one of dedication page I could tell Alice Walker had a project in mind: This book is dedicated with tenderness and respect to the heroine/vulva. What follows is a powerful story, by turns beautiful and grisly, of an African women's search for sanity and the secret of joy, after a life in America traumatized by childhood ritual circumcision. At the same time. Possessing... is a passionate and articulate argument against female genital mutilation. It's not a comfortable book to read.

The characters in the novel are familiar: Tashi, who takes the name Evelyn when she comes to America, first appears as the friend of Celi's two children in The Color Purple; Celi's daughter Olivia has a place in The Temple of My Familiar. The present of the story is similar to that of Camus' Stranger; Tashi/Evelyn is looking back over her life as she awaits execution. As a girl, her village, Ottika, was dispersed by European businessmen. Her people fled and formed a guerilla enclave, and she joined them, undergoing the initiation ritual of clitoridectomy. By maintaining the traditional practice, she was assured, she kept her people alive as Clinkans.

As she healed, her childhood friend Adam, the American missionary's son, came to find her, and they left for America together. Outside the context which justified it, her mutilated body and the stories it bore began to haunt her. She lived in America for fifty-two years, and decided, growing older, to return and kill M'Lisa, the elder who had circumcised her, now an Olinkan national treasure.

Possessing the Secret of Joy describes two journeys. It follows Tashi/Evelyn though her madness and treatment, and it follows the scholarly path of Pierre, her stepson, as he tries to uncover the mythological and historical basis for the initiation ritual.

Walker does a lot of explication through Pierre; his studies, though they supply necessary information, are the least seamless element of the book. This research, combined with the Clinkans, a fictional people invented to articulate a real situation, sometimes makes the book feel over-constructed.

I suppose, though, that the problem with writing the unwritten, with creating an unconventional novel, is that one has to go through the awkward process of setting forth one's new conventions: no one said expanding the literary world was going to be slick.

The title of the book, Possessing the Secret of Joy, is part of a proud, eloquent reply to the epigraph, a quote from Mirella Ricciardi's African Saga— "Black people are natural, they possess the secret of joy, which is why they can survive the suffering and humiliation inflicted upon them." In response to this and similar sentiments, in response to Tashi/Evelyn's trauma, in response to the Olinkan struggle for independence, the book ends with Tashi/Evelyn's last sight. Just before she's shot, all the people dear to her open up a banner: RESISTANCE IS THE SECRET OF JOY!

Enchanted April, a transformation

By Sharon Cleary

"Enchanted April" is a film adaptation of Elizabeth Von Arnim's novel, in which sun-drenched Italy rescues a quartet of women from the dreary, industrial land-scape of post-World War I London. It's uncannily reminiscent of Merchant-Ivory's, "A Room with a View," but all is forgiven once we acknowledge our desire for yet another chronicle of love and rebirth in the Italian hills.

The story revolves around the presence of spirit, is remarkably named San Salvatore; Salvatore, meaning, of course, salvation. Hmmm... as the film progresses, hair is unraveled, undergraduates are discarded (along with them initiation) until it begins to resemble a subtly orgiastic Victorian fantasy. The film is best when it is converting an array of London stereotypes into the free spirit-its evidently created by the poppy-be-sieged castle. Afterwards, it quickly slips into syrupy sentimentality, which is, sometimes, a necessary drug.

In conclusion, "Enchanted April" is shamelessly calculated fun, but your better half will loathe you for enjoying it. I saw it twice.

Sculptor explores roles of women, new and old

By Erika Menshord

You'd think that after being at Bryn Mawr for a year I would not feel (intimi-dated by being in an elegant hall (a Great Hall) surrounded by women saying some very powerful things. Yet immersion is the only word I can think of to describe my emotions as I looked at and experienced Kerstin Engman's sculpture exhibit entitled "Daughters." On the one hand were the small sculptures, some of which were fully clothed and relatively harmless; on the other hand was Picking Up, a powerful statue in its size alone. (I still haven't decided exactly what makes it such a disturbing piece. Any suggestions?) The most disturbing pieces, however, were those that fell in the middle, liber-ally; they fell into your middle, your most vulnerable spot. They were rela-tively small and one could look over them at the attractive paneling on the walls or at the flower-bearing Athena in the corner. Yet one couldn't overlook them.

As a woman for whom talking about sexuality feels taboo, I was rather unset-tled yet pleasantly surprised by such stark yet eloquent expressions of subjects like aging and sagging breasts) and the sexual exploitation and objectification of women. Not only were Engman's pieces intellec-tually and emotionally stimulating; they were all incredibly beautiful. The most amazing part of the exhibit for me was to be able to look at The Burden of the Egg or Persephone and not feel like there was anything wrong with either one.

After getting over the feeling that somehow I shouldn't be seeing "these things," I was able to step back and look at the exhibit as a whole without losing sight of the individual pieces. Then I understood what Kerstin Engman means when she writes, "Each piece is autonomous and quiet."

The exhibit will be showing in the Great Hall through October 12. Come see it, if only to admire the strength and balance of Sisypha.

Singles and Seattle kick ass

By Jas-Jsa Gibson

Cameron Crowe knows good music when he hears it. "Singles" is the newest soundtrack from the writer/director who's previous films include "Say Any-thing" and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." Two great films with equally great soundtracks. "Singles" is no exception. "Singles" is mostly a compilation of various Seattle bands. (Before I begin, one disclaimer: I am a little prejudiced when it comes to Seattle. Whether it rain, snow, or sun, I am biased to proclaim it all started there because I call it home.) There are ten tracks from Paul Wester-berg (he's from Minneapolis) of Replace-ments fame, and one from the Chicago-based Smashing Pumpkins. However, we will get to these three later. Here again, Seattle is first.

The best track is undoubtedly "Six-sons," written, produced, mixed, and performed by Chris Cornell of Soundgarden. It's hypnotizing. His voice and the acoustic guitar weave so inti-mately around one another that at times they seem like one and the same thing. If you did not read the cover, it would seem impossible that the soft spoken on track number three, becomes the deep voiced, and at the refrain, almost satanic front man for Soundgarden. Track seven is Soundgarden's "Birth Ritual." It kicks ass.

Also on the album is the "newest" thing from Seattle, Pearl Jam. The two original songs are called "Breathe" and "State of Love and Trust." Both are good but neither is as striking as, say, "Evenflow" on their top selling album "Ten." The better of the two tunes (with a cool name, too) is the upbeat "State of Love and Trust." Eddie Vedder (he's actually not from Seattle; he's from Cali-fornia) sings with passion and energy as always. Eddie kicks ass. Glo do Mike McCready on guitar, but again I am bi-assed. In eight grade, I had a crush on him.

see Singles and Seattle on pg 11
Dear Ms. 90210,

A woman who wants a life as sunny and energetic as one of the 90210 characters should not be as lasting and as fruitful as vanilla ice cream.

A woman who wants a life as sunny and energetic as one of the 90210 characters should not be as lasting and as fruitful as vanilla ice cream.

Are you a non-drinking heterosexual on campus that is a dead end. It is such a dead end, that lusting after a fictional TV character with a bad haircut from the Seventies is more gratifying.

And don't suggest finding a love interest, for which I receive good vibes, but everything else sucks. It sucks so bad, that specifying is a song called "Overblown" which proclaims "Everybody loves our town/ That's why I am thinking of leaving/ It is so overblown." Which is weird.

The Screaming Trees do "Nearly Lost" which is weird.

Alicein Chains "Would?" was the first single released. The song itself doesn't have the raw edge of AC's earlier album or even that of their latest, the acoustic EP "SAP." (I have a tendency to judge a song harshly when I am aware that Top 40.)

Carry a hammer and chisel to the liberty bell and stand there looking like you cracked it.

Apply for a vending license if you don't have an on-campus job.

Get a written note from the mayor excusing you from potato lectures.

Love produces which "feels like a crown of thorns." It is weird.

Crown of Thorns" written by the late Alice in Chains.

Yes, you may be a Bi-Co reporter and take a random sample of people in Philadelphia and ask them 1) who'd they write in for president, and 2) where they were the day John Kennedy was assassinated (Nov. 23, 1963). And who they think really killed him.

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A Woman in Politics we didn't get to see:
Hillary Clinton explains why
September 18, 1992

To those in attendance at "Leaders—Born or Made? Women in Politics:"

I am sorry I could not be here with you today at Bryn Mawr, one of the greatest colleges in America. Although my schedule would not allow me the pleasure of returning today, my spirit is with you as you open this symposium on the status of women in politics.

The media has been calling 1992 the Year of the Woman. The truth is that every year is the Year of the Woman, because every year women break new ground and explore uncharted. We need only consider how far women have come in the last ninety-two years to realize the success that our collective struggle has had. Thanks to the courageous and caring women who have gone before us this century—Eleanor Roosevelt and Ella Baker, Fannie Lou Hamer and Frances Perkins, Susan B. Anthony and Septima Clark, Mary McLeod Bethune and Elizabeth Cady Stanton—women have come out of the shadows and into the spotlight of American political life.

And while women have been blessed by the contributions and legacy of our foremothers, we know that we cannot rest on their achievements. This election year, women across America must cast off their cynicism and participate actively in the future. Women must make an effort to register and take the time to vote, be-for the contributions and legacy of our foremothers, we know that we cannot rest on their achievements. This election year, women across America must cast off their cynicism and participate actively in the future. Women must make an effort to register and take the time to vote, because America depends on it.

With best wishes for today and beyond, I am
Sincerely yours,

Hillary Clinton

Singles and Seattle
continued from pg. 11

Singles and Seattle
continued from pg. 11

stations may, at this moment in time, be playing it.

And just to give the final touches to the Seattle sound, a couple of earlier "natives," as we refer to ourselves, are mentioned in. The first is Jimi Hendrix and "May This Be Love." Jimi is, was, and always will be, the definition of kick ass. Also, there is a track by a group called the Lovemongers, who are the newest band of Ama and Nancy Wilson, from Heart fame. (Nancy also happens to be Crowe's wife.) They do an absolutely perfect version of Led Zeppelin's, "Battle of Evermore.

After all that said, I have to give some time to the Midwest. Both Westerberg songs are commercial and fun (read in—slightly annoying) and Smashing Pumpkins' "Drown" is mesmerizing.

"Singles" is worth your money. There is not one "B-side" on the whole album. You may have to skip over the hard stuff or skip over the Westerberg stuff, but undoubtedly you will find something that suits your own personal "kick ass" taste. Don't miss Chris Cornell. He is brilliant.

THE HORNET TOADS
RUGBY SCHEDULE
FALL 1992

DATE: TEAM/EVENT:
• September 25 • Swarthmore
• October 3 • U. of Scranton
• October 4 • Franklin & Marshall
• October 17 • Penn State
• October 24 • Playoffs
• November 7 • West Chester U.

All of the above are away games, but people interested in going to watch and cheer on the Horned Toads can call Eleni Varitimous or Renata Razza about arrangements. Be sure to check out the games; last season, they kicked some serious butt and hopefully will do keep up the tradition this season.

THE NIGHT LIFE...

Notes on confusion and angst
article continued from page nine

Did I enjoy it? Not really. Which means I didn't understand it either. Why? I don't know. Society. Family values. Bad encounters with melons when I was very young. It was definitely interesting and I figured out a lot about what I like and don't like about art from Pink Melon Joy.

KARATE! KARATE! KARATE! KARATE! KARATE! KARATE!

It's fun, it's powerful, it's exciting...it's the

Harmony With Nature Karate Club!

Have you always wanted to learn karate...?
Have you studied a martial art before...?
Do you have no idea what karate is about (but are curious)...?

Then you are welcome to practice and learn at the Harmony With Nature Karate Club! Come anytime during the semester; no experience necessary.

Monday and Thursday 7:00—8:30 p.m. in the Pettet Studio of Schwartz Gym. (There will possibly be weekend hours also.)

Harmony With Nature Karate Club

Have you always wanted to learn karate...

Harmony With Nature Karate Club: Katr

Catherine Herne, black belt instructor, X7519, box C-1329

ATE! KARATE! KARATE! KARATE!