

# Raiders of the Lost Archives: Cheerleading at Bryn Mawr

by stephanie olen and elhanna porter

"Give me a W! Give me a H! Give me a Y! What does it spell...?" Solen and eporter here bringing you another action-packed installment of Raiders of the Lost Archives! (And, boy, do we mean it when we say action-packed.) We'll be taking you back to one of Bryn Mawr's less remembered moments. A student-initiated, ten girl club that might leave you asking: "\_\_\_?!" So sit back and picture this:

Crisp October afternoons, the excitement of a roaring football game, the smell of freshly roasted peanuts, the feel of the scratchy wool sweaters, the simple pleasure you get at the sight of the shapely calves of the Bryn Mawr cheerleaders as they go through their warm-up stretches....Whoa there, Bryn Mawr Cheerleaders? At football games? What 'chou talking 'bout Willis?

Oh, you heard us right, sports fan. Mawrtys. As cheerleaders. In September, 1963, the Haverford football team ("the mighty 'Fords"), desiring more student support of their games, sent a note to Bryn Mawr's undergraduate President Dorothy Meadow, requesting that Bryn Mawr form a cheerleading squad to whip up the crowds at their games. Though request was "vetoed by the more sophisticated members of the Executive Board," ten industrious Mawrtys took it upon themselves to form the squad.

They debuted Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1963 at the Haverford-Johns Hopkins football game after little more than a week's practice, but as Mawrtys always do they rose to the top [of the pyramid]. No more Anassas for our BMC Cheerleaders; they led their crowd in a "rousing Alabama Shakeit" (shake what,

college news, "We weren't the objects of even good-natured mockery or derision—which we well expected." Gushed Barbara O'Neill '66, "There was fantastic support from everyone."

Little else is known about the BMC Cheerleaders; after the dust cleared they'd already faded back into the



I wonder). Were they a success? Take it from one anonymous 'Fordian: "I guess a lot of us should have watched the game more." Haverford football Coach Roy Randall said that "he welcomed the change from stringy-haired intellectuals." Alma Lee '65 told *the*

school's woodwork. At last sight, they were making plans to cheer at all the Haverford football games and to raise money to afford matching red skirts for their Haverford Letter Sweaters. But the last remarks of Rena Gill '67, Gene Fiaccone '65, Popie Johns '66, Steffi

Lewis '65, Elena Mestre '65, and Penny Pierce '66 were reported to be "summed up in one very enthusiastic and characteristic 'Rah!'"

While we may have moved from a cheerleading squad to a rugby team, and many of us may now cringe at the idea of shakin' our pom-poms for Haverford Dan, we'd like to leave you with this inspiring (and even poetic?) work of football verse:

YEA TEAM  
Fight...  
Fight...  
Fight...  
Give em...  
The ax  
The ax  
The ax  
...hold that line  
Fight...  
Fight...  
Fight...  
...YEA TEAM  
whew  
pause

Make sure to tune in for next issue, when you may encounter such startling historical revelations as "New Professor befriends Talking Squirrel." But that's all for now from the... Raiders of the Lost Archives!

## Your Guide to Lantern Night 2004

Lantern Night is 8 PM on Sunday, October 24th.

Ticket orders are due by Friday, October 1.

Tea invitations are due to your dorm soph reps by Wednesday, October 6th.

Reimbursements of up to \$20 for Lantern Night teas will be available from Residential Life.

Swinger and runner sign-up sheets will be posted in Thomas Thursday, October 7 until 5 PM on Friday, October 8th.

Juniors and seniors may sign up to be swingers. A lottery will be held to choose the required number of swingers from all those who sign up. Sophomores may sign up to be runners.

All freshman, swingers, runners, and bouncers will be required to check out a batrobe for the ceremony. Batrobe checkouts will be held from 10-5 on Tuesday, October 19, and 8-11 AM and 7-9 PM Wednesday, October 20. Bat robe returns will be the same hours the following week. There is a \$300 fine for any non-returned batrobe.

Rehearsals are as follows:

Song rehearsals for frosh and participating upperclassmen (places TBA):

Monday, Oct 18 at 10PM

Tuesday, Oct 19 at 7 PM

Wednesday, Oct 20 at 9:30 PM

Thursday, Oct 21 at 7 PM

All participants must attend \*at least one\* songs rehearsal.

Cloisters rehearsals: Monday Oct 18, 8 PM and Thursday Oct 21, 4 PM

There will be a MANDATORY dress rehearsal on Saturday, Oct 23rd  
Reminders:

—All frosh and participating upperclass MUST memorize the lyrics to the songs. It will be dark, so there will be no songbooks.

—All students participating in the ceremony must attend at least one song rehearsal and the mandatory cloisters dress rehearsal.

—This is a silent ceremony. No cell phones or flash photography is permitted.

—Lantern Night is cold. Please dress appropriately. Freshman, please wear gloves.

—Please do not leave lanterns unattended. They are a fire hazard.

Thank you!  
Devon Montgomery and Shannon Friday  
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## Dynamic first lady?

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representatives to the rest of the world mirror that change as well?

Heinz Kerry is also an immigrant, obviously, as has been mentioned many times over. This also seems to be a point of weakness to her opponents. Why? America's strength, unity, and diversity is derived from its immigrants. We're all the descendants of immigrants. I wouldn't bloody well be here if my great granddad hadn't decided that Poland rubbed him the wrong way. He came for the American dream—all our families did. And Heinz Kerry just happens to be a very good example of what the American dream can get you.

This election is very important, and beyond whether *Harper's Bazaar* reports that Teresa Heinz Kerry is wearing Oscar de la Renta or Chanel, Heinz Kerry stands to make a lasting impact on American politics and culture, even more so than she already has.

I can assure you of one thing: you won't have to look into the background to see her.

a friendly reminder from  
the college news:  
learn sophias, first-years.  
you won't regret it.