

the college news

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photo by kathy fazekas. see inside for more from our feature photographer.

Yaya: Afro-Caribbean Women's Music Collective Gets Mawrtyrs Dancing

by elizabeth walsh

With seven women ranging in age from 18 to mid-40s, a variety of percussion instruments, and an audience just larger than the band itself Yaya's performance (hosted by Mujeres) on Friday night in Aelwyd was intimate and memorable. A New York City based Afro-Caribbean drumming group, Yaya was founded in 2001 by women musicians who met each other through other bands they were involved in. Historically, the percussion element of the music Yaya performs is played by men, but

Marinieves Alba, one of the band members, says "We wanted to create a space that nurtured women and encouraged them to take that traditionally male role of percussionist." They are currently the only all-female Afro-Caribbean drumming collective in the U.S.

Yaya mostly plays salve and bomba songs, which are part of the Dominican and Puerto Rican musical

traditions, respectively. Yaya means mother in kikongo, a "creolized Bantu language" of the Caribbean's

"This music is close to our cultural identity, it is part of who we are now."

Clarification on Confrontation

by vanessa "brooklyn" poggioli

In the previous issue of *the college news*, it was stated that "Resolution 14 was and is very confusing." I would like to take the opportunity to make it a bit clearer.

Under the current Social Honor Code you must:

- confront students in person unless that option is unavailable (i.e.: the student is abroad)
- confront students in private and in a confidential manner (only HAs, mediators, counselors, and 1-2 confidants may know about the confrontation); and
- confront students as a first step toward conflict resolution.

The last part seems to be the most confusing but it is really very simple. If someone offends you to

the point that you are going to take action, the first action you must take is to confront her personally. If you choose not to take action, there is no repercussion.

Taking action includes, but is not limited to:

- bringing a student to the Honor Board
- negotiating a room change with ResLife; and
- discussing the situation with more than 1-2 confidants.

To promote proper confrontation, the Honor Board is working to establish clear guidelines for confrontation and to inform the student body of their resources. If you have questions about any of this, please contact me or Sarah Martin, Honor Board Head.

African Diaspora. Many of the songs Yaya sings are about women—honoring mothers, praising female deities, or remembering women warriors. Before playing each song, the members of Yaya explained its origins—some songs were traditional and others are originals written by women in Yaya.

"These songs are living, we don't want to folklorize it," says Alba. "That's why we write our own new songs and create fusions. This music is close to our cultural

identity, it is part of who we are now."

The experience of Yaya's performance was more than just listening. Because the music involves a conversation between the dancer and the drum, the audience was encouraged to get up and shake it. Reluctant at first, the concert soon turned into a dance party.

"It was really vibrant and exciting," says audience member Andrea Milne '09. "I loved that it was so intimate because I got to really experience the music."



Liberty Belles Take Gold

by emily lehrer

Nine Bi-Co students, members of the Liberty Belles, took the ice on Saturday March 4th to compete in synchronized skating at the Penn Quaker Classic. After skating a three minute program to David Bowie's "Changes," these women were awarded the gold medal in this intercollegiate competition.

The Liberty Belles is the first synchronized skating team to form on the Bryn Mawr/Haverford campuses. They compete in

synchronized skating which, for those who are unfamiliar with the sport, combines ice skating with the harmony of the Rockettes and the forms of synchronized swimming.

The team was formed in early 2005 by Yanika Wolfe and Emily Lehrer with the goal of bringing the joy of synchronized skating to the two campuses. They hope to compete in regional, sectional, and national competitions as well as local exhibitions in the upcoming years.

highlights

♀ anglophilia,
p.3

♀ meet a mawrtyr,
p. 6

♀ atlantic city,
p. 7

centerspread:
women

