1979


Students of Bryn Mawr College

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Eight million dollars, the largest single gift in 94 years, has been received from Pew Charitable Trusts, President McPherson recently announced. This sum will be used for "maintenance and renovation of residential and academic buildings," according to McPherson. The money will be spent during a four year period, with work beginning the summer of 1980.

Although $20 million was originally requested, based upon a survey of maintenance needs last summer, McPherson believes the grant "will go a long way to address our needs." In addition, the $8 million "is a fine start and should help attract more monies," she said.

Main planning of work will be made during the academic year, but pointing, leaks, access for the handicapped and life safety code are current priorities. Thomas will be among the first buildings rehabilitated since it is plagued by leaks.

The president added that Ethyl Pew, f06, was "in college when a number of the buildings were being built."

CORNELIA OTIS SKINNER DIES

Cornelia Otis Skinner, the famed actress, author, and monologist, and Bryn Mawr alumn, died this summer. Miss Skinner, born in 1901 of theatrical parents, moved to Bryn Mawr after a life on the road, at age 5. She was active in dramatics at the Baldwin School during her childhood years; she attended Bryn Mawr thereafter, where "there started to dawn the revelation of intellectual adventure." Miss Skinner joined the National Theatre Company in Washington the summer of her freshman year, though she had no intention of staying for graduation. Her junior year was spent at the Sorbonne, taking acting lessons at the Comédie Française. An illustrious acting career followed. She appeared in Blood on Sand, Will Shakespeare, and the Next Room. The Wild Westcattz, and White Collars, familiar on Broadway and in London. She starred in Candida, The Searching Wind, Lady Windermere's Fan, and was author and producer of The Pleasure of His Company, The Wives of Henry VIII, Espartas, Ego, His Wife, and Paris 30. In 1932 Miss Skinner married Alan St. Thomas and, soon bore him a son, Otis Skinner. In 1962 she narrated Deboutante '62 for NBC T.V. In her later years she was known as a prominent N.Y. socialite, and was awarded honorary degrees. Miss Skinner's theatre workshop, opened in 1934, belongs partly to Bryn Mawr and is located on the Baldwin School grounds. An exhibit of her books and playbills can be viewed in the front hall of Canaday.

Budgeting of this semester's SCA funds has been postponed because as of last week nearly 280 Bryn Mawr students had not yet paid their Student Government dues. As a result, no SCA money will be given to Bryn Mawr or bi-college organizations after Sept. 26, when the current budget expires. Until the new budget is drawn up, there will be no social bus runs, movies or funding for clubs.

Letters were sent out Sept. 17 to 400 people who had not paid their dues, asking for payment by the following Friday. By Thursday evening, 280 students still had not paid, so the Steering and Executive Committees of SCA and SC decided that the only "viable and morally sound" option was to postpone budgeting until all dues had been paid.

According to Cathy Paraskeos, co-treasurer of SCA, Steering Committee members will visit each student who has not yet paid to find out why they have not paid, and then will ask them to do so. Students who refuse may be taken before the Honor Board.

Paraskeos reports that between 20 and 30 people have paid since Thursday's decision; she thinks that dues will be collected from almost all Bryn Mawr students within a week. When this happens, normal budgeting will take place.

She emphasized that SGA was not trying to punish students or to use scare tactics--postponement of budgeting was felt to be in the best interests of the community.

In a normal year, about 20 students never pay SCA dues. No one on SGA is quite sure why so many people did not pay this year. Though Paraskeos suggested that the reason was mostly lack of communication as to how dues were to be paid.

Last year, the fee was charged along with tuition. Both the administration and SGA felt that this plan was a failure, and it was decided that this year's dues would be paid at non-academic registration. Although students were informed of this decision last year, many did not understand or forget; thus dues were an unexpected expenditure. Many did not have the necessary money with them.

Several students on financial aid have complained that while the dues are an obligatory expense, they were not included in the computation of this year's financial aid packages. They state that they simply cannot afford to pay the dues. The Financial Aid Office has offered two-week interest-free loans for people who do not have the money.

Paraskeos said that Steering Committee considered four options, but decided to postpone budgeting until all money is received. This option seemed the best of the four, said she, because SCA does not risk going into debt; organizations' budgets would not be cut, though it would be unfair to those members of the community who have paid their dues, it is the most morally sound of the possibilities, she added.
LANTERN NIGHT...

The light of wisdom, contained in three hundred-odd lanterns, will undergo another round in the cycle of Bryn Mawr this Lantern Night, October 5. Lantern Night, in which the color green belonging to the class of '79 reappears on the panes of the new class, symbolizes the continuity of generations and principles at Bryn Mawr. The Cloisters and 200 or so guests will witness the College's 93rd Lantern Night this year.

The lanterns, which are 'free' to all freshmen and transfers by virtue of their room deposits, are the gift of the sophomores to welcome the freshmen formally to the community of learning. The sophomores sing to Pallas Athena, 'goddess of learning and strength'—

Give us wisdom, 
Be with us always
Blessed goddess, hear 
Shine, O Pallas! 
To shine clearly forever,

Lighting the way
Making bright the dark.

The song was written by Madeline Vaughan Abbott '93 and Bertha Haven Putnam '93.

The freshmen answer with the words of Pericles' funeral oration, strangely apt. 

Friends of wisdom, let us gather together
We love beauty without softness
We use our talent to accomplish deeds...

The task is worthy and our hope is great.

'Thou Gracious Inspiration' was used instead until K. Ward '21 and H. Hill '21 transposed 'Sophias' when M. Carey Thomas complained that a more solemn song was needed. The music of 'Sophias' is from a Russian service by R. F. Lwoff.

The idea of Bryn Mawr lanterns evolved from an early EMC song, 'The Only Lantern at Bryn Mawr,' which referred to the Lantern Man who met students at the train after dark and escorted them back to campus. (Nowadays the song might be 'The Only Security Van at Bryn Mawr.' ) The class of 1889, the College's first class, instituted the custom when they were sophomores. Originally, after the sophomores' presentation of a play, the freshmen would be quizzed and given lanterns if deemed worthy. The first lanterns were four inches high and formed in isinglass; until very recently, each sophomore class designed a different owl pattern for the freshmen. Many varieties of old lanterns can be seen in the Alumnae Office in Wyndham.

In 1897 the sophomores presented 'As You Like It,' the sophomore play on Merion Green and the lantern ceremony was postponed till evening. It was held in the nearly-finished cloisters in 1901. Instead of a barrage of lanterns, one per lantern, and freshmen were eager to learn the name of 'their' sophomore. Today a freshman receives several invitations to tea—a good way to meet upperclassmen from other dorms.

Various traditions accompany Lantern Night. Wax spilled on one's batrobe means ODe will recite her Ph. D., and the first to the first girl to be married, and the last to the first to receive her Ph. D. These legends have undergone a variety of metamorphoses.

(centre on p.4...)

ENGLISH DANCING

Yes, Virginia, you too can reel at
Bryn Mawr; as well as do jigs, set dances, circle dances, and even waltzes. English Dancing encompasses all this, held in Goodhart monthly. The next dance will be Oct. 27, 8:00 pm in Goodhart Music Room. Questions can be addressed to Maggie Brandt in Merion. In addition, for real dance aficionados, Radnor will hold an Oktoberfest October 6 and Denbigh its annual Applebee Folkfest is planned for October 13.
THE SOUND OF SILENCE

The bell in Taylor Tower is not ringing as it should because it was struck by lightning last summer, according to Tim Pierson, head of Bryn Mawr College Physical Plant.

Taylor bell should have been ringing the hour starting the first day of classes. However, over the summer, physical plant workers noticed that it was not functioning correctly. College electricians investigated the situation and concluded that the bell, or part of the electronic system connected to it, had been struck by lightning.

Schulerich Carillon, the company which electrified the bell last year, was called in to fix it. The workmen discovered that they did not have the components needed to fix the bell, either with them or in stock. The missing parts were ordered, but have not yet arrived. Mr. Pierson says he expects the parts within the next week, and is sure that the bell will be ringing by Lantern Night.

Mr. Pierson also stated that the bell was not likely to be struck by lightning again. Taylor Tower is equipped with a lighting rod, and a new conducting coil was put in only three summers ago. Barring unlikely accidents, the bell should continue functioning as normal, once it is repaired.

The present electronic bell-ringing system was installed last year. Previously, the bell was rung by rope, by the power of Taylor Hall. Pierson says that he does not know where the original rope and clapper are now, though they were installed anonymously last year for May Day, and removed again thereafter. If the seniors want to ring the bell as they have traditionally done, he is sure they will locate the rope and clapper for him. —Dieder Shupp

ROUNDABOUT

Still looking for the perfect radio station, just like ‘KY’s back home? Try:
On the FM dial—
90.9 WYX classical, folk, jazz
90.9 WTY jazz
92.5 WTT top 40, rock
94.3 WFN rock
94 WCT country-western
96.3 WZM progressive rock
96.9 WZM classical
98 ZBZ talk, Frank Sinatra
99 WSL mellow rock/musak
102.9 WCM rock
106 WXYI musak

And on your AM dial—
56 WFL new rock
60 WTT pop
98 WPER 50’s music
99 WED disco
1060 WXYI news

DATA DISCARD...

On Sunday afternoon, there were 10 squirrels on the lawn between Taylor and Pen East. You to you.

According to the class list, there are 4 people named “Elizabeth” in the class of 1923.

There are 31,536,000 seconds in a year. 3,690,500 seconds to go. Auld lang syne.

The average American drinks 150 cups of tea a year. Coffee drinkers, take heed.

ASTROLOGY

The Autumnal Equinox, the Sun’s entry into Libra this past weekend, with the accompanying shift from preoccupation with personal self-expression toward general concern for relationships with others, is preparing us for the most important upcoming celestial event: the Full Moon in Aries on October 5th.

We will be more aggressive and assertive. Some of the new friendships and relationships we’ve been establishing as the planets move through Libra will move ahead suddenly (Venus conjunct Pluto). We will seek companionship in all our endeavors, but will not lose sight of our responsibilities. Actually, meeting deadlines will be easier. (Mars leaves Cancer and enters Leo.)

Our ethical and moral systems will receive greater emphasis (Jupiter into Virgo) and all patterns of thought will continued on p.4
WORDS FROM THE WISE

Dear Greek 001 student,

Don't despair! It is possible to finish the course. I did last year, to my own lasting amazement. It's very difficult to be optimistic when Miss Lang has you slamming against the back of the chair with a gentile plural. I always managed to answer by creating a gutteral sound with a grunt. Point one, if you smile brightly all the while, the professor might think you've answered. Point two—if you arrive for class five minutes late you almost never have to write your sentence up on the board. (However, Miss Lang has been known to save a space for the tardy.) Point three, about twice a semester Miss Lang will allow you to be unprepared if you tell her so beforehand; the only drawback is that at the next class you will be grilled twice as hard. Point four, when you take Greek 010 you will be able to condescend to everybody in Baby Greek. Point five, once you've really learned the grammar, it's difficult to understand why you thought it difficult. Consider the vastness of the universe, and all the galaxies therein. In only one of these galaxies, on one planet, did people ever speak ancient Greek. Why worry? But seriously, the only thing to do with this course is to make it the center of the universe. Never get behind, but never give up.

--Kathryn Morgan

STEPS TO STEP SINGING

Here we are, only four weeks into the semester (really! only four) and already the year's second step-sing is approaching. This one actually is a step-sing, so it requires much more discipline and organization. Traditionally—ah, that word—Lantern Night step-sing was a "formal" step-sing, meaning that only serious College songs and perhaps a few sad lyric songs were sung. This custom died out between five and ten years ago; possibly because people just couldn't resist singing the then-newly-composed "Haverford Harry" and "Song of the Brainy Female." Formality in behavior, however, is still required.

If you are power-hungry, there is nothing like being Senior Songmistress during a Step-Sing. The Senior Songmistress chooses all the songs to be sung. If she chooses to omit all songs but "Thou Gracius Inspiration" and "Egg So White" from the evening's ceremony, there is nothing anyone can do to stop her, short of assassination, or perhaps a vote of no confidence. No one may start a song but the Senior Songmistress. No one may start an "Anassa kata" but the Senior Songmistress (except the Junior Songmistress for the seniors.) No one. Not Athena, not the Traditions Mistress, not the ghost of M. Carey Thomas. Only seniors may sing senior songs, such as show songs from bygone years and "Good Night." The other classes sing as directed (although it is considered orthodox for anyone who desires to sing "sophias" and "Fallas Athena"). After all, there has to be some incentives for people to become seniors. I expect to have a lovely time on Lantern Night and I hope you have the same.

--Claudia Nelson

STEP OUT

There is Morris dancing every Sunday at 4:00 on Taylor Green. (In case of rain, Rock Dance Studio.) Although Morris dancing was a traditionally all-male dance, women at Bryn Mawr have been snapping hankerchiefs and clashing sticks since the first decade of this century. Beginners are welcome. Any questions? Ask Charlie Evans in Denbigh.

Note of interest, The Lucretia Mott Room in the Science Buildings was named after famed feminist and abolitionist Lucretia Mott and given by her grand-daughter, Miriam Coffin Canaday.

ASTROLOGY cont.

undergo scrutiny (Mercury into Virgo.) We should try to relax, however; now is the best time to throw that party we've been promising ourselves and our friends.

--Mary Lou Socek
Freshman Hall Plays will be performed in Goodhart, NCF in the Social York Gym, as was previously announced. Radnor, Heron, Erxman, and Pennbrook East freshmen will present their plays on Friday, starting at 2:00 PM. Curtain time on Saturday night is also 8:00 PM; freshmen from Pennbrook West, Rhodes, Rockefeller, Haffner, and Denbigh will perform. The artists' work will not go unrewarded; the distinguished faculty members who will judge the competition will award prizes in various categories. Any halls which do not know their rehearsal times for Tuesday (today) and Wednesday (tomorrow) should contact Kathryn Morgan, 25-59 Denbigh, 550-IMMEDIATELY.

The Drama Club's first production of the semester will be Summer and Smoke, by Tennessee Williams. The play will be performed in Roberts at Haverford on October 12, 13, and 14. The director, Ralph Erickman, is a professional who has acted with the Trinity Square Rep Co., and at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. He has extensive teaching experience, and has directed professional and university productions at Tulane University and the University of Washington, Seattle. Having such a director, as well as dedicated actors who are rehearsing 24 hours per week, guarantees a production that will be well worth seeing. Admission is free to students with Bryn Mawr or Haverford I.D.

Students interested in Greek tragedy have been asked by the Allentown Art Museum to produce Euripides' Medea for their festival, Aspects of Ancient Greece. The vital, lyrical translation by Paul Roche and the dancing chorus will add greatly to the authenticity of the play. Those interested in working on the stage crew should contact Mary Ann Kooy, 5 Vernon, 5568. Dancers are encouraged to get in touch with either Ann Pagoulias, 52 Pen­brook West, 25-59, or Lori Ratajczak, 34 Vernon 5716. The play will be performed at Bryn Mawr on October 30; admission is free to students with Bryn Mawr or Haverford I.D. The date for the Allentown performance is November 3 at 3:00 PM; admission is $3.50 for non-museum members.

Lori Ratajczak

FIELD HOCKEY: A smashing game was played last Wednesday, September 19, by the field hockey team, in which they defeated Beaver College 6 to 1. Stuning goals were made by Sue Beede, who made two, Holly Taylor, with three, and Channing Page, with one. Senior Co-Captain Jill Krasner made a "super save."

TENNIS: The tennis team took a swing into their fall season with a 4 to 1 victory over Philadelphia Pharmacy in a scrimmage Tuesday, September 18. Single victories were made by Freshman Cathy Savage and 5th Year, Double victories by the fresh team of Lynn Sennings and Catherine Hall and by the second doubles team of Carole Weiner and Carolyn Rosenthal. --also won.

VOLLEYBALL: After the journey to St. Joseph's on Wednesday, the volleyball team played nearly half the game when the new lights in the gym went out. St. Joseph's had just that morning replaced the weak lights in their gym with stronger ones, but, unfortunately, the power supply was not strong enough for the new lights. The game will be rescheduled for later in the season, when, hopefully, the light will shine once more on the volleyball team.

September 25, 1979

FIELD HOCKEY: SCHEDULE
Sept. 25--Rosemont, away, 4 PM
Sept. 26--Villanova, home, 4 PM

TENNIS
Sept. 25--St. Joseph's, away, 3:30 PM
Sept. 26--Wissinum, home, 3:30 PM

VOLLEYBALL
Sept. 24--Harcum, away, 7 PM
Sept. 27--Rosemont, home, 7 PM

RECREATIONAL HOURS
SUNDAY
Mon.--Fri.: 7:30--9:30 AM
Tues.--Thurs.: 7--9 PM
Sat., Sun.: 3--4:30 PM

TENNIS
Mon.--Thurs.: 10 AM
Tues.--Thurs.: 12--3 PM
Fri., Sat., Sun.: All day

UNIVERSAL GYM
Mon.--Fri.: 8:30 AM--5:30 PM
Sat., Sun.: 2--5 PM

Orientation hours: Mon., 3 PM; Tues., 12 noon; Wed., 1 PM; Thurs., 2 PM; Fri., 10 AM.

--Judy Calhoun

AIN'T WE GREAT

There are 990 students in the undergraduate college, 300 of them freshmen. Of 52 special students, 32 are taking one course, nine are taking two courses, and eight are taking three courses. Nineteen are post-bacc and seven are Navy Scholars. Of the freshmen 50% have financial aid, and the average scores of the freshman class SAT tests are higher than those of any college in the Ivy League or Seven Sisters. (Haverford is not included in this data group.) Last year Bryn Mawr's verbal SAT scores were higher than those of any liberal arts college in the U.S.

By '94 the earnings differential between women and men was actually wider than it was two decades earlier.

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