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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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The first successful Plenary since 1976 was held in Goodhart Hall at 7:00 pm on Sunday, November 8, 1981. At 7:05 SGA President Leann Ayers announced that quorum had been reached. The number necessary for quorum was 447, and 571 people were present. This number changed constantly during the course of the meeting, and near the end of Plenary it shrank dangerously to 454.

The four options that the students had for each resolution were: 1) to pass it; 2) to defeat it; 3) to defeat it for amendment; and 4) to divide it. If defeated for amendment, the resolution would be tabled for the duration of Plenary with the understanding that it would be amended at an open meeting of SGA and voted on at dinner. If a resolution was comprised of more than one point, it could be divided; it would be broken down into separate resolutions and the assembly would vote on each part separately.

Each resolution at Sunday’s Plenary was discussed by appointed speakers, and then the floor was opened to discussion by all members of SGA. A time limit of three minutes was initially set for unappointed speakers.

The first resolution addressed the need for a commitment to the general diversity of the student body and the faculty. The resolution was defeated for amendment by a hand vote of 401 out of 582, with the suggestion that it include some definite plan of action to encourage diversity.

The second resolution was much more controversial: it stated that SGA should be able to make political statements through campus votes. Many speakers objected to the idea of Bryn Mawr as a college making political statements on issues that are not campus questions, but national or world-wide questions. A hand vote of 337 out of 587 defeated this resolution for amendment, following a proposal to separate it into two issues, on-campus politics and off-campus politics.

The third resolution concerned record-keeping of Honor Board cases for the purpose of aiding deans’ recommendations. After much discussion as to whether this constituted a breach of confidentiality and was contrary to the spirit of the Honor Code, a vote was taken to defeat the resolution for amendment. This motion was defeated by a voice vote. The resolution itself was finally defeated; 217 out of 555 people voted for it.

The fourth resolution reaffirmed the student body’s belief in the importance of Bryn Mawr as a women’s college and stated a commitment to feminism. A motion to divide it into five parts was passed, and after discussion on the definition of each part, all were passed by voice vote. Motions to defeat for amendment were proposed but defeated. All but a few students voted to continue Bryn Mawr’s policy of admitting only women at the undergraduate level. Approval of Bryn Mawr preparing women “to participate effectively in the social, political, and academic aspects of life at and after Bryn Mawr” was passed unanimously.

Resolution five mandated that SGA provide a forum for discussion of the limits of cooperation with Haverford. This resolution was passed by voice vote; no discussion was held after the appointed speakers spoke.

Procedures for Plenary were changed during the evening to make the meeting run more smoothly. Speaking times were shortened to speed discussion. A great number of questions on points of order slowed the meeting. However, the final success of the Plenary was that quorum was not only reached but held throughout all resolutions.

Freshman newsletter planned

Keeping her campaign promise, Kristen Steiner, the new freshman class president, has started a freshman newsletter. The letter is currently an organ of SGA, which is funding it. Kristen hopes to extend its range to include many items of interest to the freshmen. She says it will emphasize class unity, and will cover as many aspects of Bryn Mawr as possible — you will even learn from the letter that the Traditions Committee needs oxen for May Day. The letter will be published bi-weekly and will, Kristen hopes, continue over the class’s four years.

--Lauren A. Williams
Gay People's Alliance: A Few Facts

The Bryn Mawr-Haverford Gay People's Alliance provides a forum for discussion and political action in a supportive atmosphere for all interested members of the community. Members of the Alliance are interested in furthering acceptance and understanding of homosexuality and bisexuality on the two campuses, in exploring the political and personal aspects of sexual preference, and in creating a supportive atmosphere where concerned people can meet to discuss ideas and form friendships. The Gay People's Alliance holds weekly meetings for business and discussion on Thursday evenings on the second floor of the College Inn. Business meetings begin at 9:00 and are followed by discussion at 9:45. Recently, the Alliance has held discussions of such topics as the reactions of gays to bisexuals who choose a heterosexual way of life, prejudices against other sexual minorities within the gay movement, and “looksism,” the significance of physical attractiveness within the gay and straight communities. In addition to the weekly meetings, the Alliance offers separate discussion groups for gay men and lesbians. These meetings are announced in advance, and are planned to take place once or twice a month as topics of interest arise.

The Gay People's Alliance also sponsors social and cultural events for all members of the community. In addition to the get-acquainted tea held in the Quita Woodward Memorial Room earlier this year, and an open-campus dance at Haverford on Saturday, November 7, the Alliance plans to invite several speakers to lecture during the year. A small library of books in the G.P.A. office in Jones basement, Haverford, is available to those who are interested in exploring gay literature and political theory, and a G.P.A. newsletter will be printed later in the semester. Contributions to the newsletter are due by November 19 and may be turned in to the Gay People's Alliance mailbox in Erdman.

Will Mawrtys battle aliens?

Afterwords Proposes Video Games

A tentative decision has been made to install video games in Denbigh on a trial basis. According to Lynn Gordon, manager of "Afterwords," the games will be placed in a room behind the kitchen, to be called "Backwords." The

SGA, the Concession Heads, and Dean Dunn must still meet to approve the measure formally and to formulate policy to deal with profits from the games. It is likely that 50% of the gross profits will be used by "Afterwords" to help decrease prices. The other 50% is the share of the company which owns the machines.

Earlier this semester a Rhoads resident expressed an interest in putting video games in Rhoads, but other residents did not approve of the idea. They expressed concern that the games would create a security risk by attracting an "undesirable element" bent on robbing the machines. They were also concerned that the resultant noise and traffic might disturb some of the residents.

Although Denbigh residents approved the installation in the cafe, they foresaw the same drawbacks. Amy Steffian, co-president of Denbigh, said that the residents "felt that they should have the power to get rid of [the games] if they should create too many problems." Once "Backwords" opens, strict security measures will be taken to lessen potential risks.

One Rhoads resident, Jeff Parvin, is opposed to the games on ideological grounds. He feels that they are an endorsement of a "war mentality" since many of them focus around battle situations in which the player is involved in shooting and destroying the enemy. He is also concerned that they can cause people to have violent tendencies. He feels that the college community should consider what type of statement is being made by advocating their installation.

Stephanie Finn
Women protest against arms race through Pentagon Action

Women's Pentagon Action is a group which includes feminists from many different backgrounds. On November 15 and 16 they will assemble at the Pentagon for a peaceful demonstration. One specific concern is the nuclear arms race, but, according to WPA literature, the women will demonstrate for a wide variety of issues: "justice and equality for women, people of color, the poor, the elderly, lesbians and gays, working people--peace--ecology--community."
The Unity Statement circulated by WPA reads: "We are gathering at the Pentagon ... because we fear for our lives. We fear for the life of this planet, our Earth, and the life of the children who are our human future."

This year's Women's Pentagon Action will be run much like the original WPA, last year, which 2000 women attended. The first day will be devoted to gathering and sharing. Women will trade skills and knowledge while forming community strength. The actual day at the Pentagon is the 16th. Mourning, rage, empowerment, and defiance, the sentiments felt in women's struggle for self-determination, will be demonstrated through action. The women will express mourning by proceeding through Arlington Cemetery to the solemn beating of drums; headstones will be placed to commemorate victims of oppression (for example, Anne Frank, Salem Witches, and future victims of Harrisburg). As they proceed towards the Pentagon they will exhibit rage through song and dance at, in the words of the Unity Statement, "the men whose power and wealth have separated them from the reality of daily life and from the imagination."

Reaching the Pentagon, the women will surround it, holding hands in a vast circle, to demonstrate empowerment. Defiance will be embodied by those who wish to do Civil Disobedience.

A large contingent from Bryn Mawr will take part in the demonstration, and two Bryn Mawr tyrs plan to do Civil Disobedience. One of them defined the basic principle of Civil Disobedience as strength derived from personal empowerment rather than from overpowering others. Civil Disobedience involves breaking the law (in this instance, by trespassing on Pentagon grounds or blocking the Pentagon doors) to make a political statement, with probable arrest and imprisonment. At last year's WPA, 150 women were arrested.

All women participating in Pentagon Action will be pledged to physical, verbal and even spiritual non-violence. Women who do not feel so inclined abide by this out of respect for other women. "The Common Thread," a statement formulated by WPA, reads: "The only way we can lose our power, and thus open ourselves to danger, is by being careless of the peace it is rooted in, by letting it slip away."

A few weeks ago, a Bryn Mawr alumna who is involved in Women's Pentagon Action spoke at Women's Alliance. She was asked what she thought would be achieved politically by this demonstration. Although she was not certain of the political gains, she said the personal gains were numerous. "Women find strength in the realization that they are not alone in feeling this sadness and rage against society," she noted. She described it as a time of celebration. Women working in different areas of the women's movement will come together and share the previous year's successes. Most importantly, women are expressing their feelings in the non-violent way in which they believe sentiments should be expressed in every circumstance, in the realms of international relations and domestic policy decisions.

In the spirit of a feminist demonstration, the participants will make creative use of women's common heritage. Music, song and dance will make the demonstration almost ritualistic in its expression; perhaps some day it will have the strength to become a tradition. In the words of the Unity Statement, "We will not allow these violent games to continue. If we are here in our stubborn thousands today, we will certainly return in the hundreds of thousands in the months and years to come."

--Saskia Gugler

Task Force sets goals for Free Press discussions

The Task Force on Information and the Honor Code, at their first meeting, on October 29, 1981, discussed goals and set the agenda for future Task Force meetings. The Task Force will consider the following questions and then decide on some recommendations and proposals to make: How is information disseminated in the community? How do the Honor Codes of both colleges relate to First Amendment rights? Who decides what stories are printed in The News? What is the general process for deciding which stories are printed? When does that process become final?

The Task Force hopes to come up with some guidelines for how the community as a whole, and The News in particular, should deal with information. The Task Force is working with a first semester deadline in mind, but may need to continue into the beginning of second semester.

--Judy Calhoun
Curriculum Committee's Suggestions Elicit Mixed Responses

At the November 1 Curriculum Committee meeting, hall representatives discussed the opinions expressed by fellow students at each of the halls' curriculum teas. Attendance at the teas was generally good (though Erdman had a smaller turnout than most halls), and student reps commented that those who did attend the teas had serious questions and thoughts about the proposed curriculum changes.

One of the changes that concerned many students, particularly the freshmen, was the proposal that the first semester of the freshman year be evaluated as credit/no credit. An accompanying possibility is that freshmen be encouraged to take five courses so that they might benefit from an exposure to different disciplines. Students saw the obvious advantages to this proposal, and stressed the possibility of encouraging exploration without disproportionate worries about grades. Some who disagreed with the proposal argued that students would not have enough incentive to work hard in cr/nc courses, while others felt that taking five courses would be too difficult and time consuming and would force a student to abandon some of her work for other obligations, including jobs. One idea discussed at the Curriculum Committee meeting was to allow freshmen to take two or three courses cr/nc if they were taking five courses, but not to make the entire class take all courses cr/nc.

By contrast with the freshman year question, there was almost unanimous agreement that the students did not like the proposed changes in the science requirement. Under the new system, one would have to take three semesters from a math/science group, of which at least one semester must be a lab science and one semester math. Nearly all present at the meeting said that the consensus at the teas was that one semester of lab science was not enough exposure to the discipline. Most believed that the lab science requirement, if kept, should be a year, and that if a math requirement were added, it should be for a semester and one should be able to fulfill it with logic or computer science.

The language requirement sparked some heated discussion. Some students felt that requiring only 600 on a language achievement exam for exemption, as opposed to the 650 now required, was far too low. Others disagreed, explaining that if two languages were required, one should be able to exempt out more easily, so that one would have more time to take courses in the major. This was especially important to the science majors. Some students felt that allowing one to exempt out of both languages before entering Bryn Mawr was a bad idea, as one would miss the "Bryn Mawr language experience." Ultimately, the clash came between those people who felt languages were an important part of education at Bryn Mawr, and those who were not especially interested in languages and felt that they should not be forced to take so many language courses.

Most students approved of the new system for divisional requirements. They particularly like the idea that an entire year of a discipline would no longer be required to fulfill some divisionals, as it is now. This would give a student more of a chance to sample different departments and areas of study. Some felt, however, that the one year literature requirement should be kept.

Generally, great concern was expressed for the state of writing instruction at the College. Freshmen at the meeting claimed that the quality of English 015 was "apotty," and some upperclassmen felt that their writing training was not good enough. The consensus was that more attention should be paid to writing by all departments.

Adrienne Knight, a member of the Sisterhood, expressed the group's displeasure with last May's Curriculum Committee report, citing the "poorly worded" section on minorities. The section, which stresses avoiding "condescension" to minorities by offering courses devoted solely to minority studies and thereby excluding them from the rest of the curriculum, nonetheless condescends to suggest that minority students may tend to be less well-prepared for college than other students. The Sisterhood was angered by this attitude, as well as by the College's traditional western chauvinism.

Melissa Davy '82, head of the Curriculum Committee, said, "It's interesting that the issues we're concerned about are the same ones that the faculty are now debating. It's very difficult to reach any conclusion about these big questions, whether it's among students or professors.

In an attempt to solicit further student input before the next faculty meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, the Curriculum Committee held "Curriculum Dinners" at Haffner all last week, at which interested students had the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes.

---Kristina Anderson

*It should be noted that the score of 600 was arrived at by giving Achievement Tests to BMC students who had taken an 002 language course and received a 2.0, the required grade. The average score for these students was 600. Thus, this was made the required score for exemption.
In this letter I would like to voice a few pragmatic concerns about the changes proposed to the curriculum. The present requirements need revision, but they strike a nice balance between breadth and depth that is unique to Bryn Mawr. The new curriculum would tip that balance towards breadth.

The philosophy behind the credit/no credit Freshman semester betrays a certain naivete about student motivation. It seems to be a common assumption here that students often do not work as hard in their cr/nocr courses as they should -- and yet the Committee assumes that this semester with five courses will allow less-prepared students to catch up and will encourage well-prepared students to take upper-level courses. It seems more likely to foster poor study habits and to allow many to fail behind. Such a semester will give considerable frustration to the students who nevertheless grind away, because they will not receive any credit.

There are other ramifications as well. Certainly a student with such a course load is less likely to engage in extracurricular activities. She may also find it difficult to hold a part-time job and the money -- especially after the Reagan budget cuts -- may be essential. And finally, with an entire semester's grades covered, a student planning to go to graduate or professional school would be exceedingly ill-advised to ever take another cr/nocr course. Thus, in the long run, such a semester might discourage experimentation with new disciplines.

There is also a perceptible softening of some requirements. Proficiency in a language could be demonstrated by a score of 4-5 on an AP exam or by a score of 590; however, a 590 on a CEEB exam is in no way comparable to a 4 on an AP exam. The passing grade for an intermediate and advanced language would be lowered to a 1.0. What a joke this would make of the language requirement! And finally, the new curriculum would allow any combination of semester courses within the division to satisfy that division. Presently the student must take a full year in one subject in most divisions. A full year is really necessary to grasp and master fully a new approach or thinking pattern -- and this is especially true in a lab science.

The Curriculum Committee also recommends abolishing the honors program. Since Bryn Mawr does not have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter, such an abolishment would deny a Bryn Mawr graduate a certain job market advantage. I learned last summer while working with some personnel papers for a federal agency that a degree granted with honors does confer a small advantage to an applicant -- not much but some. It is a permanent distinction not replaceable by general college honors, since some students do far better in their major subject than in outside courses, or by letters of recommendation, which can be used only shortly after graduation.

The Committee, of course, makes many sound suggestions as well, but I hope that neither the student body nor the faculty will feel obliged to take a package deal. Compromises can be made. For example, freshmen could be encouraged to experiment by allowing them to take two instead of five cr/nocr courses. In any case, I hope both groups will try to maintain the balance between breadth and depth that is the strongest evidence of the college's commitment to the liberal arts education.

--Sara Baughman

Grad Students discuss changes, other items at meeting

The Graduate Student Association, GSAS, held its second meeting on Tuesday evening, October 27, at 7:30 pm. The meeting opened with a discussion led by Mrs. Barbara Kreutz, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, about the proposed curriculum change which would create the opportunity for graduate courses in extracurricular activities. She may also find it difficult to hold a part-time job and the money -- especially departments on matters such as fundraising and a possible symposium of distinguished graduate alumni.

The meeting opened with a discussion led by Mrs. Barbara Kreutz, Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, about the proposed curriculum change which would create the opportunity for graduate courses to teach Undergraduate/Graduate courses. Many of those present expressed reservations concerning this proposal and its effect on the graduate program at Bryn Mawr. It was decided to invite to a GSA meeting two members of the Curriculum Review Committee to discuss this and other aspects of the proposed changes. (The members tentatively will attend the 7:30 pm meeting on November 24).

Wendy Barnett was elected to serve as the GSA representative on the Committee on Centennial Progress. The lack of utilization of the Graduate Alumni Network was discussed. It is hoped that current graduate students will contact alumni from their
PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION LECTURES TO BE HELD

Two lecture series on religion and philosophy are being offered to the bi-college community this fall.


On October 28 the first lecture took place in Thomas Library. Dr. Samuel T. Lachs, Professor of History of Religion at Bryn Mawr, began the six-part program, which will meet at 8 pm every Wednesday evening through December 9. Dr. Lachs received his degrees from Gratz College and Dropsie University, and is co-author of Judaism (1978). He joined the Bryn Mawr faculty in 1969 and has been chairman of the History of Religion department for the past three years.

Among the subjects of future lectures are John the Baptist, the flight into Egypt, and the Sermon on the Mount.

An eight-part philosophy series called "Conferences on the Philosophy of the Human Studies" is being sponsored by Bryn Mawr College and Temple University. The meetings will deal with concepts of persons and cultures. The sessions are scheduled on Saturdays through May 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and will alternate between the two campuses.

The first session in the series, "The Human Studies and Contemporary Marxism," took place on October 3 at the Kiva in Ritter Hall at Temple. Political scientist Shlomo Avineri of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and philosopher Svetozar Stojanovic of the University of Belgrade were the main speakers. The second session, entitled "Human Studies and the Empirical Sciences," took place on October 17 at Bryn Mawr's Glenmede Graduate Center.

Co-directors of the series are philosophy professors Michael Krausz of Bryn Mawr and Joseph Margolis of Temple. They say that the goal of the conference series is to begin shaping a united field of concern for the study of human behavior. Noted scholars in many different fields of human studies are coming to the meetings from around the world, including from a number of institutions in the Delaware Valley.

All sessions are free and open to the public.

--Aneek Singh

If you're hankering for free advice...

Dear Ms. Hank,

I've been reading your column for years now, and I never dreamed I'd be writing you, but here I am doing it, and this may sound silly, but I've been reading your column for years now, and I've often said to my husband, "Bertrand, why do you suppose she calls herself Ms. Hank?" and Bertrand told me you'd know better than him.

Alma from Buffalo

Dear Buffalo,

Once when I was attending Harvard University (outside of Boston, dear) I lived in a suite with Nicole from Paris who said I was a wonderful cook after tasting my Poly-hot-pot rendition of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese (and who wasn't a good person on account of she borrowed my lamp and used it as a combination light source/ashtrey), and with Peppi from Houston who slept in a pink nightie that said "God, Honor, and Country" and had a boyfriend in West Point (and who was a good person on account of she was against lamp abuse), and with

The next GSA meeting is November 10 at 12 noon in the Graduate Student Lounge, Thomas.

Pamela. Early in the fall Pamela found out that I didn't have a middle name and took it upon herself to try and find me one. All year long it was "Deborah Marlene Cohen, would you like to go to dinner?" and "Deborah Thelma Cohen, how did your test go?" I was very fond of dear Pamela, but frankly I got sick of these femmy names. If I were small, meek, and mild it would be one thing, but I have cut my hair, occasionally lift weights, got heavy enough to give blood 6 months ago, and am really rather tall for my 62 inches. So you can see how I disliked the names Pamela proposed for me. I trust, Alma, that this answers your question.

Dear Ms. Hank,

I'm just an innocent freshman. My problem is, my roommate isn't. She keeps bringing her boyfriend to our room to spend the night. It really upsets me to have to listen to them for hours. I tried confronting her, but she laughed at me and called me a prude. Please tell me what to do.

Kept Awake

Dear Kept,

I know of two people who had similar problems. One took an afternoon nap and stayed up that night and watched. The other (Maxine Feldman) wrote and recorded a song about the whole thing. To the best of my knowledge, neither of them still has this problem.

Hank

Dear Ms. Hank,

My roommate has a really
A Memorable Memorandum

Goodhart Hall was the scene for an exciting evening on October 23, 1981. Andrew Lichtenberg, the new full-time Director of Theater for Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, presented the opening production of the season, Havel's The Memorandum. As far as Lichtenberg could determine, this showing was the first ever in the Philadelphia area.

The play is a unique one which called upon the abilities both of the actors and of designer-director Lichtenberg. To demonstrate the ironic-comic aspects of bureaucratic intrigues, enmarches and even idiocies, the actors wore loud costumes, and the stage sets were decorated in electric blue and green. Even the scene changes were an exaggerated burlesque.

Lichtenberg says of Havel's play, "His satire is gentle, not angry. He is saying that we can use language either to humanize or dehumanize ourselves." The play is important in its social and political manifestations, as well as its obvious literary and theatrical qualities.

Vaclav Havel is a Czech writer, a member of the dissident Charter 77 group, and is currently imprisoned for "political crimes" against the communist regime. The Memorandum, with works by Havel, was banned from Czech theaters in 1968, the year of the Soviet invasion and reassertion of Communism. His work is, however, available to the public, as it is smuggled to the West. All of Havel's works retain a gentle yet daring irony, despite his unfortunate and repressive circumstances. (Not only is Havel in prison, but his wife and his brother are also under state arrest.) Havel is associated with other Czech dramatists also noted for their irony and satire: Karel Capek (R.U.R. and The Insect Comedy) and

Tom Stoppard (Travesties and Jumpers), who is of Czech birth but lives in England. Stoppard has been vital in getting some of Havel's other works, such as Anienko, Private View, and Protest, to the West.

Though Havel's work is banned in Czechoslovakia, its importance is recognized to an extent here. In 1968 The Memorandum received the Obie Award for "Best Foreign Play," and in 1980 the American Theater Association awarded Havel its World Theater Award. It is interesting to observe that in a time of general apathy, some still bother to protest political repression despite personal risk, and to realize that their ideas and words can be heard and understood in such productions as Havel's The Memorandum.

Announcements:

The annual bi-college Oxfam Fast will take place on Thursday, November 19.

The English-American Dance scheduled for Saturday, November 14 has been rescheduled due to a Christian Fellowship dance on the same evening. The new date will be posted.

Correction: The article "New Student Political Journal Seeks Funding, Support on Campus" in the October 28 issue refers to "the dismissal of an editor for alleged infringement on press freedom." This should have read "the dismissal of a columnist for alleged infringement on press freedom."

Bryn Mawr Trivia (more questions, and answers):

Answers to last week's quiz:
1. The B.M.C. flower is the Daisy. That's why all the bunches of daisies are carved in Rock staircases: Rock was built only shortly after the flower was chosen.
3. Merion is the oldest hall, followed by Radnor, Denbigh, the Pems, and Rockefeller, in that order. Denbigh was badly damaged by a fire in 1901; German wing in particular was gutted and had to be almost completely rebuilt.
4. The S.C.A. charter was granted in 1892.
5. The founders of the college proposed to name it Taylor College, after Joseph W. Taylor, who left the initial funds in his will. Taylor Hall is named after him.
6. Wardens of the halls were originally known as "Mistresses." This was changed when Rock was built, as the woman there refused to be known as "Rockefeller's Mistress."

Extra Credit:

"If you can bear to study for a quiz,
When all about you Are flunking theirs and hoping You will too."

--Miss Lang

Questions:
1. Now that you know the college flower, what was "Daisy Day"?
2. What was "Rush"? "Cap and Gown Night"?
3. For what breach of discipline was Katharine Hepburn almost suspended from Bryn Mawr?
4. When is an underclassman allowed to use Senior Steps?
5. What was the name of the Bryn Mawr Yearbook before it merged with Haverford's?
6. In what location on campus does this inscription appear? "I know not where His islands lift/Their fronded palms in air
I only know I cannot drift/Beyond His love and care."
bad habit. She keeps leaving her dirty laundry in a pile on the floor. Every day the pile gets a bit bigger. What should I do?

The Neater One

Dear Honey,

You should confront me directly instead of writing a fake letter hoping I'll get the hint. And I told you never to write me at work -- it's embarrassing.

Hank

P.S. I would try to be a little neater if only you would stop hogging all the blankets.

Dear Ms. Hank,

I love to play with the cat down the hall, but her idea of playing involves digging into my arm with all four sets of claws, and her teeth, all at once. My arm is getting mutilated. Help! How can I save my skin?

Scarred Cat Lover

Dear Scarred,

You have no complaint and should be thankful for what you've got. Proof:

Given: You have scarred arms.

Postulate: Having scarred arms implies that you spend time with cats.

Theorem: Spending time with cats implies that you like cats. (Assuming Hypothesis: Cats are avoidable.)

Therefore: You like cats. But

Bumper Sticker: People who like cats make better lovers.

Therefore: You should be very popular with the boys and girls in your dorm.

Q.E.D.

Hank

Do you have a question for Ms. Hank? Send it to Ms. Hank, c/o College News, Erdman Hall.

Jett on her own: Bad Reputation (A.I. in a series)

When we last saw our heroine, she was leaving the Runaways in 1979, escaping the horrible fate of heavy metal rock. She went to England to play with two ex-Sex Pistols, Steve Jones and Paul Cook, and within the year returned to the U.S. after releasing a single in Holland. She travelled to Los Angeles to produce a record for the Germs, an L.A. skin-head punk band. On her return from L.A. she got together with Kenny Laguna (piano), Paul Simmons (drums), Jeff Peters (bass), and Ritchie Cordell (backing vocals) to form Joan Jett and the Blackhearts.

Their album, Bad Reputation, was released last year in England and this year in the United States.

Bad Reputation is a great album which captures the excitement and energy of Jett's live performances. The themes of the songs are the same as those of her earlier Runaways days -- bad reputations and jealous boyfriends -- but on this album they are treated in more mature fashion.

"Bad Reputation" is a fast-paced song, good to dance to and a lot of fun. Jett treats her image differently than she did in "Cherry Bomb": I don't give a damn about my reputation I've never been afraid of deviation.

She accepts her personality but doesn't flaunt it the way she did at sixteen. Not flaunting it pretty well defines this album. Jett doesn't restrain herself in either music or lyrics, but neither does she become unbearably raunchy.

"You Don't Own Me" is one of the songs Jett did with Steve Jones and Paul Cook. This is a slow song, telling her lover not to be too possessive -- "Don't tie me down! 'Cause I'll never stay." It's a pretty song with nice horns and piano -- hardly something you'd expect Jones and Cook to be involved in. Another song the three did together is on this album. "Don't Abuse Me" is faster paced and sounds more like the kind of music Jones and Cook usually play.

Record Review

Two live songs on the album include audience participation. To "Do You Wanna Touch Me?" the audience answers Jett's question during the chorus (and the night I saw her they replied with enthusiasm). The song begins:

We've been here too long Trying to get along Pretending that you're oh so shy I'm a nice romance Doing all I can My temperature is running high Late at night No one in sight And we've got so much to share Talking's fine if you've got time But I ain't got the time to spare Do you wanna touch (yeah) Do you wanna touch (yeah) Do you wanna touch me there? (Audience's turn) This one is a lot of fun for both listener and participant and is my own favorite. The other audience participation song is a very good rendition of "Shout."

The rest of the songs on the album are of the same quality. Bad Reputation is a fine album. If you want to buy your own copy be advised that only the American release contains "Do You Wanna Touch Me."

--Debi Nathanson