



About The Issue

"Who's in Charge?" Most alumni have probably pondered that question many times in recent years. Ten years ago the lines of authority at most colleges were clear and unchallenged. Today, however, they are considerably less so. Even at Lafayette, where moderation in most things is the rule rather than the exception, time-honored traditions are being questioned, challenged, and in some cases, changed. The trend toward coeducation and the recent faculty recommendation that fraternity membership regulations be changed are probably the most recent examples.

Alumni, students, faculty, and community leaders have increasingly demanded a greater say in the decision-making machinery of the College. Decisions that affect the lives of the entire College community are no longer exclusively the concern of the College president or the board of trustees. Students and faculty have demonstrated (the photograph to the left shows a recent Lafayette faculty-student rally supporting coeducation), community leaders have called on the College to become more deeply involved in their problems, and alumni have clearly demanded a say on major issues.

This issue includes a special report on "Who's in Charge?" at our colleges and universities. This insert discusses the national picture. To make the discussion more meaningful to Lafayette alumni, we asked members of the Lafayette community—an alumnus, a student, a faculty member, a trustee, a community leader, and the College president to reflect on the efforts of others to participate in the running of the College. Their articles are surprisingly candid and thought provoking.

One theme that consistently appears in all the articles is the desire for a stronger Lafayette. Each author raises the vested interests of his particular group. But each also stresses the urgent need for cooperation, communication, and mutual understanding. The articles clearly state that Lafayette, like all colleges in the U.S., must not become "bound" by tradition. The times are changing and, as our authors indicate, Lafayette must change, too. The future course of the College then, will depend a great deal on the final answer to the question — "Who's in Charge?"

About Coeducation

The coeducation issue of the *Alumnus* apparently sparked a flame in the hearts of many alumni. In general, reaction to the issue has been excellent. However, the idea of coeducation has not fared so well. Many alumni have expressed their doubts about changing the character of the College by admitting women. Their letters, along with those that favor coeducation, begin on page 2. We have printed many of the letters, because we believe the subject is of great importance and that all ideas should be considered.

Later this spring a special supplement of the *Alumnus* will consider the financial implications of coeducation. At that time, alumni will be given an opportunity to formally register their viewpoints on the subject.

letters

Coeducation: Is It For Lafayette?

As a young alumnus and professional educator, I would like to address several remarks to the controversy over coeducation at Lafayette. Although I do not pretend to speak for my fellow classmates, I believe that it is fair to say that most recent alumni probably favor coeducation. However, the adage of "putting your money where your mouth is" is a specter of the dilemma in which we younger alumni find ourselves. Coeducation will probably improve Lafayette's ability to attract well-qualified students, will definitely improve the social life of the campus, and may strengthen neglected areas of the liberal arts, but the cost of implementing the necessary physical changes is another question.

Most young alumni are just getting started in their professional careers and are not able to make more than a token contribution to the financial burden which coeducation will impose upon the College. The brunt of this extra burden will inevitably fall upon the older, more established alumni who are financially able to make generous contributions to the coeducation fund. Nevertheless, I hope that the arguments presented by some young alumni and undergraduates in favor of coeducation will not be dismissed as rationale for social expediency and will be closely examined.

Peter W. Huelsenbeck '64

The most recent issue of the *Alumnus* reached me several days ago, and I have had time to read most of the articles, pro and con, relative to the proposed opening of the College to female students.

It is my feeling that a large majority of the older members of the alumni are opposed to the plan. Inasmuch as the College is dependent to a very great extent on the financial support of the older alumni, it is obvious that this financial support will be lost. I am definitely certain that I will make no further financial contributions to any campaign or annual giving. At the present time Lafayette is the sole contingent remainderman of the rest and residue of my estate. This provision of my will will definitely be changed if the College goes ahead with its plan to admit women as students. I will readily admit that the contingency is such that, at least at the present moment, the College should not look forward to receiving the bequest. On the other hand, it could conceivably amount to what I consider something substantial, at least more than \$1,000. The total is not large compared to the seven digit figures which seem to be prevalent in all campaigns and fund-raising drives. If, however, there are several thousand other alumni who have the same feeling as I do, the College is bound to suffer and be dependent mainly on federal or state support.

I have visited the campus fairly frequently in recent years and still have the impression that the undergraduate student is a clean-cut young man. The number of "weirdies" and "hippies" who are seen on other college campuses are conspicuously absent. It is probably not logical to think that the admission of women to the College might have any effect on this, but I still feel there is danger in making any change in the complexion of the student body. The word "complexion" is used with several connotations, one of which is the apparent cause of the rioting and unrest on various other campuses at the present time.

Herman H. Hoen '26

P.S. Beat Lehigh!

Lafayette's standing as a small, private, all-male institution is unique in the college world; its future, as such, seems assured; its tradition, is revered; its record is glorious; its alumni are devoted.

Lafayette's location on the "Hill" seems designed by nature for a small college—it's area does not tend toward competition in size but rather in character and quality.

A radical change in character would, assuredly, cause an irreparable breach in unity—such as would changing the name, Lafayette.

There are many coeducational institutions and there will be more. There will never be another Lafayette unless the present be destroyed.

Suggestion: If change is necessary in these changing times, change the faculty.

J. R. Matson '11

The answer to the question raised in the latest *Alumnus* is no, no, absolutely no. Coeducation has become a disease or mania for too many college presidents who should know better. Bravo for A. E. Pierce!

Floyd Zulli, Jr. '44

The solution is very simple—let's have all girls.

Advantages:

1. No facilities would have to be changed, except the addition of a few powder rooms here and there. The cost saving could be tremendous!

2. If 400 women would keep the "instructors alert"—can any one imagine what 2,000 would do?

3. We would make the Lehigh men absolutely delirious.

4. We would "serve society" by educating, at a minimal cost.
(continued on page 69)