1981

The College News, 1981-5, Vol 3, No. 8

Students of Bryn Mawr College

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Bryn Mawr's earlier summer school

Bryn Mawr's new Summer Science program, on the verge of its second year, is the first summer school held on this campus in over forty years. It has a predecessor, however. Back in the early history of the College, for women who were not college educated, the Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers in Industry thrived.

The first director was James B. Thomas, the School was the first summer school of its kind to be sponsored by American colleges. According to the original Statement of Purpose, the living conditions of workers, the schools were opened to "offer young women of character and ability a fuller education in order that they may widen their influence in the industrial world, help in the coming social reconstruction, and increase the happiness and usefulness of their own lives."

The Summer School opened in 1911 with 92 women workers, ages 18-35. Financed by donations from Bryn Mawr students, trade unions, organizations, and others, the School was open free of charge to the poverty-stricken young women who had never before had even a small education. The first director was Mildred Weil, BHC class of '10, who was then Dean of the College.

The curriculum offerings of the first year included English, history, science, hygiene, music appreciation, economics, and women in the labor movement. In later years, the emphasis shifted toward economics and labor relations. The concern was always over how to make the week a success as relevant as possible to the workers. Many of them came in with no more than an elementary school education, and for most of them there would be no second summer at the School.

The students, starved for education, were particularly eager to learn. Many were risking their jobs by taking the time off for education. According to Mildred Weil, BHC class of '10, "one of the brainchild of the School," Bryn Mawr Summer School, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania (1911)."

The Summer School for Women Workers in Industry convened at Bryn Mawr for the first time in 1913. The summer school was held on the College campus, with the intention of offering an educational experience specifically designed for women workers. The first year, the Summer School was held for ten weeks.

The Summer School for Women Workers in Industry, convened at Bryn Mawr for the last time in 1938. The next summer, due to tensions generated by the growing Labor Movement, the Summer School moved to New York to become the Hudson River Summer School for Women Workers in Industry.

Mr. Vincent DeCerchio, Director of College Security, summed up this past year at Bryn Mawr, saying, "I've had an extremely busy one, more busy than I had ever anticipated." Although he feels that many things have been accomplished this year, he realizes that much lies ahead of him.

In the past, DeCerchio and the Security Office have had to handle the transportation needs of the College. While the Blue and Social buses have to run, Security must also take care of transportation for special events, and run to the train station and the infirmary. The campus shuttle is an addition to the services provided to the College, and DeCerchio stated that it works well.

Students who need to get to Brecon or Glenmede can call Security from 7:30 to 12:15 every night on the hour to get the shuttle to pick them up. Other new arrangements include a 'hostel' type of service for students stranded on campus. An escort service has become available to take students back to their own campus after the last Blue Bus has run at 1:30 a.m.

New officers have joined the security staff, so that now three security officers patrol the campus. There are eight security officers and three bus drivers.

Ideally, bus transportation services would not be considered part of Security's duties, according to DeCerchio. The security officers must finish a three week training program and follow instruction in procedures for facing "a variety of type of security problems.

Mr. DeCerchio felt that students must also learn to be aware of security problems and their responsibilities. At this end, the office of Security has held a security-awareness poster contest, has distributed "lock your door and take your key" stickers, and DeCerchio has met with students at hall meetings to talk about security problems and the measures that they may take in dealing with them. During this coming summer, Mr. DeCerchio plans to write a student manual about security.

Nineteen out of every hundred students at Bryn Mawr have taken the construction problem that concerned Security have been solved. The spring and summer, however, posed additional challenges. The weather was warmer, and more visitors strolling onto the campus, students leaving lower-floor windows open and hall doors unattended, and a greater deal of other difficulties. Student attitude has been more poor, and can be quite a problem for security. Mr. DeCerchio said that he can't understand why some students dislike the security department, and have an unrealistic and resentful view to security needs. He emphasized the need to lock doors and the near-refusal of the part of some students to do so. Others are unsympathetic and impatient. Mr. DeCerchio gave an example of this, saying that students are often unwilling to wait for security to let them in when they have forgotten their keys, even while the security van is making an emergency run.

Despite problems, Mr. DeCerchio has many positive feelings about the work being done.
Decisions are made on renovation work

Lively renovations work will overrun the campus this summer. The projects include PwO Grant work, spot renovations, and the drafting of plans for a new gymnasium.

PwO funds this summer will go to energy conservation measures and an underground fireline. The Board of Trustees has decided definitely not to renovate any whole residence this year. Merion bathrooms are also scheduled for improvements in the fall, so the estimated cost of which has not yet been determined.

Ten to twelve student rooms in the basement of Rhodes will be renovated, according to Director of Physical Plant John Kelch. "They'll be small rooms, but they'll be attractive," he said.

President McPherson advocated a plan to turn part of the Denbigh attic, currently used for storage, into student rooms this summer. Kelch said he is now working on getting approval to submit to the administration. He expects a final decision within a week. The work would be simple, explained Hall Service Supervisor Dave Louie, because windows, doors, insulation, lights, and even fireplaces and stokers already exist in the attic.

Only partial partitions and plaster would be required.

Regular maintenance funds will also finance renovations of the Rhodsmith and Hafner kitchens.

Plans for the new gymnasium are well underway. The possible sites have been reduced to three: the current hockey rink, the old power house, and the Robin Hood Dell.

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 18 will examine design plans for each site, and construction may begin as early as October. Donald MacPherson, director of the Building Improvement Project, said that the starting date for construction "depends on the result of the survey of the three sites" and a Board decision, probably in October. The date of completion remains more nebulous, Mr. Oerchlo, director, said, but President McPherson, funds for the new gym will probably have been budgeted against the anticipated revenue from the Centennial Campaign, which will climax in late October.

---Betty Duren

Life in the real world

Yes, Virginia, there is a real world out there, and now it can exist in the same universe as Bryn Mawr without one of the two imploding into the other. With many recent alumnae finding it difficult to understand. (The answer, of course, is simple: one of the already is a black hole. We won't say which.) To avoid falling into a black hole, it may be best to keep up with the space-age deprogramming; failing that, you may wish to sit down with a sustaining cup of tea and these Guidelines to the Real World.

Rule #1: It's true -- unless you can find an oil sheik who's willing to fit you into his harem, you are probably going to be forced to obtain gainful employment. So don't panic. Other Bryn Mawr graduates have done it. I even know a Latin major who now runs a successful oil company.

Rule #2: There is a silvery lining: you will never have to spend another all-nighter with your honors paper. The real world is cowed and has other things to offer.

Rule #3: Plans to save rent by living in a cardboard box in the park are really not practical. You're going to have to find an apartment, too, unless you can persuade your parents to give you a room back (if they replaced your parents to give you a room back if you replaced your dorms and other pressures drive you to distraction).

Elizabeth M. Patton

---Claudia Nelson '80

College News

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