

## Religious life discussed at Bryn Mawr

Responding to discontent among many members of religious groups at Bryn Mawr, the Deans' Office and the Office for Institutional Diversity (OID) convened a dinner meeting in the Dorothy Vernon Room last Monday to discuss religious life at Bryn Mawr. Dean Judy Balthazar, the religious liaison to the administration, opened the meeting by saying that the Board of Trustees was curious about religious life on campus and was "concerned because some students felt that they were not getting the respect" that others and their campus groups seemed to receive.

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## Donations stolen from Op-Smile, sparking questions of security, trust

On Nov. 27, it was discovered that an estimated \$300 had been stolen from the Haverford donations box of Operation Smile, a bi-college non-profit group. After over a month of work, the group's leaders returned after Thanksgiving Break to find that nearly all of their earnings had been removed from the Haverford branch of their latest fundraising campaign. This effort of the group was known as the "Penny War," and relied on student and faculty donations in the dining centers of Bryn Mawr and Haverford campuses. The theft, along with others in recent months, has sparked questions of security, respect and trust, and a fervent discussion on the Haverford Comment Board.

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## Douglas Dunn dances at Haverford

The Haverford College Center for Humanities has made a welcomed debut with one of its Public Speaker and Performance Series' first major events. The Douglas Dunn and Performers dance troupe performed *The Common Good: dance made with advice from others* last Thursday in Haverford's Roberts Hall.

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## Haverford alumna shares experiences as egg donor

Eleanor Race, a recent Haverford alumna, returned to Haverford last Monday, Nov. 27, to speak to the community about her positive experience as an egg donor, and to share her feelings about the issues she faced during the process of egg donation.

A few months ago, Race, Class of 1999, donated eggs to an infertile couple, but she was not responding to an advertisement, nor was she volunteering with the intention of making money. Instead, the intended father was the son of Race's family friends. "It was the best experience of my life," says Race, although emphasizing that every donor experience is unique. Ironically, when Race attended Haverford, she was turned off by the ideas of egg donation and egg purchasing.

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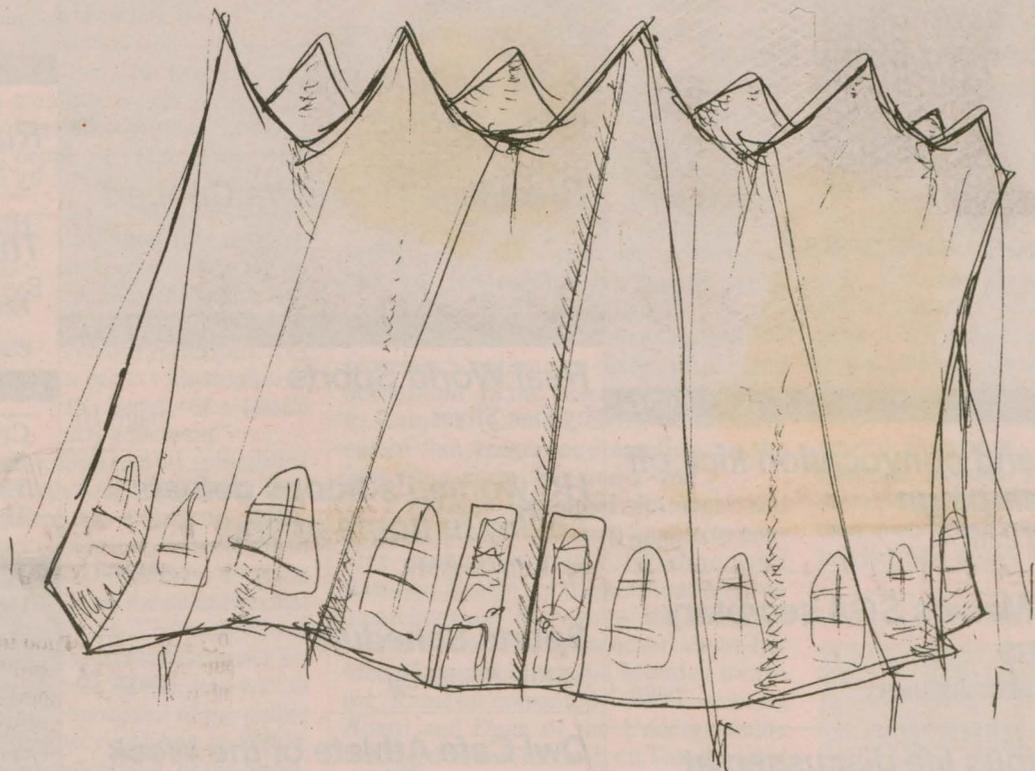
"The Final Vote" ... Jerk ... A true pluralist ... A grinchy tradition ... Crises ... Ramadan ... HC women's hoops ... On Christmas and vomiting ... and more

# BICO

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**SUBMIT**

The Bi-Co is interested in publishing opinion pieces, academic papers, illustrations, creative writing, profiles and features writing from the community at large. To submit material for publication, please contact the editor of the section to which you wish to contribute.

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## Gala and convocation kick off HC campaign

Ryan Carr  
Staff Writer

Haverford College did not look like itself on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 2. Most students who were awakened around 10 a.m. by the hum of a bagpipe were too sleepy to notice the procession of 70 professors, administrators and honorary degree nominees solemnly filing into Marshall Auditorium. But the convocation for celebrating Haverford's most important capital campaign ever was nothing to sleep through.

This past weekend marked the public announcement of a \$200 million fundraising campaign which, when completed in 2004, will have spanned the better part of a decade and will have aimed to establish Haverford as a strongly-endowed institution with state-of-the-art facilities and unprecedented financial stability.

### The \$200 million fundraising campaign to be completed in 2004 aims to establish Haverford as a strongly-endowed institution with state-of-the-art facilities and unprecedented financial stability.

"In order to be competitive, you need a bigger endowment. This is like taking Haverford into a new era," said Gerald Levin, Class of 1960, honorary chair of the Capital Campaign and CEO of Time Warner, Inc.. He explained that major fundraising campaigns haven't always been one of the college's foremost priorities. "It just wasn't the Haverford way, and for many years, the financial resources really stagnated," admitted Levin.

Levin and the rest of the fleet of college employees and volunteers running the campaign hope that the weekend's convocation, and the gala dinner that took place in Philadelphia the previous night, will put some punch into Haverford's financial reconstruction. Most people attribute Haverford's small per-student endowment, which is currently well less than half that of Swarthmore, to the fact that the college only has 10,000 alumni, a number far below that of most peer institutions.

During the convocation ceremony, honorary degrees were awarded to Levin and seven other distinguished members of the greater Haverford College community, from current professors to cancer treatment-pioneering and discrimination-fighting alumni. Asia Bennett, who was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her work with peace and social justice projects, especially in the Quaker community, remarked, "I think the ceremony was wonderful in that each of us is really connected with Haverford and have done different things in our life. There were no outside illustrious people... We're all homegrown."

Each recipient was introduced by another friend of Haverford College who had a personal connection with the recipient, and was then presented a degree by President of the College Tom Tritton. "Looking at those eight people on stage, it was like, 'Yes! This is what we do,'" said an enthusiastic Tritton. He said that he had been working toward this day since July 1, 1997, the day he arrived at Haverford. "It's a perfect illustration of the beauty of a liberal arts education."

The convocation and its subsequent luncheon were only half of the story. The night before, there was a black-tie, \$400-per-plate dinner gala at the Westin Hotel in Philadelphia, where Dave Barry '69 (who spoke with the *Bi-Co* on the condition that he be referred to as "the 6'1" chiseled Dave Barry" in all articles) was the Master of Ceremonies. One purpose of the gala was to make the first announcement of the public campaign in the most visible way possible.

"This was a celebration of the beginning," said Barry Zubrow, chairman of Haverford's Board of Managers. "We really tried to balance the desire to give the campaign its extremely high visibility, to celebrate some of its initial success, and to help the community be part of what we're doing."

For tiny Haverford College, a comprehensive, highly visible \$200 million capital campaign may seem at first like a

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## Bryn Mawr's SGA secretary submits Oresignation

Laura Montgomery  
Staff writer

Bryn Mawr senior Ameena Amdahl-Mason recently became the Self-Government Association's former secretary, officially resigning amid high emotions two weeks prior to this past Thursday. Under the pressure of potential impeachment, Amdahl-Mason decided to leave office rather than deal with the consequences of an impeachment discussion, and rather than continue in an atmosphere of non-communication.

The SGA president, who supported the impeachment process, called the case a "wake-up call" for the SGA.

Amdahl-Mason received an email from the SGA president, Meera Ratnesar, on Wednesday, Nov. 15 informing her that an assembly member had asked for an emergency meeting to be convened on Nov. 26 in order to discuss her impeachment. The assembly member was later identified as faculty representative and SGA webmistress Emily Friedman.

In the email Ratnesar laid out the secretary's options: to resign or to stand her ground. In the latter case, according to Ratnesar's email, SGA would have called "an emergency meeting on the 26th for a discussion and a vote."

Prior to the email, Ratnesar and Amdahl-Mason had been unable to contact each other via telephone, and Ratnesar finally put the notification in an email because "time was of the essence." Friedman talked to Ratnesar about her idea of impeachment on Monday morning, Ratnesar consulted SGA's Executive Board and Dean of the Undergraduate College Karen Tidmarsh on Tuesday, and on Wednesday night, Ratnesar sent the email. Ratnesar emphasizes that this was the beginning of what would have been a long and complicated impeachment process, with no guarantee of an eventual impeachment. On Thursday, Nov. 16, Amdahl-Mason emailed the SGA executive board with her resignation.

The impeachment process stopped immediately with her resignation. Looking back on these events, Ratnesar says, "I don't regret laying out her options... I do regret not encouraging the discussion more."

In fact, discussion of impeachment never took place. Discussion of the SGA minutes was a slated topic for the Nov. 19 SGA meeting. Amdahl-Mason was unable to attend that meeting because of a long-standing class rescheduling conflict, however, and subsequently the discussion was removed from the agenda. Further, the emergency meeting to discuss impeachment was forestalled by the secretary's resignation. Friedman never discussed impeachment or the seriousness of her concerns with Amdahl-Mason, and neither did Ratnesar in person because of time concerns.

All three feel that there could have been a different outcome if the discussion had occurred. Friedman says that although she does not feel guilty about the part she played, she has given a lot of thought to it since the issue broke, and she wishes "we'd started the conversation sooner." She says sadly, "I didn't want this kind of heartache. I often think

of the word heartache." The initiation of the impeachment process was supposed to be a "heads up" or "warning," she says.

"Perhaps I was wrong in this, but I felt Meera and the executive board should do it [talk about impeachment]," Friedman says. "I'm a sophomore; this is beyond my ken." She went to Ratnesar, she says, to determine if the idea seemed like a good one. Says Ratnesar, "I didn't think it was a bad idea... I'm not a big fan of impeachment, but I think we're a self-governing association, and when someone feels like impeachment is a need, or a discussion for impeachment is a need, then they should voice that opinion." Ratnesar continues, "[A]nd in that sense I was supporting Emily to show assembly members what she was feeling." As president of SGA, Ratnesar is to show impartiality in such matters. This is the reason that she forewarned Amdahl-Mason, says Ratnesar.

Amdahl-Mason says that she resigned because "when trust or communication aren't there, it's difficult to remain in a position." She is referring to the fact that very few people approached her directly with complaints, although she received anonymous complaints through Ratnesar. Ratnesar says she always asked these people to speak with the secretary on their own behalf, but her advice was not heeded. She thinks the reason was a feel-

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## Meningitis vaccine offered

Rachel Nielsen  
Managing Editor

On Dec. 6 Haverford College is offering a meningitis or meningococcal vaccination program to Haverford students. Bacterial meningitis, for which the meningococcal vaccination is given, is a rare but potentially deadly disease for which college students, often living in close quarters and in close contact, are at increased risk.

The immunization is offered by the Haverford College Health Services. The program operates on a walk-in basis, and it runs from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Founders Hall. The fee for the immunization is \$75. Students can pay either by billing the fee to their student accounts, which requires that they present valid Haverford ID, or by charging the fee to Visa, MasterCard or Amex.

Bacterial meningitis, sometimes called spinal meningitis, is an infection of the fluid in the spinal cord and the fluid surrounding the brain, and it is sometimes contagious through exchange of respiratory and throat secretions. In the United States, approximately 3,000 cases of bacterial meningitis occur each year, and 10 to 13 percent of patients die in spite of early treatment, while an additional 10 percent of those infected suffer "severe aftereffects" of the disease, including loss of limbs, hearing loss and mental retardation, according to the Centers for Disease Control website.



Black tie for the the future of the Ford. For article see page 7.

## SGA secretary resigns

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ing that these were often trivial complaints, and that "the minutes were already printed." Amdahl-Mason often appealed to the community to approach her directly and let her make corrections. Every time she was approached with specific complaints, she says, she "took every attempt to make those changes."

Amdahl-Mason says she respects the right to anonymity, but notes that it is not within the spirit of the Honor Code. "We're grappling with that now," says Ratnesar, and both feel that something to come out of this is that the problems surrounding confrontation and anonymous commentary within SGA have been raised meaningfully.

Because it was "a lot of pressure," Amdahl-Mason had been seriously considering resigning before she heard about her possible impeachment. Although she wrote to Ratnesar that "I was in the process of writing my resignation letter prior to receiving your email," she added, "I also feel that your email put pressure on me to resign." Ratnesar encouraged resignation because she did not want to see a full-blown impeachment process; it would have been harmful most of all to Amdahl-Mason, she says.

Ratnesar's own complaints with Amdahl-Mason centered around misrepresentations. "I think there was two or three times where I read the minutes and I said, 'That's not what I said' or, 'The names are all messed up.'" Particularly bothersome to her is the inclusion of the term "secret admirer" in referring to the donor of a gift to the college. That was meant to be off the record, said Ratnesar, "and that wasn't the heart and soul of what I was saying." Ratnesar also felt that "an entire chunk of a very important conversation got left out" of a discussion on Nov. 29 of a constitutional issue. "The last straw," she says, was when, within 20 minutes during an SGA meeting, three people asked for an explanation of the minutes. Friedman says Dean Tidmarsh and President Vickers had also com-

plained about the minutes. Another major problem that Ratnesar noted with Amdahl-Mason was the tardiness of the minutes. Amdahl-Mason felt that they were rarely tardy.

The grounds for Amdahl-Mason's impeachment would have been neglect of duty. Friedman and Ratnesar feel that she did indeed neglect her duty. Notes Ratnesar, the case is a "wake-up call that we don't take our jobs lightly . . . and unfortunately the secretarial position is one . . . it's easy to point fingers at." Amdahl-Mason feels that if she is to be an example of a lax SGA officer, she is a poor one. "I did the job that was set out to me," she says.

"The severity of the response, considering the lack of communication, is very surprising, or at least it was to me," says Amdahl-Mason. "It's not every day that you suddenly have something in common with Nixon," she says wryly.

It is difficult to gauge the extent of the dissatisfaction. "I heard people say it a lot," Friedman says, but no one surveyed by the *Bi-Co* for this article, aside from Friedman and Ratnesar, complained about the minutes. Junior Jihean Lee thought this semester's minutes were as good as any other's. Merion dorm rep Tanika Stewart felt that the minutes summarized the SGA meetings well.

Ratnesar regrets that she did not thank Amdahl-Mason in front of the SGA Assembly for her work. "The secretary's job is not an easy job," she realizes. SGA will soon be voting on a proposal to approve the minutes each week; part of the problem was the process, all admit.

For two SGA meetings following Amdahl-Mason's resignation, Friedman, the SGA webmistress and assistant to the secretary, took the minutes. Sophomore Erin Myers was chosen the new secretary in a special election held last Wednesday and Thursday between Myers and sophomore Margaret Erlich, both current SGA reps. Myers has already assumed her duties.

## HC gala and convocation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

stretch, and it is. But in the end, the campaign is centered on students, and again and again people involved with the campaign insist that it will simply allow the college to reflect its same time-honored values in an atmosphere more conducive to learning.

Jill Sherman, vice president of Institutional Advancement and member of the Campaign Executive Committee, calls it the "Haverford Touch." Said Sherman, "[Honorary Degree recipients] were chosen based on leadership and service." She furthered, "To have 55 faculty process at the end of the first semester in a holiday season when there's no graduation is a strong statement about how much the faculty care about this place, and about how much the academic excellence of the institution is at the forefront of what we do."

This sentiment was reflected in the responses of the students at the morning events, who were enthusiastic about the campaign as introduced during Convocation. "It's a way to realize that we're really moving up in the world of higher education, seeing people like the CEO of Time Warner here. It's very inspirational and powerful" explained Emiliano Salatino '03. "It makes you realize that you can really do a lot in the world."

One look at the numbers indicates that the "Haverford Touch" is indeed at the heart of the campaign. A quarter of the money raised will go into the fund for student scholarships which will ensure that Haverford continues to admit students on a totally need-blind basis, and continues to be able to offer them financial aid packages that will meet their full demonstrated need.

This aspect of the program is obviously beneficial for students, but it also has tremendous appeal with the faculty. "I think that faculty tend to think about the long run more than most other types of people," said Bruce Partridge, a professor of Astronomy at the College. "The strong focus on scholarships is very important to us. Haverford is on the edge of losing that, the ability to attract students from families of all incomes. I don't think we've lost it yet, but we're on the edge."

One campaign buzzword is "interdisciplinary." Recognizing that some of the most valuable research being done today lies at the fuzzy borders between the traditional disciplines, the leaders of the campaign have decided to set aside \$45 million for the construction of three state-of-the-art academic facilities: the Center for Integrated Natural Sciences (construction of which is already well underway), the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship, and the Center for Humanities. "There's far more of a melding of disciplines and more of a fostering of it here at Haverford," pointed out Chris Dunne, a member of the National Gifts Program Committee. "The borders are softening."

The festivities of this weekend may have been out of the ordinary, but to most in attendance they were in no way out of step with what Haverford is about. "It's a great recognition of what Haverford has always been," said Zubrow. "Haverford produced people who serve the world in many different ways. And yet many view a common ground. 'Haverford is pretty much the same,'" said Levin, peering out the white luncheon tent's vinyl windows. "It's like coming back to your roots."

## SUBMIT

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Be brave



Douglas Dunn dances at Haverford. For story see page 6.

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# N NEWS BRIEFS



Last Tuesday Bryn Mawr students discussed whether religious tolerance exists at Bryn Mawr.

## Religious life discussed at Bryn Mawr

Responding to discontent among many members of religious groups at Bryn Mawr, the Deans' Office and the Office for Institutional Diversity (OID) convened a dinner meeting in the Dorothy Vernon Room last Monday to discuss religious life at Bryn Mawr. Dean Judy Balthazar, the religious liaison to the administration, opened the meeting by saying that the Board of Trustees was curious about religious life on campus and was "concerned because some students felt that they were not getting the respect" that others and their campus groups seemed to receive.

The meeting was open to the entire community, but the attendees were mainly office holders in various religious groups on campus, including the Muslim Students Association, Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, the Hindu Students Association and Grace Covenant Church. In addition to Balthazar, Dean of the Undergraduate College Karen Tidmarsh and Cynthia Chalker, the assistant director of the Office for Institutional Diversity, attended the dinner.

BMC junior Nazia Ahmed, co-president of the Muslim Students Association, attended the Trustees meeting and said that "a lot of students" who represented at the meeting expressed "that students weren't getting enough guidance from the administration." There is also the problem of a lack of communication and community between the various religious groups.

Bryn Mawr's administration has no set policy on its involvement with religious life. The college does not pay the Catholic priest or the advisors for Hillel, a Jewish organization, who serve the bi-co community; these are sponsored by outside organizations.

Many students expressed sadness at

the fact that they often faced anti-religious sentiment in and out of the classroom and said that they were made to feel that a religious perspective had no place in academia. Many at the dinner felt that the tolerance and acceptance of learning with which Bryn Mawr and Haverford characterize themselves is not extended to people of faith. It was mentioned that during Customs Week when the freshmen are divided and discuss diversity, there is no mention of religion at all. Junior Erin Schwamb, a member of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship said, "Diversity [on campus] includes everything besides conservatism ... Christianity [is portrayed as] a big, bad thing." Another participant said, "[Religious] people tend to be thought of as people who do not think ... Faith is one of those things that isn't academic."

Although many felt that the bi-co was often hostile to openly religious people, few said that they had experienced direct attacks to their personal beliefs. However, Emma Haddad ('02), a member of Jewish Students' Union, pointed out that "the people who might have heard these negative things aren't in the room" and might be hesitant to discuss religion and its role in their lives, especially if they feel that their comments would be taken negatively. Others agreed, and one woman said, "I think that dialogue [about one's faith] is scary to people," making students who would otherwise be interested in participating in the Monday discussion unwilling.

Haddad asked the group if Christianity was criticized more than other religions represented on campus. It was

### Religious Life

*"I think that dialogue [about one's faith] is scary to people," said one attendee at a discussion of religious life at Bryn Mawr last week.*

pointed out that most of the community has had more exposure to Christianity than other faiths. Cynthia Chalker pointed out that members of certain religious groups on campus are mainly students of color and that "some people don't even get close enough to people to get to know them" or their culture.

The fact that there is no religious center on campus was also discussed at the meeting. Sophomore Emily Friedman said that just having "a permanent space, quiet place where everyone could have a space to worship at different times," would add legitimacy to the groups by acknowledging that religious life is a part of the lives of many students. Tidmarsh said that there was talk of turning the Pagoda Building into a place where the groups can gather, but that would not take place in the near future. Currently three groups, Muslim Students Association, Jewish Students' Union, and the Christian Fellowship each have a small room in Erdman Hall for their own use.

>> Lakshmi Gandhi

## Donations stolen from Op-Smile sparking questions of security, trust

On Nov. 27, it was discovered that an estimated \$300 had been stolen from the Haverford donations box of a bi-college non-profit group. After over a month of work, the group's leaders returned after Thanksgiving Break to find that nearly all of their earnings had been removed from the Haverford branch of their latest fundraising campaign. This effort of the group, Operation Smile, was known as the "Penny War," and relied on student and faculty donations in the dining centers of Bryn Mawr and Haverford campuses. The theft, along with others in recent months, has sparked questions of security, respect and trust, and a fervent discussion on the Haverford Comment Board.

The "Penny War" began in mid-October. During this project, volunteers sat behind a table of four empty fish-tanks, one marked for each class (freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior.) The object was to get as many pennies in one's own class tank as possible while avoiding other coins and bills. Pennies counted towards a class' total points, while larger denominations detracted from the point value of the class responsible for that particular tank. All of the profits were to go to Operation Smile, and the winning class would reap the benefits and bragging rights of being the victor. Operation Smile, the bi-co chapter, planned to send the money to the international Operation Smile or Op-Smile, an organization that sponsors reconstructive surgery in impoverished countries.

Each night after dinner in the Haverford Dining Center, Op-Smile volunteers stacked the tanks - containing all the money collected thus far - in the corner of the lobby near the coat-racks, covering them with poster-board to hide their contents. This continued without incident into mid-November. After following usual procedure on Nov. 21, the Tuesday evening prior to Thanksgiving Break, the Op-Smile fund-raiser paused for the break, said Op-Smile head Megan Burke. Burke, a Bryn Mawr junior, says she happened to be in the Haverford Dining Center for breakfast on the following Monday when she noticed that the tanks were in disarray and their contents all but gone.

Burke filed a report with Haverford Security on behalf of Op-Smile and posted a brief message on the Haverford Comment Board. No one has been identified as an involved party to Burke's knowledge. Nora Nelle, the acting director of Haverford's Safety and Security, was unavailable for comment at the time of writing. Presently, the Bryn Mawr "Penny War" finished on schedule on Nov. 30, its profits totaling \$310, according to Burke.

This latest theft has catalyzed a fury of heated exchanges on the Haverford Comment Board. It represents the latest in a stream of on-campus stealing which has caused the community to re-examine its values and the degree of trust and security at the college. The pervasiveness of the Honor Code, some say, is limited, and Op-Smile leaders ought to have taken more precautions. Others argue that this attitude runs counter to the spirit of the bi-college community. To them, attributing blame to irresponsible leaders seems a dangerously enabling gesture of submission. After all, they say, "This is Haverford," a comment which prompts a further consideration: this is the first year that Op-Smile expanded its Penny War fundraising to Haverford after several years without incident at Bryn Mawr. Burke is quick to dispel any tensions between the schools, saying, "It doesn't seem that theft was such a problem last year or the previous year at either school."

Ultimately, some say, placing the culpability with naive students presumes that stealing by students is inevitable. Still others are quick to recall that the theft could easily have been perpetrated by a non-student, especially considering that the tanks had been safe for over a month prior to the theft. At the same time, many other instances of theft have been reported, and the issue of possible student stealing remains. This has raised the question about whether the community is willing to concede that stealing is a harsh reality and that it would be asking too much of the Honor Code to expect otherwise. What is the community's position, and what does it really mean to say, "After all, this is Haverford?"

Although the identity of the person(s) responsible remains unknown, two things remain certain. First, the issues involved here will not end with this theft or any progress in its investigation. The debate of these questions is sure to occupy a large amount of space on the Haverford Comment Board and space in private conversations and personal thought. Additionally, Operation Smile states that it will not be deterred from its work. Already, the group is planning to raise funds through a "Coolest Dorm Room Contest" later this year. Says Burke, "For a group to take a hit like this is hard ... but for students to just come out and support us now would be great."

>> Elizabeth Sullivan

Briefs continued on next page

biconews.haverford.edu  
biconews.brynmawr.edu



### Scenes from the speak-in

On Friday Batten House at Bryn Mawr hosted a speak-in on criminal justice. Look for the article next week.

Briefs continued from last page

## Douglas Dunn dances at Haverford

The Haverford College Center for Humanities has made a welcomed debut with one of its Public Speaker and Performance Series' first major events. The Douglas Dunn and Performers dance troupe performed *The Common Good: dance made with advice from others* last Thursday in Haverford's Roberts Hall. There was also a Friday morning workshop in Woodside Cottage and a luncheon and seminar later in the Whitehead Campus Center.

Assistant Professor of English Rebekah Kowal, who helped to organize the event, was happy to share that the Thursday night performance drew an appreciative full house: "The choreography walked a fine line between what Dunn calls 'earnestness' and 'parody,' engaging the audience with both pathos and humor. The audience appeared to take the journey along the somewhat narrative structure, enjoying both the message and the visual beauty of the dancing."

The Center for Humanities is committed to improving intellectual and cultural life on campus; its mission statement expresses that it wishes to "reinvigorate faculty and student intellectual life on the Haverford campus while at the same time fostering a deeper relationship between classic humanistic inquiry and contemporary intellectual, artistic and

ethical currents in the wider public world."

It is run by Director David Dawson, Professor of Religion, as well as an Advisory Board of six faculty members: Israel Burshatin, the Wm. R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature; Anne McGuire, Associate Professor of Religion; Deborah Roberts, Barbara Riley Levin Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature; Linda Schlossberg, Assistant Professor of English; Lisa Jane Graham, Assistant Professor of History and Rebekah Kowal.

The dance events were brought to Haverford under the Center's Public Speaker and Performance Series, whose purpose is to bring established "self-conscious and reflective" performers to campus.

The Center for Humanities will also hold annual Faculty Seminars, in which professors will lead discussions concerning the enhancement of intellectual fertility on campus, as well as the Summer Institute for Curricular Development, a program in which professors will be paid a stipend for their time spent further developing class curriculums and pedagogical techniques.

There is also the New Co-Curricular Opportunities for Students and Faculty initiative, which might sponsor a Student Humanities Seminar – here, a space where seniors may share their theses. Another initiative is Conversations in the Humanities, which will bring informal, enjoyable student-faculty discussions and presentations. Small performances, such as poetry-sharing, are be-

ing explored, as well.

Now, judging from the positive response to one of the Center's first major events, it seems that it can play a key role in enhancing intellectual and cultural life at Haverford. But at the moment, its main focus is to find a space of its own at Haverford – preferably something bigger than David Dawson's office.

>>Nicole Foulke

## Recent Haverford alumna shares experiences as egg donor

Eleanor Race, a recent Haverford alumna, returned to Haverford last Monday, Nov. 27, to speak to the community about her positive experience as an egg donor, and to share her feelings about the issues she faced during the process of egg donation.

A few months ago, Race, Class of 1999, donated eggs to an infertile couple, but she had not responded to an advertisement, nor had she volunteered with the intention of making money. Instead, the intended father was the son of Race's family friends. "It was the best experience of my life," says Race, although emphasizing that every donor experience is unique. Ironically, when Race attended Haverford, she was turned off by the ideas of egg donation and egg purchasing.

According to Race, her mother had mentioned one night that Jack and Alice (the pseudonyms that Race used) were having trouble getting pregnant, and that they were looking into egg donation as a means to produce a child. At that moment Race realized, "I could do that. I could give them a family."

Although the talk was structured chronologically, the issues Race faced were interwoven throughout. After expressing her interest in being a donor, Race had to decide if she truly would, and could, be one. She considered whether her decision would be right not only herself, but also for her family and the recipients' families, since both families share a friendship. She faced many difficult questions: "How was I going to feel towards these children? What is mother?" But she finally decided to donate her eggs, since, according to Race, "Any emotional or physical pain I might experience was nothing compared to what the couple would gain."

Once the decision was made to proceed, Race had to undergo various physical, genetic and psychological tests. She faced even harder questions: "What would happen if you couldn't have kids down the road? What would happen if you saw the kids later and fell in love with them? What if you can't stand the choices Jack and Alice make?" But, said Race, "I trust them and respect what is

right for them." In fact, she found it refreshing that Jack and Alice had only spoken to her over the telephone, and had never seen a photograph of Race. When she voluntarily sent one, the couple displayed it with the rest of their family photos.

Once the tests were completed, both Race and Alice began hormonal therapy. Drugs were administered to synchronize their cycles and to increase Race's egg production. She began to have weekly ultrasounds to monitor the progress due to the high risks involved. For example, hyper-stimulation of the ovary can cause it to rupture. An ovary can twist. And a potential allergy to Lupron, one of the drugs, is always an issue. In addition, doctors are still not entirely sure of the long-term risks.

Other preparations were being made for the egg donation. Jack, Alice and Race began to develop a relationship. They talked regularly on the phone and got to know one another. Legal issues were also examined. There was the issue of Race's relationship to the children, and the matter of monetary compensation. Jack and Alice hired a lawyer for Race, and the two parties met to plan their course of action. They decided that Race would act as an aunt to the children, and that the couple would be open with the children about the egg donation. In addition, although Race did not want any money, the couple insisted. It was agreed that a college fund would be established for the children, and that Race would be provided with an airline ticket to visit once the children were born. They also covered her medical expenses.

A week before the exchange took place, Race flew out to stay with Alice and Jack. This was the first time they had met in person. The donation took longer than expected, but it allowed the three to talk and continue to forge a relationship. After the donation, Race experienced some uncomfortable side effects, but nothing out of the ordinary. Alice and Jack are expecting. Race is extremely excited for the family. She does not feel that these babies will be her children, but instead those of Jack and Alice. Race wanted to let people know that this could be a positive experience, and it seems to have been for her.

Coincidentally, nearly one month ago an advertisement requesting female egg donors appeared in the *Bi-Co*. This request sparked much discussion surrounding not only the general risks and benefits of egg donation, but also the ethical issue of purchasing eggs and advertising preferable traits of the donor. At the end of the talk, one audience member asked Race how she felt about the issue of placing egg donor advertisements in the *Bi-Co*. Race responded that, although she believes the *Bi-Co*, and other newspapers, have the right to run the ad, she strongly disagrees with listing preferable traits of the donor in the advertisement, and, in general, opposes putting a price on donated eggs.

>> Jessica Bluebond-Langner

**THE *Bi-Co* IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2001 STAFF AND EDITORIAL POSITIONS.**

*See page 9 for more information.*

# With black-tie gala, Haverford kicks off \$200 million capital campaign



On Friday in a Philadelphia hotel Haverford kicked off a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$200 million for the college by the 2005.

**Sam Hartman**  
Staff writer

The gala for initiating Haverford's public fundraising campaign, the evening in Westin Hotel started at 7 p.m. with cocktails. I arrived fashionably late, with the radiant Molly Kleinman (BMC '01) as my interviewing assistant. It would be up to her to keep the conversation going when my blood alcohol level made it hard for me to keep up with the crowd.

We begun by talking to the most recognizable face in the crowd, author and nationally syndicated humor columnist Dave Barry. After making fun of each other's haircuts, we picked up a friendly conversation. He insisted on being referred to as the Chiseled 6'1" Dave Barry, but apparently the column he writes adds a few inches.

Mr. Barry, Haverford Class of '69, is a very funny man. We talked with him and his Haverford roommate, Rob Stavis '69. "Hi Danny!" say Mommy and Daddy Stavis, waving vicariously to their son, Daniel Stavis, HC '02.

When asked if he was working on anything special of late, Mr. Barry responded with the casual ease of a movie star, "Yes, I am working on a few projects," then refused to tell us what his projects were. I assumed he was getting set to paint the house. He then told us of the two-person submarine he had kept in his dorm room, decorated red-and-blue like Spiderman, made of cardboard and complete with an illegally obtained traffic signal on top for effect. Apparently, in the late '60s, "chicks dug it."

Barry said that if he hadn't gone to Haverford, he "would've gone to some other college." But "seriously," he added, the students "in danger of graduating" should consider trying a new major and starting again as a freshman. He proceeded to describe his motto: "Stay in school, don't graduate."

We then wandered across the room to Sam Angell '82, and discussed his position on the Pennsylvania Capital Representation Project. He helps defend Pennsylvanians appealing death sentences, and in essence often functions as the last chance for those who can-

not afford private representation. He feels good about what he does, but he confides that he wishes Pennsylvania would repeal the death penalty and put him out of a job.

On the lighter side, Angell shared a story about Class Night during his freshman year. Playing a vassal in a routine entitled "King Kock," he fashioned a three-foot phallus, and gleefully sprayed the audience with a water hose to the tune of Steve Martin's "King Tut."

Congratulations on becoming a reputable member of society again, Mr. Angell.

The most romantic story of the evening was told to me and my evening companion by Mr. Dixon Werner, husband of Haverford history professor and head of the library's Quaker Collection, Emma Lapsanski. Apparently, they met at a Quaker meeting, when the professor was looking for a place to live and Mr. Werner was a real estate agent. She asked him to show her the house, in which they would live together years later.



Dancing the night away at the fundraising gala.

Once cocktail hour ended, we sat down to a \$400 per plate meal and took in the festivities. Dave Barry was emcee. There was a video presentation, and excellent talks by Haverford President Tom Tritton and prestigious alums John Whitehead '43 and Gerald Levin '60. Whitehead is a former co-chair and senior partner of Goldman, Sachs & Co., and is the current chair of the Goldman Sachs Foundation and AEA Investors, Inc. He was a deputy secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan. Levin is chair and CEO of Time Warner.

The presenter of the most moving speech was 1983 graduate Howard Lutnick, the president of Cantor-Fitzgerald. Mr. Lutnick's presentation began with a story of how, sometime during his high school years, he had broken a tennis racket and grabbed a piece of paper from the trash to write a reminder to himself to have the racket restrung, and how his father spotted the note, written on a Haverford brochure, and told his son of the college's academic reputation.

When Lutnick arrived at the College as a freshman, his mother had passed away two years earlier, and after having been on campus for only a week, his father unexpectedly died of chemotherapy complications.

To Haverford's credit, the president of the college called him at his home and told Lutnick not to worry about returning to Haverford, but should he return, his education would be paid for.

Today, Mr. Howard Lutnick donated \$10 million to the College, and revealed plans

to donate \$10 million more in the near future.

To much celebration, plans were unveiled to raise \$200 million for Haverford by 2005. While ambitious, the goal seems quite attainable, as \$80 million already have been raised in the private phase of the now-public campaign. The motto of this Haverford campaign is simply, "Educating to lead, educating to serve."

## CLASSIFIEDS

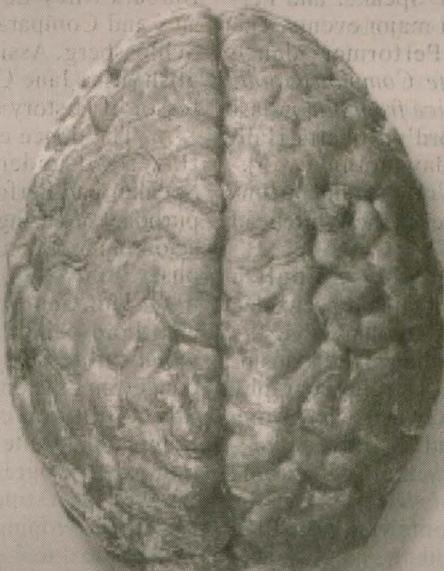
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# CRIME BLOTTER

## BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

### MONDAY, NOV. 20

9:26 a.m.  
A resident of Brecon Hall reported the odor of natural gas in the basement laundry room. Officers and Facilities Services responded but found no odor present.

3:19 p.m.  
Officers transported a resident student to Bryn Mawr Hospital for treatment of a severely cut finger, received while working at Haffner dining hall.

8:32 p.m.  
Officers received reports of "black ice" on the path to Taylor Hall. The path and an area around Canaday Library were salted, and Facilities Services was alerted to other icy areas on campus.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 21

12:40 a.m.  
Officers and Facilities Services staff responded to the front of Wyndham on a report that an outside contractor had damaged an underground natural gas line. PECO responded. No evacuation was necessary, and there was no gas leak. The line was repaired by 3 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

2:25 p.m.  
Officers responded to Erdman Hall and investigated a theft of numerous items of clothing from a resident's room, which occurred sometime between Monday and Tuesday afternoon.

### SATURDAY, NOV. 25

9:38 a.m.  
An ill resident of Rockefeller Hall was taken to Bryn Mawr Hospital.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 26

No time given  
Officers removed a bat from the vicinity of Erdman Dining Hall.

## HAVERFORD COLLEGE

### FRIDAY, NOV. 17

4:09 p.m.  
A student reported an attempted armed robbery, which occurred with a handgun, in a campus residence, which had occurred on Nov. 13 at approximately 10 p.m. A safety alert was issued.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

1:13 a.m.  
Four females, believed to be students, were observed attempting to remove the HCA gate arm. Although unable to remove it, the arm was damaged to

such an extent that it had to be removed by Security.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:28 p.m.  
A student reported the theft of credit cards from an unlocked room between 10:45 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. Police were notified.

7:33 p.m.  
A student reported her credit card stolen from the wallet in her backpack in the lobby area between 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 11 and 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 20.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

8:54 a.m.  
Seven parking signs and one street sign were reported missing from campus roadways.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

12:58 a.m.  
During routine patrol, a security officer found that someone had thrown a half cinder block through the southeast window of the east wing. The window was shattered. Police responded.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

12:08 a.m.  
A report was received that a male, wearing a grey sweatshirt with the hood up, was observed coming out of an unoccupied, unlocked suite in Gummere and that cash was missing. Investigation revealed that a short time prior to that reported incident, a student was in his room with the door open and the suspect poked his head

in the room, seemed startled, and then asked, "Where's Frank, have you seen him?" The student did not know anyone by that name and the suspect quickly departed the room. The suspect is a black male, 17 to 20 years of age, medium to dark complexion, short black hair, medium build and height with no facial hair or outstanding features. A safety alert was issued.

9:58 a.m.  
Three middle crossbeams were taken from the wooden fence around the Duck Pond.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

2:24 p.m.  
A student last saw his wallet on Nov. 20 in Sharpless. The wallet was never returned, and now is reported as stolen.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2000

12:21 a.m.  
A student left his room unlocked at 12:05 a.m. and upon his return 15 minutes later, he observed an unfamiliar male leaving his room with an item. The suspect left the building, and the student discovered cash missing from his desk drawer. An immediate search of the area and building were conducted with negative results. Police responded to the scene. The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 6 feet tall, short black hair, medium build, late teens or early 20s, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans, with no coat.



# News From Around the World

-Compiled by Ben JC Allen

## BARAK CALLS FOR NEW ELECTIONS

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, finding himself short of allies and unable to form a coalition in the Israeli Parliament, called for new elections last Wednesday. The decision came after a series of failed negotiations with opposition leader Ariel Sharon and other party leaders. But with few supporters in Parliament and low public support, Barak decided to call new elections himself rather than be forced into them by a vote of no confidence. The elections will probably take place mid-spring or later.

Barak was elected Prime Minister a year and a half ago in a landslide victory over then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. But Barak has been blamed for the recent violence and breakdown of the peace process over the past two months.

Experts say Barak's only chance of winning the elections will be to end the violence of the last two months and achieve a peace agreement with the Palestinians. To that end, Barak announced on Friday a scaled-back peace proposal, which he hopes will be more politically feasible than the far-reaching plan that was on the table at Camp David. The plan calls for recognition of an independent Palestinian state and the transfer of an extra 10 percent of the West Bank to Palestinian control, giving the Palestinians total control over 30 percent of the West Bank and shared control over another 10 percent. The agreement would postpone discussion of the crucial issue of Jerusalem for, in Barak's words,

"a year or two or three" (*Washington Post* 12/1/00). However, Palestinian officials have not reacted favorably to Barak's proposal. Saeb Erekat, a top Palestinian negotiator, said, "The issues he spoke about ... were supposed to be implemented last November. Once there is an agreement, there must be a comprehensive one. There is nothing new in what he said" (*Washington Post* 12/1/00).

## VICENTE FOX SWORN IN AS MEXICO'S PRESIDENT

Vicente Fox took the oath of office on Friday to become the first Mexican president not from the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, in 71 years. In his inaugural speech, Fox promised to uphold the constitution "for the poor and marginalized people of this country," and to "demolish all vestiges of authoritarianism" (*Associated Press* 12/1/00). His remark was in reference to the fact that the PRI, in its long rule, has been heavily tainted with charges of corruption and use of force. As the first president not from the PRI, the expectations are high for Fox not only to fulfill his campaign promises of expanding education and reaching out to the poor, but also to revitalize Mexico's cynical political climate. He will have to achieve these goals by working with a heavily divided Congress.

Fox's first act of government was to send to the Mexican Congress an Indian rights bill drafted in peace talks with the Zapatista rebels, a group fighting for In-

dian rights in Chiapas. His predecessor, Ernesto Zedillo, had rejected the bill.

## FUJIMORI REMOVED FROM OFFICE

Alberto Fujimori was unable to resign from the Peruvian presidency on Tuesday, Nov. 21, because the Peruvian Congress refused to accept his resignation. Instead, Congress removed him from office on the grounds that he was "morally unfit" to run the nation. Both of Peru's vice presidents also resigned, leaving president of Congress and Fujimori foe Valentin Paniagua as interim president. Paniagua, who is from the opposition Popular Action party, is regarded as a moderate. The removal of Fujimori on moral grounds was a final jab at a president whose 10 years in office were marked by economic stability but political repression. Fujimori is currently in Japan, where he has been since Nov. 17.

Fujimori's decision to resign took almost everyone by surprise. He says he made the decision on the spur of the moment while he was in Japan. In a speech made from Tokyo, he said, "I am very sorry about the confusion, uncertainty, and feeling of indignation among the Peruvian people. I have reasons that I cannot explain right now ... They are reasons that may be difficult for the public to understand" (*Washington Post* 11/22/00).

SOURCES: *Associated Press*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**To all Bi-Co staff members past present and future:**

With only one edition of the paper left to publish, it is time to start the process of selecting the editorial board and general staff of the paper for the spring semester. On this page you will find a list of open positions and I invite you to apply for any and all that you may be interested in filling. No experience is necessary to apply, so for those of you have planned to do something for the paper in the past but never got around to it, you are free to apply for any of the positions you think you could best fill.

All applications will be due by Friday, Dec. 8, but please get them in as soon as you can.

Joseph Badtke-Berkow  
Editor in Chief  
Bi-Co

**To apply for a position(s) please send an email to Joe Badtke-Berkow at [jbadtkeb@haverford.edu](mailto:jbadtkeb@haverford.edu) which includes the following information:**

1. the position(s) you are applying for
2. your major and year
3. any german previous experience
4. other commitments and interests
5. a paragraph detailing your goals for the positions and/or section and anything else you think we should know

## **POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT THE BI-CO FOR THE SPRING 2001 SEMESTER**

**Staff Writers:**

- Be available to write weekly or bi-weekly for section of your choice, on subjects assigned/approved by section editors and their assistants

**Photographers:**

- Take photos as needed; photos assigned by Photography Editor
- Arrange development of film with Photography Editor

**Layout Assistants:**

- Help lay out the paper each weekend
- No experience necessary; training available in PageMaker 6.5 and PhotoShop 5.5

**Staff Artist:**

- Creates illustrations, either hand-drawn or computer-generated, as needed
- Opportunities also exist to work on stand-alone cartoons (editorial, arts, etc.)

**Managing Editor:**

(at least one, if not one for each college)

- Second in command; aids Editor in Chief in coordinating sections
- Contributes to/approves staff editorials
- Helps Editor in Chief read and proof paper each week
- If needed, helps with layout on Saturday or on Sunday morning
- Ensures distribution of paper to both campuses
- Writes and contributes to articles if necessary
- Maintains close ties with writers and informs them of any major edits that have been done to articles during production
- Organizes efforts to recruit writers

**News Editor:**

(at least one for each college)

- Manages writers to put together a section of weekly news. Standard section includes briefs and full articles, Short Takes, Crime Blotter, News from around the World, etc. Covers both campuses equally. Manages approximately 6-10 pages per week.
- Assigns articles in close conjunction with News-Features

section

- Edits, proofreads and checks on layout of section on Sunday

**News-Features Editor:**

(at least one for each college)

- Manages a staff of writers who write in-depth or long-term stories such as investigations and profiles, as well as academic pieces and any other general interest material deemed appropriate. Covering both campuses, manages approximately 2-6 pages per week.
- Expected to write regularly
- Assigns articles in close conjunction with News section
- Finds and edits academic pieces for publication
- Edits, proofreads and checks on layout of section on Saturday

**Arts Editor:**

- Manages writers to put together a weekly section consisting of art, culture and product reviews along with any general interest articles deemed relevant
- Assigns, edits, proofreads and checks on layout of the section every week.
- Expected to write regularly

**Sports Editor:**

(at least one for each college)

- Manages staff of writers and columnists to put together a section of weekly sports news which should include both game coverage and in-depth sports features and perspectives articles.
- Expected to write regularly
- Edits, proofreads and checks on layout of section on Saturday

**Perspectives Editor:**

- Manages a staff of columnists who write opinion pieces on topics pertinent both inside and outside campus; includes guest columnists. Manages approximately 3-6 pages per week
- Regular writing preferred but not required
- Edits, proofreads and ensures layout of section on Saturday

**"The Last Word" editor:**

- Puts together something new and interesting each

week for the back page of the paper with a graphical or pictorial element of some sort. This can include things such as comics and community perspectives spreads but is certainly not limited to them. Any new and creative ideas are welcome.

- Edits and lays out section each week on Saturday.

**Asst. Section Editors:**

- Assist editors, occasionally having own assigned projects (for example, in News doing News from around the World) and helping to organize story ideas
- Write regularly
- Contribute article ideas
- Assist in layout and writer relations

**Copy Editor:**

- Proofreads articles during the week, or proofs final copy on Sunday night
- Firm grammatical and stylistic background required; additional training provided
- Use *Bi-Co* Styleguide and AP Styleguide for reference

**Layout Editor:**

- Coordinates layout of all sections of the paper
- Ensures proper training of layout staff
- Lays out sections on Sundays using PageMaker 6.5 and PhotoShop 5.5
- If needed, makes adjustments to newspaper's overall design

**Photography Editor:**

(at least one, if not one for each college)

- Works with section editors to determine photos for each week
- Gathers other photographers to help take photos each week
- Helps to select proper photographic equipment, purchases film
- Should have all photos available to production staff by the early afternoon on Saturday; exceptions may be made for late breaking news but not otherwise

**Assistant Business Manager:**

- Assists Business Managers
- No experience required; training provided

# Mawrters gather to discuss problems with SGA

Christine McCluskey  
News-Features Editor

"MEET US ON MERION GREEN, 10 P.M., TONIGHT, WITH YOUR LANTERNS LIT," wrote Samantha Foster '01 and Sarah Parker '02 in last Wednesday's *college news* editorial, asking Mawrters to voice their concerns about Bryn Mawr's Self-Government Association (SGA) at an impromptu demonstration Wednesday night. About 40 Mawrters gathered at 10 p.m. on a wet and cold Merion Green. A few had lanterns lit and carried protest signs ("Your Silence Will Not Protect You—Demand Self-Governance"), numerous others were members of SGA there to listen and respond to what would be said, and some students came without lanterns, signs, or an SGA position, but who had concerns nonetheless.

As SGA President Meera Ratnesar '01 put it in a *college news* piece last week, there has been "grumbling" over the Fall 2000 budgeting since the it was approved in October, as

many groups were dissatisfied with the funds they received from SGA's Student Finance Committee (SFC), feeling that SFC had not adequately considered their needs. These "grumbings" transformed from small discussions to a more permanent and noticeable form, on the frontpage of the *news*, the Bryn Mawr-only newsjournal, when an anonymous member of SGA (who is not on the *news* staff) submitted an unsolicited piece detailing the flaws she perceives in the way SGA and SFC make decisions and communicate with the rest of the Bryn Mawr student body. This piece led Foster and Parker, the editors of the *College News*, to sponsor the forum.

Foster and Parker also drew up a petition, printed in the editorial and circulated at the forum, asking for the following: first, that SFC would publicly post their reasons for every budget cut they make; second, that the constitution be amended to allow all students, not just voting SGA members, to vote on the budget; third, that SGA provide a comment board (similar to

the one at Haverford); fourth, that SGA meetings be moved to the Campus Center Main Lounge to create a more open and welcoming feeling; and fifth, that no comments during SGA meetings be stricken off the record.

Because of the weather, the group moved inside to the Campus Center Main Lounge before anything was said about SGA, which also allowed for more of a discussion than a demonstration. For the next two hours, Mawrters voiced their opinions and concerns about how SGA operates now and how it could do better. Ratnesar was noticeably silent until the very end of the forum, after midnight, having asked the *news* moderators to be last on the speaking order, and she refrained almost entirely from responding to criticism during the actual discussion.

## Budgeting

One of the first topics brought up was the lack of funds for clubs, especially community service organizations, this semester. Foster said she thought it was wrong for SGA to take the \$10,000 donation from an anonymous donor who asked that it be used to bring a big concert to campus without informing the donor of the shortage of funds for community service organizations such as LANCHA, an organization aimed at urban tutoring, and thus asking her to reallocate the money to those organizations. Sarah Brannan '01, the Honor Board head, objected to Foster's argument, saying the donation was a gift and it would be impolite to request a change in how it would be spent.

Most of the people who addressed the first two items of the petition were not in favor of them. Jane Yoo '01, last year's SGA treasurer, said she strongly disagreed with posting the budgets in a public place because budgeting is a private matter between each club and its SFC representative. Minakshi Ramji '02, who currently sits on SFC, and Amy Peltz '02 also had problems with posting the budgets and with having all students vote on the budget. Peltz said that clubs with more members would be unfairly favored in the voting.

## SGA meetings: behind closed doors

Another issue that many expressed concerns over was the "closed" atmosphere of the SGA meetings, caused by the location of the meetings and the format of discussion followed during them.

SGA meets every Sunday night in Room 105 of the Campus Center, a small room for the 40 or so people who regularly attend, and anyone coming in late or leaving early has to open and shut the doors to the room. The petition asked for the meetings to be moved to the expansive Main Lounge in order that students who ordinarily would feel uncomfortable dropping in on a meeting could stop by what would be a more public forum. Several people at the Wednesday discussion supported this, and others suggested finding an alternative meeting place that is as public but does not have the poor acoustics of the Lounge. Brannan said that Ratnesar has moved the SGA meetings to different dorms this semester—once in Rhoads, once in Erdman—to create a more inclusive atmosphere, and that perhaps the reason people decline to come to the SGA meetings is not that they are physically inaccessible but that they are uninteresting. "People don't come because there's no controversy," she said.

Another student at the forum, senior and Honor Council member Brianne Brown, agreed that the location was not important: "The reason people don't come to SGA is because they're lazy, they don't care, not because the door is shut," she said.

Bernadette Walker '03, the liaison between SGA and Haverford, said that no matter

what, people simply will not attend SGA meetings. It is the responsibility of the elected officials in SGA to represent their constituents at the meetings and report back to them as to what happens there, she said.

In general, many of those present favored making SGA meetings more like the forum—located in an open place and unhindered by Roberts' Rules, which dictate a somewhat strict parliamentary structure. Foster described the Rules' effect as "people stumbling over themselves every five minutes trying to make a simple point," and senior Abby Youngblood said that because of the time limits placed on discussion, she has had trouble getting on the speaking order of the SGA meetings. Sophomore Emily Friedman, the faculty representative to SGA, said that Roberts' Rules don't work at the meetings only because most SGA members don't know how to properly use them, even after the training they receive in the beginning of the year. At the end of the forum, Ratnesar said it "exhausts" her to stick to Roberts' Rules in every meeting, but that they were needed to keep things comprehensible for the secretary recording the minutes.

## Comment board

There has been an SGA comment board in the foyer of the Campus Center for months, but even some members of SGA did not know it was there until students discussed it at the forum. However, it was not created in quite the same spirit as the Haverford comment board, where community members can post comments on any subject, and which is closer to the model suggested by the *college news* petition. There was a split of opinion by those present at the forum over whether a comment board was necessary or even allowable under the current version of Bryn Mawr's Honor Code. Some said that a comment board could be a place to start campus-wide discussions that could not happen otherwise, while others said that people say things in print they would not say otherwise and thus discussion affecting the entire Bryn Mawr community should be limited to actual meetings.

## Communication

The discussion seemed to represent a fundamental disagreement over the extent of communication necessary between the elected officials in SGA and their constituents, and how that communication can occur. Should it be the duty of dorm representatives to email the people in their dorm every week to give them their take on what happened in the SGA meeting, or should dorm reps just keep posting the meeting minutes in the bathrooms? Should SFC be responsible for researching whether or not the Community Service Office actually has the money to transport all the community service groups for the entire semester and then sharing that information with the groups that need funding, or should that remain the job of the groups themselves? Should students post a comment on the SGA board in the Campus Center and expect it to be seriously weighed by the Assembly, or is it the responsibility of that student to attend the SGA meeting on Sunday night and get on the speaking order to voice her opinion?

The conversation at the forum answered none of these questions conclusively, but there was a feeling that the discussion would continue. Nora Landon '01 said the discontent that students are feeling towards SGA is all part of the pendulum of public opinion, but that things could change if people took action on what they felt needed changing. "This will happen again, I guarantee it, in five years. We owe it to ourselves not to let that happen," she said.

>> With reporting by Rachel Nielsen and Lisa Farwell

## Miscommunication is seen at heart of budgeting problems

Christine McCluskey  
News-Features Editor

The issue of budgeting may have been the most hotly debated one at the forum on SGA last week. Two of the five items on the *college news* petition had to do with budgeting and the Student Finance Committee or SFC (first, that budget cuts be posted in a public place before grievances, and second, that all students vote on the budget). Both were ideas with many opponents among students at the forum and SGA members. Everyone does seem to agree that budgeting did not go as smoothly as it could have this semester, though the responsibility for and solutions to the problems are not as clear-cut.

While all of the clubs that asked for funds from SGA got less than they asked for, and many got less than they expected, the largest mix-up happened in regards to the community service organizations that requested money for transportation. The activities of some of these organizations -- such as LANCHA, DARLING, and Chinatown Tutoring -- are based solely on transporting Bryn Mawr tutors to Philadelphia or Philly students to Bryn Mawr, or doing other service activities in the city; without funding for transportation, they cannot carry out their missions. SFC told the community service groups that requested transportation funds to talk with the Community Service Office (CSO) about getting money from there instead of from SFC, not realizing that the CSO does not have anywhere near the amount of money necessary in its budget to pay for transportation for all these groups. The CSO's transportation budget for this entire academic year is \$5700; SFC directed clubs to seek a total of \$10,000 from the CSO for transportation just for the fall 2000 semester. The problem since has been solved by a yearlong grant, secured by the CSO, of \$20,000 (\$10,000 for each semester this academic year) from the College to be used exclusively for student community service activities transportation. In addition, Britt Crowley '01 now represents the CSO during the budgeting process to help SFC decide how to spend the \$10,000 in transportation money.

Janara Naurizbaeva '02, the treasurer of SGA, said that SFC did not research what funds the CSO had at its disposal, and as a result "we [SFC] really didn't have an insight into community service." She said she was wrong to make decisions during the primary budgeting process based on the assumption that the CSO had more money than it did. However, Naurizbaeva believes the clubs

should have talked to the CSO between the time they got their returned budgets and Grievances, thereby catching SFC's mistake by finding out for themselves that the CSO did not have the money; the clubs then could have brought that to SFC's attention at Grievances and the funding for transportation could have been planned better, according to Naurizbaeva. She said none of the groups affected by the transportation budget cut came to Grievances.

Sabrina Balmgawalla '03, one of the heads of DARLING, a community service group that travels into Philadelphia to make crafts and art projects with children, said that the SFC's budgeting "really hurt us." She said she does not see how the SFC could not have understood how important transportation was to DARLING, because transportation was the first priority on the budget they submitted. "As a whole, the [Bryn Mawr] community would benefit from a more detailed budgeting process," said Balmgawalla, suggesting that the application form for SGA funds be revised to allow for designating important priorities more clearly.

Balmgawalla said she supports the idea of having all students vote on the budgets, because she thinks most Bryn Mawr students have a better appreciation for community service activities than the people on SFC.

Jenn Nichols, head of the Community Service Office, thinks it was SFC's responsibility to find out about the CSO's tight budget, though the service organizations could have done a better job of representing their needs in their budgets. She expressed her dismay and her disappointment with what happened in the fall budgeting process, saying that it truly was "a crisis."

Nichols talked with Naurizbaeva after budgeting, who proposed that SGA could provide \$2000 from its emergency funds and that the service groups could use less transportation. Nichols said this arrangement would not have been satisfactory, as it would greatly diminish the effectiveness of the programs. So Nichols arranged a meeting with Dean Karen Tidmarsh and Treasurer of the College Jerry Berenson, where she worked out the \$20,000 grant.

Nichols emphasized that she was not anti-SGA, but that she wished SGA and SFC had taken the time to talk with her more and work with her to think of more workable solutions. "I respect the work that they do; they're doing hard work in a difficult situation," she said. But, said Nichols, "there needs to be much better communication."

>> With reporting by Rachel Nielsen and Rekha Matchanickal



## Riding the Mean Streets of Philly

Joel Warner  
Staff

Unlike most Center City residents, Jesse Geller does not don the usual business attire when he gets ready for work. Instead, after carefully shaving his legs, he pulls on a pair of spandex tights, shorts, multiple pairs of wool socks, and specially designed cleats. He also puts on a neon-green jersey, a Gore-Tex jacket, wind-resistant gloves, a shoulder bag, a two-way radio, and a pager. Finally he straps on his helmet. Instead of spending his day toiling away in an office cubicle, Jesse will spend the next eight hours braving harsh weather, angry drivers, and city smog as he jets across town, transporting everything from fruit baskets to body parts for those who do not have the patience for "normal" modes of delivery. Jesse is a bike messenger.

Sitting in the middle of Rittenhouse Square, one of the social centers for the city couriers, Jesse looks similar to any other clean-shaven, attractive guy his age. That is, save for the metal hoops in both of his ears, the bright blue racing cap covering his crop of blond hair, and his gray and yellow sneakers, which seem to be color coordinated with the expensive looking road bike leaning on the bench next to him. This tall, boyish 20-year-old has spent almost four years riding his bike for a living. While he has tried the normal career path, selling long distance for AT&T, he quickly found it was not for him. So he bought himself a bike, applied to a few courier companies around town, and has been riding ever since. This Roxborough native had not been an avid cyclist before he started the job, but now, as a messenger for Time Cycle Couriers, one of the top companies in the city, Jesse is pretty much hooked. "I am addicted to it," he says, "because I can wake up every morning and say, I don't know where I am going to end up today."

The selling point of the bike courier system is simple: speed. Successful businesses, city courts, and hospitals all depend on the 200-odd messengers in Philadelphia because they are the fastest people on the road. And while the bike courier scene in Philadelphia might have been declining over the past few years, Jesse does not see the end of the business any time soon. The 10 companies that are left in the city, he believes, will continue to succeed. As Jesse explains, "There will always be crap that no one wants to do that we end up doing."

It is Sunday, and Rittenhouse Park is almost empty, devoid of the usual weekday messenger activity. Even as he leans back against the park bench in a relaxed slouch, Jesse is noticeably affected by the chill November weather. His red windbreaker and brown pants, rolled high enough up his legs that the tattoos and scars around his ankles are in full view, do little to shield him from the cold. The coming winter, however, also means increased profits. "Believe it or not," he says, "in the winter it is very, very busy. Because it's always crappy weather, people from the mailrooms don't want to do the deliveries, so we always make the money." Depending on the weather, the amount of jobs, the distance he has to travel, and his speed, Jesse figures he completes on average about 25 jobs a day, and, by earning a commission for every delivery he makes, can make anywhere between 60 and 120 dollars in eight hours.

While the usual deliveries are small envelopes, Jesse has had to deal with a few unusual assignments. He has carried eyeballs and had gigantic boxes strapped onto his bike, but probably the strangest item he has been put in his care was a test tube of HIV-positive blood. "That was pretty scary, I didn't want to

crash on that," he remarks with a mix of nonchalance and bravado.

There is a reason that, among the sponsor logos that adorn the Time Cycle Couriers company jersey, there are a fair number of chiropractors. Bike messengering is not the safest of jobs. One of the most obvious dangers is that many drivers are not always too willing to share the road with Jesse and his co-workers. "A lot of motorists are cycle-friendly — they will help you out and will be aware," he says, but he also believes that, in many cases, "People don't know how to drive that well. Cyclists are, in my opinion, much more traffic-oriented than the driver."

Sometimes the biggest danger is the recklessness of the messenger himself. Jesse demonstrates the sometimes treacherous ambition of the couriers when he coolly explains, "We are not allowed to ride on the sidewalks and we're supposed to stop at red lights and pretty much obey all traffic laws, but you can't really. With this job you have to get places. I mean, you shouldn't blow every red light, because you can get killed this way, but if there are no cars coming, there is no reason why you should stop."

Jesse considers himself lucky, declaring that he has never been in a bad crash. He goes on, however, to admit that he has experienced a few "minor" accidents. Once, he relates, he was "doored," meaning that a driver opened his door right into his bike, flipping him over the door. Another time he was hurt on his way home from work. "The guy just hit me and kept going," he says, "and my bike got totaled, just bent in half, and I couldn't walk for two weeks." Just recently he sliced his leg open on his bicycle. And then there were the times he was "merely" knocked off his bike by passing cars. One of the main reasons he shaves his legs is to keep dirt and grime from sticking to him and infecting his cuts. Considering his track record, Jesse's original claim might seem to be a bit of an understatement. Maybe such indifference comes with the territory. Or, worse, compared to recent hit-and-run killings and other gruesome fates of some bike messengers, maybe Jesse's crashes really are minor.

Considering the risks involved in such an occupation, what does it take to be a good messenger? Whatever it might be, according to Jesse, many newcomers don't have it. "It's mostly kids that come out in the summer," says Jesse, "But they don't really want to do it; they do it to be cool. When winter comes around they get scared because it is freezing." As he rubs his bare hands to keep away the cold, he adds, "Now that it is getting colder, I don't see them anywhere."

Jesse seems to have the right stuff. Says Devon Dressing, the Office Manager at Time Cycle Couriers, "Jesse has a naturally great attitude towards biking. He's younger than most of the couriers here, but does his job better than that ones that have been here for many years."

Sonja Trauss, who was a messenger for two years, feels that there are certain qualities, both good and bad, that make a successful messenger. "You have to love to ride, and be able to be by yourself for a long, long time. You have to be fast, and you have to care about (the job). And you have to want to do the most jobs, and beat everybody else." Sonja feels that Jesse fits the mold.

While Sonja calls Jesse the "ultimate bike messenger," Jesse himself might not agree with this title. "Outside of work, I will hang out with other messengers and go to messenger events, but I don't really base my whole life around messengering," he remarks. He does admit, however, that cycling also takes up a large chunk of his free time, in the form of bike races. "It's a whole different thing besides messengering," he says, "because when you are riding on your free time it's for fun. There is no deadline to make, you do not have to be somewhere, and you don't have to be all stressed out about what's going to happen next."

Unfortunately, because of a bike accident, Jesse missed out the perfect opportunity to demonstrate his racing skills, when the Eight Annual Cycle Messenger World Championships were held in Philadelphia this past Labor Day weekend. Approximately 550 messengers from 25 countries descended on Fairmont Park either to race for the title of the "World's Fastest Messenger," or just eat, drink and be merry. But while Jesse was only a spectator at this year's event, he plans on racing in next year's race, which will be held in Budapest. "I'll train this year, and then when I get out there see what the course is like, and just go for it," he says, looking over at his bike. "I will just race for the world title."

Time Cycle Couriers have been busy lately; so much so that Jesse decided to take an extended vacation to recuperate. A week after the winter chill of Rittenhouse square, he comments about his future via e-mail from San Francisco. Planning to start college in the fall in veterinary studies, Jesse stresses that "I don't plan on being a messenger the rest of my life." Devon agrees, remarking that "He is going to go on from this. He may hang in here for another year or so, but I know he wants to go on to college and do more than just this." All the same, Jesse is not about to hang up his saddle, for he at least plans on continuing to work as a messenger while in college. "Not to sound pathetic," he says, with a certain defiant tone, "but I don't see any other job that I am interested in right now, and this pays the bills and is fun and lets me ride my bike for a living. Right now, I just see myself as a messenger, and I don't see anything wrong with that."

## The Muslim Ummah Embarks on the Sacred, Contemplative Observance of Ramadan

Rabia Yasmeen Qureshi  
Guest Writer

Last Monday, November 27, 2000, marked the sighting of the new moon and thus the start of Ramadan—the ninth month on the Islamic calendar. The entire global Muslim community—called the ummah in Arabic—begin this month observing the obligatory fast or sawm. From sunrise to sunset during this month, Muslims are compelled to abstain from food, drink, conjugal relations, and sexual desires in an attempt to gain taqwa or heightened God-consciousness.

The Islamic conception of the world came into being in the year 570 AD, when the illiterate Prophet Muhammad began receiving revelations of the Holy Qur'an through the Angel Gabriel. The fast, is among one of the five pillars of Islam. Others include declaring shahada or faith, giving zakat or alms, completing the hajj or pilgrimage to Mecca at least once for all able-bodied Muslims, and offering salat or prayer five times a day. Doing these allows a Muslim devotee to cultivate the person within as he constantly reconciles the good and the bad or commonly known as jihad. The religion of peace and submission to Allah, Islam dictates the lives of its pilgrims by establishing guidelines for this Way of Life, all the while emphasizing that even though Allah has made certain activities and things halal (lawful) and others haram (unlawful), there is no compulsion in religion.

Appropriately, the fast itself is only incumbent upon those who understand its magnitude. That is not to say that Ramadan is a month reserved for a microcosm within the Islamic world—save for the elderly, sick, and traveling—but rather that fasting alone or abstention from particular actions does not encapsulate the full, profound meaning of Ramadan. The Qur'an repeatedly espouses the importance of fi sabilillah or striving in the way of Allah in order to instill within Muslims the paramount significance of purposefully living life.

A Muslim is encouraged, during this time, to complete the reading of the entire Qur'an—about the length of the New Testament—to attend nightly prayers called Tarawih at the masjid or mosque, to make social visits to friends and family, to break his fast with other Muslims, to control his temper, to refrain from ignorant, trite speech, and to focus his concentration solely upon Islam and its salience in his everyday life.

Muslims contend that during this holiest of months, the gates of Heaven or janna are wide open and the gates of Hellfire or jahannam are closed; thus, only good can befall the servants of Allah. After this month of fasting—also termed the Month of Patience for it teaches not only restraint, purification both physically and spiritually, and discipline, but also serenity and tranquility of self as well as eventual contentment for what one has—Muslims enjoin in the festivities of Eid al-fitr, where family and friends gather and give thanks for the strength and ability to endure.

# Carole Joffe

## One woman's journey to and through Bryn Mawr

Rakia A. Clark  
Staff Writer

Embracing the ideals of allegiance and partnership, Bryn Mawr College welcomed back into the classroom one of its favorites. Carole Joffe, a visiting professor from the University of California at Davis, returned to the Sociology Department to teach two courses this semester: Sex and Gender in Public Policy and Fieldwork Methods. From 1974 to 1990, she was a full time professor at BMC, teaching at the Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Her return has, indeed, been a long time coming.

Joffe reveals that the major reason she is now able to return is because her youngest child recently left for college. "It's much easier to come back now." Still, she does not feel the ten-year absence as strongly as members of the community might expect. Relationships between other faculty members have remained close because Joffe "feels connected to individuals here." Moreover, returning has been agreeable because she has "the utmost respect for the Sociology Department." She praises that "they are all passionately engaged with issues of social justice."

A Brandeis University student during the turbulent sixties, Joffe describes her undergraduate experience as moderately similar to that of Bryn Mawr students today. She recalls professors and graduate students as excellent examples of diligent scholars. "They were such cool women." Their influence helped to provide a strong foundation on which to begin her career.

It is during this time that Joffe became heavily interested in Sociology. She credits the fieldwork experience she received at Brandeis with the decision. "It's like falling in love. The idea that you go out into the real world and you start looking at things in a new way...and then you begin to make something—it's like sculpturing, but not with clay—with social experience."

Joffe's students appreciate her enthusiasm and wide knowledge of the subject. And she enjoys the genuine interest they display. "The students are working very hard." She is proud that they are handling the course load well and doing great work, both out in the field and in the classroom. "It

makes the experience more enjoyable."

During her full-time professorship at Bryn Mawr, Joffe helped institute the Feminist and Gender Studies Program into the curriculum. The department has tremendously evolved during her time away, and she admits to not being extensively familiar with the program, but she vividly recalls the time period with a gentle glow of nostalgia. Joffe describes it as an experience that is not exclusive to the Bryn Mawr community. "This was happening all over the place. This wasn't unique, by any means or stretch of the imagination. By the late 70's, early 80's, most institutions had some kind of Gender Studies Program on their campuses. So a number of us felt that Bryn Mawr should have a program, [too]."

As an adamant feminist in the pro-choice movement, Joffe is, admittedly, very uncomfortable with anyone claiming that they have a franchise on the word "feminism." In an example, she points out that when the National Organization of Women (NOW) first began, there was much controversy over homophobia within feminism. She stresses that the issue can be contested politically, but emphasizes that all women have the freedom to call themselves "feminists." "All you can do is argue in the court of public opinion," she says of the debate. "Everyone is entitled to the Pro-Feminist Movement."

All the knowledge, experience, and insight that Joffe exudes as a scholar and activist works well with the growth and change Bryn Mawr, like other institutions of higher learning, inevitable undergo. She is glad to have come back to share these qualities. However, the Bryn Mawr that Joffe remembers has a few noticeable changes. She sees more students of color, which creates a welcomed diversity in the climate of the campus. Students also seem "much more engaged in the city of Philadelphia." She remarks, "today's students seem intelligent, thoughtful, and focused. And I see a lot more interest in internships and service. When I was here, I don't believe there was either a special office set up for internships or for community service...There has always been some, but it's *much* more developed now." In addition, she remarks that students seem more interested in public policy and social action, which is incredible to wit-

ness.

When asked about her contact with past students, Joffe exclaims that the surge of the Internet and E-mail has been great in that aspect. "People that you haven't seen a while suddenly show up out of the blue on your screen. It's great!" Advances like this have changed the way she teaches her classes a bit, though.

"It's made it much easier. One difference in teaching now versus then is having to teach a new set of skills. Now, the problems facing both me and my own research, as well as students and their research, is [trying to avoid] drowning in material." Joffe asserts that, as a professor, it is not appropriate to shove politics at students. "What's nice about the Internet is that you can very quickly show people a range of political views." Teaching students to differentiate between relevant and irrelevant information is the next step. They must be aggressive in sifting through material to find germane information that is congruent with their own values.

Professor Joffe's work has been substantial, and she credits her success with a strong interest and commitment to the subject. She encourages all students to "find a passion. Find stuff you deeply care about—this ability to deeply care about something and have the freedom to pursue it all night if you need to, and to not be tied down by other things is my advice." Has Joffe found her passion? "Yeah, I've found my passion, and that was fortunate, but I don't expect everyone in my class to want to become a sociologist. My aspiration, as a professor, is [simply] to introduce people to how interesting the study of social life is."

When asked what she likes most about Bryn Mawr, Joffe responds: "the sense of purpose. Obviously the mission has changed over time—the position of women in the year 2000 in the United States is not the same as it was in 1885 when the College got going...but what seems to be continuous is a real sense of purpose. It's a small enough community to have a sense of itself and a very strong commitment to certain values. I like that." The feeling is obviously mutual.

Next semester, Carole Joffe will return to California, and also visit a daughter who is studying in Thailand.

## Darlene Perry: housekeeper, mother, friend

Karen Jenks  
Guest Writer

The woman is truly gorgeous. Not only on the outside, where her smile always sparkles and her brown eyes flash with sparks of humor, where her shining hair swings over her chin in a style reminiscent of a 1950s bob, where she looks glamorous even in her regulation beige shirt and blue pants. She's also gorgeous on the inside, where love comes pouring out of her in great gushes of emotion.

"You girls are so special to me," says Darlene Perry, rare tears welling up in her eyes. "We become a family while you are all here. I want to make the dorm your home away from home." The spunky 48-year-old brunette has worked as a housekeeper at Bryn Mawr College for five years. For four and a half of those years she has ruled the roost in Pembroke West.

"If she were a kitchen utensil," says freshman Shanti Mikkilineni, "she'd be a teapot like Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*. Mrs. Potts is a very motherly soul, as is Darlene."

Perry works in Pembroke West eight hours a day on weekdays. She sweeps and mops and disinfects and scrubs, all the time humming rather tunelessly to herself or chatting with her students. Her job description asks her to keep the bathrooms, tea pantries and hallways clean, but Perry never rests until the dorm is spotless. Residents of a quad on the first floor were pleasantly surprised one afternoon as they sat at their computers. Perry marched in with a broom and vacuum cleaner, disgrusted with the state of the floor

in their room, and just started cleaning, despite their protests.

Despite the fact that her work is monotonous, she still tolerates what she does. "As long as I remember that I'm doing this for my kids' educations, for their futures, then I'm ok," Perry says, with a look of determination on her face. And most of the time she enjoys it. Not just the cleaning, but also the advising, the counseling, the comforting. Perry is a surrogate mother to every girl who comes under her wing. "I was just really homesick," says Bryn Mawr freshman Aly Oberwanowicz. "And Darlene found me crying, and she gave me a big hug and told me stories about other girls who've been homesick. She was just really nice to me; kind of like a mother away from home."

"She is one of the warmest, sweetest women I've ever had the privilege of knowing," sophomore Stephanie Rhein says fervently. "My parents live so far away — they live in Singapore right now — and whenever I want any mommy-like advice I go to Darlene." Rhein went on to give an example of Perry's good advice: "I hadn't seen a winter in, like, five or six years, and last year I had no idea what to do about winter coats. I looked them up on the Internet but I was still clueless, so Darlene came in my room and went over the pros and cons of each coat with me."

Perry grew up in Philadelphia and at-



tended West Philadelphia Catholic Girls' High School. She graduated from high school, and went straight to work at the first of a long line of jobs. Perry and her husband Russ were married in 1972. Before coming to Bryn Mawr, Perry, her three children (Jacqueline, R. J. and Katie), and her husband lived in Southwest Philadelphia. She was a classroom assistant in Special Education classrooms in the Philadelphia School District, and loved her work with a passion. Then the Perrys

moved the family out to Springfield, not remembering that Philadelphia teachers are required to live in the city. A week into their new life, Perry got a message from the woman who had bought their Philadelphia home.

"She said that she had a Fed Ex package for me, and I told her to open it. Turns out it was a summons to come to the School Board the next morning. I thought I was getting a promotion." Perry smiles wryly with the memory. "But instead they fired me."

Having only a high school education and no teaching certificate (to be a classroom assistant in Philadelphia, all one needs is an 11<sup>th</sup> grade education), Perry's job choices were limited. After replying to a newspaper ad, she was hired to work at Bryn Mawr. "I

needed a job fast. I begged them to hire me," says Perry.

"I've become friends with lots of the girls here," she reminisces. "Sometimes we stay in touch; they call me, they email me for advice just like they used to when they lived here. The students, their conversations with me, the laughter we share, the advice they ask me for and just the friendships I have developed over the years keep me going," Perry says.

"I got real sick this year," Rhein says, twisting her hands in her lap. "She made me chicken noodle soup for breakfast and made me inhale the vapors so I'd get better. She goes way beyond the call of duty for us."

"I know I belong with kids. It's somewhere in my plan," Perry says, gazing towards the ceiling for further inspiration. "My faith keeps me going." Perry has one major regret: that she didn't further her schooling.

"While I worked for the [Philadelphia] School District, I could have gone to school and they would have paid. I never took advantage of the opportunity. Shame on me," Perry says with a chastising slap to her own wrist.

Perry has decided that she will remain at Bryn Mawr for the rest of her working life. She's happy here, she still has her son in school to support (her daughters both have gotten their degrees), and besides, where could a housekeeper find a better place to work than a women's college? "I am glad I clean for women and not a men's dormitory," Perry confessed readily.

However, even the infinitely patient Perry has a breaking point. "Wish everyone would double check the toilets and flush again," she says with a rueful smile.



# Babes and Toyland: The Consumerization of Reproduction

Meredith Lewis  
Staff Writer

multiple pregnancy. Sometimes the weakest of the fetuses is selectively aborted, leaving the woman to carry only one child. The other embryos are frozen, allowing the woman the chance to bear siblings for her child sometime down the road. While she could potentially bear all of the embryos, the more common scenario is that the woman and her partner will choose to "donate" them to another infertile couple, give them to fetal tissue "research", or have the rest destroyed.

Egg donation procedures succeed in about 40% of all cases, a statistic which is also called the "live birth rate", and that statistics is rising. But for any live birth to occur, there must be a donor. And just as there are a seemingly infinite number of products to buy on the market, there are also a seemingly infinite number of eggs.

A woman may donate her eggs through a professional agency, or she can contact an individual family who has posted an ad. She can also create her own website and advertise herself. Egg donation clinics abide in great number in the United States. Many are online and have online donor applications, including Egg Donation, Inc. of CA and Creating Families, Inc. of CO. These clinics offer donors a compensation package of \$2,500 to cover missed work or other expenses incurred, and offer pay for the donor's travel costs. Unless the donor incurs any unusual costs, these clinics will not pay anyone any more than they would pay anyone else.

"We understand that financial considerations are not a major motivating factor when a woman decides to help in this very special way. However, we strongly believe that an egg donor should receive consideration for her commitment, and loss of time from work and family," explains Egg Donation, Inc. of Beverly Hills, CA to potential egg donors on its website.

But there are no hard and fast regulations on "compensation" for egg donation. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine, (ASRM), published a set of voluntary guidelines regarding compensation which state: "Donors should be compensated for the direct and indirect expenses associated with their participation, their inconvenience and time, and to some degree the risk and discomfort undertaken...Financial payments should not be so excessive as to constitute inducement."

Inducement is exactly what is occurring on many of America's college campuses, say many critics. On October 31st, 2000, an ad ran in the The Bi-College News, which read: "Egg Donor Needed, \$25,000 Compensation". According to The New York Times, March 3, 1999, an advertisement appeared in the newspapers of several Ivy League colleges, which read "Egg Donor Needed, Large Financial Incentive." The woman who could fill the desired profile: 5-foot-10, athletic, with a score of 1400 on her SAT's, would be rewarded \$50,000 for supplying eggs. This was the largest recorded sum ever to be offered for donor eggs, until an ad published in the Stanford University paper offered \$100,000 the following spring.

College campuses all around the country have been in a tizzy about what to do with regard to the ads. Should they print them? Should they allow the voice of these ads to speak in their papers? Students all around the country have been in

a frenzy. Should they answer the ads?

With the cost of a college education at an all-time high, many would say that the ads are awfully tempting. Katie Troutman, interviewed by the Yale Daily News, remarked "If I were 5' 10" I would definitely call. \$50,000 is a nice sum of money for a college student to have." According to The Dartmouth, none of its interviewees were interested in donating their eggs. However, none of the students objected to the paper publishing the ads.

Byrn Mawr junior and the Bi-Co's "Arts and Living" Editor Nicole Foulke finds the ads offensive. Nevertheless, she thinks that they should continue to run in her college paper. "I feel that even though they are indeed offensive, they serve educational purposes," she asserts. "How are we to develop our own criteria for injustices if we're not exposed to such ideas? We probably wouldn't be discussing this if the ad had not brought it up."

Peter Nicholson '02 at Haverford College, is the business manager for the Bi-Co. While he doesn't personally believe that egg donation is correct, he thinks that the paper should print such advertisements. "Regardless of whether or not an ad displays or suggests something that I disagree with, I am under no obligation to purchase that product or service," he says. "We are constantly inundated with advertisements that we strongly disagree with, whether it be on TV, radio, newspapers, the comment board, people standing on tables in the DC, etc. The First Amendment guarantees free speech and that should apply to advertisements, whether they be for egg donors, Holocaust revisionists, the KKK, abortion clinics, pro-life organizations, whatever."

In an opinion piece written for The Bi-College News on the \$25,000 ad, Haverford senior Sam Hartman wrote: "It must be kept in mind that during our time at the bi-college community, conversation about prevalent issues is meant to be fostered, and not stifled. It is our prerogative to decide what we feel we should do with ourselves, and hard questions

like those raised by eugenics are perhaps better considered after the ad is printed."

When Hartman cites "eugenics", he is referring to the phenomenon common in private egg donor ads of listing a set of physical, mental, and personality traits that the donor should fulfill. The Haverford ad required a blonde, blue-eyed college student or college grad, while the \$50,000 ad wanted a tall brunette. While some claim that couples are simply trying to match their own features, in the hopes that the child will look and act like them, genetics and the science of selecting traits is a slippery slope. Who is to say that a short, dark couple won't buy an egg from a tall, blonde donor? Why shouldn't an Asian couple buy a white egg or vice-versa? You can buy a red car or a black car. And now, almost just as easily, you buy a blonde egg or a brunette egg.

A look at the "Ron's Angel's" website, which calls itself "the most visited egg and sperm site in the world",

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**The more "desirable"  
the traits, the more  
beautiful or intelligent  
an egg is expected to  
be, the more expensive  
it can be.**

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

having been featured in over 5,000 articles, would offend most people's sensibilities. The visitor is invited to "come up to beauty," "Beauty is its own reward," says Ron Harris on his site. "This is the first society to truly comprehend how important beautiful genes are to our evolution. Just watch television and you will see that we are only interested in looking at beautiful people. From the network anchors, to supermodels that appear in most advertisements, our society is obsessed with youth and beauty...Any gift such as beauty, intelligence, or social skills, will help your children in their quest for happiness and success." For \$29.95 a month, a subscriber can scroll through "Ron's Angel's", online files of pictures and profiles of actual models who are auctioning their eggs, (starting at around \$15,000), for charity or personal gain. Access to the one sperm donor listed on the site, however, is free.

There seems to be a significant correlation between "traits" and "compensation". The more "desirable" the traits, the more beautiful or intelligent an egg is expected to be, the more expensive it can be. With no government regulation on the selling of eggs, it is a buyer's market. But isn't this practice called "egg donation" done in the aims of helping the childless? "I think all the talk of donation and helping families is just a lot of hot air," says ethicist Dr. Arthur Caplan of the University of Pennsylvania. "Couples and their lawyers want to buy a product—an egg with traits that they think are desirable. Prices of \$25,000 are hardly consistent with talks of altruism and reasonable expenses."

While Caplan concedes that selling eggs is a legal practice in the United States, he argues that it is not ethical. "Egg sellers do face risks," he says. "The money involved makes it hard for women to attend to the risks." He also refers to what is sometimes called "the genetic fallacy", which is the false belief that donor profiles indicate exactly what traits the child will inherit. "The blonde high SAT profile is simply not rooted in biological reality," says Caplan. "Some traits are highly heritable. SAT scores are not among those. Neither is the ability to play tennis well, a fondness for hiking, a love of the outdoors, working as a fashion model, or high GPA's." "Genes are not destiny," he continues, "as anyone with biological siblings—who have all their genes from the same parents—can attest. Recombining your genes with

another person holds few promises for the transmission of behavior, personality or even appearance. It is morally bizarre to promise those with money products—people with traits cannot be guaranteed."

The virtual "wish list" of some hopeful parents generates the extraordinary offers of compensation that colleges have seen appearing on their campuses. But what happens when a couple gets the egg that it wants, but not the baby it desires? Won't couples expect some sort of "return" on their investment? If the \$25,000 egg fails to produce the blonde child, isn't there a possibility that the parents will be disappointed? "It is like selling a used car to a friend," comments Eleanor Race, a 1999 graduate of Haverford College, who donated her eggs to family friends last August. Scientifically, neither the donor or the receiving couple really knows what it being bought and sold, or what may happen. Race received no financial reward for being a donor. "I was very stubborn about the fact that I didn't want anything," she maintains. "Any emotional or physical pain I may go through is absolutely nothing to what this couple is going to gain." Speaking on the happiness she found that she gave her receiving couple, she says, "Knowing that I was the difference in that can be awe-inspiring. It changed their lives, it changed my life. It's sort of beyond compensation in some senses."

According to Race, it seems extraordinary compensation is not appropriate for the extraordinary gift of life. Commenting upon the appropriateness of the ads published in her alma mater's newspaper, she says, "If it was up to me, I would let them publish them." (pause) "And hope that no one answered. So called "ethical" proponents of egg donation maintain that they are seeking to find caring donors to help needy couples have children, therefore financial and eugenics elements should play no part.

Under its Human Fertilization and Embryology Act of 1990, it is illegal to receive money for eggs, sperm, and fertilized embryos in the United Kingdom, unless authorized by the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. According to the British Medical Journal, free, fully informed consent is critical to the rights of the egg donor. The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority saw clear evidence that payments can coerce women into making the decision to become a donor, and took into account findings of the Royal College of Physicians Working Group,

which had found "compensation for risks" to have a negative impact upon the quality of the egg donor's consent. What will a young woman say once the money is gone? Will she be glad that she "donated" her eggs then?

As American Southern Methodist University graduate Stephanie Andrews said of her experience as an egg donor, which she published on her own website, "It dominates your life and it hurts." Clearly Andrews demonstrate that being an donor is not for everyone. But for those who have successfully conceived via the procedure, and have been satisfied with the result, there can be no greater happiness. Race commented upon the conversation she had with the receiving parents soon after they learned they were pregnant, "I can't even tell you the difference in the quality in their voices. I'm thrilled."

The Ferre Institute, a not-for-profit group in Utica, New York, aims to educate and help the infertile to deal with their struggle. The holidays can be a particularly difficult time for the childless, the group maintains. "At the Thanksgiving table as the family waits for an announcement, it's hard to be grateful for anything," they say of the infertile experience. "At the mall, surrounded by package-laden mothers pushing strollers and herding wide-eyed toddlers past holiday displays, it's difficult to hold back tears. At the family gift exchange where nieces and nephews are the center of loving attention, it's almost impossible to find the joy that used to come with the season. New Year's Eve, once a sparkling adult occasion of excitement and promise, becomes an evening of regret for the past year's unfulfilled dreams." The "Ferre" in the institute's name, incidentally, comes from the Latin "to bear".

While the infertile struggle to bear their holiday blues, the egg "donation" trade will continue to expand to the limits that the market can bear. The ethics of buying and selling the building blocks to create children, will continue to be debated at medical board meetings and on college campuses across the country. What constitutes a "gift"? How can I get the gift that I want? Can't I have a "wish list", too? Shouldn't I leave some "cookies" for "Santa" in appreciation for giving me exactly what I asked him for? Clearly the big issue here is how to go about giving and receiving the biggest gift of all. The debate of how capitalism should go about handling what may be deemed "the gift of life" is certain to continue long after the holiday rush subsides.

## A little bit of everything

### Author Ruth Molloy realizes a dream through a century of poetry

Margot Calandra  
Guest Writer

Ruth Molloy shuffles around her cramped house, pointing out her treasures. She gestures proudly to her stained glass Butterball turkey sign that used to hang in a deli, her lid collection, and four or five of her dollhouses, the total number of which she cannot remember. She shows off her three photo collages of the mantelpieces of the people on her street, which is a beautiful one-block community called St. Mark's Square where all the houses are dark red and stand side by side. She continues through the entire downstairs, and the amount of possessions that hide every inch of wall and floor space makes identifying rooms other than bathrooms or the kitchen next to impossible.

It seems like Ruth Molloy has a little bit of everything. But until this year, she remained unsatisfied. She longed for three things — to reach the year 2000, to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to hold her very own book in her hands. It seems she has accomplished all three. A bright multi-colored "2000" banner hangs in her hallway, a picture book and a video document her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, and cardboard boxes filled with her new book of poetry are piled in her entranceway.

The book, entitled *Finally*, is a compilation of poetry that Molloy has written from 1918 to 2000. They were selected by Molloy to represent each decade of her life, but she did not organize them in sequential order. Instead, they are arranged to appear as a collection of related events.

At the book signing, held at the University City of Arts League on October 29<sup>th</sup>, Molloy, who wears psychedelic neon stockings to all special events such as this, found herself talking about different "stimuli" that make people write. "I won't call it inspiration unless you are Shakespeare or Shelley."

Although neither Shakespeare nor Shelley, Molloy certainly has her own devoted following. One of her neighbors just bought ten copies of *Finally* to give out as Christmas presents. Kristin Lattany, a fellow author, writes on the

back cover, "Read all of Ruth Molloy's poems for unflinching insight, exuberant fun, and the sheer pleasure of being in her company."

It seems many people do enjoy being in her company, since more than 100 people showed up for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party this past July. Molloy held her party in a cemetery, and although it sounds morbid, the reason, she explains, is quite logical. The grounds at Woodlands Cemetery include an old mansion that the University City Historical Society, of which she is a member, was trying to renovate and restore. Three years ago it was declared unsound and they were forced to stop, but due to all her work, she was offered a "party" there. She explains that, of course, they assumed she would take them up on the offer for a gathering after her funeral. But Molloy didn't see the fun in that. Molloy wanted to be there to enjoy it, so to the surprise of everyone, she decided to throw herself a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party there.

As it turned out, the day of the party she was sick in the hospital. "We were all worried that nobody would show up at the party because Ruth wasn't there," says her neighbor Barbara Deighan, "but everybody came anyway and it was a great time." Of course, Ruth was overjoyed to hear that the party was a success. A few weeks later, she went over to the cemetery and finished making her birthday video.

So what's it like to be 90 years old? "Sort of like being 89 and a half," she jokes, her mouth curling up in a half smile. What sort of wisdom has Molloy gained over all those years? "If someone asks if they can pick you up something at the store, say 'Three bananas, thank you.' Nothing less and nothing more."

It's that sort of wry humor that makes Molloy so likable, but it's her accomplishments that make her a sort of celebrity in this area. She is very active in the Arts League in West Philadelphia, where she has lived since 1921. She has contributed to the University of Pennsylvania's Alumni magazine, written the history of her street, and authored the text on West Philadelphia in the Atwater Kent Museum's book, *Invisible Philadelphia*. As Anne-Marie Mulgrew, the publi-

cist for the Arts League, likes to say, "she is a walking, living, breathing museum on West Philadelphia tidbits." Molloy has also had her short stories, poetry and photography published in the Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, and Philadelphia Magazine.

Born in 1910, her earliest poem in the book was written when she was eight, but Ruth was writing poetry long before that. When she was three, she was creating such masterpieces as "Jack Sprat had a nice new hat. Miss Nanny Goat had a new coat." Molloy laughs as she recites it. "When I was a child, poems had to have rhyme and meter." Referring to some of the poems published recently in the New Yorker that are too abstract for her understanding, she adds, "I guess the things that you enjoy change over time."

Today Molloy is sitting in an old wicker chair in what appears to be the den, turning her book around and around in her wrinkled hands, just like she always wanted to. Having just awakened from an afternoon nap, her straight white hair is tousled, and she is still dressed in a crumpled geometric print sweatshirt, mismatching checked pants, and a pair of thin white socks that slide further and further off her feet, threatening to slip off at any moment. In the photo on her book cover jacket, she is wearing a pair of thick black square glasses, but today she is wearing a plain oval frame. She is a short woman, and her back is beginning to hunch over after 90 years, so she seems to get swallowed up by the piles of old magazines, stacks of book, postcards and paper that surround her. Quite often she tries to lean back in her wicker chair, but plagued with failing hearing, more often than not she leans forward within seconds in order to listen better.

To document making it to the year 2000, Molloy is taking pictures of everyone who visits this year. She leaves her camera right by the door to catch people on the way out. Although she admits she has forgotten a few people, she photographs almost everyone. "I have them all in an album," she boasts. She pauses. "But I can't find it right now."

# "Calling Shots": Diversity Part II: The Boycott and

## Repercussions of 1972

Meredith Lewis  
Staff Writer

January, 1972: Minority student groups at Haverford mobilize, enacting a boycott of all non-academic activities. Officially breaking off negotiations with the faculty and administration, they publish papers on their positions, speak out in the Dining Center, and wage a sometimes somberly silent, sometimes vivaciously vocal confrontation of the sleepy community. 'Wake up! Listen to our concerns!' they demand, and issue a list of "demands" they wish Haverford to take towards something called "institutional diversity". Haverford's "Tell us what you want and we'll try to provide it" no longer suffices or appeases the growing masses of minority students. The boycott, a well organized and executed movement with the students in a united front, succeed in gaining an all-night session at President Jack Coleman's house, where the students present their concerns. A more diverse faculty is needed. And so is an administration with more than one black member. The curriculum needs to be diversified, as well...

Haverford had promised to take care of all of these issues before...but Haverford is known for taking its time. Previous student proposals had been shuttled back and forth from one committee to another one too many times. Often proposals were changed around so much, that ideas faced what Adolphus L. Williams, Jr. and Cynthia Farr Brown called the "death of a thousand qualifications" in their chapter on minorities in *The Spirit and the Intellect: Haverford College, 1833-1983*. Nothing was ever accomplished and that had to change.

One immediate concern involved "carding", the result of what we now refer to as "racial profiling". Black students would be stopped on campus by College Security, Marion Township Police, and even fellow students at parties...and asked to show their student ID, as proof of their legitimacy. Minority students set up a "check-point" in front of the D.C. one day, demanding to see everyone's proof of studentship before they could enter. Some non-minority students felt the minority students were overreacting, others were sure they "understood" how the students felt, and many agreed that something should be done.

A significant appointment was made as a result of the Boycott of 1972, an appointment of "a person to solve all problems", as the position of admissions officer, assistant professor, and freshman summer program advisor was called. But students were still not satisfied and a Hunger Strike was waged in 1976. This time, a Director of Minority Affairs was hired specifically to deal with the "institutionalization of diversity".

There were several impediments that hindered the diversification of Haverford after 1972. One was how Haverford functions administratively. It is very hard for an institution, which is (nearly by definition) resistant to change, to come to full "consensus" on how to institutionalize or mandate change.

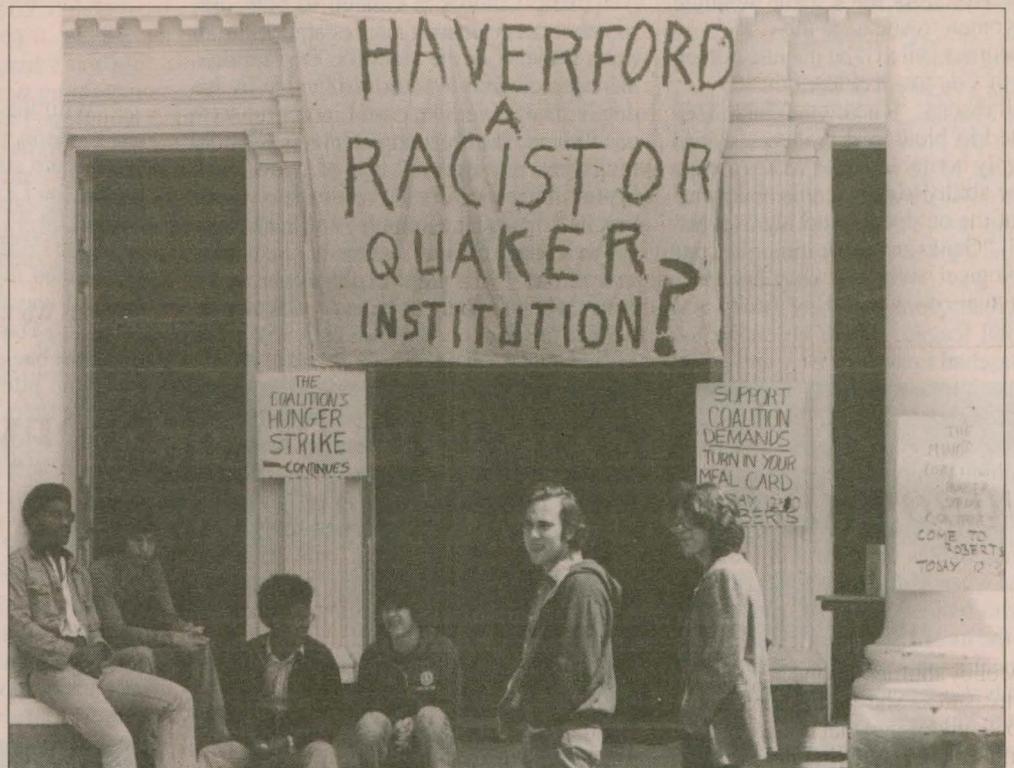
Another challenge was recruiting minority students, for the minority student population had decreased significantly after 1972, and many minority students preferred to go to schools that still had a "critical mass". Minority faculty did not necessarily want to teach at an institution where there was so little minority representation. It was a vicious circle, and it kept Haverford in stasis. Finally, an aggressive recruiting campaign did manage to begin attracting both minority students and faculty, and the population of minorities grew significantly between 1975-1982. Professors William Williams of Fine Arts and Paul Jefferson of History were two of the faculty hired during this time.

Diversifying the curriculum, however, proved to be the biggest challenge. Minority students did not expect a new program for African or Latino studies to be created, but wanted existing classes and departments to integrate information dealing specifically with minorities into the curriculum. Professors were weary of giving up their right to choose what to teach and did not want to "make room" in the syllabus for any new (read: "inferior") material. It was mandated that every department submit a list to the administration as to what material on minorities, minority influences, and history they included in their course offerings. Though many departments begrudged the time spent on making the lists, the lists were productive in the recognition and organization of existing material, and in the integration of new material where holes were seen to be present. In the end, the college curriculum was strengthened and enhanced significantly by these measures.

Although Haverford in the year 2000 has come a long way since black waiters served white students in Founders First Dining Room (see: Diversity Part I: Dining and Services, *The Bi-College News*, November 21, 2000), and a long way from the Boycott of 1972 and Hunger Strike of 1976, many would say that we still have a long way to go.



"Minority Boycott," 1972 Haverford College Historic Photographs



"Hunger Strike," 1977 Haverford College Historic Photographs



"Faces of the Minority Boycott," 1972 Haverford College Historic Photographs

# SPORTS



real world **SPORTS** by dan silver

This is a warning: there will be an extremely high amount of rants included in Column this week. In fact, I may go off on angry tangents about every bit of sports that I have to report this week. It's not because I am in an overly angry or argumentative mood. It's because some of the occurrences that have taken place in the world of sports recently are utterly sickening. Because I don't just want to dwell on the negative, I will give you three quick images of beauty before I launch into my tirades. Close your eyes (obviously this is a figure of speech, if you actually close your eyes you won't be able to read the article you dimwit) and picture Michael Jordan soaring through the air and dunking the ball effortlessly. Now picture Mario Lemieux skating in on a breakaway, smoothly faking the goalie out of position, and scoring into the yawning net. Lastly, picture Joe Montana dropping back in the pocket, magically evading defenders, and finding Jerry Rice in the end zone for a game winning touchdown. Now open your eyes, because you are going to have to read the rest of Column whether you like it or not.

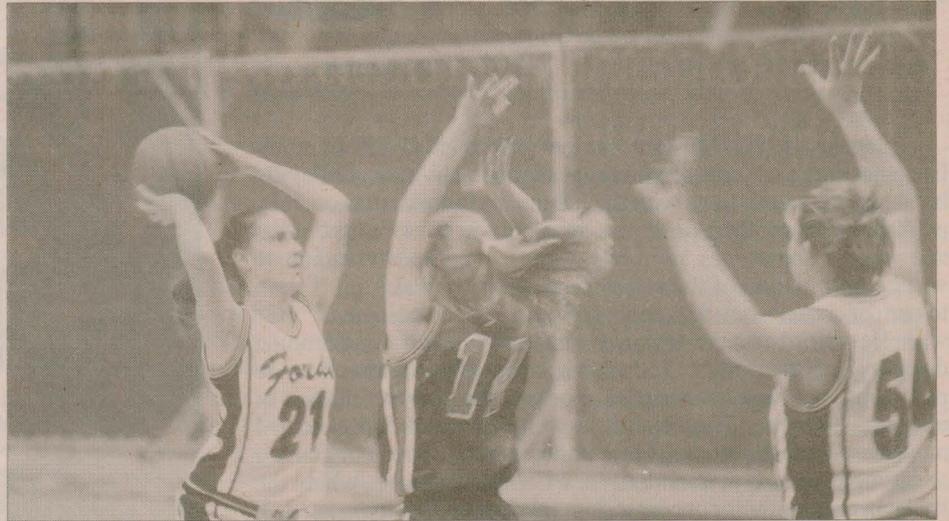
**Mike Mussina:** For anyone that missed it, last week the New York Yankees signed all-star pitcher Mike Mussina to a six year, 88.5 million dollar contract. Remember when I pointed out how absurd Tim McCarver's quote that the Yankees were winning despite free agency was? Well, this only enhances my point. I really think that there should be a new baseball league. It will be called the Yankees Baseball League (YBL), and it will consist of the Yankees and no one else. Barring major injuries next year, the signing of Mussina basically guarantees the Yankees another championship. They were already far and away the best team in baseball, and signing Mussina, who is one of the best pitchers in the league, makes them virtually unbeatable. I loved when Mussina said "It just came down to who really seemed to want me on their team the most." You are flat out wrong Mike; I am sure the Phillies or the Brewers or the Royals wanted you on their team a lot more than the Yankees, but unfortunately the combined spending power of those teams is less than half of what the Yankees can spend. Hey George Steinbrenner, thanks for ruining baseball you boob.

**Dennis Miller Quote of the Week:** This quote comes from the Rams-Redskins game a few weeks ago. When talking about the volatile Rams offense, Miller said "Once it gets rollin' it's a doomsday machine - [Rams head coach Mike] Martz has one key around his neck, the quarterback has one around his, and you can't let the nuclear clock start or it's all over." This comment was just downright cool. And Miller is absolutely right, if you let the Rams offense rev its engine, there ain't no slowing it down. Hopefully Rams starting quarterback Kurt Warner will be back soon so the nuclear clock can start again.

**Debate in Seattle:** Last weekend Paul Westphal was fired from his position as head coach of the Seattle SuperSonics. At the time of the firing, many people believed that he was sent packing due to recent on-court quarrels he had with his star guard, Gary Payton. But the Monday after he was let go, Westphal singled out Sonics center Vin Baker as a major reason for his firing. Westphal said his two-plus seasons trying to motivate Baker were like "a trip to the dentist." He went on to say, about trying to motivate Baker, that "It has taken a long time, and I would say I never got the solution because he is not much better now than when I got the job." I have always found it completely disgusting that players making as much as NBA players need to be motivated to work hard by their coaches. Let's not split hairs; most McDonald's employees work harder than Vin Baker. The fact that Baker is a major reason for Westphal's firing is a disgrace, pure and simple.

**Eric Lindros is cleared to play:** Six months after sustaining a devastating hit from Scott Stevens in the playoffs, Eric Lindros has been cleared to return to the ice by his doctor. The Philadelphia Flyers still hold his rights, but after his war of words with Flyers GM Bobby Clarke, Lindros has vowed that he will never again play for the Flyers. Lindros recently said, "I'd really like to play in Toronto. It's a great organization. It's a great city. And being from there, it would be a great fit. This is a great hockey town and I'd like to be a part of it." For those not familiar with Eric's career, he was drafted as an 18-year-old by Quebec, but he demanded to be traded to a different team. So he began his career by refusing to play for Quebec, and now he appears to be ending his career by saying he will only play in Toronto. To Eric, I say, stop whining you big baby. Beggars can't be choosers, you should be happy to play for any team that is willing to risk trading anything for you.

**Survivor Update:** In case you missed it, last week Queen Anna Kournikova had her two loyal servants, Gary Payton and Martina Navratilova, fight it out to see who would defend the Queen against Mike Tyson. Navratilova prevailed, and this week the Queen commanded her to defend her at all costs against the evil Tyson. Unfortunately for Navratilova, Tyson's weekly shipment of Zolof never arrived, and as Tyson always says, "Zolof is what keeps me from killing y'all." Without his daily dose, Tyson became a maniacal killing machine, and Martina stood no chance. However, during the fight, Queen Kournikova lowered herself from her throne and ran off to hide in the woods. Stay tuned next week for the thrilling conclusion. I really want your help to decide between Tyson and Queen Kournikova, so please email me at dsilver@haverford.edu with suggestions. I'm outta here like Dragomir.



Abigail Noble '04 looks to pass it off to teammate Erin McCartney '03.

## HC women's hoops defeats Lesley in home opener

**Tom Cassidy**  
Staff Writer

With the hopes of improving on last year's season, the Haverford women's basketball team started off on the right foot by topping the Lesley (Mass.) Linx in an impressive 68-44 victory.

The Fords began the game slowly but soon gained the lead. Taking a time out at 12-7 mid-way through the first half, interim coach Jim Haney collected his team and sent them back out onto the court sans the first-game jitters that apparently had been afflicting them early on.

Haverford used a fast-paced offense based on screens and quick ball movement to outscore the Linx 31-14 in the first half.

Led by '99-'00 All-Centennial Conference honorable mention Sarah Chamovitz '03 (22 points, 10 rebounds, four assists), the Fords continued to press their attack in the second half with help from sophomore Erin McCartney (six rebounds), who shot 8-10 from the field

and notched a career-high 19 points, and junior Katisha Gopaul (nine points, 10 rebounds). McCartney, Gopaul, and sophomore Kate Westhuis (seven rebounds) controlled the paint and grabbed rebounds while Chamovitz directed the attack.

Lesley upped its play in the second half, more than doubling its first-half offensive output with 30 points, but Haverford retained its lead. With strong support from their bench, the Fords eventually achieved the result they desired: a win when the final buzzer sounded.

The Fords played aggressive man-to-man defense throughout the game, effectively quieting the Lesley offense and holding the Linx to 35.4% field-goal shooting in the game and an outstanding 21.7% in the first half. Haverford also used a stifling full court press, which hurried Lesley into making poor decisions in their play-making.

The Fords next home game is Tuesday, Dec. 5 against Centennial Conference foe Ursinus.

### OWL CAFE

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Sophomore forward Mary Kutteruf had an excellent first week for the Bryn Mawr basketball team, gaining Centennial Conference Weekly Athletic Honor Roll recognition for her eight points and 13 rebounds against Hollins College and her 14 board-effort versus Chestnut Hill College.

### Sports Schedule (home events only)

**Haverford**

Tues	Women's Basketball	Ursinus	6 p.m.
Tues	Men's Basketball	Ursinus	8 p.m.
Fri	Men's Basketball	Union	7:30 p.m.

**Bryn Mawr**  
(No home events)

# SPORTS BRIEFS



A Catholic player tries to take it to 6'6" forward Matt Begley '04. A bad idea.

## HC Men's Cross Country

### Haverford 9th at NCAA Division III Meet

Calvin 65, Keene State 87, Wisconsin-Oshkosh 138, North Central 143, Williams 173, Wisconsin-Whitewater 183, Wisconsin-Lacrosse 203, Nebraska Wesleyan 230, HAVERFORD 236, Wisconsin-Platteville 323, Tufts 332, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 363, Kenyon 377, Trinity (Conn.) 391, 9 other teams

SPOKANE, Wash. (Nov. 18) — Haverford junior J.B. Haglund finished 11th individually in 25:25.0 to earn Division III All-America status at Wandermere Golf Club.

The Fords finished ninth as a team with 236 points with senior Garth Terry (39th in 25:57), juniors Peter Rook (52nd in 26:10) and Jim Steinemann (65th in 26:18.9) and senior Stephon Petro (69th in 26:20.1) all placing in the top half of the 215-runner 8K field. Senior Joe McCool (26:41.8) and soph Greg Bielecki (27:03.9) finished 102nd and 125th, respectively.

Senior Tim McCoskey of North Central (Ill.) College won the individual title in 24:47.8.

## HC Men's Basketball

### Johns Hopkins 65, Haverford 48

BALTIMORE (Nov. 29) — Senior guard Alec Evans continued his strong play, leading Haverford (2-3, as of Nov. 30) in both points (11) and rebounds (seven), but the Blue Jays were too much for the Fords, who were down 31-26 at halftime but shot a woeful 20.0% from the floor in the second half.

### Haverford 52, Rensselaer 43

HAVERFORD (Nov. 26) — Senior guard Alec Evans scored a game-high 11 points to lead Haverford to a 52-43, non-conference victory over previously unbeaten Rensselaer (N.Y.).

Sophomore guard Javier Garcia (9 points) started a 10-1 game-ending run by the Fords on two made free throws with 4:27 left. Fellow soph Cam Scribner blocked five shots and classmate Greg Ley pulled down a game-high nine rebounds for Haverford, which never trailed after leading, 23-22, at halftime.

### Catholic 70, Haverford 67

HAVERFORD (Nov. 21) — Sophomore center Matt Hilleary scored 13 of his 20 points in the second half and grabbed a game-high 10 rebounds to rally Catholic to a non-conference win at Haverford.

Senior guard Alec Evans led the Fords in scoring for the third straight game with 18 points, while classmate Matt Duffy added 12 points and five assists.

### LaVerne 75, Haverford 55

SWARTHMORE (Nov. 18) — In the second round of the Equinox Classic, Haverford senior guard Alec Evans scored 12 of his 18 points after halftime, but the Fords' 31-30 intermission lead was undone by LaVerne's 45-point second-half outburst.

Senior guard Kevin Gustafson had 15 of his game-high 27 in the second half to lead the Leos.

## HC Women's Basketball

### Johns Hopkins 85, Haverford 38

BALTIMORE (Nov. 29) — Sophomore forward Erin McCartney (four blocked shots) led all Ford scorers with 12 points, and first-years Caitlyn Kimura and Abigail Noble chipped in eight apiece, but the Blue Jays overwhelmed Haverford's injury-hampered 7-women squad.

### Gettysburg 78, Haverford 25

HAVERFORD (Nov. 21) — Sophomore forward Erin McCartney had all 10 of her points in the first half for Haverford, which trailed by only 29-19 at halftime. Ford first-year Abigail Noble pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds as the Fords outrebounded the Bullets, 42-37.

### Haverford/Radnor Hotel Classic Championship

### Coe (Iowa) 79, Haverford 41

HAVERFORD (Nov. 19) — First-year guard Caitlyn Kimura hit a pair of three-pointers en route to a team-high 12 points as Haverford fell in its Classic final.

First-year forward Abigail Noble added seven points and a team-high seven boards, but the Fords were

outrebounded, 55-26, by the tourney champion Kohawks.

## HC Men's Squash

### St. Lawrence 6, Haverford 3

### Columbia 5, Haverford 4

HAVERFORD (Nov. 18) — Junior #1 Tim Saint ran his season record to 7-0, but Haverford fell to 1-6.

Senior #8/9 Brian Simms was the other double winner for the Fords.

## HC Men's Fencing

Mikael Haxby  
Guest Writer

BALTIMORE (Nov. 19) — The Haverford men's fencing team took on Virginia, Virginia Tech, William & Mary, and non-conference opponent North Carolina in a multi-team meet Saturday. The Fords finished 2-2 (2-1 MACFA). The big story of the meet was the saber squad, which has been rebuilding, posted a 2-1 record, their first two wins since the '98-99 season. All three saberists picked up big wins when needed.

Meet by meet:

### Haverford 16, William & Mary 11

After consecutive years of barely pulling away, 14-13 from William & Mary, this year it was decisive. Saber went 2-7, with the wins coming from Nathaniel Rounds '02, and Richard Cruz '01. Epee was 6-3, as co-captain Asa Hopkins '01 went 2-1, losing only his final bout when the meet was already decided, Aaron Block '02 went 2-1, and rookies Peter Schaefer '04 and Gabe Hare '03 combined for a pair of wins as

well. Foil ripped W&M, 8-1, with co-captain Mikael Haxby '01 and S.I. Newhouse '03 both easily dispensing the opposing squad 3-0, and Don Grunewald '04 stepping up with a pair of wins as well, showing some admirable moxie in winning a bout that went to overtime at 4-4, and pulling out the fifth touch about eight seconds in.

### Haverford 16, Virginia Tech 11

Foil led the day with a 7-2 victory, paced by another pair of 3-0's by Haxby and Newhouse. Saber was really the story here, taking a 5-4 victory, paced by a 3-0 from Cruz. Rounds and Maleski both won a bout, with Maleski subbing out in the final round for Antonio Pagan '04, who lost 5-3 to a strong fencer. Epee lost 4-5, with Hopkins going 3-0 and Block pulling out the other victory, but with the saber victory, it was enough for the meet victory.

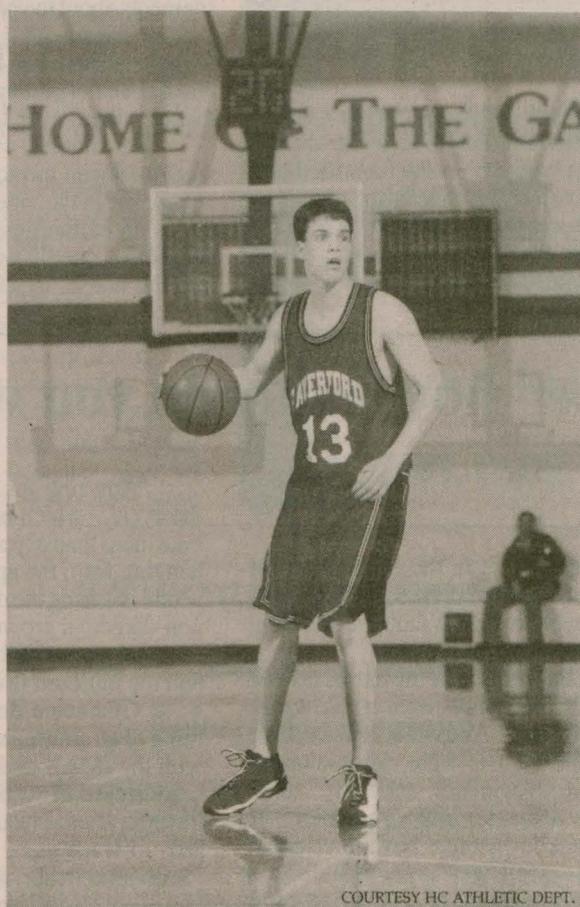
### Virginia 14, Haverford 13

Start with the silver lining. Saber paced the team with a 6-3 win, led by Maleski, who broke out for a 3-0 record. Foil lost 3-6, with two wins from Haxby, and epee lost 4-5, with two from their captain, Hopkins.

### UNC 19, Haverford 8

Eight is not too shabby against a top D1 opponent like UNC. Epee led the day 4-5, paced by Hopkins at 3-0. Block was 1-2 and had a 4-5 loss in the final bout decided on a lucky remise. Foil and saber were both 2-7 losers, both squads 2-1, 0-3, 0-3. For foil the two wins were Haxby, including one over the UNC b-strip, in which he fell down 4-0 and battled back for the 5-4 victory. Rounds rounded out his day with a 5-3 victory over a very startled UNC a-strip (the best fencer on the squad) and also beat a UNC sub.

# SKEETER'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



COURTESY HC ATHLETIC DEPT.

Senior guard Alec Evans is having a career year so far for the Haverford men's basketball team, leading the Fords in scoring (16.6), field goal percentage (51.0%), 3-point percentage (55.0%), and minutes played (34.4). Evans received Centennial Conference Weekly Athletic Honor Roll recognition for the first two weeks of the basketball season by virtue of his exceptional play.

# AFROLESFEMCENTRIC

**Aishah Shahidah Simmons addresses sexism, racism, homophobia in powerful videos**

An Ngo  
Staff Writer

"I am tired of inclusive language that excludes me," opens *Silence...Broken*, Aishah Shahidah Simmons' internationally acclaimed short video. Declaring "my race, my gender, my sexual preference are under siege," she lights three candles, each representing a part of her identity. Whispered opinions in her ear claim that the "real enemy" is, in turn, racism, sexism or homophobia.

Drawing strength from the works of Audre Lorde, Toni Cade Bambara, and bell hooks, Simmons refuses to separate any single issue from the others. "When in the company of the oppressed," she realizes, "I still feel oppressed." The film closes with her demands "I am African American - respect me. I am a woman - respect me. I am lesbian - respect me."

A self-described "Afrolesfemcentric" filmmaker, writer and activist based in Philadelphia, Aishah Shahidah Simmons dedicates her work to "making revolution irresistible." Her simple yet powerful videos focus on the links between the myriad injustices in society. She seeks to inform "not only people who are struggling with their own sexuality, but also heterosexuals, who need to realize that lots of people are dying as a result of others' silence."

Haverford's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance (BGALA) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs organized a film showing and discussion with Simmons on November 15, where she highlighted her "responsibility to those who couldn't speak out" and her use of art to expose hidden struggles.

*Silence...Broken* and *In My Father's House* grew out of Simmons' attempts to reconcile the different communities with which she identified as a black feminist lesbian, and her anger at the misogyny and "internalized homophobia" that led to her rape and unwanted pregnancy at age nineteen.

Simmons spoke openly about the rape in her

work and discussion. Clouding her judgment the night of the assault was the feeling that she was "abnormal" unless she had a heterosexual relationship. Intending "to prove to herself that she wasn't homosexual," she accompanied a man into a hotel room, where he forced himself on her after she changed her mind about having sex. In denial, she engaged in consensual sex the day afterwards and became pregnant. She ended the pregnancy through what she emphasizes was a "safe and legal abortion."

By that time, Simmons had been through so much trauma that she "came out with a vengeance," vowing to help heal and educate others through the writings and video that are a testament to her survival.

## QUOTE

"In my senior year of high school, my dad asked Cheryl Dalton, an out black lesbian, to speak to me about coming out. He wasn't afraid of having a gay daughter. He had my back!"

my exploration. He had my back!"

The warmth and gold lighting of the family scenes sharply contrasts with the cold gray-toned segments about the pain of rape and alienation from a close friend. At times the conversation seems forced, such as when her brother emphatically states that her sexual preference was "never an issue" and that he "didn't even think about it."

Her mother, whose cautious tolerance only recently began to move towards acceptance, does not appear in the video. It is evident, however, that this is an extraordinarily supportive family. Even her mother openly welcomed Simmons' girlfriend into the house, in such a way that Simmons was

In *My Father's House* is a videotaped conversation with her family and friends, who share their thoughts on the time she first came out to them. Her father, himself an activist, comes across as open, perceptive, and completely accepting. He laid rest to Simmons' fears that she would have to choose between her culture and her sexuality.

"In my senior year of high school," she says, "my dad asked Cheryl Dalton, an out black lesbian, to speak to me about coming out. He wasn't afraid of having a gay daughter. He nurtured



Simmons with independent filmmaker Ken Klein at Philadelphia's 1998 Independent Feature Film Market event.

"the only one who knew she wasn't happy."

Simmons realized that her access to such a strong support network allowed her to speak out and create safer spaces for people struggling with their sexuality in more hostile circumstances.

After college, Simmons worked at Scribe Video Center alongside Toni Cade Bambara, who introduced her to "30, 40, 50 black women filmmakers", and taught her the craft of video production. At Scribe, which provides video production training and facilities to communities that traditionally have not had access to media-making, Simmons learned that she had "a right to make a film that would affirm my existence."

Whereas "society wants to keep us polarized," she has had the opportunity to forge connections with artists of all different ethnicities and nationalities. Evelyne Laurent-Perrault, Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs at Haverford College, shares a close and long-standing relationship with the filmmaker. She has provided Simmons with photography for at least one project, and translation of her writings and video reviews into French for several websites and publications.

Simmons is currently working on *NO!* a documentary confronting sexual assault in the black community, and collaborating with producer Madeleine Lim on a film exploring the politics around a relationship between an indentured Chinese woman and an enslaved African woman in the nineteenth century.

She closed the evening with her friend Nikki Harmon's video *Sangre de Toro*, a sepia-toned "coming-of-age" story set to blues music, in which the main character silently mourns all that she has lost - boyfriend, best friend, job offer - but ultimately salutes her own strength.

## GLOSSARY

Aishah Shahidah Simmons recently visited Bryn Mawr to speak on her internationally renowned short film. What the symbols (used here and in her brochure) really mean:



### Dweninimu Aben:

Ghanian symbol which brings to mind the proverb, The, whil slow to anger, is unstoppable when riled up."



### Gyawn Atiko

Ghanian symbol which is know to be a sign of courage and determination.

source: Simmons brochure

## SkyBike - how badly do you want to learn physics?

Zack Phillips  
Guest Writer

For most youngsters in the early stages of learning that skill of utmost importance - bike riding - the scary part seems to be the thought of falling and banging a knee on the pavement.

But what if the surface of the earth, instead of being only a few feet below, were a few stories under your cycling legs? And what if instead of training wheels, the vehicle were riding along a tightrope?

That's the arrangement organizers at Philadelphia's Franklin Institute have developed. For only \$2, cyclists of all ages can ride SkyBike, a high-wire apparatus designed to give a first-hand lesson in the laws of physics.

"It works primarily on gravity, balance and counterbalance," says Jeff Guaracino, Director of Communications at the Institute. "You can't weight more than 250 pounds because that's how much the counterbalance is."

Amazing for its simplicity. As one pedals the cycle - which actually resembles an exercise bike more than a typical ten-speed - a large ballast hanging from the apparatus follows along underneath, ensuring the device is secure enough for the non-daredevil crowd. The rider also wears a harness and a large net hangs in between the high wire and the museum floor thirty feet below.

Guaracino doesn't deny this being something of an amusement park-like attraction. Along with the IMAX and 3-D theatres, this ride seems to indicate a new, more action-based direction for the educational institution. "Our job is to inspire kids to learn more about science," he explains. "Without a doubt, things have changed. Kids today are a lot different than kids who grew up in the 50s. It's the TV generation, the Nintendo generation. Everything is in Virtual Reality. So while we teach timeless science that will never change, the way we teach it does."

And like the one-of-a-kind super-coaster that attracts crowds to theme parks, the SkyBike (one

of only two such rides in the US) has been bringing in big numbers (though no specific figures are yet available). "We think it really has enhanced the [museum] experience," Guaracino adds. "It's one of those memorable things."

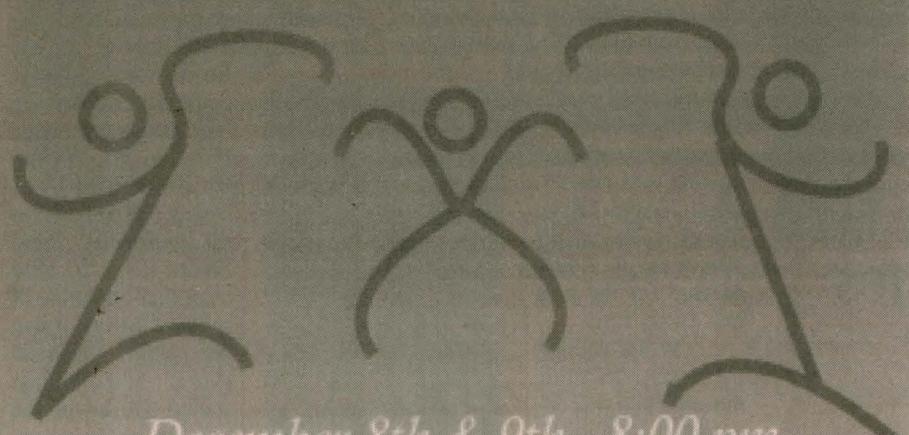
Not that the high altitude hasn't deterred a few riders. "I made it about three inches then stopped," admits Guaracino. "I didn't like it."

"But I'm not a fan of heights."



# Bryn Mawr & Haverford Colleges

## PRESENT



December 8th & 9th 8:00 pm

Ryan Gymnasium at Haverford

Refreshments will be served following the performance

Questions:

Emily McNeil  
emcneil@bmc  
526-7716

Or

Jane Holsapple  
jholsapp@bmc  
526-7731



Do you like taking baths here? submitting to the new bi-college magazine is just as fun, except you don't have to bleach the tub out, first. We're taking essays, articles, cartoons, wierd lists, anything you can think of. Email Nicole at nfoulke@brynmawr.edu for more info.

## Arts Happenings

Wednesday, 12/6: The Crow. Stokes Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Thursday, 12/7: Bryn Mawr & Haverford Chamber Singers will perform in Founders Great Hall, 8 p.m.

Friday, 12/8: The Matrix. Stokes Auditorium, 9 p.m.

Saturday, 12/9: Big Trouble in Little China, 8 p.m.; Enter the Dragon, 10 p.m. Sharpless Auditorium.

Through 12/31: the Arden Theatre presents The Jungle Book. Tickets \$22-30 for adults.

# Jamaican Style Jerk Sauce - at home on the Main Line

Nicole Foulke  
Arts & Living Editor

Maine's Blue Mountain World Harbors company has a line of bottled sauces and marinades – just brush them on something and char it or stick it in the oven, and there you go. But having no easy access to anything but a microwave and a dryer, I went for a dining hall microwave, carrying a small plastic bottle of Jamaican Style Jerk Sauce & Marinade. It was Cat-fish/Stuffed Bell Pepper Day.

The label describes the Sauce & Marinade as “a unique Calypso harmony of sweet, spicy and hot flavors.” Sure, why not. Let's just add that its raspberry juice makes for a pleasant tang.

As far as dining hall food goes, that night's catfish was plump and lovely and a bit of sauce poured on top made the Friday night a little more festive, but not so festive that I couldn't bear it. The rice-stuffed, cheddar and tomato-topped bell pepper, though, was disgusting to begin with and after I poured a bit of sauce on top and microwaved it, the whole thing was plain vomitous. I took a bite and didn't want to eat more, but my dining companion, enjoying her pie, was staring at me. “What, you don't like it?”

“Of course I do,” I said, like a jerk.

Just like the elderly lady who shoved me out of line at Eckerd a few weeks ago, or those dentists who talk to you while jamming metal things in your mouth and expect you to answer back.

The Vitamin Shoppe on Lancaster that fired the man who stood outside on the sidewalk with sheets of paper outlining why he, someone with a wife and baby girl, should not have been fired the week before Thanksgiving. “I was their best,” he wrote. The man was their best vitamin seller.

The Main Line matrons in their frosted bobs and black sunglasses, who vroom their engines when they see liberal arts students on crosswalks.

That squirrel at Haverford who threw nuts at my friend.

The groundsman who watched me walk halfway across Merion Green in sandals before yelling that he had just sprayed pesticide and now my feet were

going to “fall off.”  
That guy I saw peeing against a church on Samson Street.

Anyone who goes to FoodSource to buy a bottle of Blue Mountain World Harbors Jamaican Style Jerk Sauce & Marinade that's made in Maine and expects it to have any semblance to something you can find at a food stand in Kingston.

But while the origin of the English noun *jerk* is unknown, the food term *jerk* itself is thought to have two, one referring to the jerking and hole punching of pork or chicken to make space for a spice mixture during cooking. The other refers to *charqui*, the Spanish word for jerked, or dried meat (we know it as *jerky* in English).

And jerk pork can be traced back to the pre-slavery days of the West African Cormantee hunters through the Maroons, Jamaican slaves who escaped during the 1655 English Invasion of Spain's Jamaica colony from the British, who were being jerks.



## Delectable Harmony

The Performing Artists Series presents

### Delectable Harmony

Featuring Jonathan Blumenfield HC '78 of the Philadelphia Orchestra on oboe with assisting artists.

The program consists of music by area composers Curt Cacioppo, the Ruth Marshall Magill Professor of Music, Ingrid Arauco, Associate Professor of Music and Venetian maestro Marino Baratello.

Sunday Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

General admission, \$15; Seniors, \$12; Under 18, \$5. No children 5 and under please. Call 610-896-1011 for more information. Roberts Hall, Marshall Auditorium.

HTTP://HOME.FLASH.NET/~FLAMENCO/PAGES/45.HTM



## Flamenco-Natyam Dance intertwines culture and beauty

Sara Gibson  
Staff Writer

The newly renovated Pembroke Arch Dance Studio hosted its first performance of the year Wednesday evening, when visiting dancers Rajika Puri and La Conja presented their own unique blend of form in Flamenco-Natyam.

Despite the bad weather, many showed up for the event. The number of campus organizations and departments sponsoring the event – SAW, Mujeres, the Office of Institutional Diversity, the Dean's Office, the Spanish Department and the dance department – gives an indication of the breadth of interest that this performance held.

The evening began when the two women entered the studio, clapping out a beat and circling each other as they explored their own different movements. Simple rhythm quickly turned into an impressive fusion of sound and gesture as they played off of each other's different styles; it soon became difficult to tell where one ended and the other began.

This is exactly the point that the performers were trying to make. While celebrating the particularities of their own respective dance forms, Rajika Puri and La Conja attempted to demonstrate to audience members how two apparently unrelated dance forms – Flamenco and

Natyam – are linked to a common history.

The connection? Gypsy music and dance. As the performers explained, gypsies originating from regions in south India, traveling westward through North Africa (including Egypt, which earned them the name gypsies), and eventually reaching Andalusia in southern Spain (where Flamenco was "born") adapted their dance traditions through their constant migration.

Outlining this phenomenon in a combination of lecture, music and dance, the two women brought this seemingly obscure connection to light. Not an easy thing to do, considering that more than 1,000 years separate the gypsies' time in India from their ultimate arrival in Spain. The result was stunning.

For some students, it was the first time that they had seen Flamenco performed live. This was the case for Bryn Mawr junior Anokhi Saraiya, who said that she "didn't really know what to expect."

Even for those who may have seen more dance performances, the connection was not evident. "I don't think I ever really made the correlation between the two dances or languages," remarked Radha Karnad, BMC '03.

The dancers spoke to the audience between pieces, explaining certain characteristics of their own styles, and comparing them with one another. They placed a particular amount of emphasis on the notion of "countertime," which dominates the rhythm of both Flamenco and Natyam dance traditions. This is the principle behind the two-person beat which they used to open the show – the idea that two slightly different beats, when played off one another, can create a more complex rhythm, or "pulse."

They also spent much time discussing hand motions and gestures, integral to both dance forms. Imbued with particular meanings in Natyam, hand movements are used in a more abstract sense to express emotion in Flamenco, and often include the use of pedillos, or castanets.

This was demonstrated in the second piece, Sevillanas, inspired by the annual feria, or fair, in Seville. Accompanied this time by a musical recording, La Conja captivated her audience with magnificent footwork, pulsating rhythm and a strikingly intense gaze. Rajika Puri, observing from the back of the room, began tapping out a beat to her partner's dance, quietly improvising on the Flamenco dancer's infectious rhythm.

"Really great dancers are musicians first," the Indian dancer later remarked. Both performers in this program had a clear understanding of the musical forces at work in their pieces. Each explained some of the elements inherent to her tradition, and each sang at one point in the evening. Referring to the vocal style of Natyam, which she called a kind of "scatting," Puri remarked that "we explore spaces between notes." Both explored such "spaces" on several levels in this performance.

Pani, the final piece of the evening, was a culmination of this exploration. The title itself means water in both Hindi and Calo (the language of the Spanish gypsies), again illustrating the artists' theory that Flamenco

## SAW Spices up Campus with Colorful Culture Show

Tua Chaudhuri  
Staff Writer

Saturday, November 18 found Thomas Great Hall ringing with music, chatter and excitement as a packed house prepared for *Rangotsav*: the annual Bryn Mawr SAW (South Asian Women) Culture Show. *Rangotsav* itself means Festival of Color, and it is an annual affair. Multi-colored garlands, flags from the various nations represented in the group and festive cloths adorned the hall with an air of exotic elegance and beauty. Even Athena, Bryn Mawr's illustrious patroness, had dressed for the gala in a lovely sari.

While waiting for the show to begin, the audience was entertained by a kaleidoscope of images from the various nations and cultures of South Asia and its Diaspora. From rikshas crowding large thoroughfares, folk dances and rice paddies to fashion, food and festivals, the slide show was an interesting and informative visual.

The show started off with a bang and a whirl as six Mawrters in brightly colored skirts performed an upbeat folk dance in the Garba style. This dance is one that originates in the Indian state of Gujarat and is usually performed by large groups of people during harvest festivals, to celebrate the accomplishments of the old year and bring in the new.

Energetic dance performances were scattered throughout the show; in styles ranging from the classical Bharathanataym, a dance form of south and west India that tells stories through the movements of the dancer, to modern and interpretive dances set to modern film music. Whatever the style, the women looked to be having a blast and you were tempted to jump on stage and join them.

Between the various dances were other wonderful acts, including readings of original works, songs in the various languages of the cultures

and a performance by Bryn Mawr's very own Night Owls. Despite the language barrier many people encountered, the audience enjoyed the songs, affirming that music truly is the universal language.

The SAW board was greeted with laughter and applause in their performance of the Desi MTV Video Music Awards. The board, which is composed of Co-Presidents Uma Jagtiani '02 and Anokhi Saraiya '02, social cultural heads Radha Karnad '03 and Snehal Naik '03, speakers head Aliya Cumally '02, treasurer Nisha Begwani '02, community activism head Aditi Nayar '03 and secretary/publicity head Shrooti Singh '03, gave a comical sampling of modern South Asian pop culture. The board skit is a tradition that started along with the culture show seven years ago.

The highlight of *Rangotsav* was, perhaps, the fashion show. Unlike any ordinary style presentation, it was completely choreographed. The different kinds of clothing, including everything from the classical sari and salwar to more modern fashions adopted by women the world over, were enhanced by the music and dancing that accompanied them. "It was wonderful to see how these women had assimilated their traditions and their American experiences into an original sense of style and culture," said Julie Dowds BMC '04.

The SAW board worked diligently with other members to create this plethora of music, dance, fashion and fun in order to celebrate the cultures and traditions of the nations of South Asia. "It was a beautiful portrayal of the complex dynamic between the modern and traditional aspects of the cultures," said Ilana Moyer BMC '04.

Judging from this and other reactions, I would say that they succeeded. The show highlighted the abundance of diversity, beauty, and creativity inherent in these cultures. Overall, *Rangotsav* was truly a colorful experience.



CHRISTINA FETTERHOFF



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SEE FLAMENCO ON PAGE 22



CHRISTINA FETTERHOFF

# Sean Armour - Beer Drinker - Patriot

"The Beer-Drinker's Light Beer"



Welcome back, beer compatriots.

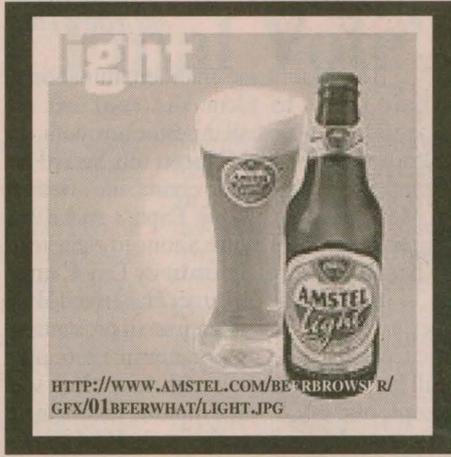
This week we will explore a brew that is well known, easily attainable, low in calories, and inexpensive. No, I am not talking about something "Natural." Brewed and bottled at the Amstel Brouwerij B.V, Amsterdam, Holland, Amstel Light is a staple light import.

In 1870, the founder of Amstel, Baron C.A. de Pester and his two-year-old son Ernest, laid the first stone of the new Amstel Brewery. Over 100 years later Amstel is a subsidiary of Heineken, and is one of the world's most popular beers.

According to their website, the Amstel brand stands for "Fun, Friendship, and Freedom." That is certainly a pretentious claim.

The beer pours like water and develops a lofty head of pristine white that magically vanishes in less than a minute. Nothing can describe the color of this beer other than 'the color of the water in the latrine directly after use.'

The aroma is rather stale, but grows on you slightly. Every sip of this brew makes you think of water; the hopping is light, as is the alcohol content, which rests at a dwindling 3.5%. Perhaps the only benefit to this beer is the 35% reduction in calories, which in the long run is useless, as you will need to drink 35%



[HTTP://WWW.AMSTEL.COM/BEERBROWS/R/GFX/01BEERWHAT/LIGHT.JPG](http://www.amstel.com/beer/brows/r/gfx/01beerwhat/light.jpg)

Amstel Light, a staple light import, has offered up its inexpensive "Fun, Friendship, and Freedom" since 1870.

more beer to equal the alcohol content of a standard brew. Amstel Light's merit is definitely its thirst quenching and refreshing character, which comes from its being a lager beer.

It is also inoffensive and therefore not engaging, which makes it a good beer to not care about tasting, which in some cases may be beneficial.

Overall, Amstel Light is a bit lackluster, but has a few good points. In being so inexpensive and innocuous, it can be propelled a bit higher in the rankings and would be a good choice for a group of friends partying or bargoers. So enjoy this unobtrusive brew from Amsterdam, and check out next week's *Bi-Co* for another beer, which I am sure you'll enjoy. Cheers.

## Bi-College Orchestra Concert: A true masterpiece

Catherine Song  
Staff Writer

If you were hurriedly (or merrily) walking down the path leading to Roberts Hall on the night of November 17, you were expecting to see the Bryn Mawr and Haverford Orchestra give its end-of-semester performance. As you walked past all the people in Marshall Auditorium, you realized that the place was almost a full house (well, I'm saying almost, since all these people were dispersed all over the place, filling up the seats here and there).

Meanwhile, a conglomeration of Mawrters and Fords in black were onstage with their instruments, engrossed in their music sheets or just conversing with their neighbors. Finally, as the room descended to darkness, the audience grew silent, but that silence was shattered with applause as Heidi Jacob, the Orchestra's director, made her grand entrance. My impression of her was of a very striking, ebullient woman, despite her diminutive size. When she raised her baton, I had a gut feeling that it was going to be one great concert.

And yes, Jacobs proved me right. Her orchestra played renditions of the "Hungarian March" (from *The Damnation of Faust*, by Berlioz) and excerpts from Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet Suite No. 2* ("The Montagues and the Capulets" and "Romeo at Juliet's Tomb"). I found myself being mesmerized by the power and harmony of the Orchestra's collaboration.

Prokofiev's "The Montagues and the Capulets" is one of my favorite pieces, and it was a real treat to listen to it live. Jacob had incorporated the tenor saxophone, which gave "Montagues" a modern twist. What a moment!

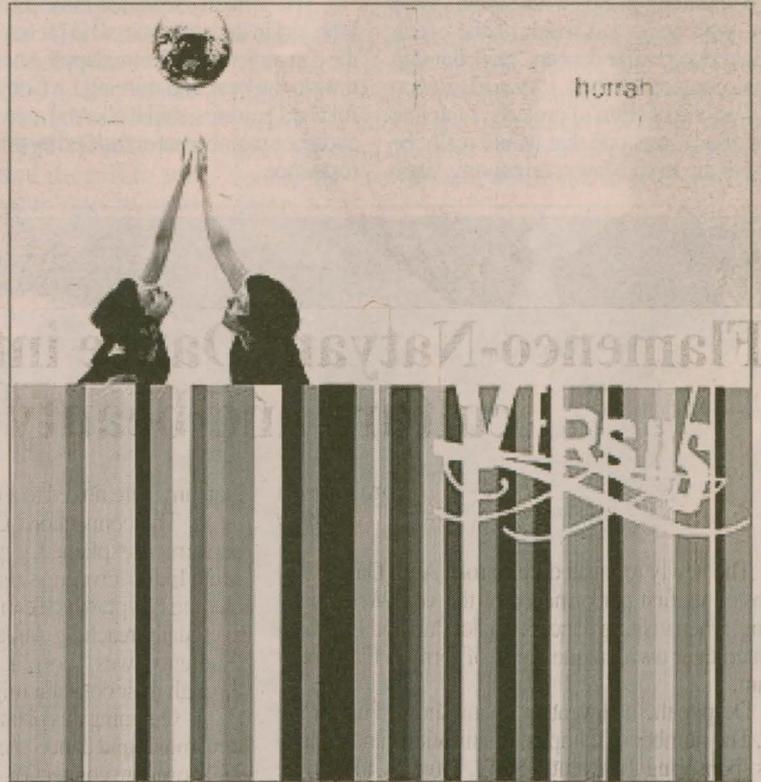
There was a short intermission after the first two works. I let myself relax a bit, and watched the musicians in black scurry around and change positions during their time off. I was wondering when they were going to play again when the auditorium turned black (as a reminder to the people to keep the noise down). The intermission officially ended as the Orchestra played its own rendition of "Happy Birthday," as a tribute to Lauren Leanza, who was on piccolo. It was an unexpected surprise, since that was not written into the program. Then they proceeded into Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67 (1808)*, which was lighter and more flurry than the music prior to intermission, which was more dramatic and of a darker mood, so's to say.

I did get the opportunity to chat with Jacob and was able to ask about her choices in music. I discovered that her students voted for the pieces played that night, and that the program was built around their favorite music. In putting together this concert, Jacobs wanted "to make sure that everyone [was] involved ... [and] wanted to do something that involved more trombones and brass because Beethoven doesn't have that much."

Since her orchestra consisted of a very strong brass section, she emphasized more of those kinds of instruments

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## Versus : Hurrah for Hurrah

Jonitha Keymoore  
Staff Writer

*Half-Cocked*. Their latest effort, *Hurrah*, is probably their best album to date.

Though Versus took its name from the title of an LP by eighties punk/hardcore band, Mission of Burma, it is a name that perfectly describes their heavily pop-influenced sound. The prolific New York City band has been releasing nearly an album a year since their 1994 full-length debut with *The Stars Are Insane*. Since then, they have released five albums, numerous EPs and also appeared in the soundtrack of cult film,

for Beethoven. Another reason she selected it was of sentimental value; her husband had played those particular pieces the previous summer.

When I asked her why she selected *Romeo and Juliet*, she told me of a "wonderful" violinist in her orchestra and she wanted a challenging piece to accommodate her student's talents. "Beethoven is challenging in a different way," she told me, "but Prokofiev involved [more] advanced technique."

The organization of this concert was more than getting 120-plus bi-co students and playing some music; it was about selecting the right music, accommodating to the talents of the musicians and weaving all the pieces together. This concert was a masterpiece in itself, and I say kudos to you all of you involved!

Versus initially evolved from the remnants of Flower, the former band of singer/guitarist Richard Baluyut and singer/guitarist Fontaine Toups. After a number of changes in the band's line-up, Versus currently includes Baluyut, his brother James, Toups and drummer Patrick Ramos. Having been influenced by punk, rock and pop, Versus gained fame for having a diverse fan base. Their second full-length album, *Secret Swingers*, showcased their versatility and willingness to experiment with a variety of different musical genres. It is in *Hurrah*, however, that Versus bandmembers have reached maturity as songwriters and musicians. The songs are carefully constructed sonic dialogues, complete with churning guitars and the enchanting harmonies of Toupe and Baluyut. Songs like "the spell you're under" and "shangri-la" stand out in particular.

*Hurrah* is an album filled with wonderful pop songs that are just bitter enough to keep things interesting. Unlike their previous album *Two Cents Plus Tax*, *Hurrah's* less polished sound results in a richer album with more texture and experimentation. *Hurrah* is an excellent pop album with just enough rock to prevent boredom. While Versus may not have revolutionized the future sound of music with this album, it is, however, twelve tracks of pop indulgence that is bound to put anyone in a good mood.

# Flamenco

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

and Natyam dance are connected. Dancing to music composed for sitar and flamenco guitar, the women blended form with an alegrías (a solo with Indian movement) and a solea por bulerías (a duet performed by both Puri and La Conja).

Some of their past performances have included appearances at the Guggenheim Museum NY and tours in Spain and India. Aliya Curmally, who organized much of the event, was first introduced to the dancers' work through a personal contact. "When I saw Flamenco Natyam was one of [Puri's] projects, I felt that this piece, if any, was one that would really be of interest to the Bryn Mawr community, since

it was such an endeavor in the collaboration of cultures."

Inspired to bring the performance to campus, Aliya was eventually able, through her own determination and what she calls "a stroke of luck," to convince the dancers to take time out of their busy international schedules to spend an evening on campus.

It certainly seems to have paid off. One little girl in the audience, who sat transfixed by the dancers' movements, clapping her hands in time to the beat, and miming La Conja's graceful hand gestures, said it all. And more than one audience member sat enthralled by this rare performance.



**Ceili Rain will play Friday, Dec. 8 at Bryn Mawr's Goodhart Hall, 8 p.m.** The group melds driving folk-rock guitar licks with traditional Celtic sounds and instruments such as the button accordion, tin whistle and bagpipes. It's Celtic music for the pop/rock palate. Lead singer and songwriter Michael Halligan has written hit songs for Cher, Kiss, Michael Bolton, Joan Jett, Kathy Mattea and Judas Priest. Says the New Yorker, "These guys deserve to be heard by the entire world. Their potential is limitless because they have an appeal that knows no boundaries." *Tix are \$15, \$12.50 and \$5 for bi-co students. Call (610) 526-5210 for more info.*

## Egg Donor Needed

**\$25,000 Compensation**

We are a loving, infertile couple hoping to find a compassionate woman to help us have a baby.

We're looking for a healthy, intelligent college student or college grad, age 21-33, with blue eyes and blonde or light brown hair. Your gift of life would bring great joy.

Please contact us through our representative at 1.800.776.7680.



# Make a joyful noise

Nicole Foulke  
Arts & Living Editor

The Main Line Interdenominational Choir is set to blow the roof off of Haverford's Marshall Auditorium with its 34th Annual Gospel Concert this Saturday. Comprising three local churches – Bethel A.M.E., Mount Calvary Baptist and Zion Baptist – the Choir holds a concert each year to benefit the local Serendipity Day Camp.

Roger Lane, a former Haverford History professor, has taken part in promoting the Concert since its first run in 1966, and still helps to promote it each year. "You see people and say, 'Wait a minute, I recognize this guy – he works in the bank. He drives a bus ... it's a way of discovering what a resource this community is and its enormous depth of talent.'"

1966: Lane was Director of the Ardmore Serendipity Day Camp at a time when the federal government had declared the town an "impacted poverty area." It also said that it would match any funds that the Camp could scrounge up through fundraising.

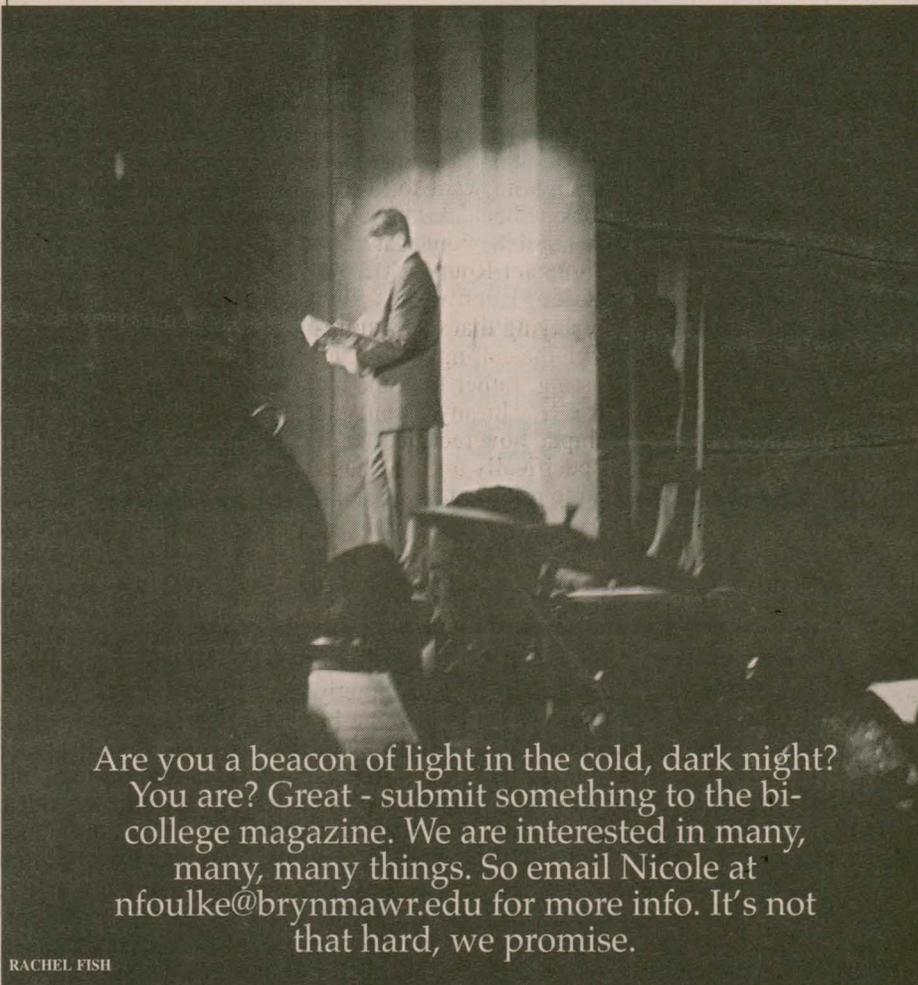
Community members came together to perform a gospel concert whose proceeds would go to the Camp and in 1971, the three churches officially declared themselves the Main Line Interdenominational Choir.

Lane remembers that only 200 of Marshall's 800 seats were filled for the first performance, but after the seven standing ovations exhausted the Choir's song repertoire, the community realized the Gospel Concert's potential.

The Choir itself has toured from Washington, D.C. to New York, and Lane is pleased to share that it has a CD out: "At this concert they'll be doing some numbers from their CD – not much, because the CD is mostly hymns and spirituals rather than gospel, per se – but some," he said.

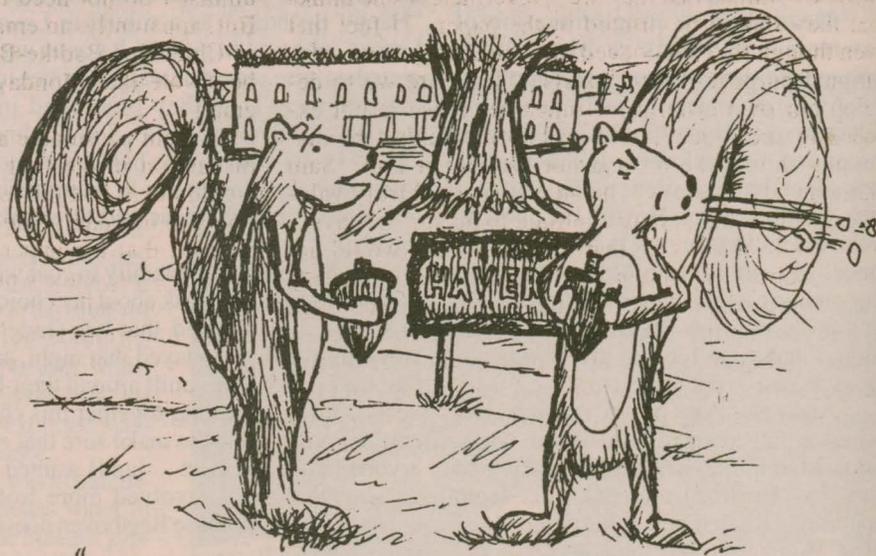
So buy a ticket, and just go – trust us, you'll be clapping and hanging from the rafters in no time.

The Concert is at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5, and proceeds benefit the Serendipity Day Camp. Tickets will be on sale in the Haverford Dining Center during the week of December 4th.



Are you a beacon of light in the cold, dark night? You are? Great - submit something to the bi-college magazine. We are interested in many, many, many things. So email Nicole at [nfoulke@brynmawr.edu](mailto:nfoulke@brynmawr.edu) for more info. It's not that hard, we promise.

RACHEL FISH



"I HEAR THERE ARE SOME QUALITY ACORNS AT BRYN MAWR."

# PERSPECTIVES

## "The Final Vote"

Meredith Lewis  
Columnist

On Halloween of this year, the *Bi-Co* published an ad which read: "Egg Donor Needed, \$25,000 compensation." The ad pleaded for "a healthy, intelligent college student or college graduate, aged 21 - 33, with blue eyes and blonde or light brown hair" to help a "loving, infertile couple" have a baby. After a dinner conversation on the subject with two friends, I cut out the ad and posted it on the Comment Board. My intention in posting the ad was to gage the community's opinion upon the subject of egg donation. To entice conversation, I attempted to point out that what the couple was really looking for was an "egg seller," not an egg "donor." In blue pen, I circled the word "donor" and wrote "seller" beneath it. "This is obviously not a gift ... this is buying and selling, or simple economics," I scrawled on the ad. "This is disgusting," I continued. "Why not pay off those college loans? It's just a person that you're making by selling your genes. Does it disturb anyone that we are potentially endorsing this [practice] by printing the ad in our paper?" And so the "fire" was ignited on campus, a fire that would continue to burn (albeit just barely) until *Bi-Co* voted on the night of Monday, November 27th, as to whether or not they should continue to print the ads.

Reaction to my comments were mixed. "You need to chill out!" wrote Erica Kyzmir '04 on my posting. "All this ad is about is a couple who want to have a baby and are willing to pay for one because they can't have one naturally. What is so terrible about that? It's certainly not disgusting." Nathaniel Rounds '02, responding to Kyzmir, scrawled, "I can't speak for Meredith, but I took her to be saying that the requirements for an egg combined with the calling 'selling an egg' a 'donation' were disgusting, rather than the act of trying to get an egg by itself." In any event, the storm which blew in over campus hovered most ominously over the *Bi-Co*, most specifically over the business office, which had decided to run the ad in the first place.

Peter Nicholson '02 is the business co-manager for the *Bi-Co*. "The *Bi-Co* has no responsibility to ever print a certain type of ad," he says. "We have a responsibility to not print some ads (currently alcohol related or directly offensive ads). I do not think that the donor ads are in this category because they do not directly attack anybody. They may indirectly offend some by suggesting practices that are not personally allowable."

Nicholson bring up an important point, which is the advertising policy of the *Bi-Co*. The policy states that the paper will not print ads that are alcohol-related or ones that are "directly offensive." But what is meant by "directly offensive?" This can most certainly vary from person to person, from man to woman. While Nicholson did not find the ads offensive, Nicole Foulke '01 of Bryn Mawr and the Arts and Living Editor for the *Bi-Co*, thinks that they are. Nevertheless, she thinks that they should be printed in the paper. "I feel that even though they are indeed offensive, they serve educational purposes," she asserts. "How are we to develop our own criteria for injustices if we're not exposed to such ideas? We probably wouldn't be discussing this if the ad had not brought it up." Sam Hartman '01 agrees. "The ad has sparked truly valuable discussion and may continue to do so," he says.

While I do agree that this discussion would not have occurred on campus had the ad not been published, I am very disappointed with the response to the issue in our community. The *Bi-Co* services two colleges, with a combined population of approximately 3,000 students, faculty, administration, and staff. That does not even include the alumni population. When Sam Hartman and I published side-by-side opinions on the subject of egg donation, how many responses do you suppose *Bi-Co* received? None. No one wrote to the paper to express her opinion. Not one person.

I do not feel confident, from the comments and conversations that I have had over the past month, that this is a community of students in which every student can look at an ad for \$25,000, realize that they fit the

profile and could answer it, and effectively dissuade themselves from making the phone call. Egg selling is an unethical practice, which I say not only according to my own beliefs, but also after receiving correspondence from ethicist Dr. Arthur Caplan of The University of Pennsylvania. [Please see: "Babes and Toyland: The Consumerization of Reproduction," *Bi-Co*, also in this issue, for further information.] It is wrong for couples to coerce young women to sell their eggs. It is wrong to sell your eggs, just as it is wrong (and illegal) to sell organs or blood. It is illegal to sell your eggs in most developed nations, including in the United Kingdom. Why is it legal here? I also think that it should be illegal to sell sperm. When your action has the consequence of creating another person, a person whom you will likely never meet, and who will grow up in an environment over which you will have no control, you had better consider what you are doing. And that decision needs to be made with absolutely no thought of personal financial gain. All of this talk about "helping needy couples" is complete nonsense. No one "helps" at a fee of \$25,000. If you want to help, do it for free.

As to whether or not the ads are "offensive," I happen to find them so. I have blonde hair and blue eyes. I played two varsity sports in high school. I did well on the SATs. And I could be that donor. What does it mean to be a donor? It means that you unite half of your genetic make-up with someone you don't know. It means that you may never see your own children. And they *are* your children. I have a hard time with the argument that divorces biology from the birth mother. When a child has half of your DNA, you are the mother. The birth mother who raises the child is also a mother. Yes, this child has three parents. Are you ready to be a parent? Probably not. And, did you know that when you sell your eggs, it is possible for the receiving couple to turn around and give them to whomever they wish? If by your donation 12 viable embryos are produced, it is theoretically possible to have 12 descendants walking around before you ever have your "first born"... and those descendants may have been born into several different households across the country, or across the world.

Collection last Monday night was devoted to egg donation, though no effort was made to round out the discussion by bringing a speaker in opposition to the practice. Eleanor Race, Class of '99, spoke on her rewarding experience of being an egg donor. Race did not receive any financial reward for her eggs. I felt the presentation, through informative and well-spoken by Race, was quite one-sided. And the audience who came to hear her was disappointingly small.

While I was attending Collection, gathering information for my article "Babes and Toyland: The Consumerization of Reproduction," the *Bi-Co* voted as to whether or not to keep the ads in the newspaper. I attend *Bi-Co* meetings 50 percent of the time; as a columnist I do not need to be present at every meeting. But, apparently, an email had been sent by our Editor-in-Chief, Joe Badtke-Berkow, saying that there would be a vote that Monday night. I did not receive that email.

I am passionate about this issue—I initiated the discussion in the first place—and, quite obviously, I would never have missed that vote, had I known it was going to be taken. The vote was conducted, and it was decided that the paper would keep the ads -- by one vote. My presence would have tied the vote, allowing for the community to continue to discuss what I feel is a very important issue. This is an issue that deals with questions of ethics, reproductive technology, capitalism, our student welfare, and newspaper censorship. It obviously should not have been rushed into a premature conclusion.

At this point, I feel as if I am shouting into the wind. I do not feel that my opposing the vote would do much of anything, as the tide on campus seems to be one of relative indifference to the ads. Those who are not indifferent to the ads feel that they should be printed. Some, like Foulke and Hartman see them as beneficial for discussion, others cite "cost-benefit" models that they learned

## They Found Us

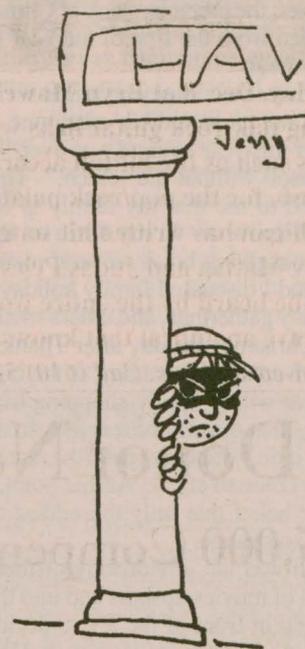
Matt Joyce  
Guest Writer

How many times have you thought, "wow, it sure would be easy for some devious, non-honor-code-abiding, Main-Liner to slip into the bubble and have a field-day pillaging our unsuspecting campus." I'm sure its crossed each of our minds, and then quickly been buried under the more pressing thoughts of research papers, exams, and of course, the ever-present desire not to be locked out of the dorms.

After a few months absent of stern warnings advertised on brightly colored security briefs, I, and I'm guessing the majority of the school, had slipped into a mode of blissful invincibility, displaying the common symptoms of propped halls, wide open doors and loosely scattered backpacks and laptops lining the walls. It was great. The worrisome convenience of our honest Quaker school, to which friends at Penn and NYU could only offer an amused chuckle, gave us each one less worry, ensuring that safety and security on campus were not our most immediate concerns.

Well...they found us. Those crafty Main-Line criminals have finally penetrated our threatening walls of trust and acceptance. They've eluded our tolerant student body, infiltrated our welcoming dormitories, and picked our unlocked doors.

Deciphering our *nearly* fool proof security system has taken time, and no doubt extensive effort on their part, but we've been exposed, and now we have to adjust.



The strict words of Safety and Security are lining our walls in all their vibrancy once again. Slowly and steadily, the overworked trashcans and recycling bins are losing their roles as doorstops and moving back against the walls, and keys are starting to reemerge as an essential accessory. The red brick road to the apartments, which once seemed like a stroll through munchkin land, is suddenly starting to seem like a march into the Haunted forest. Even the doors to my own Lunt 4<sup>th</sup> sanctuary are beginning to stay locked with some consistency.

Yeah, the outside world of crime and corruption has found its way in, and not even the looming threat of confrontation or the wrath of Honor Council trials seems to deter its momentum. Looks like it's finally time to start taking some precautions until our crime wave subsides, or security runs out of new colors with which to report the latest incident. Right now, the responsible Haverford student can only faithfully and cautiously wait out the bedlam. Who knows, maybe we'll even catch these shrewd offenders. They'd be separated for the eight-semester maximum before they even know what hit 'em.

in economics class as the way the savvy Haverford student would calculate whether or not she should be a donor. I tend to find all of this rather depressing. As Beth Kotarski, Haverford's Women's Health Coordinator expressed, "my gut hope is that, when my daughters are old enough, they can look on such an ad with the same mingling of outrage and sadness that I do." My hope, as I concede to have "lost" in my attempt to ban the ads from publication in the *Bi-Co*, [please see: "Extraordinary Compensation, Eugenics, and the Extraordinary Gift," *Bi-Co*, November 11, 2000], is that no one here will ever answer the ads, and that if anyone feels compelled to aid an infertile couple, like Eleanor Race, that she would never consent to receiving financial reward, to selling a piece of herself.

# A Grinchy Tradition In Need of Election Observers?



**Emily Moos**  
*Columnist*

From being home this last time for Thanksgiving, I have come to the conclusion that my family is strange. I'm sure that every person in the Bi-Co community, students, faculty and staff included, has some sort of tradition that they carry on when all of their family is gathered, and that they value as a quality activity during the holiday season. But I doubt that anyone else's favorite custom is quite as nutty as mine. Picture my family: my mother, grandmother, aunt, uncle, cousin and myself sitting at a large round table, just finished with the Thanksgiving meal and each of us wondering how he or she could possibly have eaten so much (I know this is not all that abnormal, yet). But when we've all pondered for several moments the task of fitting into our clothing tomorrow, it begins. The craziness is not even seen in the tradition itself, but in the fact that it was never meant to be a tradition, and yet, it happens every year. Either my cousin or me, it changes from year to year, voices the usual question, "Can we get them out now?" My aunt or my mother reluctantly agrees that we've waited long enough.

My cousin and I then make a mad dash for the basement, half-running, half-tripping down the stairs. It's a wonder we make it to the bottom year after year without any broken bones. We dart and dodge various obstacles: my uncle's retired shoes, an abandoned bike pump, an inner tube, a sewing basket, and finally, we make it to the darkest corner of the room in which the trunk sits. We stand, beholding it as we do every year in anticipation of what is inside. After our moment of silence, we plunge to the ground, fiddling with the latch to open it. The lid creaks as a musty smell emits from the bowels of the trunk, and we see amongst garlands and lights, wrapping and boxes, the precious stack of Christmas movies that are forbidden from the first of the year to right after the Thanksgiving meal.

Watching the same movies year after year might seem like a tradition in itself, and not an incredibly crazy one at that, but as my aunt said after this year's round was over, "It wouldn't be the holiday season without the search." This year's search is what proved to me that my family is far weirder than any other that I know of. In my dorm on the few days leading up to Thanksgiving break, several members of my customs group and I discussed family holidays. Some of them have large fancy gatherings, and others small. Some start to decorate for Christmas the day after Thanksgiving and some just take advantage of that day as the biggest shopping day of the year with a family-shopping trip. After hearing all of the things that other families enjoy to do in the holiday season, I really didn't want to explain the search as something my family has come to enjoy. At that point, I was fairly confirmed in my belief that only the oddest of families treasure something so strange.

And this year's search was the granddaddy of them all. After carrying the parcel of movies upstairs and into the family room, we line them up in front of the TV to decide which one we'll watch first. As I nestle into the couch, Helena, my cousin, calls out the familiar titles. "*The Legend of Rudolf, The Miracle on 34th Street, The Muppet Christmas Carol, Christmas on Sesame Street, It's a Wonderful Life...*" the list goes on and on. And when it's done, the search begins as I query without fail, "*What happened to the Grinch?*" The Grinch who Stole Christmas has always been my absolute favorite. There is something about the little dog Max and Cindy Lou Who and the colorful Who Village that just appeals to me and reminds me of the Christmas spirit like no other Christmas movie I've ever seen. But, alas, year after year, the Grinch is missing. You might think that we would learn that we aren't going to ever find the movie, but one of the most endearing idiosyncrasies of my family is our determination. Year after year, we put the Christmas videos away for another season, and year after year we forget that the Grinch is not among them. By the time the next year's Thanksgiving feast is over, we assume that, by some act of magic, the Grinch will appear in the pile. Never are we so lucky. So, year after year the search begins.

But this year, I got smart. The first thing I did when I arrived home from Bryn Mawr was to borrow the car for a trip to Blockbuster after picking Helena up from school. We were going to end the search once and for all by breaking

**Anita Isaacs**  
*Guest Columnist*

The US may need a favor returned. For years now, it has lent a helping hand to democratizing countries. US officials and organizations typically comprise much of the roster of the teams of international electoral observers which regularly descend upon countries to assess the conduct of their elections. Observer certification of elections as free and fair are deemed absolutely critical in bestowing democratic legitimacy on the winning candidate and on the country's political system more generally. Within this hemisphere alone, missions were sent to both Mexico and Peru this past year. In the Mexican case they confirmed the breakthrough victory of opposition candidate Vicente Fox, and signaled for many the initiation of a Mexican transition to democracy. Objections to the fraudulent re-election of Alberto Fujimori, led to sustained international pressure, buttressing the democratic opposition and contributing to Fujimori's recent announcement that he would resign and call new elections.

Over the past few weeks, the eyes of the rest of the world have been focused on the US as it struggles to determine the victor in its own presidential contest. To the extent that the media and political pundits have taken note, they have been quick to highlight the fear that prolonged electoral uncertainty could have a destabilizing impact beyond US borders. For reasons having to do then, with preserving stability at home and globally, the US as world leader, needs to resolve the impasse and to do so quickly. Get on with it: count again - once if you must, and then concede defeat graciously, avoiding lengthy, politicized legal battles.

Forgotten in the midst of the punditry and the political gambitry is a potentially more threatening challenge to US leadership than that posed by a couple of weeks of uncertainty. There is no vacuum of power for the time being: the US still has a President, scheduled to "quack" in office for another ten weeks. The challenge lies elsewhere; captured in the world's gaze are questions regarding the ability of the

US to continue to pose as leader, guide or guru among democracy promoters.

Within this hemisphere, US input into the crafting of democratic trajectories is obviously connected to larger questions of US power. But US claims to leadership on matters relating to democratization are also derived from its moral authority. That authority is a reflection of the US historical experience, and of the embrace of standards and values that can be exported credibly because they are upheld at home. When the US describes elections as the cornerstone of democracy some may wish for a broader vision. But democrats neither dispute the importance of elections, nor do they quarrel with US claims that democratic procedures should be followed, in ways that respect the popular will and that guarantee the rule of law.

Those looking northward to the US this week, from far more fragile democracies, can only be puzzled by the apparent willingness of a democratic political leadership in the US to tolerate irregular elections because all elections are fraught with irregularities; to lean towards disregarding a popular will that is too complicated to be ascertained; and to jettison a rule of law that threatens to bog down a process requiring a swift conclusion. One might then ask whether the pundits have misinterpreted the threat to US leadership contained in the international focus. Democrats elsewhere may not share US concern with guaranteeing stability by quickly deciding who is to become the next US president. Rather, their concern may be that the oldest and most secure democratic country show leadership by handling the uncertainty of the democratic process in ways that both preserve and strengthen democratic governance.

It could be that the US lacks practice, unaccustomed to confronting either democratic uncertainty or the potential fragility of democracy. Having wrestled with many of these challenges for some time now, other countries may be able to return a favor that they are perhaps too polite and respectful to offer. Maybe we should ask for assistance instead - could Mexico and Peru provide observers to monitor US elections next time around?

## You Want a Crisis? I'll Give You a Crisis.

**Regan Fitzgerald**  
*Columnist*

Oh yeah, it's so horrible that we don't have a president elect. We don't have the winner of the election sitting around Washington choosing the members of his cabinet while his wife picks out the new china pattern for the White House.

Instead, we have a media circus in Florida, and two men, each trying to portray himself as the good guy. Republicans, your battle cry is now, "The votes have been counted. Let's end this national nightmare!" (Let's not quibble over the fact that the nightmare would actually be Dubya being president, so it's really just beginning.) Democrats, we're going with, "It's not over until all the votes are counted! Don't disenfranchise the people of Florida" (Not to go against the party line or anything, but how do we know when they've all been counted?)!

So this circus just goes on and on, with every person who has power in the situation (and many that don't) trying to insert himself into the process. Does anyone know why there were Congressional aids to Republican members of the House from New York in Miami-Dade? Why was the junior Senator from Maryland, a Democrat, in Palm Beach? And what the heck does the Governor of Montana have to do with all of this? Bush keeps unearthing former aids and appointees of his father's to fight his Florida battle for him, while trial lawyers are coming out in force for Gore. So the Supreme Court will decide something that probably won't change anything, and there will just be more legal wrangling.

What do I think will happen? The Republican-controlled Florida legislature, (including a Speaker of the House who wanted to change the message on the Florida license plate from "The Sunshine State" to "Choose Life"), will feel that it has to choose the state electors. The U.S. House will accept those electors, because they're Republicans, too, and by Inauguration Day, President Dubya will be waving at us during his parade, smiling that stupid frat boy smile.

In the meantime, while the press tries to wade through all of this legal mumbo-jumbo, there are a few other things that need the American public's attention, a few additional pressing matters that should be dealt with.

First, the man who will most likely be our next Vice President just had yet another heart attack. It becomes more obvious as the days go by that Dubya is very dependent on Mr. Cheney as an advisor, and has built his entire platform on the fact that he will have this man's insights to guide him. I think that we should be concerned that someone who will obviously have a great deal of power in the new Bush administration is not healthy. Cheney's ailing heart is an issue that the press should have spent more time exploring during the election, and should now be further examined, if for no other reason than to tell the American people the truth about the man's condition.

Next, let's talk about the mess that the next Senate is going to be. There has been no official concession, but Maria Cantwell, the Democrat challenger to incumbent Slade Gorton, has won the first count and we are now awaiting the second, which is mandated by state law because of the small margin of victory (about 1900 votes). If Cantwell wins and Gore loses, the next Senate will be split 50-50 between the Democrats and Republicans for the first time in its history. After January 20, the balance of the power will swing to the Republicans because Cheney will be President of the body and will have the deciding vote on any ties (interestingly, the new Senate will be sworn in on January 3, and in the time between that date and the inauguration, Gore will still be the President of the Senate, meaning the Democrats will control the body).

Even with the balance of power belonging to the Republicans, it will be very difficult to get any business done, especially at the committee level, which will be split in the same way. Minority Leader Tom Daschle has proposed that the committees have co-chairs with one from each party, a sort of coalition government, but there has been no response from Majority Leader Trent Lott (and I think they may have to take another look at those "majority/minority" titles). So, the first few months of the Senate's business may very well be taken up with deciding how this whole mess will be run. If you think there was gridlock in Washington before, this is going to be worse than the Beltway before a Redskins' Monday night home game.

Now here's something that really concerns me, but doesn't seem to phase the media at all: WE DON'T HAVE A BUDGET! The fiscal year started in October, and the

# The Month of Ramadan: A Voyage Inside the Soul

Nishat Hasan  
Columnist

On Monday, November 27, one billion Muslims around the world began to celebrate the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a month from the old lunar calendar of ancient Arabia that has now become a part of the Muslim calendar. It is a month of fasting. Each day at dawn (about two hours before sunrise), Muslims wake up and eat sahar (the pre-fast meal). From the time that the first rays of the sun appear, Muslims stop eating and drinking anything until dusk. Although this may seem strange and dangerous to many, it is quite safe, and there are many rules that govern who can and cannot fast during the month.

Muslims fast because they were asked to do so by God. Yet each person has a very different reason for doing it.

I am writing this article because I want the non-Muslims of the bi-co community to know what is like to not eat or drink during the daylight for a month each year. My month usually (and unfortunately) begins a few days in advance, because I spend the days before Ramadan making up fasting that I have missed due to sickness and other reasons the year before. Physically I am well adjusted to fasting. I am lucky that I don't get sick when I fast, but no matter who you are, the month is not easy to endure. I usually take two to three days to adjust physically to the change in my diet. During these three days I feel the hunger, and my stomach cries (quite loudly sometimes) for food. But after the first days, my stomach becomes smaller, and my body begins to switch its clock. I usually survive the morning hours by using the food that I ate pre-dawn. At lunchtime, I get a boost of energy as my body begins to use my body fat to maintain my energy levels. The rest of the day flurries by until the hour before Iftar (the breaking of fast). I don't know if it is psychological or physical, but that hour seems the longest as I wait to break my fast. As the time for Iftar approaches, I prepare to pray and then eat. And although I have been looking forward to breaking my fast for the entire day, as the last minutes of my fast go by, my hunger seems to diminish, and I feel like I could go on for another three or four more hours. In the Muslim tradition, I break my fast by first thanking God for giving me the strength to fast and asking him to accept my fast and the fast of all those around the world. Then, I take a bite out of my date, a sip of my milk, and the day is over.

Contrary to popular belief, after we breaking fast, most Muslims don't stuff their faces with food. Our bodies couldn't handle it because our stomachs have shrunk during the day. Therefore, Iftar is usually a light meal. Most Muslims break their fast with dates and milk because that was what the prophet ate. He ate them because they were very simple and common in that region of the world. He ate the simplest of foods to show others that fasting is not a burden or a hardship, but a joyous and enlightening journey.

Food and water are the most basic necessity of life. To give them up is not easy. I have often forgotten momentarily that I am fasting and taken a sip of water or eaten a piece of food that was offered to me. Fasting requires self-control and determination. No one can make another person fast if he or she doesn't want to, and no one can be your helper and prevent all temptations that come your way. Fasting is an inner battle, or Jihad, that each Muslim faces alone.

However, the act of fasting is very much a social and communal event. The month of Ramadan is spent with family and friends. It is the one month that I can guarantee that my family will all be present in the house by a certain time. There are also Iftar parties held at friends' homes, and increasingly, Iftar dinners at the local mosque where people converge to break their fasts and pray together. The month is a very exciting time because most people make an effort to spend time with each other, and in our busy workaholic society that is quite rare. It is almost like Christmas and Hanukkah every day for a month.

This year, the greatest joy is that Ramadan fell right after Thanksgiving, and Eid-al-Fitar (the celebration marking the end of the month of Ramadan) falls days after Christmas (a holiday that many Muslims celebrate). In my house, this calls for a very active Ramadan as we began the month by celebrating Thanksgiving and will end it by celebrating Christmas at my aunt's house.

Through all this month, the one thing that I most gain is self-knowledge. I fast because I have been asked to and because I want to. I find that this month teaches me so much.

# A community within

Lydia Dagenais  
Guest Columnist

In the Bryn Mawr and Haverford communities, both social and academic life revolve around the Honor Code and the ideals of trust, concern and respect. It is infrequent that I ever really stop to consider these self-made guidelines and how they affect my life, but in one night, the three unexpectedly unfolded before me. Friday, Dec. 1, I was fortunate enough to partake in a Muslim prayer gathering of Bryn Mawr and Haverford students which enabled me to understand all three concepts in a way that I had never before experienced. Participating in this event as a non-Muslim student, I was able to observe another layer of the diversity of the two campuses and to better understand the importance of such diversity.

I was initially impressed by the abundance of respect given by these Muslim students towards their peers and me. Though on the two campuses, respect has come to be expected, their warm welcoming and invitation for me, an obvious outsider, to observe their sunset prayer displayed a level of respect which was truly unique. The care and concern with which they interacted with each other, whether it was in preparing food for their breaking of fast or simply chatting with one another, gave me a real sense of community. But most of all, I was struck by the trust they had in each other and even in me. Although it was my first time being involved in the bi-college Muslim community, they trusted me enough to share in their Ramadan prayer and breaking of fast; one of the most important aspects in Islam.

Part of what was so special about Ramadan is, in fact, the gathering of Muslims to celebrate their faith. In talking with Bryn Mawr student Ahmed Rashed, I learned that one aspect of the importance of fasting during the day is that it enables Muslims to congregate in the evenings and do things as a community. The idea is that with the time during the day when one would normally be eating, one can instead do work reserved for evenings, leaving more free time at night for fraternizing. According to Emile Durkheim in his work *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*, "The only hearth at which we can warm ourselves morally is the hearth made by the company of our fellow men; the only moral forces with which we can nourish our own and increase them are those we get from others." These Ramadhan gatherings, in this sense, serve as a way to strengthen Muslims' ties to Islam by building upon one

Everyday I feel hunger, and this teaches me what millions of people around the world feel everyday of the year. I eat less, and spend more time in prayer and thinking about God because I am physically reminded of him all day. Although this might seem strange to many, I ask you this question: how many times in the day do you think about the blessings in your life and God? During this month I become much more aware of my life's gifts and much more thankful for my good fortunes. God works in many ways and this, I think is his most amazing he teaches me through my fast that I fast for myself above all.

## Crisis

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

federal government has been running on a few temporary appropriations bills since. Congress was suppose to convene for a session just after the election, but they decided that since the Presidential election wasn't over, they'd just come back in December and figure it all out. From what little information we've been given about the situation, the President (and yes, we do still have one) and the Congress are no closer now than they were before the election to a final agreement. I remember the government shutdown. It wasn't good and a contested election is no reason to have another.

Okay, so the bottom line is that there are a lot of other things to worry about, besides the identity of the next leader of our country. Unless Strom Thurmond becomes President (and scarily enough, it could happen). Then it's time to worry.

Al Gore Quote of the Week  
"I have a 50-50 chance of winning this election."

another's existing faith.

The importance of such gatherings to Muslim students, however, reaches beyond just feeding and strengthening their faith. Haverford student Abdul Aziz Jalloh explained to me that having these congregations with fellow Muslim students and being a part of the Muslim Students' Association allows him to feel closer to home and reconnect with his Muslim roots. He told me, "From an early age, Islam has always shaped my way of life as well as my thoughts. Islam, and all it represents, has been a central part of my upbringing, and coming to Haverford cut me off from those ties. That's where MSA and Muslim Awareness came in: they enabled me to stay in touch with that most important part of myself." It is easy to forget that in America, our basic morals come from Christianity; this often makes it hard for people of different faiths to feel that they adhere to our sociological structure. Though the Muslim community here *does* practice the Honor Code's "trust," "concern," and "respect," their beliefs seem to be much stronger than the actions of others in the bi-co community I have experienced thus far. To witness a Muslim community as I had never seen it before, (that is to say, separate from our Christian-based society) made me realize how lucky I am to not have to worry about conforming my ideals to fit the differing ideals of the majority.

I also think that I am lucky to have even found out about the prayer gathering let alone attend it. Though Bryn Mawr did an excellent job of promoting Islam Awareness Week and educating its students on Islam through displays in the campus center, I discovered it was Islam Awareness Week at Haverford only through my looming deadline for this article. I believe it is of utmost importance to take time to learn about Islam from our few Muslim students, especially during this holy month of Ramadan, because it is part of the diversity which Bryn Mawr and Haverford boast. To try to understand the struggles of Muslim students to keep their faith in a community away from home where they are the minority is to better understand a part of ourselves and the community as a whole. Durkheim also wrote that believers in faith sense that "the true function of religion is not to make us think, enrich our knowledge, or add representations of a different sort and source to those we owe to science. Its true function is to make us act and to help us live." Though Islam Awareness Week has now ended, my recent experience will certainly make me act and help me to live as a more understanding and complete Haverford student.

## Grinchy Traditon

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

down and buying the Grinch for our Christmas movie extravaganza. This year's Thanksgiving started just the way most do, but this time when we went to bust out the Christmas movies, I smirked to myself, pleased with my foresight, as I went to the car to retrieve the Grinch. It would be first on the schedule this year. As I poked my head into the car and surveyed the front seat, then the back seat, then the trunk, I knew that I should have expected something like this to happen. There was no Grinch in the car. A few minutes later, after the entire family made a thorough search, we came to find that there was no Grinch in Helena's house. After driving to my house, a few minutes down the road, we found that there was no Grinch there, either. We had lost the Grinch. Again. Not one member in my family had a clue to its whereabouts.

Returning to the family room, we sat staring at the pile of movies, slowly coming to the realization that the Grinch and my family just don't mix, when my uncle walked through the door and casually placed something on the coffee table in front of us. "Was someone looking for this? I'm not really sure, but I thought that I had heard someone ask about it. "I picked it up and read the title. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas". I looked up at my uncle and he winked. Helena and I looked at each other and simultaneously screamed, "YES!" As the opening music began to play, and my family began to assemble, a warm feeling grew in my chest. My aunt spoke up, just before the narrator began the story of the Grinch's change of heart, addressing my cousin and me, "It wouldn't be the holidays," she said smiling, "without the search."



## Vomiting: an optional part of the holiday tradition

Dear students:

There is something about the holidays that brings out the "More is Better" instinct in a lot of us. Like the heavy drinker who sees a sign: "All the beer you can drink for \$1!" and responds, "I'll have \$2 worth." In the spirit of a happy, healthy holiday season let me offer readers an opportunity to learn from their fellow students who have ruined perfectly good parties, dances, blouses, shirts, friendships, reputations, self-esteem and other valuables by drinking too much.

The majority of Haverford students drink as intelligently as they do most other things.

However, every year, and several times so far this year, a familiar chain of events has played out. A student begins a weekend evening with anticipation of having a good time with friends. The festivities begin, the drinking begins, the amount that's drunk is not kept track of and the drunken behavior begins. Which is usually a combination of some or all of the following:

Private or public vomiting, embarrassing or completely out of character, "I can't believe I said or did that" behavior, private or public passing out, blacking out, (not remembering portions of the evening). Anxious friends wondering what to do and usually doing the right thing and calling Safety and Security which sometimes means a trip to Bryn Mawr Hospital Emergency room for observation and lab work. (Or more stringent medical interventions). And finally the "morning after."

Most of the students who have experienced this type of evening are not heavy or problem drinkers but light or moderate drinkers who drank thoughtlessly on one occasion. And having ex-

perienced it, they are very motivated to drink in such a way that it won't happen again.

If you've never experienced such a night of drinking, good for you. Here's some pointers to insure that you never will.

1. Remember that at any drinking occasion, vomiting is optional.

2. Drink Slowly. Alcohol is a food, a drug, and a chemical, and the body is equipped to metabolize it. But not quickly and not in large amounts. Consult an Alcohol Impairment Chart (there's one in your yellow Haverford College Alcohol Policy booklet) to determine how much you can safely drink based on your weight.

3. Avoid hard liquor or mixed drinks. Or at least mix your own so you know what you're drinking.

Your idea of a rum and coke may be exactly one ounce of rum and four ounces of coke poured over crushed ice. The bartender at the pre-

party's idea of a rum and coke may be four ounces of rum poured over ice while glancing at a bottle of coke. Two of yours is fine. Two of his and see paragraph three.

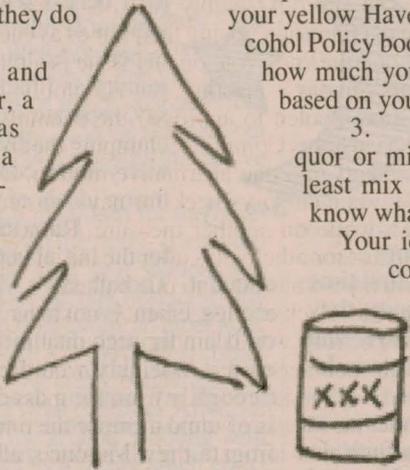
4. Never drink anything out of a punch bowl.

5. Never drink anything out of a punch bowl.

6. If a friend tells you you've had enough, stop drinking. There's always another party. And the world will never run out of beer.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Mark Coffey  
HC Substance Abuse Educator



## The a-cappella war of words

Dear community:

I would like to begin this by saying that I have not been to an S-Chords concert since my Customs Week in 1997, and, in general, am not a very big fan of theirs. What I write is based on the recent exchange of articles in the *Bi-Co* and from postings on the Comment Board. I believe that the recent "war of words" between Kilian Kroell and the S-Chords is an interesting example of how liberalism operates at Haverford College. While Kilian is most certainly within his rights to write critically about a "mainstream" and public group, the First Amendment cannot disguise the fact that his writings were rude, offensive and completely unnecessary. We can cling all we want to inherently liberal documents, but that does not excuse us from being respectful, or just decent, to one another.

What struck me the most about this concert was that a great deal of effort was put into it by past and present members of the S-Chords. Since I believe that effort is what makes everything in this world count for something, it has been discouraging for me to read that the only thing Kilian could distill from the concert were fatuous comments on how people were dressed and who was supposedly gay. Unless I am mistaken, this concert had no underlying agendas, such as propagating "Haverwhiteness" or the alleged sexual preferences of the participants. These absurd claims were imposed upon this event by Kilian and appear to be at odds with reality. His interpretation of the concert seems awfully strange to me because it has a group of mostly gay men doing their damndest to perpetuate a cultural norm (Haverwhiteness) which is alleged to demand conformity and 'straightness' above all. This glaring inconsistency leads me to conclude, sadly, that Kilian believes that everything he writes, no matter how foolish, is both correct and clever. In truth, however, he is not correct and far from clever. Even though he was writing from a detached and marginalized perspective in a self-consciously mannered style, Kilian was, in fact, shamelessly using the *Bi-Co* to insult people who had the temerity to want to put on a show for

Haverford.

Even if every member of the S-Chords were gay, what would it matter? The concert was not billed as a "Coming Out Party," nor was it part of the Outweek festivities, and it would seem to be an unlikely addition to the Day of Silence in April. What the S-Chords were wearing or what way of life they espouse is nobody's business and should be completely irrelevant to anyone concerned in writing intelligently about a musical performance. The references to the actual music in the concert were scant. On the other hand, there were manifold comments on the more 'burning' issues at hand, such as who was wearing orange shorts or a 'gay' hat. I am not the president of the S-Chords Fan Club, but they certainly deserved a fairer treatment from Kilian than the one they received. Instead of writing a probing commentary on the concert, Kilian penned a catty and mean-spirited fashion/society column that, although totally protected by the First Amendment, does not concur with the ideas of respect and decency contained in our Honor Code.

While part of me believes that Kilian's rude and tasteless article is protected by the First Amendment, I think that it is a travesty for the First Amendment to be used as a vehicle to mock people who willingly gave their free time to entertain our campus. For me, this is not a First Amendment debate, it's an intention debate. The S-Chords did not purposely try to offend Kilian's "moral, aesthetic," but he most certainly did try to offend the S-Chords. For this reason, although I still regard Kilian's column as free and protected speech, it is offensive and spiteful free speech, which serves no purpose but to insult well-intentioned members of our community. In the end, Kilian's article provides us an interesting way of looking at liberalism at Haverford. The *Bi-Co*'s decision to print unpopular speech shows what is best and most liberal about our society, while at the same time, the actual article displays what is worst and most in need of improvement in terms of journalism.

Sincerely,  
Lionel Warshauer  
HC '01

## Racial Diversity at Haverford

Dear community:

As concerned students at Haverford College, we hold awareness of racial diversity by all members of the community as pivotal to the environment of mutual respect, concern, and trust as stated in the Honor Code. It is vital to the community that each member promotes a social ethic devoid of prejudice—whether based on race, class, gender, sexuality, or any other grouping—that may degrade members of the community and detract from social equality. We believe that the Haverford College community has failed to fully realize the commitment to diversity that we as a community promised to uphold through adherence to the Honor Code. In order to ameliorate this shortcoming, we believe that dealing with the issue of racial diversity first may pave the way for better treatment of diversity at Haverford College. We feel obligated by the mandates of the Honor Code to take a proactive stance to foster dialogue and action to fulfill this social responsibility.

Do you think there is a problem?

If you think there is a problem, is this the best approach to dealing with it?

You are invited to share your opinions with us on TUESDAY, December 5th @ 10:15 p.m. in Gest 101. Everyone is welcome!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Students for Diversity & Unity

Richard Biddulph '01  
Rebecca Bockow '03  
Alex Castro '01  
Hannah Dickinson '03  
Sam Edmondson '03  
Cory Gooding '02  
Alex Jadin '03  
Ana Lopez '03  
Katherine Piggott-Tooke '03  
Abe Scarr '02  
Emily Shaw '02  
Jared Tankel '02

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cmclusk@brynmawr.edu

ILLUSTRATIONS, COMICS:

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PROFILES:

rmatchan@brynmawr.edu

REVIEWS:

nfoulke@brynmawr.edu

Be brave.

# EDITORIAL

## Representing Bryn Mawr

If only it were just about money.

Instead, this fall's budgeting process exemplified the lack of representation that is threatening to undermine SGA's authority as a responsible, responsive organization.

The problem of non-communication has taken on numerous forms, and at times, deal with budgeting. Earlier this semester, the Student Finance Committee or SFC neglected to tell Bryn Mawr's clubs that they could not expect as much money this fall as last spring, something of which SFC should have informed club treasurers in writing, or stated at the mandatory budgeting information sessions. Instead, everyone was surprised.

Rather than communicate on the issue, SFC and the SGA that approved the first budget allowed themselves to abdicate. In one instance, SFC hoisted nearly \$10,000 of first semester transportation costs on the Community Service Office, which, at that time, had only \$2850 per semester to allocate to transportation. The Community Service Office had no idea that SFC intended to defer all groups with transportation needs, community service or not, to its office until the day after budgeting. More than a case of poor timing, this lack of notification signaled an indifference to the individual circumstances of offices and clubs on campus. While it is entirely reasonable that the clubs should take some of the budgeting burden on themselves, SFC could feasibly lessen that burden by doing its homework.

Another sign of non-responsiveness this semester is that SGA, and perhaps all of us, have been wishing for change but not effecting changes. As students at Bryn Mawr have complained for years, few famous speakers or celebrity bands come here. Enter Gloria Steinem and her \$15,000 speaking fee. The student body wanted something different, namely a "big name speaker," but never bothered to change or even examine the funding structure or budgeting process. Only now, after the tangled snafu of post-Gloria budgeting is Bryn Mawr taking a look at alternatives to its current budgeting process and its funding structure.

For one, College President Nancy Vickers and SGA President Meera Ratnesar have been considering ways to centralize funding and channel it into large events. This is an outstanding idea; but the problem with this initiative is that it is being not discussed, but presented. It seems that this initiative, directed at radically changing the course of social life at Bryn Mawr College, is getting airtime almost exclusively between the two presidents. Vickers held an initial discussion last month with only a handful of selected

students, and the issue has received little discussion in the actual SGA Assembly, even when Vickers visited our representatives at their meeting.

Instead, following the SGA practice of avoiding controversy, debate, or sometimes, even discussion, many of our SGA representatives have had little to say during the weekly meetings, while Ratnesar's voice predominates. While it is commendable that we have a strong executive, and a block of consistently confident voices at SGA, many reps are silent, and many students thus are not represented. Further, there was little indication of direct representation happening at the SGA meetings when few questioned Ratnesar and Vickers' plans for the College, or when the entire Assembly approved the much-disdained budget with little question.

There is a general lack of accountability when it comes to voting. The entire Assembly casts its votes by sitting in the circle of chairs and raising their hands as each measure is called, and the "no" vote on any issue is a rare one. In fact, at this Sunday's meeting, the Assembly, at Ratnesar's suggestion, "voted to approve" the evening's appointments to the Customs Committee, lumping the five individual appointments into one affirmative motion. On that measure there was a cursory check for nays, abstentions and no votes, while on another measure, Ratnesar almost neglected to ask for other votes after the initial, and of course unanimous, yes vote. And no one balked.

The solution to this lack of engagement is not to have a secret ballot, which truly would hinder accountability, but a roll call. Each member of the Assembly would be asked to call out her vote, independently from the mass of the Assembly. While this measure would increase the time needed for voting, it would mitigate the all-at-once, all-the-same mentality of SGA. This is one of our proposals: that before the end of the semester, SGA as a whole debate and then resolve to adopt roll call voting.

Real accountability is the willingness to seek input and incorporate it into one's thinking. Many representatives already make praiseworthy attempts to do this. But this accountability occurs in such a way that, like the SGA process that we want to change, is not centralized. Why not have a general comment board in a central location, namely the Campus Center Main Lounge, as SGA is in fact moving to do, and why not put it up before the end of the semester? The students would sign their full name and year with each comment, and as a result get their opinions represented. Now if all of SGA will work to do the same.

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The Bi-Co will print letters to the editor concerning matters relevant to the bi-college community. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. Anonymous submissions will not be published; however, the editor in chief can withhold an author's name if the author makes such a request.

All submissions are due on Friday, 5 p.m. for Tuesday publication. They should be sent as an attachment in Rich Text Format to <biconews@haverford.edu> or mailed to one of the adjacent addresses.

For advertising information contact the business office at (610) 896-4204 or by email at bicobiz@haverford.edu. The Bi-Co reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

# THE LAST WORD



KEITH FEIGENSON

## Hideously Awkward People

Your weekly dose of cynicism and social rejection by Dan Roushville

<p>This week's episode Friends forever</p>	<p>What?! A bag of half-dead syphilitic rats could come up with a better idea than that!!</p>	<p>You know it's pretty rare for a person who was beaten that badly by the ugly stick to be pounded by the excrement-between-the-ears-stick too.</p>	
<p>Maybe we could have the kind of friendship where we always insult each other because we know our friendships too strong for it to be true.</p>			
		<p>That was a good idea. We just bonded a lot! ... Genital face!</p>	<p><b>NEXT WEEK OF</b> <b>H A P</b> <small>Hideously Awkward People</small> <b>Conversations</b> Will the friendship survive?</p>