The College News, 1978-12-12, Vol. 1, No. 3

Students of Bryn Mawr College

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SGA Favors Restructuring

The SGA Assembly voted Sunday night to support the recommendations of the Committee to Restructure SGA and asked the Committee to prepare its proposal for presentation at the plenary on January 22nd.

Last week the Committee brought its plan for a restructured SGA before the Assembly. After discussion, the Committee was asked to make several amendments, then present the plan once again. All amendments presented tonight were adopted. As amended, the newly structured Assembly will consist of five commissioners and eleven senators. The commissioners, elected by the Student Government Association, will be jointly responsible for the duties now administered by the President, Secretary and Treasurer of SGA, and will administer all elections (other than those for class officers). The Senate will consist of the nine dorm presidents and representatives from Eryn Mawr women living at Haverford and women living off-campus. The top vote-receiving Commissioner will act as Spokesperson for the SGA. Heads of standing committees will be required to attend SGA meetings and will have a voice; but they will not be part of consensus. Any member of SGA may make a motion for impeachment of any officer. Each position on the Commission may be held by only one individual; also only one person may serve as dorm president from each dorm.

Students Attend Faculty Meeting

3GA President Diane Lewis and herion president Christina Delpiero attended last week's faculty meeting as the first students to attend an Bryn Mawr faculty meeting since the faculty decision earlier this month. The faculty voted, after many requests from students, to allow students to attend and speak when recognized at faculty meetings. Lewis reported that the faculty experience many of the same problems SGA does in trying to reach decisions.

At the meeting the faculty announced its appointments to the newly-created Eryn Mawr Council, an advisory board established by President Kehoe. The faculty members will be: Joseph Varinab, Secretary of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; Milton Spelman, Secretary of the Faculty of Social Work and Social Research; Kehoe Mellink, Archaeology; Patricia Oda-Clarke, Biology; Richard Hamilton, Greek; and Marc Ross, Sociology.

Groups Discuss HC Coed Plans

The SGA Assembly plans to organize discussion groups in each dorm to discuss the possibility of Haverford admitting women as freshmen in the week of January 21. Ann Fleming, Haffner dorm president and head of the committee to organize the meetings, reported at Sunday's SGA meeting that the discussion will be centered around customs groups. Upperclassmen and members of the administration are also invited to attend.

Plans for the meetings call for a member of SGA to be present at each meeting. The Assembly (cont on page 2)

SI Million Given for Building

An anonymous donor has made a gift for one million dollars to the college for the proposed Student Center. This money is intended as the last million needed to finance the structure. The building may contain facilities for sports, student organizations and dining, as well as a theatre and post office.

Three architects are drawing up plans for the center, which will probably be near Rhoads or at the end of Senior Row. Student input is sought as to what the building ought to contain.

Graduates Protest Proposals

A number of graduate students have expressed dislike for tentative proposals on the future of the Graduate Residence Center. These proposals include turning it into a totally undergraduate residence and closing the dining hall there, which only serves fifty people. At present the building has a capacity for fifty students, though nine of the rooms are vacant.

According to resident Jenny Sheppard, the center is convenient and provides a much-needed central meeting place for graduate students of different departments. Julie Winch, another resident, stated that she does not think undergraduates would be willing to make the walk from the Grad Center to the residence hall. Furthermore, pointed out another resident, if the dining hall were closed residents would have a long walk to the nearest dining hall. If it remained open, only residents would eat there because of the dorm's isolation.

Neither Winch nor Sheppard thinks that mixing undergrads and grads would be feasible. They both mentioned the different study habits of the groups and that grad students require more quiet or studying. "There would be too many conflicts," said Winch.

As to the possibility of closing the dining facilities there, Sheppard said that "if the meal service stops here a lot of people would move out. What's the point of staying?" She mentioned deteriorating bathrooms and leaking rooms as drawbacks of the hall.

There will be a meeting today of both resident and non-resident graduates to discuss these questions. "At the moment," said Winch, "there is a general feeling of uncertainty and we would like to know something soon."
Washington is the only city to offer actual Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association is involved in careers. Fleming requests that interested students send their opinions to her in Haffner before January 22. From these letters are formed previous discussion within the Assembly Fleming's committee will summarize the opinions, which will be offered to help the group discussions.

The meetings are the result of President McPherson's meeting with the SGA December 3. At the meeting McPherson asked for student opinion on what stance Bryn Mawr should take if Haverford changes its admissions policy on women. The SGA will meet with Haverford's president, Robert Stevens, on Sunday, January 23, to report on the results of the meetings and to express their concerns about cooperation with a co-ed Haverford.

Costumes stolen

The May Day costume storage rooms were broken into and several costumes stolen sometime in the last month, according to wardrobe mistress Erica Bliss. "There's no way to determine the exact number of stolen costumes, because everything's on the floor," she commented, noting that the dragon's and donkey's heads, particularly noticeable in the May Day plays, were missing.

The storage room was last visited in the beginning of November to see if the room was leaking. A student checking out costumes for the Dean's Christmas Party skirted the loss to the dean's office, who called the Physical Plant Office. People who have access to the room have been confronted.

Alumnae Active

Betsy Havens, Executive Director of the Alumnae Association, was one of the participants in the Seven College Conference, held at Vassar last week. The Conference involved all aspects of college administration, sharing information and exchanging ideas. "If hort holyoke has found one thing works for them," she explained, "we might look into it too." As far as the Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association is involved, more people will be emulating it than vice versa.

The Bryn Mawr Alumnae Association is unique in several ways. The nine Bryn Mawr used-book stores make over $100,000 annually for the College. "They're also a good place to meet young alumnae and people interested in books," commented Mrs. Havens. The only college deriving a large amount of money from bookstores. Smith and Vassar sell pcans, but nothing on a large scale.

In addition, many people are unaware of the services offered by the Alumnae Association. The Bryn Mawr Club of Washington is now paying a staff member to place members in appropriate jobs. Though Washington is the only city to offer actual placement, alumnae all over the country provide a career network helpful to job-seekers. There are also hospitality networks. "In any city you end up," commented (cont. in next column)
Community--a loss?

Students, faculty and administra-tors have been recently involved in discussions of "community" at Bryn Mawr; the community, however, has shrunk to exclude one segment that used to play a large part in campus life. When Jacob Roselle, the hall manager of Haffner and Rockefeller, started working here thirty five years ago, members of the staff worked much more closely with students than they do now.

"I think it was better when there was more closeness in the college because we knew about more problems than they do now," Mr. Roselle explained. "A girl would go to her chambermaid, her porter or her waitress and talk about problems. With all those people to help, she felt wanted."

In the 1940's, when Mr. Roselle began working in Pembroke as a porter, most students stayed in the same room for four years. Employees knew the students in their residence hall and took care of their rooms for them. Porters hung draperies, sent packages and took shoes to the shoemaker to be repaired. They also built fires in the public rooms and, on special occasions, in students' rooms.

"If one of the girls went out and forgot to make her bed, you'd make it for her," said Mr. Roselle. "It was like a family, very close."

Many factors have contributed to the change in atmosphere at Bryn Mawr over the past few decades. For example, only porters and hall managers used to have room keys. When a student went to class, she left her room open. This led students to make their rooms as neat as possible. Because dining was more formal and waitresses served the meals, students saw these employees and other dorm residents every day and came to know them well.

In addition, social activities included a wider range of community members than most do today.

Every year, until recently, the maids and porters put on plays directed by the staff. Most employees felt that they were appreciated. As an example, Mr. Roselle spoke of a habit he had of meeting students and saying good morning. "At the end," he continued, "one left me a note that said, 'your good mornings really helped me through these four years.'"

"Back then, a girl would come to Bryn Mawr just to study. They didn't do much else except the different plays," Mr. Roselle recalled. He feels that now there is not such time due to opportunities provided by cooperation with Haverford, participation in college government and outside jobs.

Although he believes that things must change with the times and that life cannot return to the style of the past, Mr. Roselle offered the following suggestion as to how Bryn Mawr students can regain some of the community feeling that has been lost:

"If a student would check into her surroundings -- into those connected with the college -- and put herself out to see and talk to people around her, I think she'd get more of a feeling of understanding employees and other students. We have girls here who don't even know the employees who work on campus. I think any girl living in a dormitory should know the maids, bell girl, porter and hall manager working there. It makes things more closely knitted when you know who is making things work... students should speak with those who are trying to give them the best they have. Only a few seem to appreciate it."

Exam Week Quotations

"Life is not one damn thing after another, it's one damn thing over and over."

--Edna St. Vincent Millay

"It's too much for mortal flesh to bear, even mine."

--Heathcliff

"There's a sucker born every minute."

--P. T. Barnum

"No, no, no."

--Green Giant

"I'm over my head."

--Fleetwood Mac

"I'm not interested in the college--I want to graduate."

--John Lennon

"Easy come, easy go."

--Bobby Sherman

"Joan."

--Freshman class

"Cold, cold woe..."

--Shelley

When she saw what was about to happen, she began to scream uncontrollably.

--Edward G. Geary

December 12, 1978

(cont. from first column) come the closeness such a relationship brought.

Not only did Bryn Mawr employees perform more services for students, but the students also shared their problems with members of the staff. Most employees felt that they were appreciated. As an example, Mr. Roselle spoke of a habit he had of meeting students and saying good morning. "At the end," he continued, "one left me a note that said, 'your good mornings really helped me through these four years.'"

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--Christina Delpiero
Roundabout

Well, Christmas is coming, and everybody is looking for the gift, the absolute ultimate present, for which you will be remembered for ever and ever. But unfortunately, the ultimate gift is like reality; it differs for everyone.

In times of increasing inflation and shrinking dollars, the gift which will be remembered might simply be a small item, a luxury which the recipient sacrificed in the cause of economy. Coffee, for example. Take something as simple as coffee.

In an effort to stretch the dollar, many households have sacrificed real, fresh, ground-at-home, coffee-bean coffee. So, for your favorite aunt, or sister, or even your dearly beloved parents, this article is devoted to edible luxury Christmas presents.

We are very fortunate in having a number of gourmet food stores right here in the Ville. The Bryn Mawr Cheese Shop, 841 Lancaster Avenue, is a good place to stop for gourmet gifts. A pound of coffee costs $4.29, and they have a fine selection. Why not get four quarter pounds of different coffees, or put a half pound in your lovely tins? If you don't have to travel too far, cheese makes a great, though short-lived gift, and the Cheese Shop has a wide selection.

Next door to the Cheese Shop is Maron's, a chocolate lover's paradise. Maron's has been hand-making their chocolates since 1890, and they arrive fresh each morning from their kitchens. All their candies are delicious, and a 1 lb. box of Assorted Hard and Soft Centers is only $4.65. There are even chocolates for diabetics, so a gift from this store should please anyone.

Hoffert's Candies and Gifts, 48 North Bryn Mawr Avenue, is well known for its ice cream as well as its candies. In my opinion Hoffert's candies are overrated and over priced. Their chocolates are usually stale, and often taste of their wrappings. One Hoffert's specialty which I recommend highly, however, is their Figaro's, which are exquisite.

A brand new store opened recently near the Pizza Hut, across from the Bryn Mawr Fire House, The Blue Mountain Gourmet. 19 North Merion Avenue sells just about everything you can't find anywhere else. They have twenty different kinds of coffee beans selling for around $2.50 for an eleven ounce bag. For a sausage lover, how about a 1 lb. box of Moutard du Lion White Dijon, real Dijon mustard, from France for only $4.75.

Or, for a cook, a wee pot of Herbs de Provence, for meat, fish, poultry and salads, only $2.85 for a 1 oz. crock. Or maybe a 3 oz. bottle of Rose Flower Water, a perfect stocking stuffer at just $1.20.

If you really want to be outrageously extravagant give someone a 10.5 oz. box of Aubert Crystallized Strawberries, spring in December, for only $10.75.

Or, the ultimate in luxurious edible gifts, buy a dozen fresh quail eggs and a one oz. jar of Imperial Select (cont. in next column.)

Visions of Sugar Plums

"Tis the season to be jolly," though we've bogged down in a morass of papers due and exams pending, have a tendency to spend it in a state of despair. Just think, a little over a week ago, on Sunday, Dec. 3, each household in Germany gathered around a wreath laid flat on a table, and lit the very first Advent candle, signaling the beginning of the month of waiting for Christmas.

For the next three Sundays, each evening will be filled with laughter, freshly baked cookies and Christmas cookies, and the warm flicker of the Advent candles.

Cakes and cookies are an integral part of the Christmas season. Originally just special food they have taken on a more symbolic form as the years went by. Mince pie, for example, symbolized gifts of the Wise Men, and was to be made of the choicest things the East could produce. In old England cakes were given to poor women who sang in the streets during the Christmastide.

The songs they sang, carols, developed all over the world -- songs of praise and joy.

In Bulgaria on Christmas eve, each person goes to church clutching a lit candle to the church in order to light candles, placed in windows, guide the Christ Child in his wanderings. Candles, originally oil lights, are an important part of the Feast of Light, Hannukah. One candle is lit each night for eight nights, symbolizing the miracle which God gave to Judas Maccabee.

He allowed the light in the lamp long enough in the laap for one day.

In Germany, candles are placed on trees, which appear, on Christmas morning, fully decorated and with all of their candles burning, to the children of the house. Christmas trees are said to have originated with the pagan Teutons who decorated fir trees. They worshipped the sun and likened the sun to the spreading and blossoming of a great tree.

In 19th century America, all small gifts were tied to the branches of the Christmas tree, gifts reminiscent of the gifts brought to the Babe by the Wise Men. The Wise Men still come to children in Spain on the Epiphany. The children leave straw in their shoes on Christmas Eve, and the Wise Men's camels and in the morning they find their shoes filled with gifts.

In Holland, it is St. Nicholas, or Sinter Klaas, who leaves gifts in the shoes of the children. In Italy, La Befana brings gifts on Twelfth Night. She was an old woman who had a chance to go with the Wise Men, but was so greedy that she didn't even open the door when they knocked. Since then she (cont. on p 70)
Dread Divisionals

Divisionals are the bane of a student’s existence, but as the despairing English major labors over crystal system, she should be comforted by the thought that she is merely one in a long line of divisionals— sufferers. In the first years of the college the requirements were just as stiff, the entrance exams frightful, and a double major was required.

The requirements in 1854 fell into four categories. Two years of English started off the list; the first year “treating the origins of Anglo-Saxon, medieval German and French literature through Chaucer,” and the second year, Chaucer through the present. Two years of science were added to the list, or one year of science and one of history. Then the worst: “proven linguistic diversity.”

“No student will be graduated,” threatened the catalogue, “without solid knowledge of French, Latin, German and some Greek.”

In addition to all this, students underwent a year—five hours a week—of philosophy, plus once a week throughout the year, Biblical Christianity, hygiene, and human physiology.

Students in the 80’s were not unprepared for this rigor. The entrance exams—the only other acceptable entrance exam was Harvard’s—encompassed seven advanced subjects, and every applicant had to have advanced math and four languages. Exceptions could be made if students would agree to make up two languages in their freshman year, as “conditions.”

Bryn Mawr offered five double majors: any two languages; math and Greek or Latin; Chemistry and Biology; Physics and Chemistry; and History and Political Science. One-fourth of the first class were classics majors.

The faculty minutes of the first year specified that an hour and a half of preparation would be required for each hour of class. In the second year, however, definite cases of overwork, due to either “student eagerness” or “faculty pressure,” were noted, and the preparation requirement was lessened slightly.

In these days when every college along the East Coast is proud of reinstating rigorous requirements, it’s comforting—somewhat—to know that Bryn Mawr never dropped them.

LETTERS

In response to “Life After Bryn Mawr—One Graduate’s Story”:

We recognize a tone of “snobbery” in the article of a former Bryn Mawr graduate. What makes one assume that only a Bryn Mawr graduate offers “superior talent to the world?” Why is she too proud to undertake a job as a secretary in the “real” world? Why did she find it necessary to continue the deceitful and dishonest pr practices of the business world by lying about her typing speed? Surely after four years of living with the Honor Code at Bryn Mawr, she could have spoken the truth in her interview. A discerning employer would have welcomed and appreciated such honesty. Honest work is never “degrading.”

We secretaries in the Bryn Mawr community value our positions and carry the “load” of official business that is necessary to run this college. Many of us graduated (with distinction) with A.B.’s from recognized four-year colleges, paid our own tuition, in many cases, and do not have the attitude that society owes us something for a “piece of paper.” We did, however, expect to obtain a job where our knowledge would be recognized, respected and rewarded. A secretary’s position is a valuable asset as the backbone for major corporations, colleges, etc. Perhaps this student’s attitude of “degradation” of such a position was fostered by the attitude of Bryn Mawr College toward its secretarial staff. If that is true, perhaps our education offers “superior talent to the world.”

Marilyn Silva
Faculty Secretary, Thomas

Barbara Mathers
Faculty Secretary, Thomas

Beatrice Lasker
Secretary, Modern Languages, Thomas

College News

December 12, 1978

(cont. from first column)

College Muse

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(Erasmus is Elizabeth Patton.)

College News

Editors: Martha Bayless
Ruth Clark
Shelley Kempner
Elizabeth Patton

The College News has a box near the drinking fountain in Taylor. The College News number is 527-5683. We welcome all letters, articles and graphics, which should be submitted the Saturday before the Tuesday of publication to the box in Taylor.

Checkerboards and backgammon will be appearing later this week in the College Inn. Playing pieces will be available at the counter.
Your average tenth grader

I am one of the invisible minority of student teachers. This year, seven students are taking the class, "Teaching in the Secondary School," which is the course associated with student teaching. There are two Haverfordians, two Bryn Mawr undergraduates (myself and Demi South) and three Bryn Mawr post-bacc special students. At the end of this course, if we have fulfilled the requirements for hours of teaching and if your observation considers us worthy, we will be certified to teach in our major subject in the secondary schools of Pennsylvania.

I have been student-teaching at Lower Merion High School (in Ardmore) since September 7th. The classes I currently teach are a Sophomore English (B level) and two expository writing classes (B level, 11th and 12th graders). For the last week of my school year, I will also be teaching the EsperBUM (A level, 12th graders), so I will be teaching five classes a day which is the course load of the master-teacher who is advising me and generally keeping an eye on my teaching. It is a sobering experience to teach classes of kids who are only four years younger than you are; I wear sensible black shoes and put my hair up.

The Sophomore class is by far the most difficult to teach. Though Expository Writing is a more technically involved subject, the difficulty of understanding your average tenth grader far surpasses the difficulty of dealing with the passive voice or topic sentences. The first barrier is age. It is harder than you think to deal with someone who was only five or six in 1968. Since they 'missed' the war in Vietnam, the Chicago riots, Czechoslovakia, the assassinations of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King and all that 60's type may-hem, their first political recollection is Watergate. Watergate does not spur a clear "cause" be identified. or any specific action be undertaken or agitated for. One sits in front of the television, and watches the whole thing get played out with very little action on the part of the public. It is government chastising itself, as the kids see it, which leads them to conclude either: "The system is doing fine by itself so what do I care what it's doing?" The system is rotten through and through and always will be, so what do I care?" The net result is disinterest in politics and disillusion with moral and ethical questions. All this may seem irrelevant to the English classroom, but in fact it is a central issue. The curriculum for 10th grade is American literature. Unfortunately from my perspective, almost all the kids have American history in 11th grade. Thus an historical examination of literature is out. The other way to pursue relevance is to relate the questions discussed in the literature to current political or ethical debate. This is only possible if there is a climate of interest in political or ethical questions. There isn't. Thus one is left with, "Literature for the sake of its literariness." You've got to be kidding. So once a week I am asked, "How come we have to do this? This is stupid, who cares anyway, they're all dead." The kids have no compulsions about demanding an explanation for their assignments. Nor do they say it just to harrass the gullible and confused student-teacher. They're reasonably nice kids.

The only avenue of interest that I have found is their own school life. Therefore we have written speeches on study halls and open campus, using the literary techniques of Patrick Henry and Tom Jaine. We have discussed "Civil Disobedience" with parallels drawn to cutting classes or refusing to be silent in study. We will discuss war and try to relate Thoreau's ideas of self-reliance, independence and love of nature to whatever may be part of the kids' personal experiences.

Surprisingly, the kids like vocabulary study. We have been working with Latin prefixes and roots. Their exercises often consist of writing new verses and pieces of words. It may be that this physical power over the words is enjoyable. We also act out the words. This week is "mone" (death) and "corp" (body). I expect some particularly gruesome presentations. Last week was "ten" (hold) and "non" (warm). The presentations were hilarious. One boy was having a sale on premonitions when he brought his partner in as a satisfied customer. She described her satisfaction with the premonition she had bought which saved her from falling downstairs. Another group held untenable positions, both literally by standing on one foot in airplane position, and metaphorically by maintaining that sitting on the floor was an untenable position. Of course sitting on the floor is not an untenable position, so maintaining that it is is untenable.

You can see that these kids are no dummies. When they're interested, they have ideas, and do great things with sustained effort. The most difficult problem is getting to know what interests them. And being able to find such things every day, fourth period, September to December, free days and sunny days, Mondays and Fridays. It is harder than I ever expected to understand your average tenth grader. Some you reach and some you don't. It being my first experience with teaching this age group, I'm sure I don't reach as many as I could if I had more practice. There's nothing like giving a kid an F to make the teacher feel inadequate. But practice is the purpose of student teaching. I have an excellent master-teacher advising me, and next year when I look for a teaching position, I am sure to look at the kids' personal experiences. You can see that these kids are no dummies. When they're interested, they have ideas, and do great things with sustained effort. The most difficult problem is getting to know what interests them. And being able to find such things every day, fourth period, September to December, free days and sunny days, Mondays and Fridays. It is harder than I ever expected to understand your average tenth grader. Some you reach and some you don't. It being my first experience with teaching this age group, I'm sure I don't reach as many as I could if I had more practice. There's nothing like giving a kid an F to make the teacher feel inadequate. But practice is the purpose of student teaching. I have an excellent master-teacher advising me, and next year when I look for a teaching position, I can cast my mind back to the Lower Merion tenth grade for inspiration.

--Judy Erickson

One does not love a place the less for having suffered in it, unless it has all been suffering, nothing but suffering.

--Jane Austen
Recent research conducted by Alexander W. Astin of the University of California at Los Angeles, in cooperation with the American Council on Education, provides insights into the current state of higher education and the prevailing attitudes of college students today. Based on a ten-year research project called the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP), Astin has concluded:

-- Students at colleges for men-only or women-only "are much more satisfied than students at coeducational colleges with virtually all aspects of college life. The only area where students are less satisfied is social life. This negative effect is much stronger for men than women".

-- At women's colleges women are more likely to attain positions of leadership, to develop high aspirations and to persist to graduation than women at coeducational schools.

-- Apparently women are much more likely to be verbally aggressive and to seek positions of leadership if they are not in the presence of men. Men seem to deter women's assertiveness during the undergraduate years.

-- Women at coed colleges get higher grades than men at the same colleges.

Astin's study of 198,647 students entitled "The American Freshmen: National Norms for Fall, 1977" indicates that 36.9% of men and 40.7% of women in higher education institutions surveyed think that women's activities should be confined to the home. He also reports that 88.2% of the men and 96.6% of the women at these institutions think that women should have job equality.

When asked what objectives they consider essential or very important, 58.8% of the men and 58.9% of the women responded with "raising a family".

A copy of this research report may be obtained by writing Margaret King, Staff Coordinator, Graduate School of Education, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024, price $6.00.

-- from On Campus with Women, Number 21, Fall 1977, newsletter of the Project on the Status and Education of Women of the Association of American Colleges.

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Come the time for writing a term paper on the role of women in New Guinea, or lesbian marriage, or the poetry of Renee Vivien -- where's the first place to look for the books you need? The Women's Alliance Library, in the Women's Alliance Room, second floor, College Inn.

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And while catching up on Reserve Reading in Canada take a break and browse through the dust jackets of recent women-oriented books acquired by the library. They are displayed on the bulletin board right outside the Reserve Room, --Martha Kaplan

Mixed Drinks to the Goddess of Destiny

This week we asked a number of students on campus what they would give their worst enemies for Christmas. Their answers follow.

an electric tiddly-wink set
admission to Bryn Mawr
a sick cat
"I don't have enemies"
a two-page paper to write every week
a gun
an unmatched pair of gloves
a fat lip
my little brother
a stampeding herd of longhorns
a bottle of Harvey's Bristol Creme with water in it
a contagious disease
William Buckley
his two front teeth
Reader's Digest Condensed Book version of Koby Dick
a copy of Wordsworth
a year's subscription to Highlights
a pink polyester leisure suit
a doggie pooper scooper
themselves
a polecat with a nervous disorder
a record like "Stereo Goes to a Folka Party"
a pregnant spider
"Kay you fall down the stairs and break every bone in your body except one tooth and in that tooth may you have an eternal toothache."

Freshmen Stage Moan

Thirty-five to forty freshman gathered on Merion Green Sunday night to usher in a new tradition, the Freshmen Moan. The Moan originated at a discussion of traditions in a Freshman Class meeting.

"It resembled primal scream therapy and I am now able to face exam week with an open mind and a closed mouth," commented Anne Fabiny, a Merion freshman who participated in the Moan. It will be a tradition, she estimates, as long as demand remains high.

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It is not so important to be serious as it is to be serious about the important things. The monkey wears an expression of seriousness which would do credit to any college student, but the monkey is serious because he itches.

--Robert N. Hutchins

ex-president of the University of Chicago
Dean Sought

"The College seeks a person of academic distinction with an established record of successful teaching and substantial administrative experience. Bryn Mawr is an equal opportunity employer."

The above ad appeared Sunday in the New York Times under the heading "Dean of the College, Bryn Mawr College". According to Brenda Wright and Mary Frances Slahetka, student members of the dean Search Committee, the Committee has begun advertising in publications with national circulation, such as the Wall Street Journal, Monthly Chronicle of Education and Black Scholar.

Wright and Slahetka spoke at Sunday evening's SGA meeting about the Committee's progress and asked for suggestions as to the characteristics and qualifications the Committee should be investigating. Slahetka explained that there are a number of important factors besides a person's academic and administrative credentials which must be considered. For example, because the Dean of the College sets the tone for the operation of the Dean's Office, the report of the Dean Review Committee which will be released in January is expected to establish important criteria for the Search Committee.

Assembly members expressed a desire to see a strong "role model" occupying the office. Although nothing decisive has been discussed, Wright said that "people are talking in terms of "she"." SGA President Diane Lewis suggested that the person be one who has a successfully balanced career and family life, and that the person be interested in women's studies. The Assembly expressed a strong opinion that the new dean be a feminist.

The Search Committee has asked that applications and nominations be sent to the College by January 1st. Semi-finalists will be interviewed privately; finalists will be interviewed privately; finalists (cont. 1.n next column)

President Meets With Grad Students

President McPherson joined the graduate students in one of their bi-weekly Council meetings, Tuesday, December 5. Miss McPherson spoke on several issues currently of concern to graduate students and emphasized that she would like to attend Council meetings on a more regular basis to discuss problems common to the College and the Council.

One concern of graduate students received extended discussion -- the future of the Graduate Residence Center and alternative plans for graduate housing at Bryn Mawr. It is possible that the Residence Center will be converted to an undergraduate dormitory in the future. In graduate students at Tuesday's meeting did not object to losing the Center, pointing out that structurally it is an unpleasant place in which to live, but there was concern expressed that losing the Graduate Residence Center would mean losing even the minimal opportunity that it now provides for graduate students from all departments to meet and discuss their activities.

President McPherson brought up the possibility of apartment type housing for graduate students, which might attract more students to live on campus and which might encourage student contact. At present, the Graduate Residence Center is under-subscribed, which makes it an uneconomical unit for the College to maintain. Miss McPherson also asked that graduate students discuss alternatives for providing a central meeting place on campus.

The question of Bryn Mawr's commitment to the Graduate School was raised, and McPherson responded that there is no question of Bryn Mawr's commitment to a graduate school; that the concept of education on several levels was one of the original plans for the College.

... as a related point, President McPherson responded to student suggestions on graduate student recruitment by pointing out that recruitment on a graduate level really must be done by departments themselves rather than by the College, since graduate students are primarily interested in the faculty and in the courses in their chosen fields. However, the President is presently questioning each department about its feelings on recruitment. McPherson mentioned that several departments at Bryn Mawr are ethically opposed to recruiting new students in view of the job crisis. There is also a problem with funding graduate students. Miss McPherson mentioned that the College is trying to attract additional funds for graduate students. Dean Bober, who also attended the meeting, noted the fact that graduate tuition will be raised over the next few years until it is equal to undergraduate tuition. She also announced, however, that the Whiting Foundation has renewed its fellowship support of graduate students for the year 1979-1980, which is an excellent source of funds, as well as outside recognition, for the students as well as the school.

Anne Reninger, chairman of the Graduate Student Council, questioned Miss McPherson on the viability of acquiring a grants assistant for graduate students, so that they could knowledgeably apply for fellowships from sources outside the College. The possibility of a periodic workshop on financial aid was discussed, and Dean Bober announced that a new booklet has been compiled on financial aid and will be ready for distribution next week.

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(continues on p. 4)
Grads Show Support

Graduate students, as well as supporting themselves and handling Bryn Mawr's considerable work load, often have to juggle a family and home as well. To cope with the pressures resulting from "having to wear multiple hats," two graduate students have started a support group for other grad students faced with the same problems.

The idea came about when the two students, Carolyn Jacobson and Anne Highland, both students of human development, found they had similar problems trying to juggle husbands, elementary school children, and classes at Bryn Mawr. "We thought, 'Surely we aren't the only ones,'" recalled Jacobson. The first meeting was held in October. "The point of the meetings," Jacobson continued, "is to say, 'Let me share some of the things I've tried to do to make life easier.'" The group has attracted a small but loyal following.

Jacobson stressed that grad students are not the only ones who can benefit from the group. Many special students undergo "transitional shock" when, for instance, they change from being a wife and mother to being a student, or experience a career transition. "Developmental issues in adult life are often compounded by the fact that Bryn Mawr is extremely challenging," commented Jacobson. The group, which meets informally every other Tuesday, has an open format, discussing whatever topic its members wish. "In one sense," she said, "it's just talky in another sense it's the most important thing we can do."

She also stressed that the group is not intended as therapy for people with genuine psychological problems but merely as support for those undergoing "transitional shock" pressures. The next meeting will be January 23rd in the Blue Room of the College Inn, at 1 p.m.

Registration Succeeds

More students than ever before registered in the newly restructured registration period, according to Dean Dunn. Under the old plan roughly 40% of the student body failed to register; under the new, 90% completed preliminary registration. The large volume of advance registration provides important information to the bookshop, faculty, and budget personnel. In addition, according to Dean Dunn, counseling time is used more effectively under the new system.

You ought not to educate a woman as if she were a man, or to educate her as if she were not.

--George Schuster, ex-pres., Hunter College

The student-faculty curriculum committee review of the curriculum has been progressing slowly, according to Ellen Ambruster, head of the curriculum committee. Much of the semester was spent analyzing the curriculum. A preliminary report is expected next semester, possibly as soon as February.

Presently the committee is working on the problems and weaknesses of the present curriculum. For instance, philosophy satisfies two divisions in the present curriculum; if it only satisfied one division, then the system would be simplified. The status of General Programs courses is uncertain since they were instituted after the present curriculum was formed. At this time they must be approved by the Committee for Divisional credit; an improved curriculum would incorporate them into the divisions.

The language departments are also under review. At present, it is impossible for a student to take a modern European language from the "baby" level to the 300 level, taking a combined course of 002 and 101 would solve the problem. One other program that is to be reviewed is freshman English. The committee will poll the student body on freshman English next semester.

In general, the committee is working on cleaning up the "orphan" in the old curriculum. The way the committee has been evaluating it is in terms of the present curriculum, and the present curriculum includes certain things. Many possible additions have not yet been discussed.

Certain types of internships could be given credit. Credit could also be given for participation in the performing arts--such as acting or taking instrument lessons. Neither is included as it now stands. The role of Women's Studies in the curriculum has not been examined either, although a proposal has been made to replace English 013 with a course in Women's Studies which would concentrate on writing. Curriculum has a long way to go, for not only does it have to reexamine the old, but it also must examine the new.

HIGHLIGHTS cont.


TV Specials

--"Good-bye Mrs. Chips," a classic with Peter O'Toole. Dec. 13, Wed., Fri, 7:00, TM-17

--"An American in Paris." Music! Dance! Dec. 14, Thurs. 9 p.m., TM-17


--"Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter." Uplifting social comment. Dec 16, Saturday, 2 p.m. TV-29.

The College News
Dundes Speaks on Evil Eye

A captivated audience listened to Alan Dundes' talk on "The Evil Eye," a fascinating blend of folklore material and scholarly data. Mr. Dundes, President-elect of the American Folklore Society and Professor of Folklore at Stanford University, began by impressing upon his audience the relevance of the study of folklore as a separate discipline and not simply as an appendage to the studies of anthropology or sociology. Mr. Dundes' discussion of the Evil Eye focused on the meanings and effects which the Evil Eye is believed to have in Western cultures. Is the person possessing the Evil Eye conscious of his powers, or is he unconscious of them? Are the effects of the Evil Eye due to intentional or unintentional malignity? In an informative survey of past scholarship on the Evil Eye, Mr. Dundes indicated that there is a definite connection between envy and the casting of the Evil Eye. Consequently, in some cultures (particularly, non-American), people are wary of inviting praise, since the latter may lead to an arousal of envy and to the casting of the Evil Eye. Among such cultures there is a fear of success; people would rather hide than display their good fortune.

Mr. Dundes then presented his own analysis of the causes and the originating factors of the Evil Eye. Mr. Dundes' thesis was based on two main tenets: (1) "Life," said Dundes, "is liquid;" and (11) the amount of goods available in the world is limited, so, an equilibrium model, i.e., the gains of the person necessitating the losses of another, is inevitable. A concept such as "life is liquid" was supported by Mr. Dundes by the idea that one of the effects of the Evil Eye is a drying-up process, a "draining" of somebody's life-blood. The metaphorical significance of the importance of liquids life-giving is apparent in a phrase like, "water of life." One way of averting the Evil Eye is by offering liquids to the agent possessing the evil powers.

Mr. Dundes commented that many of the amulets worn to ward off the Evil Eye carry representations of some form of liquid. The principle operating here is the homeopathic one of like averting like, i.e., by restoring liquid to the agent of the Evil Eye, the victim protects himself from being drained. Similarly, the significance of depicting an eye on amulets is precisely to avert the impact of the Evil Eye itself.

Mr. Dundes also noted some sexual connotations to his concept that liquids are life-giving. One of the feared effects of the Evil Eye is that it can lead to a drying up of the victims' generative fluids. A charm

in the shape of horns is worn specifically to deflect such ill effects of the Evil Eye.

Mr. Dundes set up the following paradigm: wetsness opposed to dryness, i.e., "life" opposed to death. Under such a scheme the importance of liquids is paramount.

In the course of his talk, Mr. Dundes made one rather ingenious connection between the concept of tipping, particularly to waiters in restaurants, and the idea of preserving one's own life fluids and wishing the same for others. A waiter, serving the food that he is not partaking of, may be subject to envy and to the casting of the Evil Eye.

The very etymology of the word "tip" lies in the concept of drinking, i.e., liquids. The French word for "tip" is "pourtboire," and the English word "tip" comes from "ipple." In Spain, when waiting to be seated at a restaurant, it is customary for the ones already seated to invite the ones waiting to join them and to share the food. This offer is made only as a formality. However, the reason for such a convention in the light of the present discussion is evident - it is a precautionary statement, made to deflect a rise of envy leading to the casting of the Evil Eye.

Mr. Dundes' ideas, though persuasive, were fairly controversial as was apparent from the lively discussion that followed his talk. A very appropriate concluding note was sounded when the audience was invited to join in the drinks and to partake of certain life-giving liquids like wine and cider.

--Katy H., Katrak

(VISIONS cont.)

has travelled in search of them, and on Epiphany, she visits each child, and leaves him a gift, hoping that she will find The Child.

Martin Luther, worried at the adoration of St. Nicholas, taught that it was the Kriskind who brought the children gifts at Christmas. The Kriskind was depicted as a little girl wearing a golden crown. She got confused with jule-nissen the Norwegian gift-giving elf, and became Kris Kringle. She is now depicted in the strange country of Eryn Mawr as a tired-looking woman clutching a pile of books.

HAPPY HOLIDAY!

Pembroke Construction

Workmen have been very busy planting and building on both sides of the road going through Pembroke Arch. The evergreen trees on the east side and the wall and (prospective) plantings on the west side are part of a "beautification plan" for the campus, specifically the area around Pembroke Arch, funded by an alumni of the college. The reason for the wall, according to one workman, is to stop the flow of loose dirt and mud from the bare patches on the road and to drain off the rains, so that when rains the drain will not clog and make Pembroke Arch into a lake.
The College News

The Archives--Collective Past

Would anyone care to match wits against an 1885 entrance examination? Or perhaps to see the poems of alumsa Marianne Moore in Tiphyn O’Bob, the student literary publication of the early 1900’s? Does someone need to know the average lung capacity of Bryn Mawr’s class of 1899, or why, indeed, such statistics were carefully tracked and recorded?

On the second floor of Canaday, enclosed in a wire cage, the College Archives preserves the records to satisfy just such curiosity—and more particularly, to serve as a research resource on the history of the College, its contribution to the higher education of women, and the lives and careers of its many distinguished faculty and alumni.

Until the early 1970’s, documentation of the College’s history was scattered throughout the campus. The Library had in its collection many of the printed sources, for example, the College News, yearbooks, student literary journals, and Faculty publications. Old presidential files were in Taylor, and a precious collection was housed in the basement, and scores of miscellaneous boxes waited on the third floor, in what was once part of a lofty chapel. The personal papers of M. Carey Thomas had a narrow escape when the Deanery, on the present site of Canaday, was demolished. In attics, basements and dark recesses of Bryn Mawr’s historic campus, the Archives staff has been searching out the records of the College’s past with the assistance of amateur sleuths among the faculty, staff and students. Eventually it is hoped that all the records will be safely housed in the Archives, or will at least be accounted for through a thorough inventory of the campus.

What exactly is collected in the Archives?

First, the official records of the College, generated in its day-to-day activities: office files, committee minutes, reports, correspondence, building and landscape plans, etc. Then, all printed publications prepared by the College and/or students; personal and professional papers of faculty, staff, alumni; records of student organizations and committees; books, articles and clippings about the College and its people. And of course, artifacts—the Nobel Peace Prize medal of Emily Greene Balch, Dolenski, Manuscript Librarian and Archivist. The College’s past is captured in yet another medium, in the taped voices of the people who made that history. The Alumnae Association initiated an oral history program a number of years ago, and it is now being actively and professionally developed by Caroline Smith Rittenhouse, Class of 1952, the tapes and transcriptions to become part of the Archives. On one of the tapes, transcribed from an earlier phonograph record, the voice of M. Carey Thomas, speaking just before her death in 1935, reminisces about, “Those early years when we were all young together, professors and students, so incredibly eager to teach, so incredibly eager to learn…”. Much of the activity in the Archives cage at present centers around the personal and professional papers of Miss Thomas, which are being prepared for microfilm publication in early 1980, under the editorship of Lucy Fisher West. The Thomas papers were among those recommended for publication in the 1974 Report National Historical Publications Commission Advisory Committee on Women’s Papers; the Bryn Mawr project is financed by a grant from the NHPFC. Publication of the approximately 210 reels is eagerly awaited by the scholarly community, since the voluminous records and correspondence cover a wide spectrum of academic, events and personalities with which Miss Thomas and Bryn Mawr were associated.

The collecting, preservation and arrangement of these records is necessary, of course, for legal reasons, as any organization must be able to properly document its activities. The collection is important also for historical research on important events and personalities in the life of this very active and distinguished community. In addition, the Archives forms an important part of the Library’s total collection of books and manuscripts on the history of women, a collection that is actively growing in size and stature. For all such endeavors there is a steady stream of people using the Archives—Bryn Mawr students, as well as scholars from afar, in person and through correspondence. As their studies accumulate, their work, too, is gathered into the collection, to be built upon by future researchers.

Visitors to the Archives are always welcome and inquiries should be addressed to the Reference Desk in Canaday. The collection is under the direction of Gertrude Reed, College Archivist (and Reference Librarian) and Leo Dolenksi, Manuscript Librarian and Archivist. Anyone wishing to consult the Archives should be aware that College records cannot be used without the permission of the Office which generated them, and that of any donor of private papers must be respected in their use.

Should this short description have piqued any historical curiosity, a short bibliography on the history of Bryn Mawr may be in order:


—Gertrude Reed
Head Reference Librarian and Archivist

December 12, 1978
SWIMMING

After a good season last year, the Bryn Mawr swim team and Coach Linda Castner are looking forward to an even better season this year. The fifteen member squad will continue to rely on the talents of senior and captain Nora Greer in distance freestyle and juniors Dan Hutchins and Becky Ross in butterfly and freestyle. The team has been strengthened this year by the addition of seven freshmen swimmers, especially Claudia Stuart in backstroke, butterfly and freestyle, Briessen Elmer in individual medley and Liz Gray in distance freestyle. Due to the size of the team and the poor swimming facilities at Bryn Mawr, the workouts have again been split into two sections. Although this cuts down on each swimmer's pool time, it does solve the problem of overcrowding.

The team opened the season with two dual meets and an invitational meet. Though both dual meets ended in defeat for the Bryn Mawr team, individual swimmers have qualified for three championship meets, the PAIAW, the Eastern PAIAW, and the National PAIAW.

At the first meet on December 5, Villanova started a strong group of freshmen, resulting in a 76-37 loss for Bryn Mawr, though Bryn Mawr won two events, and placed second in eight events.

The meet against Ursinus was more equal. Although Bryn Mawr lost 46-67, the team came in first in six events, and placed second in two.

Coach Linda Castner is "very pleased. The girls had very good individual times for this early in the semester. All the girls swam what they were asked, and did an admirable job. They aimed to better their previous performance against Villanova and they did."

On December 9, the Bryn Mawr team swam at Westchester in the Philadelphia Swimming Official Championship Meet. In this meet, Becky Ross placed fourth in the 50-yard free style and sixth in the 100 yard free style. She qualified for the Philadelphia Association of Inter-Collegiate Athletes for Women Championship meet, the Eastern PAIAW, and the National PAIAW in Reno, Nevada. Dan Hutchins qualified for the PAIAW in the 50 yard butterfly, and Claudia Stuart also qualified for this meet in the 50 yard butterfly and the 50 yard back stroke. Nora Greer and Briessen Elmer have also qualified for this event.

The team has been reduced to 15 from 23 due to illness and other unforeseen circumstances, but the remaining 15 have been "coming to practice regularly," said Mrs. Castner, "and they are progressing nicely. Swimming is a lonely sport and demands a great deal of inner motivation." This inner motivation is paying off.

BASKETBALL

The Bryn Mawr basketball team will participate in the second scrimmage of their season today. They emerged victorious from their first encounter two weeks ago, a scrimmage against Penn State. Tonight's game is at home against our next-door neighbor, Haverford, at 7 p.m.; come and support them in their bid for a second victory. Their third scrimmage will begin at 4 p.m. on the Friday after Christmas vacation, against Rider, at home.

BADMINTON

Despite an inexperienced team of twelve new and six returning members, the badminton team achieved a victory in their first scrimmage on December sixth against Chestnut Hill.

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Too many addled eggs have been laid by the owl of Minerva.
-- Max Black

Language and Philosophy

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Schedules for Winter II gym classes are posted in the gymnasium.

DEANS cont.

will be brought to the campus to meet with students, faculty, and administrators. The Committee hopes to make a recommendation in March.