1981

The College News, 1981-9, Vol 4, No. 1

Students of Bryn Mawr College

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc_collegenews

Custom Citation

This paper is posted at Scholarship, Research, and Creative Work at Bryn Mawr College. http://repository.brynmawr.edu/bmc_collegenews/1343

For more information, please contact repository@brynmawr.edu.
CONVOCATION BEGINS
THE NEW YEAR

Participation urged in national issues

The 97th academic year of the College began formally with the Convocation addresses of President McPherson and other members of the administration on September 3, 1981. President McPherson welcomed the "centennial class" of 1985, as well as 21 new transfer students, 39 post-baccalaureate premedical students, 71 special students, 158 new graduate students, and 157 Haverford students who are living at Bryn Mawr. McPherson welcomed five new members of the faculty and new members of the College staff. Among the new professors are David Cast of the Art History department, Betty Twarog in Biology, Paul Melville in Mathematics, Sergej Davydov in Russian, and Carol Beane, who will teach in the Hispanic-American concentration program. Fred Friendly, visiting professor of Columbia University, will be teaching a new course entitled "Communications, Society, and the Law." The College also welcomes Nancy Woodruff as Director of Minority Affairs, Andrew Lichtenberg as Drama Director, and Marietta Cheng as Director of Orchestra and Chorus.

Miss McPherson described recent campus developments and plans for future changes. Nancy Woodruff, the head of a task force appointed by the President, will prepare a report on minority affairs at the College by spring vacation. Summer renovations on the campus included the complete modernization of Haffner and Rhoads dining facilities, improvements in Taylor classrooms, and the expansion of the computer

Banner at Labor Day Picnic sparks controversy

At the picnic held on Merion Green on Monday, September 7, a banner which read, "Welcome Class of '85/ Centennial Goal: End Cooperation" was hung from the windows of two Merion residents' rooms. A group of students entered the rooms and removed the banner; this was greeted, by applause and cheers from some of the picknickers below.

The plan to hang the banner began after Parade Night, according to Sharon Gerstel, one of the students who displayed the sign. "We felt that Bryn Mawr was being desecrated and that traditions were being destroyed," she explained.

The purpose of the banner was "to make known the views of some Bryn Mawr students on cooperation. "Despite the 'best of both worlds' propaganda, no provisions are made for the woman who came here for Bryn Mawr, the women's college," asserted Lisa Schiffren. "As students with a significant view, we are tired of not being listened to," she said.

The students involved in planning the banner felt that the picnic itself was a political statement. They saw the fact that Haverfordians were invited as an action on the part of the Bryn Mawr administration which indicated approval of cooperation.

"We did not intend this as a gratuitous discourtesy. We especially did not intend to offend Haverford women," said Lisa Schiffren.

While the banner was hanging, a group of students entered Merion. One of them was a Resident Advisor (RA), who asked a member of the Bryn Mawr security force to unlock the rooms where the banner was displayed. The students then entered the rooms and removed the sign.

"When I first saw the sign, I was very hurt. People all around me were very hurt and very worried," said one of the students who removed the sign. Another student explained, "Speed was needed, because it was an antagonistic sign. The longer it was up, the more damage it would do."

According to Dean Vanin, neither the RA nor the security guard had authority to have the rooms unlocked. "No one has the right to open another student's room," she said, except in cases where the safety or health of the student is at risk. Vanin stated that the Dean's office is "deliberating whether any action should be taken or not" regarding the
**Parade Night Song**

Well the Sophomore girls are fools Although they think they’re really wise. They have an intellectual deficiency For which there’s no disguise. Their lack of mental faculties Is subjected to scorn. Their obvious stupidity Has Athena quite forlorn. We wish they all could be Like the Freshman girls! Yeah!

**Parody**

Well, the pompous class of '85, Egotistical as hell, Are still like high school students in the way they act And like dogs in how they smell. When every Mawrtyr is like you In the way that she behaves, The BMC Alumnae will drop dead right there And turn over in their graves. God help us if we were like the freshman girls!

---

**Trustees**

An Open Meeting with the Representatives to the Board of Trustees will be held on Wed., Sept. 23, at 7:00 pm, in the Blue Room of the College Inn. The student representatives are Lisa Louis and Sharon Gerstel. Anyone interested in having their opinions brought to the Board is welcome to attend.

* * * * *

Anyone interested in housing a Trustee for the night of Oct. 2, please call Sharon Gerstel, x5751, or leave a note in her box in Merion.

---

**Plenary Update**

"In the neighborhood of 600 people" registered for Plenary at the sign-ups held September 17 and 18, according to SGA secretary Judy Bloom. The decision as to whether or not Plenary will actually be held would be discussed at the SGA meeting on September 20, she said. Steering Committee will make its decision on Plenary at its weekly meeting on September 22.

The number of people registered for Plenary exceeds the minimum requirement of 40% of the members of the Association.

---

**Site for gym chosen; plans now underway**

The construction of a new gym on the Bryn Mawr campus will begin in March 1982. The site which has been selected is near the area just above the upper hockey field, known as Robin Hood Dell. Plans for the gym include an eight-lane pool with a gallery overlooking it, a weight room, and a locker room on the lower level. The main level will contain a multi-purpose gym which is able to house two basketball courts, two tennis courts, or four volleyball courts. Also on the main level will be a gymastics area with a ten-foot deep practice pit filled with foam. The upper level will contain classrooms and offices. The area of the building will be 50,000 square feet.

The pool will feature a movable bulkhead separating the swimming lanes from the diving well. By moving the bulkhead, it will be possible to adjust the length of the lanes.

The roof will be constructed of "hyperbolic paraboloids" which will look like a series of peaks from the outside.

---

**College News**

Anne Shaughnessy  Betsy Westphal  Liz Nutting
Alison Pierce  Florence Fusco  Margaret Schulz
Anne Lafferty  Anne Medearis  Judy Calhoun
Ellen Medearis  Diedre Shupp  Melodie Burford
Julia Fasick  and others
Sharon Gerstel
Beth Davis
Lisa Schiffren
Debi Nathanson

The College News is a bi-weekly publication dedicated to the women and men of Bryn Mawr College: staff, faculty, administration, trustees, alumnae, graduate students, and undergraduates. Articles, letters to the editor, and help with production are welcome. Our box is located in Erdman Hall.
More on campus changes: Renovations 1981-1982

Campuswide renovations continued at Bryn Mawr during summer 1981. Haffner, Rhoads, Erdman, Pemb West, Denbigh, Merion, Batten House, Dalton, and the Biology Building were among the buildings improved.

Renovations were made in three dining halls to make on-campus dining more pleasant. According to Gail Finan, an extension to Haffner was constructed in order to provide about 50% more kitchen space as well as additional space for storage and refrigerators. All of the old kitchen equipment, with the exception of one fryer, has been replaced by new energy-efficient equipment. Used dishes are now carried from the dining room to the kitchen area via a newly installed conveyor belt to a room reserved entirely for dishwashing. In the dining hall itself, a new serving area has been built, and the acoustics have been improved by carpet wallcoverings and new ceiling tiles.

In Rhoads practically all serving areas have been removed from the dining hall and relocated in what was once "dead storage space" in the kitchen. As in Haffner, old kitchen equipment has been replaced by new energy-saving equipment. Ms. Finan observed, "For the first time in thirty-five years, Bryn Mawr has two modern kitchens." The combined Haffner and Rhoads dining hall renovations cost approximately one million dollars, borrowed in anticipation of the Centennial Campaign funds.

Changes are also visible in Erdman dining hall where the wood floor has been refinished and freezers moved from the side dining room into the area which was formerly the manager's office. Pending the Board of Trustees' approval, extensive renovations, including acoustics, are planned for next summer.

According to John Kelch, Director of Physical Plant, about twenty-four new student spaces have been created over the summer. Previously existing rooms in Erdman, Resources, Recorder's, Comptroller's, Admissions, Personnel, and Payroll offices, replacing our use of two outside companies, Profco and Gwynnyd (for payroll, accounts received, and student deposits) and a link through the Hewlett Packard 3000 to an IBM machine at the University of Pennsylvania.

The package, acquired from AXXESS on a lease/purchase agreement, includes 18 terminals, several printers, discs, and tape drive -- and no card reader, as Doreen Beaudreau, Associate Director of Computing Services, is quick to point out. Data entry will be through terminals only, relieving college personnel of the tedious chore of card-punching. AIMS software was purchased outright, and with it 50 manhours of training and modifications. The total price of the software and computer package is about $300,000; it is expected to pay for itself (in money not spent at Unicoll, Profco, and Gwynnyd) over a period of 5-6 years.

The new system is actually "in production mode" in the Alumnae/Resources and Recorder's offices, according to Ms. Beaudreau, and is being tested in the Comptroller's office. Several other offices will test it this fall and should be on the system by Dec. 1. The Financial Aid office is expected to begin use in 1982, and the Comptroller's office will not complete the changeover until June 1982, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

New computer system speeds administrative business

Despite the fact that installation is slightly behind schedule (mostly in the area of alumnae development, where extensive software modifications were necessary), Ms. Beaudreau says that "Enthusiasm is high on campus; the learning curve is high." The system, which failed frequently early this summer, is now running with few problems.

Diedre Shupp

BANNER from p. 1

RA. Vanin also said that she had discussed the role of security officers with Security Head Vincent DeCerchio.

When asked her personal opinion about the banner, Dean Vanin termed it "unfortunate," but added, "Those students have a right to their opinion."

Anne Shaughnessy
I was glad to see it. And there were other Bryn Mawr women (and maybe Haverford men and women) who are Haverford majors, enrolled in Haverford courses, members of bi-college organizations, and otherwise supporters of "cooperation" who were glad to see it.

For these women, the banner over Merion Green with its terse message "End Cooperation" had very little to do with cooperation per se but presented in arresting form, after all this time, the feminist dissatisfaction with Bryn Mawr.

To those to whom the connection between message and meaning is not immediately evident, remember back to last semester, to Bryn Mawr throughout the aftermath of Barclay and to a lesser extent throughout curriculum review, the Sisterhood's quest for a director of minority affairs, and the equal rights marches on Washington.

After knowledge of the Barclay incident became public, there were a flurry of public meetings at Bryn Mawr and much, much private discussion. At the beginning it was very exciting. There finally were things to talk about at dinner. There was a real underground at Bryn Mawr of women who were concerned about doing something. There were a wide variety of women involved, the established women's groups and the individuals who you had never known were particularly concerned. There were foreign women with revolutionary experience in their own countries. We disagreed with one another -- "they're those kind of feminists" -- but we worked with and respected the others, because they were activists and not just talkers.

By April, we had seen all the opportunities for effective resistance to the muffling of Barclay slip away one by one: the demonstration with Penn and Princeton women, the Inquirer leak, the campaign to inform perspective Haverford freshmen, the Bryn Mawr elections, the move to have Residence Council refuse to cooperate in dorm exchange, and by the end, the more desperate plots to disrupt May Day (from which came the idea for a Merion banner) and to vandalize Haverford.

And all mixed up with our outrage about Haverford was a simmering anger that Bryn Mawr as an institution was still stuck in an idealist notion of feminism, i.e., that somehow if we were all very smart and very accomplished the world would fall at our feet. And the same thing for minority women.

It seemed the Curriculum Review Committee wasn't doing anything; neither was the Administration. The student government was useless as usual. Then on top of everything we had to take part in inane discussions on coeducation at Bryn Mawr and bear with platitudes about cooperation with Haverford.

Shirley Chisholm had told us in Washington that "it was absolutely no time for shrinking violets." But we shrank. Or maybe it wasn't simply the failure of individuals.

For many years I have wondered why Bryn Mawr doesn't have any communal politics dealing with serious issues. Why 900 women should go coed that year but nothing else.

I have secretly envied Haverford, where even if, one might argue, the end result is not much different (all talk and no action) at least there were ways to involve the entire community in discussion of serious issues. In fact Bryn Mawr women end up going to Haverford to do political things. Bryn Mawr women didn't bring SDE to Bryn Mawr but stayed and fought at Haverford. Our best feminist activists went to Haverford over Barclay to haggle with the Haverford administration (their role was underappreciated). It would have been as effective to organize Bryn Mawr (no procedures, no director of women's concerns, no cooperation) and more awesome (something to tell our granddaughters). But who is to say these women were wrong? This may have been an impossibility at Bryn Mawr.

And then we came back to Bryn Mawr, and there it was -- over Merion Green. Someone had just gone and done it. Some who understood its real meaning still said it was a stupid thing to do, but it wasn't stupid, it was fledging.

There are those who undoubtedly do really want to end cooperation. It is certainly their right to feel this way and to express it. To those who continue to find the banner a crime against the community, I can only say that if the community support for cooperation is solid, it will withstand difference of opinion.

I have sympathy for the separatists (who are really much more concerned with the question of separatism in the outside world than in
this community and who fur­
thermore are not necessarily
misandrists). Separatism is
an idealist notion to be
sure, but not an unbrave
one. It is, after all, equally idealist to think
that you can participate in
this society as a woman
without prostituting your­
self -- simply by force of
will as it were -- a mistak­
en notion that many more
women hold and for which
they are never castigated.

It is sad that we always
get stuck at this point in
our communal politics
that separatism and co-
option* are our only two
choices -- that in seeing
the unrealism of one we can­
ot see that of the other.
And it is sad, too, that our
choice is to be made in mat­
ters that belie the serious­
ness of the underlying is­
sues, e.g. men in Denbigh.
It is sad that we are so
unsophisticated.

But perhaps there is hope
to be found in the vehemence
with which we attack the
determination of our COIQ.IJJ­
ional living arrangements. For
though we repl ess them, we
have deep feelings, deep
feelings about that thing
some women call feminism.
The cardinal rule of commu­
nity organization is that
you begin with people as you
find them. This, then, is
our raw material.

There are signs, however,
that there are women here
who have been suppressed too
long and who will thus dare
to force us to leave our
communal childhood. And
since collectively we have
neither the intellectual
tools nor the established
channels for them to raise
their issues, the passage
from childhood will not be
smooth, and we will suffer.
But it must happen if our
younger sisters are to be
able to found a real femi­
nist politics at Bryn Mawr.

*Co-option: abandonm ent
of one's principles for a
seemingly more comfortable
position.

Eliza Dixon
Wendall Carter

The College News welcomes
letters to the editor, which
will be printed as space
allows.

Renovations from p. 3
Rhoades basement have been
renovated to yield seventeen
singles. A former costume
room on Rockefeller's second
floor is a new single, and
three doubles have been made
in the Denbigh attic. Batten
House has been refurbished
with new paint and carpeting
inside, and a faculty office,
new classroom, and new
conference room have been
created. Plumbing improve­
ments were made campuswide
and the Pembroke West bath­
rooms received special atten­
tion with a thorough
overhaul.

Water damage which oc­
curred to several Denbigh
rooms when pipes froze and
burst last year has been
repaired by Unkefer, the
contractor responsible for
the Denbigh renovations, at
no cost to the College.

In Dalton, there are
seven new offices, a class­
room, and a new computer to
handle administrative work.
A new office and lab suite
for an electron microscope
have been prepared in the
Biology Building.

Mr. Kelch discussed im­
provements made with Pew
Grant monies as well as

Lantern Night is
currently scheduled for the
evening of October 9.
Sign-up sheets for swingen
will be posted.

Afterwords reopening
The cafe in Denbigh din­
ing hall will reopen for the
fall semester on Monday,
September 28. The cafe,
which will be directed this
year by Lynn Gordon '83,
will replace the College Inn
as an evening snack bar and
restaurant for students.
Members of the Administra­
tion hope to cut financial
losses by opening the Col­
lege Inn for lunch only this
year. President McPherson,
together with Gail Finan and
Ms. Gordon, decided to open
the cafe six nights a week
and to offer a full menu
selection on each night. The
menu will include coffee,
tea, grilled sandwiches,
cider, hot chocolate, and
English muffin pizzas. An
ice-cream bar and choice of
buttered breads and cream
cheese may also be provided.
Ms. Gordon expects that
prices will be kept low
enough to prevent the stu­
dents operating the cafe
from making any significant
profit. She hopes that the
cafe, which received $500
capital from the Administra­
tion last year, will com­
pletely pay for itself this
year. The Bryn Mawr Food
Service also supports the
cafe and may subsidize it.
Ms. Finan hopes that the
cafe, although it is a
student-run operation, will
be able to open six nights a
week. A decision to re-open
the College Inn in the eve­
nings would be the Treasur­
er's responsibility, she
said.
center to include a social science data laboratory as well as a computer for administrative use. In addition, a new electron microscope will be installed in the Science Building, and construction of the new gymnasium in the Robin Hood Dell area will begin in October after a final approval from the Board of Trustees. Other projected renovations include the modernization of the Pembroke Hall and Erdman's dining facilities, and the development of the old gym into a campus center.

President McPherson stressed in her address that new campus activities and changes must not prevent students, faculty, and members of the administration from studying and participating in the world outside Bryn Mawr. She commented that under the new administration of President Reagan fewer voices are being heard, women and minorities are in positions of even greater disadvantage, and the quality of education is suffering from the expenditure of 32% of the nation's budget on defense. Defense, suggested McPherson, should be strengthened through increased research and education rather than by investment in weaponry which will quickly become obsolescent.

Miss McPherson remarked on the importance of hearing voices of opinion and need in open discussion, and expressed the hope that students will rejoice in their academic work, without allowing it to become an excuse for apathy.

Other Convocation addresses included a speech by Dean Mary Maples Dunn, Deputy to the President. Dean Dunn discussed the proposed new curriculum, and stated that rigorous liberal arts requirements, such as the acquisition of a foreign language, the ability to write and speak persuasively, and an understanding of historical and sociological perspective, will still be required of Bryn Mawr students. Dean Dunn also announced plans for a series of Freshman Seminars in the study of women, to be funded by a grant of $30,000 from the NEH.

Barbara Kreutz, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, spoke of the notion that the dollars spent on education for a doctorate, unless it be for medicine, computer science or engineering, are not a worthy investment, but actually a consumption. Dean Kreutz, and the graduate students she discussed this with, disagree. The study for the Ph.D. is an enriching, worthwhile experience, and she said that "Clearly there is a lot to be done ... to reform the would-be graduate student" who insists on pouring money into such an investment. In the meantime, Dean Kreutz promised that Bryn Mawr graduate students will remain eccentric, and academic, as they have been throughout the history of the Graduate School. She added that the Student Council of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has changed its name to the "Graduate Student Association," and that this Association is sponsoring a series of speakers at Glenmede this year.

"It takes particular dedication to enter the field of social service at this moment," stated Richard Gaskins, Acting Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Social service programs are facing reduced funding, and the disadvantaged are worse off than ever, according to Dean Gaskins. Nevertheless, or perhaps in answer to this, there are 260 students in the SWSR graduate school, 185 working for their Master of Social Service degree, about 15 for their Master of Law and Social Policy, and about 60 for their Ph.D.

Dean Gaskins urged that students resist tendencies to specialize, and concentrate instead on developing general abilities through their education.

Elizabeth Graves of the Graduate Student Association and Jonathon Harmon from the School of Social Work and Social Research provided readings at various points in the ceremony.

Lattimore reading

Richmond Lattimore, Professor Emeritus of Greek at Bryn Mawr, gave a poetry reading at Glenmede on Sunday, September 13. Selections from his own works included "Styx," "Fall Guise," and "Home." He also read from his translations of Greek poems. The reading was sponsored by the Graduate Student Association.

A professor at Bryn Mawr for many years, Lattimore is best known to scholars for his excellent translations of the Iliad, the Odyssey, and other classical literature. He has also published several books of original poetry, including Strides of Time.

Women's Alliance meets at 8:00 on Wednesday evenings in the Crenshaw Room, Taylor Hall.
Customs Week: a freshman's review

It is Saturday, August 29 and a rag-tag collection of high school graduates are descending upon the Bryn Mawr campus. Unlike the Mongolian hordes, however, these people are far from menacing. Their most prominent feature is a nervous grin glued on their faces and a strong tendency to say "Hi! My name is ___, and I'm from ___," without the slightest provocation. Believe me, I know, I myself did that for four days straight until I began to realize that I was introducing myself to the same people over and over again.

Despite the silly grins and over-enthusiastic self-introductions, people were surprisingly friendly. No one seemed to mind that I consistently, and inexplicably, confused Taylor and Thomas or that the position of Haverford remained a mystery even after several visits to the campus. Perhaps the most shocking revelation of the week, for both myself and others, was that we were no longer considered strange. In fact, we didn't even seem to rank among the slightly touched. It seemed a letdown to appear so decidedly normal.

There was little time to ponder over rank, however, for the most vivid impression left by Customs Week was one of bustle. There were always places to go and people to meet with very little time for reflection in between. Conversations were often rushed and even more often slightly forced. The many visits to Haverford were pleasant but dislocating — while still in the process of learning about one campus there suddenly loomed another one before me. The trip to Philadelphia was plagued with a similar problem: it was enjoyable and yet I still feel that the city is one huge mystery.

Perhaps the one item missing from the orientation schedule (as if it wasn't busy enough) was a walking tour of the area surrounding Bryn Mawr. I still have the sense that Bryn Mawr is an island just off the coast of Philadelphia and the surrounding waters appear uncharted.

This island, however, is beginning to feel like home. As my facial muscles relax and my sea legs develop for trips to the outside world, I feel somehow prepared for the year to come.

—Julia Fasick

Meal Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Erdman</th>
<th>Hassler</th>
<th>Rhoads</th>
<th>Brecon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>M-F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30-9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:45-8:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td></td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>M-5a</td>
<td>M-5a</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30-1:30</td>
<td>11:30-1:30</td>
<td>11:30-1:30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>M-Sun</td>
<td>M-Sun</td>
<td>M-F</td>
<td>M-Sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:45-6:45</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>5:45-6:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Renovations from p. 5

those financed by regular college funds. Pew financed projects include the replacement of three electric boilers in the Science Building with money-saving gas burners and similar conversions from electricity to gas in Denbigh, Brecon, and Merion to be completed, he hopes, "before the start of the heating season." This year, Canaday's heating and air conditioning systems will be redesigned to maintain more constant temperature and humidity levels. According to Mr. Kelch, "almost every building which could be insulated [has been] insulated" as part of the Pew improvements.

An underground fire line has been extended near Rhoads and Canaday to make water more available in case of fire.

Pembroke West will probably be renovated next summer at an estimated cost of 2.2 million dollars. Some of the funds to finance this project will come from $400,000 remaining from this summer's $1.5 million Pew Grant installment and from next summer's $1.5 million installment, according to Michael Erdman, Consulting Architect.

—Florence Fusco
A study in social absurdities

Fran Leibnowitz' new book, Social Studies, is almost as funny as her last book, Metropolitan Life. And that is very funny indeed. In fact, when it comes to the highly developed genre of urban, Jewish humor, I would say that Ms. Leibnowitz is "state of the art." Very few of her colleagues, including the venerable Woody Allen, manage to survive the transition into a print medium -- let alone a book -- anywhere near as well as Leibnowitz.

Most of the topics that she has chosen to satirize are not especially new -- for instance Los Angeles -- but they are done quite cleverly. That chapter is presented as an encyclopedia entry with subdivisions including location (approximately 3,000 miles from mid-town Manhattan), climate (festive air colors, pleasant glare), and food and drink of the natives, to wit: "A great many people in Los Angeles are on special diets that restrict their intake of synthetic foods. The reason for this appears to be a widely held belief that organically grown fruits and vegetables make the cocaine work faster."

Leibnowitz does not hesitate to make fun of her native New York, either. She mercilessly lampoons the pretensions of the New York literary establishment, the Bloomingdale's crowd, adults who roller-skate, trendiness in general, and the unparalleled absurdity of trying to find an apartment in New York. Much of this can appropriately be called "inside humor," but even so it is not inaccessible to those who have never been faced with what passes for wisdom on the Upper East Side.

In the one-liners area we are offered a series of aphorisms, including, "The opposite of talking isn't listening. The opposite of talking is waiting," and "Spilling your guts is exactly as charming as it sounds."

One of Ms. Leibnowitz' most enduring preoccupations is with the superiority of man-made goods/art over nature. Only someone with a principled commitment to material comfort could make the culturally defiant statement that, "Nature is by and large to be found out of doors, a location where, it cannot be argued, there are never enough comfortable chairs."

In the one-liners area we are offered a series of aphorisms, including, "The opposite of talking isn't listening. The opposite of talking is waiting," and "Spilling your guts is exactly as charming as it sounds."

One of Ms. Leibnowitz' most enduring preoccupations is with the superiority of man-made goods/art over nature. Only someone with a principled commitment to material comfort could make the culturally defiant statement that, "Nature is by and large to be found out of doors, a location where, it cannot be argued, there are never enough comfortable chairs."

All in all, this book is very witty and clever. I recommend it highly -- to be consumed in small doses like very rich chocolates. I can guarantee that you will find yourself laughing out loud, unless you, too, share the affectations that Leibnowitz deplores.

--Lisa Schiffren

ROCKABILLY: getting the Hull story

Just before Spring Break of last year, the Rockabilly label Ripsaw Records released a single that anyone seriously interested in female musicians should own. The vocalist is Martha Hull, considered by many to own Washington's best voice. Through her songs, Martha proves herself to be a woman in charge of her situation. Her lyrics are aggressive, and the way in which she belts them out proves she's tougher than any rockabilly stud on the block.

Record Review

In "Feelin' Right Tonight," she sings about going against the establishment and having fun in her own way:

I'm feeling right tonight
No matter what they say.
I'm feeling right tonight,
Now it's my turn to play.

In Fujiyama Mama, she defines her ability to give back to any man all the pain and destruction which men have given to women:

Well you can talk about me
Say that I'm mean.
I'll blow your head off
With nitroglycerine.
Well you can say I'm crazy
Stone deaf and dumb,
But I can cause destruction
Just like the atom bomb.

On both of these songs she is backed by the now defunct Tex Rubinowitz and the Bad Boys, who used to be Washington's best rockabilly band. The music and back-up vocals which they contribute to the single couldn't be of better quality. You can buy this record by writing Ripsaw Records, 121 N. 4th, Easton, PA 18042, and I suggest that you do.

--Debi Nathanson