

1984

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Students of Bryn Mawr College

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Mondale packs Thomas for policy speech

by Kris Anderson

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The former Vice President and candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination spoke to an estimated crowd of over 1000 Bryn Mawr and Haverford students who packed into Thomas Great Hall Saturday morning at 9:30. Mondale delivered what was billed as a "major foreign policy speech" in which he criticized President Reagan's foreign policy and outlined several major goals for arms control which he would work toward if elected, including reducing the deployment of missiles in Europe and blocking the production of nerve gas in the U.S.

Mondale was introduced by U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional district, Bob Edgar. Edgar, a Democrat and former chaplain at Drexel University, lauded Mondale's support of him in 1974 when he was running for Congress in the "suburban, Republican, conservative area" of Delaware County. "This individual had faith in me ten years ago," said Edgar, "and I have faith in this individual in 1984 to be the next President of the United States."

Woman president

Both Edgar and Kathy Roth, head of the Coalition for Action on Women's Issues (CAWS), a co-sponsor of the event, urged students to get involved in political activism. "We all must vote," said Roth in her introduction. "Work for the future. Perhaps one day we'll be presenting a woman up here... perhaps she'll be one of us." The crowd erupted in cheers and applause at Roth's remark.

At that, the former Vice President stepped up to the podium and said, "Thank you. It's an honor to be introduced by the next Vice President of the United States."



Walter Mondale, candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, spoke to a standing room only crowd in Thomas Great Hall on Saturday morning.

Mondale, who arrived half an hour later than anticipated from his early morning visit at Philadelphia's Italian market, quickly relieved any tension among the crowd by remarking that he was greatly pleased to see such a large audience. "I must say I'm astonished... as I recall from my student days, only an international crisis could turn students out voluntarily on a Saturday morning," he remarked.

Arms race crucial question

With his eye on the yesterday's Pennsylvania primary, Mondale used his speech to strengthen his contention that he is the only candidate with concrete ideas and experience, particularly in the area of foreign policy. "The arms race is the most

crucial question of our time," he said. He stressed the need to "gain control of those Godawful nuclear weapons before they destroy us all."

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Secondly, he said he would "begin negotiating for mutual and verifiable nuclear freeze." Mondale said he has consistently supported such negotiations for the past two years.

The former Vice President also supports negotiations toward a treaty stating that each nation agrees to discontinue development and testing of new weapons. He would also like to see "deeper cuts" in American and Soviet arsenals.

Reduce missile deployment

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Woman as running mate

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(Continued on page 6)

Sexual harassment complaint raises procedural questions

by Julie Herman

About three years ago, President Mary Patterson McPherson relates, a rumor of sexual harassment was brought to her attention. The President of the Student Government Association informed her that several students had had unpleasant experiences with James David Louie, an employee of the College's Physical Plant department.

In an attempt to follow up on the disturbing news, President McPherson asked those students with complaints to come forward so that a thorough investigation could take place. No one did so. McPherson spoke to Paul Klug, Louie's superior, to communicate her concern, and, presumably, to effect a change in his behavior if necessary.

Last year a student signed a formal statement after Louie propositioned her.

"He told me that if I would 'spend an evening' with him, he would give me a raise," she told the *College News* in a recent interview.

Upon complaining to Dolores Brien, BMC's Equal Opportunity Officer, the student said, she was assured by Brien that the matter "would be taken care of."

She was no longer harassed. But other students were.

Early last month, a group of students finally did present a formal and public complaint of sexual harassment by Dave Louie to McPherson. The complaint took the form of letters relating individual experiences with the College employee, who until recently oversaw the labors of work-study students employed by Physical Plant.

After an initial meeting with the President, the student representative agreed to be present with several administrators at a

conference with Louie, to inform him of the charges against him, and of the College's legal responsibilities as an employer to investigate those charges and take appropriate action.

Legally, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when... (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment."

An employer is also responsible for seeing that such conduct is not "used as the basis for employment decisions" concerning the victim, such as raises or promotions, or hiring and firing. The law has been extended to cover the professional relationship between professor and student as well.

Title VII, section (f) states that "prevention is the best tool for the elimination of sexual harassment." In the case of Dave Louie, the Administration and the students involved appear satisfied to have publicly warned Louie about the illegal and offensive nature of his conduct. Now that he is "enlightened," it is hoped that he will no longer continue his unwelcome comments and advances.

"You've got to give the guy a fair shake," commented Libby Mellow, a student involved with the newly formed committee on sexual harassment. "The most important thing about his case was that it brought a lot of ignorance on the part of both students and employees to the surface."

(Continued on page 8)

No unity in South Africa

by Natalie Sacks

Feminist and Marxist assumptions on the solidarity of oppressed peoples fail to explain the current situation in South Africa, explained Swarthmore lecturer Fatima Meer in her talk last Wednesday.

Introduced as "one of the most knowledgeable people on the situation in South Africa from both a scholarly and personal perspective, Meer first examined the assumption that as the emergence of black consciousness and women's consciousness concur in time, so is anti-racism an inherent part of feminist philosophy. It should follow that as victims of patriarchal oppression in South Africa there would be an affinity between white women and black people. Wrong, says Meer, pointing out that both the Immorality Act of 1927, which forbade sexual relations between whites and Africans, and the Act of 1950, which applied the prohibition to Coloureds and Asians, were supported by white women.

The second assumption that Meer explored is the Marxist idea of an inherent solidarity among all members of the working class, and hence a natural alliance between black and white workers in South

Africa. Meer illustrated the fallacy of this concept with a historical example: in 1921 white workers were striking against mining magnates because black workers were being hired at one fifth the wage. The Communist Party ran the strike with the slogan, "Workers of the World Unite and Fight for a White South Africa."

A third assumption which Meer criticized as inapplicable to South Africa was "Women and minorities are oppressed in patriarchal, racist, capitalist relations." Meer responded by again looking at history, saying, "white women have throughout South African history partnered with white men in ripping off black people of surplus labor." She used her own study in suicide, in which white women had the lowest rate and white men the highest to support her conclusion that white women enjoy the "benefits of domination without suffering the drawbacks."

Meer went on to discuss the repressive economic situation for blacks in South Africa. The men and women have no travel rights and are confined to preserves, which are incapable of providing economic opportunity. One needs a pass from the

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EDITORIAL

Sexual harassment

While we applaud the administration's substantial efforts to educate the Bryn Mawr community about sexual harassment and to publicize the College's grievance procedure, we find certain aspects of the handling of the Dave Louie case and Bryn Mawr's grievance procedures disturbing.

First, if Louie had been warned three years ago about the undesirability of certain behavior, as an article in this issue indicates, he can reasonably be held accountable for such behavior today. The idea that he had no prior knowledge of what constitutes harassment seems less than credible. We have evidence that *at least* one formal complaint was filed last year, and that Louie must have been made formally aware of his position at that time. The possibility of his attitudes remaining "really changed," as Libby Mellow puts it, seems unrealistic given his past inability to maintain a low profile for any substantial amount of time.

Second, the emphasis on confrontation between the victim and the harasser ignores the very real possibility that the student may feel emotionally incapable of dealing with such a situation. That the student involved in the Louie case was willing to meet with him and that she was reassured by the presence of supportive administrators should not by any means create a precedent to pressure other students into similar action.

Although Bryn Mawr does have an apparently low incidence of sexual harassment, it is certainly in the administration's best interest to proceed "with as little hoopla as possible." It should be seen to that this quiet does not become a hush-up, and that solutions presented to students as reasonable and desirable are not merely tools of administrative expedience.

It seems possible that had a group of students not come forward to make a public statement about Louie, the administration could easily have continued its "divide and conquer" method. Any individual student complaint can be kept "discreet," with the student herself believing her story represents an isolated occurrence. Evidently, in the current situation, nothing could be further from the case. We are forced at this juncture to question the administration's articulated commitment to a harassment-free community in light of this information.

The possibility of harassment on the part of female professors should not be overlooked; nor should the reality of student-student harassment be ignored, although this matter is under the Honor Code's jurisdiction.

Finally, poor attendance at the employee harassment seminars is an important issue which should be addressed seriously. According to Equal Opportunity Officer Dolores Brien, the turnout for the seminar series has been "very disappointing. Men seem reluctant to participate and don't realize that laws are not gender-specific and can protect them as well." Supervisor and employee attendance should be mandatory.

Bryn Mawr, of all places, should assure its students and employees fair and sensitive treatment if they feel they have been harassed. Giving the accused a "fair shake" is laudable in our democratic society, but our priorities must remain with the victim. An eighteen- or twenty-year-old faced with such harassment may well be affected in her dealings with authority figures and members of the offending sex for the rest of her life. It is understandable that an administration will be reluctant to set machinery in motion that will injure an employee's or colleague's career. But the idea that a thirty- or forty- or fifty-year-old individual in a position of authority "maybe doesn't know" that his or her action is illegal and hurtful is neither legally nor ethically an excuse for such action. A student admitted to this college is expected to be conscious of the import of her actions and to pay the penalties under the Honor Code should she transgress. The same degree of conscientiousness should be expected on the part of her superiors.

Rockefeller residents reply

This letter is directed to the woman who, in the last issue of the *College News*, shared her feelings regarding the experience of mastectomy and her associations to the "Rock Amazon" t-shirt which reads over the right breast "No Breast Here." We sincerely regret that this design revived painful memories and are grateful to this woman for raising our community's consciousness of the rarely discussed realities of breast cancer.

This t-shirt is intended solely as an expression of our regard for a cultural prototype within which women can be strong and respected without conforming to a male-defined standard of behavior and beauty. Amazon mastectomy is a myth of choice; medical mastectomy for cancer is a reality of one choice—the choice of life. We, women, respect life and do not make light of that which threatens it.

Those of us who have not experienced the anguish of cancer cannot claim to fully understand its pain. However, as strong women we have felt the pressure to feel

shame for our failure to conform to a norm of complete femininity—in regard to our actions, choices, and appearance. We can appreciate the insidious feelings of inadequacy and shame which a woman who has undergone mastectomy may against her will experience in addition to her physical pain.

Some of us, out of respect for your feelings, will choose not to wear this shirt. Those of us who do wear it wish it to be understood as a statement for a womanhood of our own creation—one which lies in our minds and souls and not in the definitions of others. We apologize to any who interpret it otherwise.

Margi Clarke '84
Dwyn Harben '86
Pricilla Isear '84
Ingrid Leverett '84
Liane Nelson '87
Rebecca Raham '84
Laura Sackerman '87
Karin Schwartz '86
Elaine Shizkowski '84

Smith College homophobic

25 Smith College students occupied the outer office of College President Jill Ker Conway to protest the closing of Hover House, an unofficial but well-known lesbian coop. The sit-in followed a month of student opposition to the closing and a meeting with Conway in which she refused to reverse the decision. According to a Smith spokesperson, the administration is not closing Hover House but rather is converting it and another coop to traditional dorms because they do not attract enough students to justify maintaining them. But the students claim that the main issue is the reputation of Hover House as lesbian. "It seems clear that [the closing] is homophobic," says one Hover resident. "[Conway] can't even bring herself to utter

the word 'lesbian.'" The students are also demanding that Smith add "sexual preference" to its anti-discrimination clause, include the Lesbian Alliance and the Women's Resource Center in admissions office literature on student groups, and provide full descriptions of Hover and Tenney House, the other alternative dorm in the housing catalog. (*Gay Community News*)

Reprinted from the April issue of the Smith College women's newspaper, *Sojourner*. Submitted by Sharon Gerstel '84.

Editor's note: Bryn Mawr has added "sexual preference" to its anti-discrimination clause at the request of students.

Where's the constitution?

It's a big student association. It's a big, diverse student association. But where's the *Constitution*?!! For more than seven years, students have proposed constitutions to replace a 23-page document which, to be realistic, must for the most part be ignored. All proposals have failed. Self Government Association officers have gone grey before their time.

Enter this year's proposed constitution. It's short, it's sweet, it runs three and a half pages long. This lean machine consists of a

purpose, statements of jurisdiction, a list of elected officers and their organization.

The fat which has been pared from other proposed constitution consists of job descriptions of elected officers and procedures (example: election rules). Should the proposed constitution be passed, these topics would become the bylaws and be voted on by the Assembly of SGA. More plainly stated, you, the Association, are voting on the structure, and thereafter

(Continued on page 3)

COLLEGE NEWS

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The *College News* is a Bryn Mawr publication serving the entire College community. People interested in joining the staff should contact one of the editors. Deadline for letters to the editor is Friday preceding publication. The *College News* is published every other week on Wednesdays while classes are in session.

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Statement of Purpose

The *College News* seeks to provide a forum for the students, faculty, administration, and staff of Bryn Mawr. While articles on topical subjects will be published, each issue will seek to examine in-depth an issue of relevance to the College community. The *College News* welcomes ideas and submissions from all members of the community, as well as from outside groups and individuals whose purpose or functions are connected to those of the College.

Student will tour Tahiti with concert funds

by Amy Friedman

A. Friedman
c/o Tahitian Leisure Culture
Research Foundation
Hut #117
Tahiti

You see, it all started when I began to think about Tahiti. . . . The leisure culture of Tahiti. . . .

Back in dreary February, when I was wearing five sweaters and struggling to get my arms to still lie flat at my sides, my thoughts turned unavoidably to summer. From summer it didn't take too long to get to summer jobs. "Summer," I mused, "Oh, Summer. Better get a job." And shortly I strolled—arms at 45° angles—over to the Career Planning Office, in search of gainful summer employment.

They were most helpful there and directed me to a fascinating publication entitled "Announcement No. 414, Opportunities in the Federal Government." We in the trade know it as "Summer Jobs." I paged through and, creature of whimsy that I am, decided to apply for several at the U.S. Information Agency for the following reason: they all required a complete background investigation. "Swell," I thought. "What could be better than a complete background investigation?" I filled out some of those 3-foot long official forms and waited for the agents in trenchcoats to appear at my heels.

"What can they really uncover, anyway?" I said to my neighbor, as I unlocked my door. "It isn't as if they'll find out about anything really important."

"You may be right about that," she said. "But I think I ought to tell you that about an hour ago I saw two men leaving your room

with a pile of your travel brochures. I confronted them, of course. They said they were with the CIA."

"Two men? My room? They weren't by any chance wearing. . . ?"

"Yup. Trenchcoats."

I hurried inside. Nothing had been moved, except for the pile of travel brochures I keep on my desk. The entire Tahiti section was missing.

"Oh no!" I gasped. "They've taken the entire Tahiti section."

"Is anything wrong?" asked my neighbor, who had followed me into my room.

"No, it's just that they've gotten my Tahiti brochures. They're getting close and are bound to find out any day now. I guess there's nothing left to do but write an article for the *College News*."

So here it is; if the CIA is on the trail, the whole story is bound to get out sooner or later. It's best to come clean now, spill the beans, break the news. I'm sorry, John Myerow, but the truth had to come to light some time. I think you'll agree it's better this way.

You see, there never was going to be any tri-College Concert. Nope, no tickets, no music, no lights, no action, no Madness. The whole thing was a ruse I cooked up because, frankly, I had to get the money somewhere.

The plan was simple. First, with John as front man, get a commitment for 15 grand. Raise some hopes. Get the three colleges used to throwing that kind of money around. Then cancel the concert. Dash the hopes. Next, get a commitment of 24 grand. Next, abscond with it to Tahiti.

You'll have to admit it was beautiful in its simplicity. It all worked like clockwork. It

was John's final performance at last Sunday's SGA meeting that really clinched the thing. Nice work, John, getting Bryn Mawr to toss in their eight grand. A fine and no-

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ble effort. Stalwart, too. And thanks for showing up at all those other meetings these past months. I know it must have

been a strain, but you understand I had to maintain a low profile. Now that I've gone public, you can relax for a change. Sit down for a while. Listen to some records.

I suppose I should mention Sara Hathaway and thank her for all of her help. She was actually the first to recognize the validity of the project I was undertaking.

"Amy," she said, "if you feel you really must go to Tahiti to undertake an extended and detailed study of Tahitian Leisure Culture, then that's what you've got to do. Be a cussed individual."

The whole plan actually wouldn't have gotten off the ground without her. "You want a large scale commitment of funds?" she said. "Well, I'll just organize some opposition based on ideological principles and we'll have that money for you in a jiffy."

Sara, you're a real trouper. Sorry I couldn't take you with me. Maybe next time. And when my minutely detailed study of Tahitian Leisure Culture finally is finished, I promise that you'll get a copy. At wholesale price, of course.

And uh, Sara, when the CIA gang gets there, would you give them my new forwarding address? A. Friedman, Tahitian Leisure Culture Research Foundation, Hut #117, Tahiti. Thanks, guys. Couldn't have done it without you.

Opinion

Mondale's appearance a pep rally

by Cindy Brown

The appearance of Walter Mondale, contender for the Democratic nomination for President, at Bryn Mawr should demonstrate two things to us all: 1) You can't learn enough about a candidate in a half-hour or forty minute appearance to justify a commitment to him/her; 2) All too many people do make their decisions based on precisely that amount of exposure.

Mondale appeared only about twenty minutes to half an hour late to deliver a brief address on foreign policy. The policies he advocated, such as a mutually verifiable freeze on nuclear weapons, hit all the right buttons in a largely liberal audience. He was unclear on ways and means, perhaps excusably given the amount of time, and he managed to project an aura of competence and thought which comforted many members of the audience. A few excursions into what one functionary called "Q and A" revealed that Mondale can dodge a question (such as his projected policy on settlements on the West Bank), and hedge his bets (on whether his vice presidential running mate would be a woman). He also dissected the wandering record of his chief opponent for the nomination, Gary Hart, though we heard nothing about Jesse Jackson.

It is ironic that this appearance by one candidate probably drew the largest crowd any election-year event will draw. The United States makes its political decisions based on first-person perception at least as much as it does based on the legislative records or comparative strengths of candidates. Mondale undoubtedly swayed some of his audience away from Hart, even Jackson, without the hindrance of a debate

or disagreement. As one student said later, Mondale's talk was more of a pep rally than a political event; that is no doubt what it was meant to be.

Should we make political decisions this way? Probably not. Yet it is tempting to do so. Mondale spoke very well about the hysteria the nuclear threat can bring, about the paralysis doing nothing can engender, and cogently criticized Ronald Reagan for trying to stop an arms race with an arms race. His approach no doubt influenced some of his audience to support him. Yet the national news did not carry this speech on the six o'clock news; it focused on economic issues and the candidate's foray into the Italian Market in Philly earlier that morning. The issues, for the media at least, are largely economic, and all the rationality in the world about nuclear weapons will not do Mondale much good unless he can focus the campaign on it. We need to know about all of the issues before making our decisions about how to cast our votes. If we believe that issues like weapons control are essential in November, we have a commitment to help focus the national campaign on them.

Was it exciting? Yes, because for however brief a time the tri-College community participated in a national event, in a good old-fashioned campaign quest, in a relationship, however stylized, with a man who has had and could have again a great deal of power in our lives and in the life of this country. It would be a shame, however, if a great many people let this appearance determine their choice for President. We saw an aspect of Mondale, not the whole picture. The moment should not be confused with the long haul.

Kendrick denied rehiring

by Michele Rubin

Professor Christopher Kendrick of the Bryn Mawr College English department has recently been denied reappointment by the Bryn Mawr Appointments Committee. He was, however, supported by the English department.

At age 31, Kendrick is one of the youngest members of the department, and some believe that his denial of reappointment illustrates the increasing trend on the part of the administration to deny reappointment and tenure to young and promising scholars. Many people in the community feel that the loss of Prof. Kendrick is a serious one and is detrimental to the English department.

Kendrick plans now to put himself out on the academic job market. "I would be interested in a job at a larger institution," he said. Prof. Kendrick has also been offered a position at the University of Peking but at the moment, it is a remote possibility that he will take it. "Neither State Department has approved it, and I may not be able to get a year off from my contract with Bryn Mawr, but if there is any way that it's possible for me to go, I will." If he does go, he will probably not be teaching his specialty, Milton, but rather a survey course.

Prof. Kendrick has good feelings about the English department. Kendrick, a Marxist, could have found difficulty in being hired by conservative and traditional departments. "I was thankful that the department hired me, knowing that I was a Marxist. It's different than the normal literary view."

Kendrick has been a radical and often dissenting voice in the department. He feels that the department, which has just begun to "liberalize" itself somewhat with some new courses next semester, needs to continue that process and do more. "It should be trying to liberalize itself—not only with feminist courses but with Afro-American courses as well. The department should not leave it to Haverford," Kendrick said. He also feels that the "so-called canon should be relativized as well."

"The 101 course should be taught but should not be the required way into the major," Kendrick says. He feels, however, that

it is a good thing that Bryn Mawr is moving into a trend that teaches more literary theory and handles it before senior conference. "Theory is often implicitly taught in our current curriculum but it should be explicitly taught."

Kendrick's views may have been a concern in his reappointment denial, he feels. "Appointments and the administration saw me as not fitting in with their vision of Bryn Mawr. A lot of the students don't either and I think this results in the type of polarization that one often finds on campus."

He continues to mention that "the political effects of the young professors being fired are nasty. Young professors become coerced to think in a certain way and conform because of the intense job insecurity." Though the job market is currently tight, there are some encouraging signs. According to Kendrick, jobs in state schools that were non-existent 4 to 5 years ago are opening. "The cross section of students and faculty [here] is appealing," he says, and he is sorry to leave Bryn Mawr. As Prof. Kendrick is one of the most progressive and radical thinkers in the department, the students may miss him as well.

Constitution

(Continued from page 2)

Assembly will vote on the details.

The vote on the proposed constitution will be a part of academic preregistration for next semester, on April 12 and 13. Seniors will receive ballots through campus mail. Each dorm will meet and discuss the proposed constitution among other Association and dorm subjects.

There is a new and exciting idea in the proposed constitution. Dorm presidents and other officers with direct constituencies will meet every other week to discuss student life. The Students' Representative Council is proposed to add a louder voice to Assembly where all voting takes place.

Please vote. Please vote yes. Please vote yes for the proposed constitution when you preregister for next semester.

The Assembly of the Self Government Association

Differences in students' background often deter

Urban public school more diverse

by Dominique Parker

The "Bryn Mawr experience" is in many ways unique and made up of indefinable elements, but it is still possible to identify certain characteristics. The things that went into making Bryn Mawr my number one college choice—its small size, its location, etc.—are the opposite of the things that make my high school distinctive. Jamaica High School, unlike Bryn Mawr College, is a public school located in Queens, N.Y.

Also unlike Bryn Mawr, the student body is quite large, numbering about 3,000 (my graduating class had over 800 people). Though it was possible to form close friendships, class solidarity or student body cohesion did not exist; "school spirit" was an elusive thing at best. For the most part, size also prevented close interactions with the faculty, though this was somewhat offset by a system of required "service credit" which a student could earn either through participation in a team sport or by working for a faculty member. At Bryn Mawr, the size facilitates the possibility of close interaction with the faculty and administration, though this interaction is by no means guaranteed.

Actually, to be more systematic, it is possible to point out striking differences or adjustments I've had to make in coming

from a large public school to a small private institution on the Main Line. Jamaica is structured, like many N.Y.C. public schools, so that "freedom" is possible only within definite boundaries.

Here at Bryn Mawr the Deans are academic advisors, while at Jamaica they serve a purely disciplinary function. If a student received a pink slip, for cutting class or improper behavior, she or he was sent to the appropriate Dean's office, Girls' or Boys', and was reprimanded.

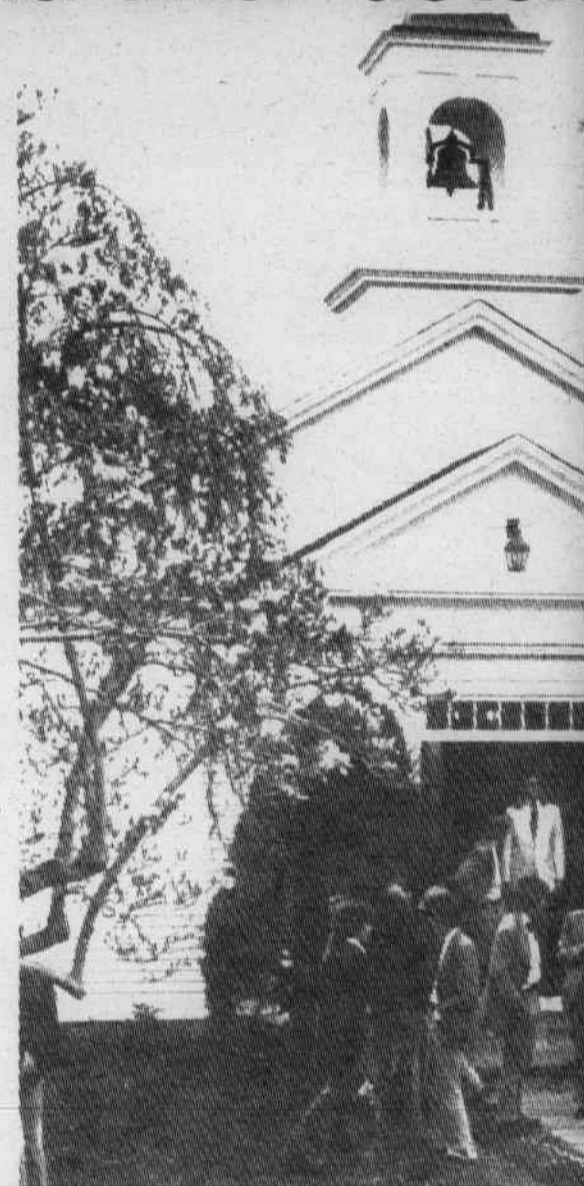
Like Bryn Mawr, which has certain requirements such as divisionals, Jamaica has graduation requirements including a certain number of years of English, social studies, science, math, languages, physical education, art and music. In addition to these requirements there were also the infamous Board of Regents exams along with the Regents Competency exams which one had to pass.

Although I didn't really have the same kind of freedom to decide what courses I wanted there as I do at Bryn Mawr, I did have some leeway. Jamaica is fortunate in that it has a large number of special course and program options such as Honors classes, Extra Honors classes, science and humanities intensive core classes, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate program and Internships for credit.

At Jamaica there is no Honor Code; instead, there is the expectation that students will try and get away with as much as possible. Everyone from security to the faculty seemed to constantly demand official permission: a program card to prove one really belonged in the building or a hall pass to prove that one wasn't cutting a class.

All the things that I remember about Jamaica are not negative. I miss the kind of frenzy that only seems to be part of a large school, the teachers that I did get to know, and I miss the huge flow of people. Bryn Mawr is proud of its "cosmopolitan" atmosphere that comes from having students from all over the country and all over the world. Its student body is said to be interestingly heterogeneous. Yet, coming from Jamaica I would expect nothing less. At Jamaica the minority population makes up over 50% of the student body. Jamaica's diversity was not only racial, it was also religious and economic.

In the end, I think the biggest difference between Bryn Mawr and Jamaica High School is Bryn Mawr's population. While the people here are different from the people at Jamaica, among themselves (racially, economically, and culturally) they are much more alike than those at Jamaica. My hardest adjustment has been to the people.



Brooks School in North Andover, Massachusetts: 'girls had lifted their forks; teachers referred to 'students' and 'ladies.' "

Bryn Mawr unfriendly to rural resident

by Kristen Steiner

At first, Lancaster Avenue terrified me. My friend stood on the double line and laughed while I stood on the curb and panicked. In my experience up to that time, real roads were maybe less but never more than two lanes. Two lanes each direction of whizzing cars were either divided by a grass medial strip (a highway) or found in an urban area (a city—nobody goes there). I grew up in a rural area in eastern Ohio, one and a half hours west of Pittsburgh, the upper-most part of Appalachia (for the cognoscenti, pronounced ap-uh-latch-uh).

This is the point where many people start smiling and cooing. "The poor dear, isn't she cute!" Many people cannot grasp that anything exists between the two coasts and certainly nothing with a population less than one million. Here I am; I'm no mirage but I'm not goat herd either. Mark me as another factor in Bryn Mawr's diversity.

I didn't realize that I was from "the country" until I came to Bryn Mawr. We thought we lived in a developed area; there were much more remote areas in West Virginia and in our county. But people here were astounded by the details. I don't have neighbors in the visible distance, I went to a lousy country consolidated school district and I don't live in anything resembling a town.

My debut as a Bryn Mawr freshman was frightening and confusing. People were friendly, but why did they avoid my eyes sometimes and seem amazed when I said a friendly "hey" every time I saw them. I've since adjusted to the cooler climate and find myself being much less friendly and skilled at brushing people off, an accepted practice here but an insult at home. I was reminded of the change when a friend from the Middle West visited me recently. A friend said, "Boy, he was different. . . a lot like you when you were a freshman."

The reactions of classmates to my origins have mostly been friendly ribbing. Cow jokes have plagued me since

freshman year. Friends tease me when I slip into my accent (late night Ohioisms) and know that I'm sensitive to the admissions mistake cliché-girl from small midwestern town goes to big eastern college with the accompaniment of a brass band.

I will always be amazed how intelligent, educated people who would never dream of being or expressing racism, anti-



Kristen Steiner: "The poor dear, isn't she cute!"

semitism, etc. have no qualms about tossing off my background. The poor dear didn't come here despite her background but because of it. I try to appreciate and learn from others' experiences. Just because my skill at splitting logs or identifying birds isn't directly applicable to my life now does not make it less meaningful. I have a large range of memories from my childhood which are unique here at Bryn Mawr and I want to contribute too. Sorry to get on my high horse (figuratively; my friends on farms had the horses and they rode Western style only), but some comments have rankled.

A Board of Trustee member was leaving Pen y Groes as I held back the dog. The Trustee, an impressive, committed woman who works for a minority group organization in New York, said, "Well, you're from Ohio, so I suppose you know how to handle animals." As I pondered this newly discovered attribute of mine, a dialogue between myself and New York occurred to me. New York: "There are more of us." Me: "Oh, go feed yourself."

Living near East Liverpool, Ohio, population 17,000, and my mailing address (it's big enough to have a zip code) means calling up your bank to find out where your cancelled checks are and discovering that they were sent to your sister because the clerk always gets those Steiner girls mixed up. Which am I: the blonde or the brunette? The brunette? I'll get my checks next week. Then follows the discussion on the new church choir director. A friend once said to me, "Living in a small town must be so awful! I've heard such terrible stories about nosy people!" *Au contraire!* People were always supportive of me, and yes I couldn't get away with much without someone recognizing me, but the positive experiences were when the township cop gave me a lift home early in the morning when I got a flat tire or when someone called my father to assure him that my sister was telling the truth when she said she wasn't speeding when she hit the other car.

I've changed, adapted, and lost some rough edges in the process. But I've also lost some things I consider very valuable; openness, friendliness, and the assumption of the best in other people. Yes, they won't be able to keep me down on the farm, now that I've seen Philadelphia, but I will always value my background. I have and always will have a solid grounding from which to work.

Private sch

by Karen Sullivan

Before I arrived at Bryn Mawr I had never really known anyone my age who did not attend a private school. I had glided from a private elementary school to a private boarding school where I graduated a year early so I could spend a year in France under the aegis of the most elitist and well-known of private schools, Phillips Andover and Exeter Academies.

I had a vague sense that the mass of Americans my age were educated in large, concrete institutions where they had lockers, cars and cheerleaders, but my experiences were so limited to a self-enclosed group, all of whom attended the same boarding schools, belonged to the same country clubs, and wore the same clothes that the concept of public school seemed unreal to me. When I was ten and a child in my neighborhood asked me where I went to school and then "Are you rich?" I was puzzled; I had always thought of my family as poor because we didn't own our own horses.

At fourteen I entered a boarding school listed in the *Atlantic Monthly* as one of the ten "preppiest" secondary schools in the country during the first year of coeducation. I reacted to the six-to-one male-female ratio by writing editorials in the school newspaper examining the administration's struggles with the girls' dress code in terms of a historical emphasis on what women should wear; I wrote editorials criticizing the exaggerated courtesy with which girls were treated. (At some dinner tables boys were forbidden to eat until the girls had lifted their forks; teachers referred to the student body as composed of "students" and "ladies.") I objected to the all-male summer reading list and eventually wrote a supplement of works by women.

mine their reactions to Bryn Mawr environment

Jew notes culture gap

by Beth Leibson

Little did I know what I let myself in for when I left Akiba Hebrew Academy, located in Merion, for Bryn Mawr College. Akiba is a small high school; it is so small, in fact, that it was only slightly uncomfortable on a 90 degree day to fit the entire upper school (ninth through twelfth grades) in what was once somebody's living room. (The building itself is an old converted house.) Akiba is so Jewish that Student Association meetings began with a "Dvar Torah," a reading from the Bible, yet it offered such a well-rounded education that in eleventh grade I knew more about church history than my friend attending Catholic high school. And, Akiba is so "college prep" that the college attendance rate was 99 percent; with a graduating class of 50 people, that means that every other year one person doesn't attend.

I suppose what I found most jolting here was the attitude towards money. Last year, my roommate went home to Chicago spending in one weekend what it took me all semester to earn. I still have difficulty with the notion that a person can "not like taking buses;" it seems an audacious if not downright silly attitude to take.

I also find that, though I have lived in Philadelphia all my life, my knowledge of the city is still quite incomplete. I cannot tell people the best way to drive to Penn ("just take the train..."), nor can I provide any assistance in finding the airport, having never been terribly concerned with that. Though there were a small number of people at Akiba who went to Japan over winter break, nearly half commuted the same hour-long bus ride from a middle

class neighborhood that I did. Akiba had a more relaxed, less money-grabbing attitude than I find here. Sometimes I really miss that.

Akiba was a Jewish school and that also affected my adjustment to Bryn Mawr. Though I am not particularly religious, I do find that there was a certain common language at Akiba which no one here speaks. I have trained some friends in key Hebrew phrases, but I will never fully adjust to the odd stares I receive when I announce I am going home for Pesach.

Furthermore, I must admit I was confused the first time I saw people walking around with something like dirt deliberately smudged on their faces; Ash Wednesday was a concept with which I was intellectually familiar, but which I had never really seen "in action." I also find it strange to be considered the "Judaica expert." I never really fit that role at Akiba. But here I am the "resident Jew" for the *College News*; my first article for the paper was "Being Jewish at Bryn Mawr"—and I presume my last one will be as well.

Ex-debutante tells all

by Snoozer Archer

The names and dates have been changed to protect the innocent. I am an ex-debutante. Some of my best friends are also ex-debutantes, including my mother and my two sisters. I have decided to come out of the boudoir. I made my debut in two cities, both in the true southern tradition of lily-white virgins and good-ol'-boys. The whole experience has been called "a social mating ritual for the well-heeled." As in the marines, training is necessary to avoid numerous "faux pas" and to also prepare for the numerous parties. Faux pas are like the Germans in World War II: they lurk around every corner and with one false step you are worse than dead. You are ostracized and your family name ruined for life. Your father disinherits you.

In the "debbling circle," family is key; money rarely if ever will buy you a spot on the "deb line." Good family means good breeding and unfortunately also means interbreeding in the top levels—to such an extent that most genetic biologists would cringe if they heard it. This is why most southerners are a bit kooky; one can be traced back to Aunt Mildred's second cousin twice-removed who eloped to Pittsburgh with Frank Willow's third son whose legitimacy had not yet been established. Certain genes are perpetuated and you end up with another "Hush, Hush Sweet Charlotte."

There are numerous mistakes a deb can make in talking to an older woman about her genetic heritage. All of them are trying to prove that they are descendants of Rhett Butler and have not come to grips yet with his non-existence. Here a deb has to tread carefully as if over land mines, for if you dare insinuate that someone is not eighth cousin four times removed of a straight descendant of his greatness Robert E. Lee, then you are out of the deb battle.

Many other faux pas, or land mines, exist that can cause you to be taken off the "List." (The list is like the one that God uses at the second coming to decide who goes to heaven and who does not, and which every socially active person owns in order to know whom to invite to the numerous get-togethers.) This is why it is so hard being a deb: you see the same people again and again, and after 40 times it is hard to come up with things to say. Another social necessity is learning how to talk for hours on end about things that do not really interest anyone but which fill up time. This is where problems come in—you should not babble about anything inappropriate, but this varies as to who you are talking to, so you usually do end up gossiping to a certain person about another certain person which you had heard some terrible thing about, for instance that she pads her chest, and then you find out that certain person is the one you are talking to. Once again you sat on a big land mine.

Social behavior raises all sorts of possibilities for really messing up. At parties it is considered normal to drink con-

tinuously. Good ol' boys outdrink any frat any day and they don't brag about it because this is normal behavior, and what is there to brag about when it is like drinking water? Alcohol training for southerners begins young, for not only must you drink a lot but you cannot show that you are drunk. You can become "good natured" but if you crawl underneath the table and start singing Dixie to the passers-by you are off the list. I was at a party once in a hotel that had just been renovated but had been in existence for 80 years, and the night I was there we broke all the previous liquor intake records by about 3 more drinks per person. This is something to be expected by all party throwers as common and natural, and there are even chauffeur-driven limousines for those who are a little too good-natured.

Now to the actual event: the presentation. "Girls" wear virginal white, carry a dozen red roses, curtsy at the top of a runway and then walk down with their distinguished father in tails. Every good southern father owns his own "tails" hanging in the closet waiting anxiously for little ol' Emma Mae to make him proud. Your two escorts are waiting to show you a good time for in between their alcohol and chit-chat training they have been going to cotillion for five straight years and have finally reached the point where they do not leave sweat marks on the back of your dress.

I must admit I can go on and on about the life of a deb, not that mine was particularly exciting, but that one of these days I want to understand what it all meant, and to answer the big question, WHY? It is a tradition that defies description, for if it is a



Boys were forbidden to eat until the student body as composed of

ools put women on pedestal

While I kept to myself outside of class, in class I was constantly aware of the frailty of being the only female or the only vocal female in a group of males, with a male teacher. Though insouciance and a "laid back" attitude are valued both in girls and boys in boarding schools, it seemed that only the boys could be "laid back" and authoritative while the quiet, demure girls who passively got good grades faded into the background. In response to this situation I dominated class discussions, only to be subjected to a twenty minute tirade one day by a teacher who complained that "your arrogance, Miss Sullivan, amazes me." In many ways I had a chip on my shoulder. I was determined to do well, not only for the sake of learning, but to be better than the boys in my class. I flourished in this atmosphere where grades were posted and class rank was common knowledge.

At the same time, I could only maintain the approval of my teachers and advisors by wearing kilts and Shetland sweaters, by remaining extremely "feminine." The contrast between my assertiveness in class and my fragile appearance was tenuous at times. One afternoon while studying in the student center, a photographer took a number of pictures of me because he "liked the way the light fell over me"; a boy who saw this and whom I had consistently done better than in French approached me later and began to mock me for my "brilliance." He finally pinned me against a wall, gestured as if he was going to strike me and hissed "I hate your femininity."

After my boarding school experience I didn't feel I needed the support a women's college was said to offer. I had designed my life in boarding school to fit into a Harvard admissions application. I first thought of applying to Bryn Mawr when a visiting

teacher approached me after chapel, noticing that I had copies of Homer and Plautus under my arm, and asked me if I had considered applying to Bryn Mawr. When I saw the Bryn Mawr catalogue with the photograph of Juno Ludvosi on the cover it seemed that the College was indeed everything I wanted. Most important, Bryn Mawr was unabashedly academic. While I had earned a grudging acceptance from my secondary school teachers because of my enthusiasm for their course, I had been considered an oddity, even ridiculous by my classmates because I preferred to read philosophy alone in my room on a Saturday night than go to a dance. My dormmaster and Exeter advisor constantly lectured me on the dangers of being too academic, of not being well-rounded.

Upon visiting Bryn Mawr I was amazed that the women all looked different from one another, since at my boarding school everyone wore the same type of clothing, spoke the same way, had the same mannerisms. I was also struck by the lack of sports facilities, as compared to my secondary school's acres of playing fields, hockey rink, six squash courts, etc.—I was relieved at the implication that sports were not of central focus.

My final hesitation over Bryn Mawr had been traditions, which I associated with shaking the faculty's hands after Sunday night chapel or accepting a team letter from the headmaster. Needless to say, my premonitions were destroyed by Lantern Night, which promised both support and unity without the obligation to conform as in boarding school traditions. In many ways the differences in the traditions reflect the differences between a private secondary school and a Bryn Mawr experience.



Snoozer Archer, ex-deb: "Good family means interbreeding."

mating ritual then why didn't I get at least one proposal? I did not even get one proposition. Maybe I am a failed deb. Does this mean mom won't talk to me any more? Is there life after debbling? Is "debbling" a verb or is my English slipping? I would like to thank Florence King for her help in trying to figure out what it means to say "I am a debutante."

Wellesley conference participants gain perspective

by Sasha Torres

On Friday, April 6, Annie Avery, Maria Bruehwiler, Katherine Dixon, Jenny LeSar, Caryn Libman, Suzanne Peltier and Sasha Torres piled countless sleeping bags into the back of the physical plant department's Chevy suburban, put a tape of Ferron's Testimony into Libman's tape player, and set off singing for the New England Women's College Conference sponsored by Wellesley College.

When they arrived at Wellesley, eight hours later, their enthusiasm was hardly dampened, despite the fact that they had missed seeing Meg Christian in concert on the Wellesley campus by only three hours. The members of the Bryn Mawr delegation, who stayed with Wellesley students, went to sleep with visions of single-sex institutions dancing in their heads, and awoke ready for a day of creative exchange on that topic.

While they may have been prepared for such discussion, the reality did not always meet expectations. The conference began with a panel presentation by deans and presidents of the nine colleges represented (Barnard, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Regis, Simmons, Smith, Wellesley, Wheaton and

Bryn Mawr), and many of the participants made statements more appropriate as recruiting statements than as contributions to an effective analysis of the challenges faced by women's colleges today.

For instance, acting president of Mount Holyoke Joseph Ellis spoke of the future of women's colleges as "closely connected to the future of the feminist movement" and of the necessity of such institutions as Mount Holyoke making an "avowed commitment to essential feminist principles," sentiments shared by most of the panel members. Unfortunately, the problem of translating this rhetoric into support for feminist activity on women's college campuses was not effectively addressed.

Mondale speaks

(Continued from page 1)

asked if he would consider Barbara Jordan or another woman as a running mate, if he were nominated. Mondale maintained that he also has a "deep commitment" to "those issues" and said that he will "very carefully consider" having a woman as a running mate if nominated, but he said that he "wasn't making that decision yet."

A male student questioned Mondale concerning his position on aid to El Salvador. Mondale said that he was opposed to the manner in which aid has been voted to El Salvador by Congress recently, as it "was not as tough as it should have been on political reform, ending the death squads, and land reform." He believes that the U.S. must also terminate covert activities in Nicaragua. He objects to "the Americanization" of other countries' disputes.

On the question of the Solomon Amendment, Mondale responded quickly, "I'm opposed. I don't think we need draft registration."

In response to a question about international environmental policy, Mondale joked about the current administration's policy, particularly with regard to those who create and carry out such policy. "Said Mondale, 'I've got a two-part plan. First, I'm going to fire everybody they hired, and then, I'm going to hire everybody they fired.'" He then cited acid rain as an international environmental problem that he would work on if elected.

Answering a question from Fifi Haroon '85, Mondale said he would put pressure on the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan.

This was particularly evident in the statement made by Wellesley president Nannerl Keohane, an enormously articulate woman who spoke of women's colleges providing a "model" of "what a community can do when it truly lives out sexual equality," and of the problems of getting that model out to the world. Since Keohane recently decided to use the building which currently houses the feminist cooperative at Wellesley to house one of the deans of the College instead, and has not offered the women living there a comparable space in which to live, she is apparently less concerned with what that model means on her own campus.

The issue of elitism within the institu-

tions represented was also skirted by panelists, though Bryn Mawr Dean Paula Mayhew stressed the importance of opening up communication among all women's

"Unfortunately, the problem of translating this rhetoric into support for feminist activity on women's college campuses was not effectively addressed."

colleges, including sectarian institutions. In order for women's colleges to maintain an impact on higher education in America, a "critical mass" of such colleges must survive, so that students know that they exist.

During the question period following the panel's presentation, Mayhew reminded participants that our thinking about women's colleges must take into account that a broad spectrum of women's education exists. "We must start connecting with other kinds of women's education, or we will become dinosaurs." The perpetuation of the five remaining single sex "Sisters," as "wonderful, flourishing" institutions, she continued, "just isn't good enough."

After lunch, conference participants were divided into small discussion groups in which they tried to address such questions as "Are women's colleges representative of women?" and "what do you perceive to be the role of alumnae connections in women's colleges today?" Though most of the groups seemed to come up with the same conclusions, the discussions were lively and interesting, and the students tended to address issues more directly than administrators had.

One such issue was sexual preference. The members of one group noted that "women at women's colleges are forced to examine their sexual feelings about other women earlier than they might at a co-ed institution." Other groups talked about homophobia and the connection often inferred between feminism and lesbianism.

After "Happy Hour" at Oakwoods, which is currently the feminist co-op, members of the delegation enjoyed pizza and pastries in Boston's North End, spent another night at Wellesley, and returned home feeling that they had gained some perspective on Bryn Mawr, the kind of perspective only offered by distance.



Kathy Roth, head of the Coalition for Action on Women's Issue, introduces Mondale. "Perhaps one day we will be presenting a woman up here," Roth suggested.

Meer discusses South Africa

(Continued from page 1)

Labor Bureau to seek employment in urban areas. The pass allows a person 72 hours to find work, after which he or she is fined and/or imprisoned. White farmers with huge acreage can build prisons, and then hire these 'prisoners' from the State prison at a rate of forty cents a day.

Another aspect of repression Meer mentioned is that an African woman does not have the right to be in an urban area unless she is connected to an African man with that right. Meer also pointed out that because black labor is migrant, "family life is totally violated."

As a sociologist at the University of Natal, Meer conducted a study on black women in wage employment which revealed that eighty percent of families are earning less than starvation wages. When asked how these women survive, Meer answered, "They don't. These women are not existing as human beings." She also

said that strike action is considered terrorism.

An audience member asked about the actual apparatus that enables a small number of whites (5 million) to control the large black population. Meer said that white power "creates myths to diminish the self-respect of the black man." She pointed also to the military, academic, and economic support South Africa receives from Western nations, saying "we see ourselves as 20-21 million blacks against the white world." Meer supported total economic divestment as a political strategy, finding the only alternative to be violence.

"Who is comfortable in America?" demanded Meer when someone questioned the possibility of fleeing South Africa.

Over forty people attended the lecture. Senior Margi Clarke summed up the audience response well, saying, "It's amazing that people know so little, that we are so ignorant."



"White power creates myths to diminish the self-respect of the black man," Fatima Meer, lecturer at Swarthmore, said in her talk here on April 4.



Judy and Rachel Milenboch, proprietors of the Woman's Book Connection in Philadelphia, say their store emphasizes books for women and children, and is a place "where women can be comfortable."

Hart's daughter speaks

by Beth Leibson

"Gary Hart: a new generation of leadership." That's what the signs say. What is Hart's rallying point, the issues or his personality? Asja Margulis '81, Secretary of Special Programs and Pennsylvania Volunteer Coordinator for Gary Hart, says, "I support him because he has a tremendous amount of integrity—and the best chance of beating Ronald Reagan." Sarah Nicklin '85 explains, "I support Gary Hart because for the past two years he has voted on every single resolution the same way as the FCNL," the Friends Committee on National Legislation, the group which delineates political positions for the Quakers. "I know I can trust them," continued Nicklin, "and if Hart votes like they do, that's good. Liberal integrity is good for this country."

In a brief speech, Andrea Hart, the candidate's nineteen-year-old daughter, stated, "I can't tell you who to vote for. But hopefully it will be a Democrat. And hopefully that Democrat will be Gary Hart." In the quiet of the Quita Woodward room, Andrea Hart explained that she hadn't been active in politics since eight months prior, when she left the University of Maryland to campaign full-time for her father, the Colorado senator. "I truly believe in Gary Hart—as his daughter, as a student, as a worker and as a concerned citizen," proclaimed Andrea Hart.

With practiced and polished phrases, Andrea Hart reiterated her father's campaign slogan of new ideas. "What people are looking for in the '80s is someone who is not afraid to accept change. People in this country want change, expect change." She illustrated her point with two examples of Hart's new ideas: military reform ("we need personnel who are educated and trained") and tax reform ("Hart wants almost total restructuring. He advocates weeding out unnecessary programs and adding new and more beneficial ones.").

During the informal question and answer period that followed, Andrea Hart recapitulated her father's stand on arms control, describing how the Colorado senator fought against first-strike weapons such as the MX missile and the B-1 bomber. When asked by sophomore Salli Barash about Hart's position favoring the sub-minimum wage for 14 to 18-year-olds employed in non-permanent positions, she was unable to answer the question and referred Barash to Hart's book on tax reform. Andrea Hart also said that her father is "very supportive" of gay-lesbian rights bills, though she could supply no concrete details. When asked about the Solomon Amendment, Andrea Hart replied that her father does not support this bill for he feels that education and the military "should not go hand in hand."

Guide for Perplexed Women

Thursday, April 12, 11 a.m.
Gest 101, Haverford

Sandra Harding, Champlain Regional College, will speak on "The Curious Coincidence of Feminine and African Rationalities."

Thursday, April 12, 4:15 p.m.
Bond, Swarthmore

Marianne Ferber of the Department of Economics at the University of Illinois will speak on "Women and Work: Paid and Unpaid."

Sunday, April 15, 2 p.m.
Thomas 110

Elisabeth Bell '59 will present a slide lecture on "A Grass Roots American-Russian Peace Effort: The Sister City Relationship of Seattle and Tashkent."

Thursday, April 19, 4:15 p.m.
Dorothy Vernon Room, Haffner

The department of history presents a centennial tribute to the importance of M. Carey Thomas. AB/MA candidate Cynthia Brown will speak on "Deliberate Revolution: M. Carey Thomas, Bryn Mawr and Women's Emancipation."

Saturday, April 21,
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bryn Mawr Room, Haverford Dining Center RSVP

A forum will be held to discuss issues concerning bi-College women.

Saturday, April 28, 2-5 p.m.
Friends Meeting House,
4th and Arch Streets, Philadelphia

Dozens of Philadelphia based feminist organizations will hold a Women's Liberation Jubilee for "sharing our stories, singing our songs, ridiculing our enemies, pushing our movements, to celebrate over 1.5 million years of struggle."

Saturday, April 28, 3 p.m.
The Woman's Book Connection
1006 Pine Street, Philadelphia

Prof. Debora Kodish of Great Lakes College will speak on "Women as Witches: Feminism and Folklore."

Feminist bookstore an experience

by Karen Sullivan

On any Saturday afternoon the casual Philadelphia pedestrian, strolling past 1006 Pine Street, will find the Woman's Book Connection to be bustling with activity. As she enters to innocently glance at the books displayed on a folding table, she hears a truck grind to a stop and sees three women jump out. Before she knows what she's doing, she finds herself helping these women drag in an enormous sofa, which they set in the main room of the store. "As our friends get richer, we get more furniture," says Judy Milenboch, who opened the bookstore with her daughter last June.

Such an experience, where the distinction between storeowner and customer and the detachment of a business relationship are obliterated, is typical of the atmosphere of the Woman's Book Connection which aims at being "not just a bookstore, but an experience." According to Milenboch, "We see ourselves as a place for women to be comfortable, to get support for being a woman in our culture. We see ourselves as a total woman's space."

Indeed, while technically a bookstore, the categories of books and the other services provided are unlike those of any standard bookstore. Six shelves are devoted to novels by women, six to works by and about lesbian women. Other categories include feminist theory, herstory, black women, spirituality and violence. Of the four bookcases of non-sexist children's literature, Milenboch *mater* commented, "We have been told we have the best selection of children's books in Philadelphia," to which her daughter added "And we believe it."

In addition to books, the store's bay window is filled with pamphlets and leaflets from *Au Courant* to the *Delaware Valley Womyn's Newsletter* to a box for a coupon swap. Posters of women composers, such

as Holly Near and Meg Christian, cover the walls, along with smaller, two-dollar nineteenth century drawings with quotations from Sarah Grimke and Abigail Adams. Women's music and tickets to women's concerts are sold along with a wide variety of buttons.

Finally, the Book Connection holds lectures and other events with the help of a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Judy Grahn, Alex Dobkin, Susy Heschel, Starhawk, and Sonia Johnson have all spoken there; Starhawk and Professor Ann Matter's lecture on "Who is the Goddess? A Feminist View of Religion" drew the greatest crowds. Milenboch expects the lecture on "Women as Witches: Feminism and Folklore" at 3:00 on April 28 to draw crowds as well.

In terms of customers, Milenboch noted a "tremendous" increase in the number of male-female couples recently, which she attributed to the growing acceptance of the bookstore in the community. She has observed also an increase in the number of academic women visiting the store, whom she identifies by their "suits, bow ties, low heels and briefcases"; she connects this shift to the number of academic books currently in stock. Milenboch added, "We need to have [reading] lists from teachers. Those kind of sales will mean our ultimate survival." She also noted a wide range in age in their customers, which she attributes to the disparity in her and her daughter's ages.

Milenboch, who is friends with the owner of New York City's *Womenbooks*, maintains ties with the eighty or so other women's bookstores throughout the country. Despite the enormous time commitment, she has found the months since the store's opening to be "the most exciting in my life."

Classes to be held on May Day

by Vivion Vinson

May first, the traditional date for the College's May Day celebration, falls on a Tuesday this year, with no cancellation of classes. Mild controversy is stirring the campus as a result. In most school years, classes end before the first of May, or the date for festivities falls on a weekend. This year, however, neither is the case, and, as in the past when the calendar has proven uncooperative, students will have to plan their own schedules carefully.

Traditions mistress Maria Bruehwiler says that suggestions to move May Day a few days ahead in order to prevent conflict met with "much opposition" among seniors and SGA members. The May Day schedule will not be adjusted to accommodate those who must attend classes. Tuesday, said Bruehwiler, is a relatively light day for most students in any case.

Members of the student body are threatening to skip classes, which has been the standard reaction in the past to conflicts of schedule on May Day. Individual professors have generally been lenient where this is concerned; some reschedule their classes at the students' request. It remains a student issue nonetheless, and a petition is the only format available for Bryn Mawr to express their concern, should they feel deeply enough about the issue.

When asked about the prospect of classes on May Day, most individuals were succinct: "It sucks." Some voiced concern for those sophomores who must wake early to treat the seniors and then participate in their classes. "They'll be exhausted by noon," protested Renee Hill. A few remained placidly unconcerned. "I'm looking forward to watching the tanks in



Red Square," said Senior Sally Brunsmann.

As for May Day itself, preparations are progressing. Maria Bruehwiler hopes for greater dorm spirit and individual participation than in past years. "People need a little humor," she said. "This should be a celebration of the spirit." Possible new additions to the traditional May Day fare include a theatre group in the Cloisters and a dorm party to be held in Rhoads after the Step Sing.

Born in Flames: "Oppressed peoples have the right to violence"

by Sherryl Statland

The revolution has come, my friends. You know, the socialist democratic revolution that we are all working toward. . . well, Lizzie Borden's (no relation to the ax woman) film "Born in Flames" takes a look at America ten years after the revolution has occurred. Borden examines the treatment of women in the new society and shows us that sexism, racism, and classism are still part of American life.

In the film, which is set in New York City, there are two women's radio stations: one is composed of black women, the other of white women. The black women of Phoenix radio station are part of a radical Women's Army. They are described by the Socialist Party as being "counter-revolutionary." The white women from the

Regatta radio station do not want to help the Women's Army, at least not at first.

However, when one of the Women's Army members is picked up by the FBI, and later reported as having killed herself, the white women join the fight to make the American public aware of what is happening to women. Four women storm CBS television and force the programmer to air their opinions at gunpoint. They have timed their address to occur right in the middle of a presidential address, which is advocating wages for housework. The media labels these women as "selfish" and as "terrorists," and they are to be "stamped out by any means necessary."

In another backlash of anti-feminism, the two radio stations are set on fire and become inoperable. But the women fight

back, and steal two U-Haul trucks, one of which houses the new joint radio station of Phoenix Regatta. The women take further action. They are tired of being "placed outside of politics," fired from their jobs simply because they are women, and having their main image be that of wives and mothers. The film concludes with the destruction of the main antenna on top of the World Trade Center by the Women's Army, rendering media communication impossible.

"Born in Flames" is about women taking action. One of the best scenes in the film is the arrival of about a dozen women, on bicycle, at the scene of a rape. Luckily, they prevent the two men from committing the crime, and one feels uplifted by their sense of accomplishment, and their care for the

would-be victim.

The women in the film are angry and violent. But as one of the women says: "All oppressed peoples have the right to violence. . . it's like the right to pee, it just has to happen in the right place, time and situation."

"Born in Flames" was shown at Swarthmore College as part of a weekend program dealing with rape, from April 6-8. There were various workshops, some for men and some for women, and a very powerful exhibit in the Women's Center called "Rape Culture." The exhibit was created by women students and displayed the attitudes toward women and sex through the various media of art, music, toys, clothes, literature, and out and out pornography.

Alumnae speak on publishing as career choice

by Beth Leibson

"What I love about the publishing business is that it's very varied, very interesting. We're on top of what is happening. And there's the craft of working with words," commented Julie Kagan, articulating the consensus of the Publishing and Communications Workshop panel. Kagan is articles editor of *Working Woman* magazine.

The other members of the panel were Maria Zacharias '77, who writes for Chase Manhattan Corporation, Barbara Clark '79, assistant editor at Farrar Straus and Girou, and Beth Heinsohn, editorial assistant at Fawcett Publications.

How does one become involved with

publishing? Heinsohn began because, "I love books." She added, "Unfortunately, I don't sit around and read books and talk about them, which is what I'd love to do."

Clark remembered that "when it came to graduation, I didn't know what I wanted to do. So, I picked up the Yellow Pages and listed all the publishers with good addresses. I called them and asked for the personnel department. One of the places, Doubleday, had an opening. Ten days later, I had a job as an assistant to two executive editors there: I held the position for a year and a half."

What background is important? Take heart, philosophy and art history students, the major is not an important factor. In fact,

Kagan said, "There is a bias against journalism majors. It's easy to learn to write a newspaper article. It's harder to learn research skills and analysis." She added that "it's very helpful to have done newspaper writing or editing." Zacharias suggested that it's also good to have basic skills in layout and production.

How about typing skills? Kagan and Heinsohn stress their importance, the former mentioning that she has failed to get jobs because of her typing. But, Clark added that "I know at least two people who are very successful who type 35 words a minute," noting that female employers tend to be more concerned with typing skills than males.

The world of publishing is remote from the Ivory Tower. "I spent a lot of time unlearning what I learned at Bryn Mawr. Employers don't care about your studies; they want to see ideas and responsibility," warned Heinsohn. Kagan reminded us, "In school, you get promoted every year. Not in the working world." People who have been working for three or four years have nothing on someone who's been in the business for twenty years.

Another important consideration is the corporate culture. Doubleday, the largest book publisher in America, occupies four floors of a building which spans a whole city block. "It is very grey. There's even grey carpet on the walls," noted Clark.

"*Working Woman* is smaller and was started by entrepreneurs. There's an entrepreneurial spirit, the pride of accomplishment, because we're small," added Kagan. "One of the things I liked about Ballantine (a subsidiary of Fawcett Publications) is that everyone looked relaxed. Though there was a high energy level, it felt really comfortable," Heinsohn offered.

A word to the wise about interviewing: research the place carefully and have something to suggest. "Show what you could do. If you've got an idea, tell them about it. They want to see what you've got to offer," suggests Heinsohn. Kagan warned, "If you have a feeling you won't get along with the boss, think hard about taking the job. You will work together for long periods of time under great pressure. Look to your instincts."

"You get used to the money—it's a challenge," joked Clark. The subject of money came up repeatedly as Kagan explained that publishing is not a well-paid field. "It has a definite ceiling as to how much you will ever make." Zacharias switched jobs to work for Chase Manhattan Bank, noting that "doubling my salary was a very nice thing." She added that corporate writing is an option to consider: "If you're a good writer, there are lots of ways to apply it."

"I honestly can't think of anything I don't like about publishing," concluded Barbara Clark.

International students perform for large crowd in Goodhart

by Hideko Secrest

On Thursday, April 5, international students representing 29 different countries dazzled and charmed their Goodhart audience with a rare display of talent and exotic clothing in the course of a spectacular evening of music, dance and fashion.

The problem with such a grand and expansive performance is that, as much as one would like to, one simply cannot list all the events and performers. Though all of the acts were praiseworthy and thoroughly enjoyable, we must be content here to pick out the highlights of the evening.

Stella Eleazar, Eileen A'Daniel and Isabellita and Socorra Bella performed the *Tinikling*, perhaps the best-known folk dance of the Philippines. This dance celebrates the cleverness of the Tiki bird in evading the farmers' traps, represented by two bamboo poles beat rhythmically on the ground. The dancers skinned between and over the beating poles, flitting in and out, but never so much as catching a toe.

Shi-zhe Huang sang a haunting Chinese love song, "Beautiful Evening," with great force and emotion. The audience responded with loud and long applause.

Outstanding for the evening was a *bharatnatyan*, one of the four classical Indian dance styles. This particular one was a tribute to Nataraja, the God of Dance. Manjula Narasimhan exhibited brilliant control and exquisite style in her performance; especially noteworthy was her fluid treatment of arm movements.

Dewi Win's performance of the *Tari Pendet*, a Balinese dance which invokes the spirits that inhabit the earth, was a shining example of the great difference in emphasis which can exist among dances of other nations. Here, every slight gesture counted, from the crooking of a finger to the position of the head. A mere shift in the

focus of her eyes created a particularly delightful dramatic effect.

Belgian student Mariandi Cabell sang two Flemish songs, *Uhr kalamanden rok* and *Flurt de spelman*, with great spirit and lovely tone.

The *Tari Piring*, a Sumatran dance celebrating the harvest, followed Dewi Win and Mei Lwin performed the sinuous and intricate steps with a flaring candle in each hand. The effect was dramatic, as the moving flames created patterns in the air and flickering shadows which added to the mysterious mood of the dance.

The performance part of the evening came to an end with the *Kamala Sundari*, a Bengali folk dance. Joya Ganguli delivered a sprightly execution of the lively and whimsical dance.

The evening came to a close with a fashion show. Nation followed upon nation in a breathtaking show of variety and brilliance of dress. From the simple lines of the Chinese chung sam and the East African kilenge to the elaborate and ornate formal Japanese kimono and baju kurung and sarong of Indonesia, every costume served as a witness to the variety and individuality of national characters presented during the course of the entertainment.

From the many sighs of appreciation and enthusiastic comments overheard afterwards, one could safely judge that the festival was a success. Raka Ray, who gave a witty, polished commentary on each entry, later remarked that it was the best one in her years at the College. Some of the performers lamented the absence of an American entry, but in general, one came out of the show fairly saturated with international culture.

Only one suggestion for next year's festival—forget about the microphone. They detracted from the pure sound of the music and all of the voices were strong and clear enough without them.

Harassment a problem

(Continued from page 1)

In order to combat this ignorance, the committee on sexual harassment, which has as its head Equal Opportunity Officer Dolores Brien, is undertaking the education of every member of the Bryn Mawr community—employees, administrators, faculty and students—to explain what exactly harassment is and how to cope with it.

Mellow said that it seemed as if many students "wanted more done" about Louie, but she felt that the procedure should not be "demeaning or vindictive, but try to solve a problem. The case came and went with as little hoopla as possible, and that's the way it should be. It was important, but educating for the future is more so."

"Things have really changed" with Louie, she maintains. "People are really happy that his behavior has changed; that's really what they wanted."

Mellow also stated that "it's only fair to explain to employees. No one knows exactly what harassment is. We hope that because of the new educational program, there will be less harassment to begin with. And if something does happen, no one can say he didn't know; that won't be an excuse."

Mellow explained the first steps to be taken in a grievance procedure. It is the job of the committee and the equal opportunity officer to "make it easy and comfortable for a student to complain. Yet we have to give the accused a fair shake, too."

If a student feels harassed, according to Mellow, she should first confront her aggressor and tell him to stop. If she feels uncomfortable doing that, she should look for the supportive presence of a warden, a member of the harassment committee, or Brien herself, and go with that person to announce her feelings.

According to Mellow, it makes a legal case stronger, should a student decide to press charges, to have a witnessed confrontation with the harasser. She added that "maybe he doesn't know" that his behavior constitutes harassment and that it's "only fair" to warn him of that. Presumably, however, after the College's educational efforts, such ignorance will be "no excuse" and "swift action" will be taken in blatant cases.

Mellow said that if a student was unwilling to confront her harasser even in the presence of a supportive witness, perhaps a written statement could be a sufficient contact, and Brien added that a signed letter is often a victim's best strategy.