Dr. José de Armas, Modern Language Department, will present a paper at the Convention of Inter-American Women Writers on May 20-24. The convention includes representatives from the Americas and Canada. Dr. de Armas' paper is entitled "The Poetics Countervision of Rita Gaeda."

On Sunday, May 14 at 8:15 p.m., the Concert Choir and Orchestra presented their Spring Concert. Conducted by William Osborne, the choir performed Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Benedictite" and Gustav Holst's "First Choral Symphony." The performance was in Swasey Chapel.

Joan Marx, English Department, recently won a National Endowment in the Humanities Fellowship in Residence for College Teachers for 1978-79. There will be eight other members of the seminar, "The Development of Medieval and Renaissance Dramatic Genres," to be held at the University of Chicago. Dr. Marx's project is entitled "The 'Impure' Drama: The Conflict of Genre Conventions in Renaissance and Jacobean Drama." She also presented a paper entitled "The Encounter of Genres: Cymbeline's Structure of Juxtaposition," at the Colloquium on Contemporary Methods of Literary Analysis held at the Graduate Center of CUNY in New York on April 28.

The Music Department presented a Faculty Recital on Wednesday, May 10, in Burke Hall. It featured Eileen Bellino, soprano, and Richard Chamberlain on the piano.

Cynthia Thompson's professional accomplishments for the year include a November presentation to the Columbus Latin Club on "Greek Centers of Christianity: Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi"; a December presentation before the American Philological Association meeting in Atlanta, Georgia on "Aristotle, Palaephatus, and the Rationalization of Myth"; and, most recently, a paper entitled "Cicero and Superstition in the De Natura Deorum," delivered in Houston at the Classical Association of the Middle West and South.

The 300th anniversary of the first university degree to be earned by a woman will be celebrated on June 25, 1978 by numerous universities throughout the country. Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia was awarded the Magistra et Doctrix Philosophiae by the University of Padua on June 25, 1678.

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While this list is incomplete and already out of date, the Career Planning Office reports that the following Denison women have received and accepted offers for jobs upon graduation: Candy Cone—Proctor & Gamble; Sandy Wright—Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati; Nancy Knutson—First National Bank of Cincinnati; Anne Suter—Inland Steel; Janet Igler—IBM New York; and Betsy Deer—IBM New York. In addition, nine women have so far reported their acceptances to graduate and professional schools to the Registrar.
In medical schools, the acceptees include: Nancy Hans—University of Florida; and Debra Beeson—Duke University.

In law schools: Mary Jo Carney—University of Toledo; Beth Gaglione—Washington & Lee, Dickinson, Case Western Reserve, and American University; and Lisa Woolard—Washington University and Tulane.

In business schools: Lee Crampton—Northwestern, Columbia and Indiana University; and Sally Schade—Indiana University.

In graduate schools: Nancy A. Brown—University of Chicago; Lisa Woolard—Michigan Institute; and Deneise Deter—University of Virginia.

Five women have been elected to the executive staff of DCGA for the 1978-79 school year. They are: Diana Sikes—Vice President; Pat Dickey—Speaker of the Senate; Susan Altemus—Finance; Suzanne Warren—Communications; and Barb Wegener—Social Committee. An additional four have been elected to offices in Mortar Board. They are: Susan Kalvin—President; Carol Cislak and Debbie Maschner—Secretaries; and Sioux Clarke. Other women members include: Deb Baer, Caroline Balzarini, Kelly Brown, Laura Brown, Oi Li Chang, Kathy Golden, Laura Green, Lynn Hoyle, Barb Korstanje, Susan Sutherland, Cathy Toman, Amy Truitt, and Sarah Woodfin.

THE YEAR AT DENISON

Although the Denisonian recently gave extensive coverage to next year's plans for the women's program at Denison, I'd like to highlight briefly some of our achievements for this year and our hopes for next year. Perhaps the best news is the Mellon grant. Thanks largely to the efforts of Ann Fitzgerald (Director of Women's Studies) and Provost Lou Brakeman, Denison applied for and received a $132,000 grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation to create a new program on careers for women students. We think that the program will have important implications for all women students within the next three years.

In addition, the news that Denison had been chosen by the GLCA to house the Visiting Scholar second semester next year was made even better news when we learned that the scholar would be Florence Howe, a nationally recognized pioneer in Women's Studies, the founder of the Feminist Press, the editor of Women's Studies Newsletter, and a skilled teacher of the humanities. While she is on campus, Howe will teach one course, offer workshops for both students and faculty, act as a consultant, give a Convocation speech during Women's Week, and advise on Denison's future in Women's Studies.

And finally a word on the Women's Coordinator position. While we had originally conceived of the position as one that rotated yearly, recently many of us have felt that a two-year term would be better—so that continuity and visibility might be established and experience better utilized. Hence I'm pleased to have been chosen for the position for a second year and would like to share some of my reflections with you. Too often my position is confused with Ann Fitzgerald's and people don't know precisely what it is they're to come to me for. A second year in the position seemed important to me so that I could make dorm visits in the fall, letting people see who I was and what services my office could make available to them. I wanted a second year so that I could coordinate Women's Week again with some experience behind me. Further, I want to continue to build better relations with Pan-Hel and Women's Emphasis, to get people to make better use of the small feminist library in my office. Finally, I want to help in establishing a humane and effective way to deal with sexism on the campus and to insure that this office coordinates the various projects and organizations dealing with women's concerns on campus.

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SUPPORT AGAINST SEXISM

Last week concerned faculty and students met to discuss the harassment of women students by male faculty at Denison. In general, the kinds of harassment experienced here fall into two categories. The first is sexual, and fortunately we have only a handful of repeat offenders, faculty who are overtly sexual in the ways they respond to students. The second kind of harassment is sexist. Far more unconscious, it is also far more pervasive and can be equally distressing to students. That kind of behavior might take the form of grading inequities, intimidation, or sexist remarks made in the classroom or office. We bring up the topic now because many graduating seniors, or in fact any students suddenly released from the problem of having to get a certain grade from a professor, may feel that now is a good time to voice their grievances. You might not want to take action; you might not even want to name names. But talking about the kinds of exploitation you met with during the year could provide a release for you and useful information for us. It would perhaps be helpful to talk about how you might have handled the event, how you might have talked to the professor directly or at least how you might have coped with your own emotional reactions.

We're not trying to seek out offenders for punishment. We're simply trying to get some sense of how serious the problem is at Denison and whether women students feel that they indeed have ways of seeking advice when confronted with sexism or sexual advances. If the issue is serious, there are procedures for filing a complaint or at least voicing the complaint with the chairperson of the professor's department or the provost or dean of the faculty. If the issue is less serious, then at least discussing it informally might help you as well as other women students. Your confidentiality would, of course, be protected should you want it to be.

What we're suggesting is that, should you have such a complaint, you voice it to Ann Fitzgerald, Susan Bowling, Nancy Cable, myself (Nancy Nowik), Pat Somers, or any faculty member you feel comfortable confiding in. This week a student told me that she changed her major—one she was deeply committed to—rather than subjecting herself to the suggestive conduct of one of the department's professors. While we don't want to create difficulties where they don't exist, we must recognize that when women aren't free to major in their first choices, we have more than an ethos problem at Denison.

SECURITY

At the same meeting mentioned above, Denison students and faculty discussed ways in which students could aid in tightening security on campus. Several suggestions were offered:

1. Have more women porters. Art Shumway is willing, the track record for women is excellent, and portering is one of the highest-paid student positions on campus.

2. Fill out porter complaints (forms can be picked up in Nancy Cable's office) when your porter has failed to show, has fallen asleep, or has been remiss in any way.
3. Report all security lapses—to Nancy Cable, Chris Cannon, or Susan Bowling.

Accountability is the issue here. Women students have to accept some responsibility for their safety in their dorms.

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The demonstration held on Friday, May 5, has spawned much discussion, written and printed. While the issue is a very complex one, I took away one simple observation while watching the marchers, an observation that made the day a little less depressing for some of us. Blacks and whites marched together. BSU members and Women's Emphasis and Women's Studies group leaders for once worked together. I hope it was a foreshadowing of a more liberated climate for all of us.

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PORTRAIT

In this issue we are offering in place of the monthly interview with a member of the Denison community a speech written by graduating senior Melissa Mitchell. Written over a month ago to be presented during one of the Denison Festival events, the talk seems even more timely now in light of the painful events of the week of May 2-5.

Hello. My name is Melissa Mitchell, I am a senior and I have been asked by Crossed Keys to present my perspective as an independent student at Denison in terms of its social and academic ethos. I do not pretend to be a representative of the student body in general for I know that I am not. I do intend, however, to take advantage of this opportunity in order that I may once again synthesize my feelings about our community in the twilight of my experience here.

I am much less than proud to be graduating from Denison University. I cannot yet say that I am ashamed, in that some of the professors I have had the experience to know have challenged my understanding of our world and have further provided me with role models who are consistent with my own value structure. I have also had the privilege of establishing relationships with a few of my peers which are both socially and intellectually rewarding and have stimulated my mind towards further insights. Yet I cannot say that I will be elated upon receiving my degree from Denison, for I feel deeply frustrated by the inconsistencies within our community which stand in direct opposition to the full realization of our intellectual and social potential.

In order to substantiate my impressions, I want to speak to a few of the incongruities which I have experienced during my Denison career. These examples are, in my mind, blatant manifestations of the underlying value structure which each and every one of us supports and perpetrates by our very existence on this campus.

Women are not able to exist at Denison - and I mean this in the most barren sense of the word. What we see occupying the female form in our community is a hollow-eyed, fearful and falsely conscious skeleton which is ever subject to the manipulation of the patriarchal structure which pervades every aspect of our existence.
This institution does not have a female psychologist; nor does it have a female gynecologist. There have been attempts to correct this during the time that I have spent here. Yet the question invariably boils down to one of economics, until at this point we have reached a "compromise" between the two and are involved in an active search for only a female psychologist. In my opinion, this "compromise" borders on the incredulous for it tells me that Denison refuses to afford itself the "luxury" of the mental and physical well-being of its female population.

A significant number of Denison women face the torture of having to have an abortion during their stay here. There have been many subtle, though effective, underground communication networks established in order to take care of this problem. A woman becomes pregnant by having sexual intercourse with a man—but because of the silence about abortion on this campus, a woman is likely to feel that this is her own personal and guilty problem. No woman wants to have an abortion. It is hell. But by making the issue public, we could perhaps deal with it by looking frankly at our own sexuality and by attempting to establish adequate means to deal with it intelligently. Our current practice of prescribing birth control only to women who can prove that they are engaged and will be married upon graduation is not only glaringly unrealistic but is one of the primary reasons underlying many Denison women's guilt-ridden and naive understanding of their own sexuality.

To further explore the area of our sexuality, I want to mention the fact that the latest statistics state that seven percent of the American population is homosexual or lesbian. Perhaps, by some fluke, Denison has managed to keep its population totally heterosexual. But I doubt it. It has been my observation that the only consciousness about this issue is the one that can top the latest joke buzzing around the Union. We hide our intellectual and emotional insecurity by making occasional references to alternative life-styles. But we don't deal with the issue. We masquerade behind our ill-knowledged stereotypes of limp-wristed men and husky-voiced women. But we don't deal with the issue. And in this process we are denying the freedom of sexual expression to approximately seven percent of our population. This is both self-serving and cruel. I challenge the Denison community to look seriously at the homosexual and lesbian reality in an environment which is, at present, as ignorant as our own.

For a moment, I would like to look at the one institution within our community which is most blatantly responsible for our racist and sexist attitudes. I am talking about the Greek System. It is incredibly disheartening for me to look at an organizational structure which could be a very strong support foundation for the realization of Black/White and male/female potential. In its place I see a festering breeding ground which feeds upon and perpetuates a grotesquely perversive view of our world. Blacks were once explicitly and are now implicitly denied access into these organization. The image of women is defined in terms of stereotypical attractiveness and sexual promiscuity. The image of men is also defined in terms of stereotypical attractiveness and sexual prowess. These organizations exist solely as a means for seeking self-pleasure and creating interpersonal ties among its members. Little attention is paid to the community as a whole or to developing the power of such groups and utilizing it in action aimed towards more humanistic goals within the structure of Denison. If it were up to me, I would ask that the system be abolished until such time as it could make a strong commitment towards the actualization of Denison as a cosmopolitan community.
Turning towards the academic areas of Denison for a moment, I would have to say that this too alarms me. It seems as if the proponents of Black Studies and Women's Studies have begrudgingly been given their own sandbox to play in as long as they don't throw sand at anyone else. The campus as a whole can look to the establishment of these disciplines and therefore lessen its own guilt. Yet the consciousness of the campus with regard to these academic areas refuses to budge in that we now have a perceived dialectical separation with little hope for synthesis and application to each and every one of our lives. The fields of Black and Women's Studies are not looked upon as academic; they are seen as problematic areas which should somehow resolve themselves. Therefore we have a situation in which conscientious students and faculty alike are expected to separate their Blackness and/or their femaleness from their respective disciplines. For this reason, I feel that I have been cheated for I have not been given a multi-faceted perspective upon the history and future of my world. I have not received a liberal arts education in the true sense of the word. It has been a tortuous process for me to try and develop my own consciousness in a social context which literally denies me that chance. But to have my consciousness denied in the classroom as well is to beg for the defeat of the intellectual growth which I had at one time naively assumed was our purpose for existence. Students like me must fleetingly and fearfully search out that underlying current of awareness which is conducive to the values that we need to develop. We must also create an almost impenetrable shell which shields us from the daily battering of ignorance which strives to assimilate us into its vacuum.

At this point, it is Denison's purpose to keep its head above water as an institution committed to the liberal arts. This as a goal is valuable, I think, as American society is striving towards increased technological specialization and differentiation, thereby denying a holistic perspective of our intellectual history. As a means for attaining that goal, Denison needs a commitment to the liberal arts in terms of financial backing. In order to accomplish this, Denison University has made investments in corporations whose profit is in part gained in the country of South Africa. This practice which is being utilized in order to increase our financial security is immoral and blatantly racist. Our investments can speak for themselves and can most glaringly reveal the grotesque inconsistencies between our verbose intellectual commitments and actual behavior.

It is more than unfortunate that I should have to end what was supposed to be the best years of my life with so damning and bitter a statement. Yet I feel that I have the right to be damning—the right to be bitter. I have been deprived, by this community, of reaching my full intellectual and social potential as a woman. In a sense, though, I am glad that I came to Denison. It has sharpened me and has forced me into consciousness. I know that the greatest asset I will take away from here will be my ability to face opposition—with strength, with courage and with the consistency of principles with which I want to lead my life. And as I look at you, there is only one thing that I can say: Since we are at the bottom, there is only one way to go but up. Thank you.

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