

# Lace Curtains and Lavender Linen

*The following two articles by a recent alumnus examine the impact of coeducation on the social and academic life of the campus. The information was derived from polls, interviews and a three-hour "rap session" with ten students, five women and five men.*

By Frank Claps '67

"When I came here for my pre-acceptance interview," one sophomore woman recounted in an interview, "this guy looked out his dormitory window and yelled for me to come see his room. He told me he hadn't seen a woman in six weeks. I figured then that if I came here I'd probably feel like a commodity."

It is not without some justification that Lafayette College was once known to its intimates by the dubious sobriquet, "Home of the Hungry Animals." Those who found the description apt attributed the condition to the lack of women on or near the campus. One alumnus recalls, "Back in my day, when a girl came onto campus, within five minutes the whole school knew."

Indeed, until two years ago the female presence at Lafayette was generally limited to four or five "party weekends" per semester. With the admission of women in the fall of 1970, the situation has changed and, as one male senior stated, "It took a while to get used to the idea that girls don't vanish into thin air on Monday mornings."

Although definitive conclusions concerning the first full year of coeducation at Lafayette are impossible at this point, most of the responses of students, faculty and administrators polled during the first semester indicate the admission of women was a positive move for the campus ambiance. To be sure, some reactions are negative, but the overwhelming response so far is best summed up by one senior male: "Coeducation is the best thing that could have happened to this place."

Initially, however, the transition was anything but smooth. Women were accused of being "a bunch of conceited, pompous, stuck-up bitches," while men were accused of treating women "like female commodities, Barbie dolls and objects to get out sexual frustrations, rather than as intelligent people."

Gradually, the mutual fears, distrusts and illusions have dissipated to the point where, as one professor stated, "campus life seems more natural, less artificial."

"Slowly, the coeds are being treated as human beings instead of as women," another faculty member added. "Boys are beginning to understand that not all girls are morons."

Lafayette's first women students came to the College for a variety of reasons. A liberal course-requirement policy and the fact that they would be breaking new ground were among the most frequently listed.

"Everyone had this preconceived notion that the only reason we came was for the guys," lamented one girl. "In most cases, that wasn't true. But many of us did like the idea of being able to formulate things, of being able to set precedents."

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Ambivalence best describes the preconceived notions and initial responses of the men. While most admitted they welcomed females, there was a good bit of jealousy and fear manifested, especially among the upperclassmen. One described the situation as "like having Centenary on campus."

"We figured these girls were going to be in a good position," recalled one senior, "with a ratio of 14-1. But while some guys were really anxious, and others didn't care, there were a lot of guys in the middle who wanted to see girls, but weren't going to go ass-over-elbow," he added.

Women who found themselves besieged with phone calls, catcalls and an abundance of visitors during the first month disputed that statement. "The fraternities had directories which had our pictures and dorm assignments," one woman said. "If the guys found you attractive, you got a lot of calls. But only those whose pictures the guys liked."

"It seemed to me that you had two different situations," added another second-year woman student. "Either they ignored you completely, or you had hundreds of guys pounding at your door."

Assistant Dean Suzanne Hermann Williams, who resigned this term following her fall marriage, noted that the dating-by-directory practice is not uncommon for a coed school. "I've been in other coed institutions," Dean Williams stated. "Fraternities there do the same things fraternities did here."

Her previous experience prepared Dean Williams for many contingencies arising from Lafayette's new situation. But one thing she did not anticipate was having New Dorm, the initial residence of the women, become a campus center.

"I figured that it could happen, but I had never worked with the 24-hour-visitation system before," she stated. Her sentiments were echoed by Dean of Students Herman Kissiah, who recalls, "We had guys trying to get in there at all hours and were forced to employ student ushers to exact some measure of control."

Like most of the women, Dean Williams felt the initial ratio of 14 males to each female was "overplayed" by the men students. "Those girls sitting in their rooms on Saturday nights were made to think, 'What's wrong with me?'" she said. "And there were a few."

"During the first semester, if you didn't have a date, it was terrible," complained one woman student. "It's hard to explain when the ratio is so 'good' why a lot of girls on Homecoming weekend go stag to the game and parties."

Whether as a group or as individuals, upon their arrival the women certainly occupied a strong position in the minds of many men. "There was a constant buzzing around campus," one senior remembered. "Everyone was talking about the girls. Guys were going to the library a lot, because that's where you could meet the girls."

To a large degree, the "buzzing" can also be attributed to the fact that the football season, with all its social exigencies, coincided with the first appearance





*"Has the party weekend become less frantic?" 87 senior men said "Yes," 95 said "No."*



*"Do you get more requests for dates than you can accept?" 14 women said "Yes," 61 said "No." (One said, "Are you kidding?")*

of women. Buffets, the games themselves, cocktail parties and beer-band "blasts" introduced the women to what Dean Williams termed "a whirlwind" of social activity.

Pressure for dates was felt on both sides, and this is where the men contend the women held the firm advantage in numbers. And the women vehemently insist that their ostensibly "ideal situation" was, with some exceptions, an illusion.

"I went to this fraternity party with a freshman," one woman said. "This junior asked me to dance and then said, 'You're with me now; I'm an upperclassman.' I told him, 'No way.' But there was, and still is, this idea that all girls had dates, and it just isn't true," she added. "With a 14-1 ratio, where were all the dates?"

"There were a lot of girls who stayed home Saturday nights," said one woman.

"Come on," argued a male during a "rap session." "There were guys crawling all over that dorm. You were just too stuck up to go out."

Nevertheless, the termination of the football season brought the social maelstrom to a quick halt. Concern for final examinations, the lack of structured social events and the natural hiatus caused by cold weather all combined to assist in the demise of the novelty of women on campus.

While the novelty may have diminished, many women still don't feel fully integrated into the Lafayette community. With 19 fraternities, two social dorms, plus intramural and intercollegiate athletics, Dean Williams observed, "There are many ways for men to move in groups and get together socially, but not that many for women. As a result, many women feel only tangential to the campus."

"When we were freshmen, we were friendly with many freshman guys," one woman said. "Then they all joined fraternities, and now we really don't get to see each other."

Fraternities do allow women to eat some meals in the houses, but the feeling of alienation from a campus already fragmented by its living groups is a reality for a majority of the women.

"Women don't want sororities," Dean Williams contended, "but they do want some organizations where they can get together." Last year, Dean Williams noted,

*"Is there a more relaxed atmosphere on campus this year than last?" 60 women said "Yes," 15 said "No."*





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*"What do you care what people think? You call yourselves 'liberated,' dress like a bunch of construction workers and you're still afraid to go into a fraternity house."*

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there were indeed few places where the women could gather, "But the intramural program, including volleyball, basketball and field hockey, has been going great guns this year," she contended.

"Girls are also meeting in Jenks Hall (the former biology building, now the Art Department center) and teaching each other arts and crafts things," she added.

One sophomore woman recounted how "after first semester, girls started doing things as girls. Before that, the only time girls got together was because they were dating guys who were friends." Because of implied "competition for guys," lack of activities or meeting places, Dean Williams observed that some "cliques" began to form among the women.

A transfer from an all-female college noted, "Here, girls don't seem to do as much together. But I guess that's really because there's nothing to do."

This argument is countered by Dean Kissiah, who stated that "virtually all significant campus clubs have women participants. Some women developed their own activities in residence halls, such as open houses and Hallowe'en parties for children of the faculty and staff. But," he added, "there are no women-only clubs yet."

While admitting that the girls are not afforded the same social options, men insist that "there's no reason why these girls, when they felt like it, couldn't have gone to some fraternity house."

"You know me," one senior told a woman during a "rap session." "Why couldn't you have just called or come down to the house? Gradually, you'd get to know more guys, and you'd feel more comfortable. I bet there's not one house on this campus where you wouldn't be welcome," the senior insisted.

"I'd feel really uncomfortable," the woman replied. Another added that people would feel she was "chasing someone." A third pointed out she felt that "guys would resent our intrusion into their male world."

"That's all in your imagination," the senior contended. "What do you care what people think? You call yourselves 'liberated,' dress like a bunch of construction workers, and you're still afraid to go into a fraternity house."

Some men, apparently, find little difficulty "intruding" into the feminine world of New Dorm and Watson Hall, the other women's dorm. But, as one girl said, "In most cases they just come out of boredom or a lack of anything to do. They just come in, sit down and expect us to entertain them. They never suggest anything to do, they just come and sit."

The pressure of maintaining informal, day-to-day interactions has been somewhat intensified by a gradual decline of the party weekend as the Nirvana of the Lafayette student. "With women on campus all the time," one senior explained, "no one weekend is any more special than another."

"Party weekends were probably on the way out anyway," another senior added. "Guys were just getting tired of the whole routine. But the presence of girls was probably a catalyst, making for a more normal world."

Although the presence of women may have been partly responsible for decreased anticipation of party weekends, the frantic aspect, having to participate in as many as seven social events in a two-day period, is still a cause of discomfort for a large number of students. Women especially appear to resent this helter-skelter phenomenon.

"Somewhere along the line," Dean Williams said, "women would prefer to go out in small groups, rather than the large parties. They'd prefer some sort of option."

But students feel a vacuum exists regarding alternatives to boisterous beer-blasts. Dean Williams reported that couples do attend films sponsored by the Fine Arts Society and Student Government, the Gourd coffeehouse and athletic and cultural events. Nevertheless, both sexes feel severely limited.

One controversial suggestion is the "return of the mixer." "In the light of men and women on campus in residence, there might be more social events, such as Marquis mixers, instead of just house parties," one senior said.

A classmate took a totally opposite view, stating, "I don't believe structured social events are conducive to really meeting anyone other than on a name-basis. Meeting and getting to know others generally occurs on a much more informal, random level. Thank God the mixer is dead," the student concluded.

Most students (in a poll the vote was 190-68) feel there are "not enough structured social events where people can meet each other."

"What this school needs is some sort of student union," one senior suggested. Presently, the Marquis snack-bar, the facility closest to being a student union on campus, is a dimly-lit room with high-paneled booths, producing an atmosphere more of intimacy than relaxed spontaneity.

There are plans, however, to convert the entire building into a huge campus center. Until then, students will use the classroom, book store and library as grounds for initiating social friendships.

The lack of an informal gathering place, the low percentage of women (it's closer to 7-1 this year), and the general size of the College, have caused some students to feel stripped of their privacy. "When you're having a relationship with a woman," one senior noted, "everyone knows. I feel like I'm living in a fishbowl, and it's a goddamn pain in the ass."

The feeling of "living in a fishbowl" is probably more appropriate for the women. Even the men sympathize, saying, "This school will never be coed until the male-female ratio is lowered." Dean Williams termed the projected 3-1 ratio as "unrealistic" and hoped "for a more equitable balance."

Although reservations exist, most male students find the presence of women makes for a "more realistic atmosphere." One faculty member observed, "Campus life seems more natural, less artificial." Another averred, "It's a much happier place . . . more comfortable. Attitude affected most."

"The coeds are truly fantastic human beings," said one senior. "I'm glad to see the image of girls as pure sex objects, an image held at Lafayette, is finally beginning to change."





*The Marquis snack bar (above) is  
one campus meeting place.*



*"Are informal dates more frequent  
than those involving advanced  
planning?" 56 women said "Yes,"  
19 said "No."*

"Last year's women were the 'first,'" Dean Williams explains. "This year, it was just like a regular opening of school. In fact, the upperclassmen say the freshmen are more independent and self-reliant."

Upperclass women, however, note a lack of affinity between themselves and the new girls. "Yeah," a senior male told a woman, "Your precious appleart has been upset. You've got competition."

"I don't think that's it," she replied. "It seems to me that the new coeds are, like most freshmen, 'green.' I guess we're like watching them go through many of the same experiences we once went through."

The full impact of coeducation, socially as well as in other areas, will not be obtainable for a few years. If contradictions exist in present attitudes and observations, this can in part be attributed to the natural ambivalences and complexities of any social situation, and in part to the relatively short period available for evaluation.

One thing certain is that there are now women on the Lafayette campus—in skirts, blouses, dresses and jeans. The visitor returning after many years' absence may find the presence a bit disconcerting, may notice a "huge difference," but by and large, he's the only one who will.

*"Are there enough extracurricular activities in which women may participate?" 52 women said "Yes," 23 said "No."*



*Erika Funke '74, an announcer on WJRH, the campus radio station*



*Candace A. Kovner '72, editor of the Marquis, the literary magazine*





*Barbara C. Bennett '75, an assistant at The Gourd, the campus coffeehouse*



*Rhonda L. Anderson '74, an assistant in the language lab*



*Judith E. Thomson '73, editor of the Melange, the yearbook*

*Donna J. Schmalberger '73, a news editor of The Lafayette, the student newspaper*



# 'We're Students First, Then Women'

Although available statistics indicate that the women are doing somewhat better academically than their male counterparts at Lafayette, some of the women have expressed dissatisfaction with what they feel is a "limited" number of courses in the areas of their interests.

Dean of Studies Earl A. Pope termed the performance of the school's first women students "not radically better, but better on the whole."

While asserting that such statistics are not easily available, Dean Pope reported, "Their average is a little higher than the all-school average, and they have a higher percentage on Dean's List. Of course, we're only dealing with one year, and the Dean's List percentage isn't really that significant."

In a poll, however, 44 of 75 women responded that they feel there are not enough courses in their areas of interest. This complaint was also voiced during interviews on campus. They find the College's offerings especially lacking in elementary education, fine arts and, for a small percentage, psychology.

Some women indicated they are contemplating transferring to another college because they feel Lafayette does not adequately provide for these concerns. However, few have done so.

Replying to the women's complaints, Dean Pope noted, "As a liberal arts college, we have to be sensitive towards our staffing in order to offer the strongest overall program possible. For the moment, some departments may be more popular than others, but what does this mean in the long run? We have to monitor the curriculum with integrity," he added.

"You just can't accommodate courses like that in a small school," one senior explained to a woman during a "rap session." "You knew these courses weren't offered when you applied. Why did you come here?"

"There's no way you can tell what you want when you're in high school," the woman responded. "We're aware of the (structural) limitations, but we're still transferring because of them."

Provost Robert S. Chase, Jr., told an interviewer he has not received any requests for more education or art courses. "We realized that women would probably be more interested in studio art, for example, and we did increase our studio art sections to a degree, but it hasn't been a dramatic kind of thing. They haven't really asked for things way out of line, things that we might not have thought they would," he added.

As for elementary education, the provost noted, "We have already internally considered elementary education. We don't have the secondary program set up that we want yet," he continued, "and to try now to expand—to embark upon something else without getting the first thing done—just doesn't seem practical at the moment."

Basically, women seem to be most interested in the humanities and social sciences, with a few leaning towards biology, math and foreign languages. "We're still in a period of transition," Dean Pope explained. "Most of the women haven't yet had to commit themselves towards a major. We'll probably have a great deal more discussion in the spring when the women have to declare a





*"Are enough courses offered in your areas of interest?" 31 women said "Yes," 44 said "No."*



*"Did you feel you had to uphold the intellectual capability of women in class discussions with men?" 39 women said "Yes," 36 said "No."*



*"How did your professors treat you in class, compared with their treatment of men students?" 16 women said "Better," 6 said "Worse," 53 said "The Same."*

major," he said. "After a full two years of coeducation, we'll be in a better position to assess our needs."

Both Dean Pope and Assistant Dean of Students Suzanne Hermann Williams noted, "More interest is shown by women in taking their junior year abroad. Many are interested in foreign languages, political science and the experience of living in another country."

The better grades received by the women have been attributed in part to more conscientious study habits. Members of the faculty, Dean Pope and many students contend that women put in more time on a day-to-day basis than the men.

"Female students seem to have more perseverance in the routine," one male senior said, "while the men seem to get challenged by specific problems, but don't keep up so well in day-to-day assignments." He further stated that the women are "better prepared academically on entering college."

In a poll, 132 of 185 male seniors felt the women were no better prepared than the men. But, 101 of them believed the women studied harder.

If nothing else, this was one area where many men clearly felt threatened by the presence of women. One senior insisted that he had "first-hand knowledge of a coed who got a better grade by crying in a professor's office."

"The only thing that really bothered me," a classmate lamented, "was that I've never seen people worry more about tests, grades, asking for extensions. That drove me crazy," he continued. "Guys rarely do that."

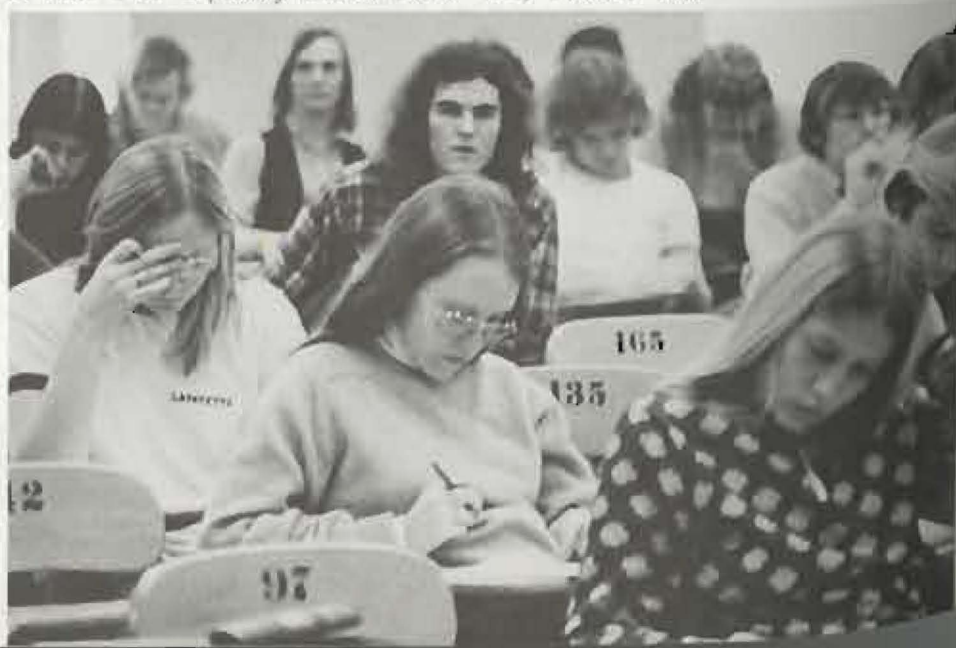
A third of the men, 65 of 185, and of the women, 24 of 75, felt some coeds were guilty of "trying to use their femininity to their advantage in the classroom."

Interestingly enough, only two of 40 professors found the women "trying to use femininity for better grades."

"Professors were more polite maybe," said one woman, "but no easier on grading."

This "polite" behavior, however, made women feel uncomfortable in the classroom. "Treat me as a student first and a woman second" was a complaint heard often by Dean Williams.

*"Did women students try to use their femininity to their advantage in the classroom?" 65 senior men said "Yes," 120 said "No," 24 women said "Yes," 51 said "No," 2 faculty members said "Yes," 38 said "No."*







Several faculty members, and more than half the senior men who responded to a questionnaire, said they believe Lafayette women study harder than Lafayette men. Use of the library has increased significantly since women arrived. They use the library carrels (above), dorm rooms and lounges to study.



"We were always made to feel we had to take the woman's point of view," said one woman. Poll results showed 39 of 75 women felt "compelled to uphold the intellectual capability of women in classroom discussions with men."

"Often," another woman stated, "we felt we had to defend coeds at Lafayette." Another got the impression "some professors are strongly opposed to women students and make every effort to make this known in classes." Apparently these professors were in the minority. Most said they found classroom discussions "at least as lively," if not "livelier" due to the presence of women.

"There seems to be a higher than usual tolerance for philosophical and non-vocational ideas, as well as for a greater variety of personalities," one faculty member stated. "The girls will be insistently more creative and venturesome in their experiments in ideas and forms," adds another.

Dr. J. Marshall Brown, head of the Psychology Department, told of a course he offered in the "Psychology of Love." "We invited several women to the discussions," he said. "It's primarily an upperclass course. But the presence of women made the guys think differently. They added a point of view you wouldn't get without them."

A woman who participated found the discussions "interesting," and while she was glad to be there, to offer a feminine viewpoint, she still felt somewhat uncomfortable in being "singled out as a woman, rather than as a student."

The feeling of being singled out was especially applicable for one woman who was the only female in a class of 70. "The professor kept making these bawdy jokes, and every time he did, it seemed like the whole class looked at me," she said. "Also, they all knew me by name, would greet me with 'Hi, Sue,' and I didn't know many of them."

Some women also claimed that professors initially called them "Mister," but after a few chuckles from the students, put special emphasis on the "Miss."

"You've got to understand," one male said, "that you've been girls all your lives, but these professors have probably never taught girls before. You just don't slip easily into a new system."

At least one professor agrees somewhat about the difficulty of slipping into a new system. He observes that "some of the men are not doing quite as well academically as they might if their efforts were not 'diluted' by social 'arrangements' during the week."

The "distraction" factor was mentioned by other professors, but few considered it a factor of any consequence. Several feel, moreover, that the study habits of the women exert some positive influences on males.

Just what ultimate impact coeducation will have on the College is difficult to ascertain at this point. As Dean Pope said, women in large numbers have not declared majors yet, and administrators have not noticed any significant concentration of women in a specific area.

But it seems clear to most observers that Lafayette's academic quality will not suffer as a result of admitting females. Women country wide are rapidly attempting to escape the stereotyping of "mindless bodies," and are, in increasing numbers, seeking honestly to fulfill themselves in careers.

In that respect, it would seem that Lafayette's move towards coeducation couldn't have come at a more opportune time.



# The Challenge of Change: One Year Later

Coeducation has affected every area of the College, either directly or indirectly, to varying degrees. Conversations with the provost, the director of alumni affairs and development, the admissions director and the athletic director, as well as several coaches, reveal what some of that effect has been.

Provost Robert S. Chase, Jr., the chief academic officer of the College under the President, said he has seen no evidence of people applying for faculty positions here "just because we are coed." "In terms of our hiring people, I've not detected a conscious feeling that because we are coed we should have more women faculty," he said. "But the fact is we did hire a greater percentage of women in the past two years than we ever have before. It's very hard to evaluate, really, but it is possible that our being coeducational has made those who do the interviewing, department heads, for example, more amenable toward looking at the female candidates. I just don't know."

In the past two years, the College has hired ten women faculty members. The faculty includes 14 women, five of whom have their doctorates and only two of whom are part-time. Only one woman, Dr. Clay A. Ketcham, associate professor of Latin and education, has tenure. She has been here since 1954.

"One of the things we have to remember," Dr. Chase continued, "is that if one is seeking Ph.D.'s, only about 20% of all doctorates currently being awarded by graduate schools go to women. So that we are not, in effect, dealing with a 50-50 pool of male and female Ph.D. applicants. And, of those 20%, the numbers there are highly skewed toward such areas as child development, home economics, education and the like."

The enrollment concentration of women is heaviest in the social sciences and humanities, particularly languages. Provost Chase said this was expected, adding, "We also anticipated they would have very little effect on engineering and not much on the sciences, with the exceptions perhaps of biology and psychology, and in fact we've been correct."

These choices by women students will "probably not" force the College into decisions about faculty that Dr. Chase and others had not foreseen. More important to the thinking about departmental manning level changes has been the new curriculum, he noted.

Asked how Lafayette has changed as a result of coeducation, Dr. Chase said, "I can't really document any specific kind of change. One can see changes

which might have come anyway. This past year, for instance, after a number of years, a pretty much unbroken string of years, of more people wanting to live off campus, we now have a reversal. More people want to come back on campus.

"It would be easy to say that there is a kind of calm and pleasant openness of spirit around the campus that one had not noticed before, and this was because of coeducation, but I can't really say that it is. Whether the return of some degree of quietism on the part of students, politically and otherwise, has anything to do with it, I don't know. I understand it's happening almost everywhere, so it's hard to say. In terms of the general deportment of people, the belief that all males would suddenly start dressing up and cleaning up their language and so on, I really don't think that could be documented," he added.

Gary A. Evans '57, Vice President for College Relations and Development, said while attendance at alumni district club meetings has not changed significantly because of coeducation, alumni have a greater desire to get the student point of view, and not just the point of view of coeds, to help bridge the communication and generation gaps. "Women students have been accepted as part of the Lafayette family," he added.



Two out of three women who responded to a poll disliked the "dining arrangement" at the College. Many, like the student pictured above, cook in the dorm kitchens.



In fund raising and development, Evans said the attitude seems to be, "It's done, it's history; we're coed. Now let's get on with the business at hand, education."

Two years ago, the decision to go coeducational alienated some alumni. Prior to the decision, Evans recalled, "we polled the alumni body, but it was a non-selective survey and the importance of that fact was not pointed out. Only 20% replied to a questionnaire: 56% opposed going coed; 40% favored it; 4% had no opinion. I understand such a non-selective sampling requires responses from at least 50% to be valid. By the same token, we polled 20% of the student body, but that group was a scientific random sampling statistically representative of the entire student body. Over 90% of them were in favor of coeducation.

"In reporting the findings," Evans said, "it appeared we were saying the opinions of 20% of the alumni were not as significant as those of 20% of the students. We were not saying that and did not mean to imply it, because it certainly is not true.

"Interestingly enough, only one-third of those who voted were contributors to the College. When two of three do not express themselves, that's not a very strong opinion. Many told me they preferred to leave the decision up to the Board of Trustees and the administration," he pointed out.

Interest in and support of the College is growing, but Evans does not know if going coeducational has anything to do with that. Six hundred more alumni contributed to the Annual Fund last year than the year before. He stated that most alumni who support the College contribute to the total image of the institution, rather than to any one facet. "Coeducation is as much a regular part of Lafayette as is our English or Chemical Engineering department," he said.

Studies of comparable small coeducational colleges show that alumni give substantially more than alumnae during their lifetime. Women's colleges, however, receive about five times as much from bequests as do men's colleges, Evans noted.

Few, if any, major benefactors were so alienated by the College's going coed that they stopped giving, removed the school from their wills, or disassociated themselves from it, he said. One alumnus wrote that he had not been giving to the College since his graduation, 40 years ago, and threatened to continue that practice if the College went coed.

Richard W. Haines '60, Director of Admissions, states flatly, "If we were not now coed we would have serious admissions problems: there would be a substantial decline in the number of male applicants and

their quality, both academic and personal, would have suffered."

He said the 26 remaining all-male colleges in the country fall into four classes: (1) those which are going coed; (2) those with sister and affiliate schools so closely tied with them they are for all practical purposes coed already; (3) military academies; and, (4) male colleges going out of business.

"Lafayette clearly did not fit into any of those first three categories," Haines said. "If we had not gone coed, we'd be on the fringes of the fourth category. Now, our survival chances are greatly improved."

Three years ago, Haines recalled, "people were saying higher education needs alternatives to coed colleges, and the all-male and all-female colleges provide that need. I agree philosophically with that, but the practical realities allow no credence for such a view today. If they did, those few remaining all-male schools would be in a very strong position. But they're not."

Lafayette's admissions experience thus far has been good, he noted. Not as many women have applied as were anticipated, but the quality of those who did has been much higher than expected, "perhaps because women are more realistic about where they will fit in," Haines reasoned.

"We announced in December, 1969, we were going coed," he said. "The Class of 1974 had 408 applicants, 203 of whom we accepted; 122 enrolled. The girls were clearly stronger than men applicants as a group. The 3,207 men applying for 400 spaces indicated they should have been a strong group, and they were, but not noticeably stronger than those of previous all-male classes."

Last year the number of women applicants increased by about 50% (to 588), and this year it is again running about 50% ahead. As of December 17, 1970, the Admissions Office had processed 278 women applicants; as of December 17, 1971, it was 416.

"Quite a number of daughters of alumni applied, although in many cases their fathers opposed coeducation for Lafayette," Haines noted. There are 15 alumni daughters enrolled in the Class of '75; seven in '74; three in '73; and one in '72. "The girls we get are far better qualified than our second choice males," Haines said.

Going coed also induced more men to apply here. Applications for the Class of '73, the last all-male freshman class, had declined from the previous year to 2,679, and Haines believes the number would have dropped further in succeeding years except for coeducation. Instead, an all-time high of 3,207 men applied for the Class of '74. The number fell again



last year to 2,734 men, but most schools reported that their applications were much farther off, Haines said.

Asked if "enough" women are applying to Lafayette, Haines was quick to point out, "When you get the number you aimed for, and in the first semester 44 of 122 women freshmen make the Dean's List, that's enough!"

Is Lafayette more selective now because of women? "The addition of girls has given the class as a whole a more favorable class rank distribution pattern and higher Scholastic Achievement Test scores. They also bring a greater variety and depth of personal qualities to the classes. But, I hesitate to say we are more selective than we have been in the past. We do have more applicants than we would have if we were all-male and the applicants for the spaces are particularly well qualified, especially among the women."

The effect of coeducation on Lafayette is "absolutely the single most important step the College could have taken to attract more and better students," Haines concluded.

Olav B. Kollevoll, Athletic Director and Head of the Physical Education Department, explained, "Physical education is not a required course for students, and we have mixed phys ed classes, just like any other course. So coeducation has not affected us much differently than it has other departments." Tennis, judo, badminton, golf, swimming and the like are all part of the coeducational phys ed courses.

"We also provide women's intramural and women's intercollegiate schedules," Kollevoll noted.

As for the recruitment of student-athletes, he believes "being coed has certainly not hurt us at all. As a matter of fact, there was some static before that we were losing some students we wanted to schools like Bucknell, simply because they were coed. So, going coed probably helped us get some students we recruited."

Admissions Director Haines agreed, saying, "If anything, coeducation has helped by making Lafayette more attractive to prospects. The reduction in the number of male freshmen does not affect recruitment efforts; the quality of academic and athletic programs and the admissions and financial aid policies, not freshman class size, are the factors which really determine whether athletes can be effectively recruited."

But, Kollevoll cautioned, "Of course, in some sports, like track, cross country, soccer and others, where most of those who participate at the intercollegiate level are not specifically recruited as student-athletes, we have a smaller pool of available men to choose from to get good teams." With 250 women students now,

the number of men has gone from about 1,900 to 1,700. Eventually, when the 3-1 ratio of men to women is achieved, probably by September of 1974, there will be 1,500 men and 500 women.

Thomas R. Davis, head basketball coach, and William L. Lawson, swimming coach, also see coeducation as a positive factor in recruiting. "A majority of students look at coeducation as a factor in their social life," Davis said. Neil Putnam, head football coach, agreed that it helps in recruiting, but added, "Since we are cutting back the male enrollment, that has to cut down on the number of potential male athletes. I'm thinking in particular here of the walk-on athlete, the ones we do not recruit but who come out and make the team."

Both Davis and Putnam find it hard to measure the effect since they are new to Lafayette and coeducation is new to the school.

William L. Donahue, track and cross country coach, said he cannot substantiate his feeling, but believes "we did better before coeducation." He sees "no positive correlation between recruiting and coeducation." One direct effect of coeducation on his program, Donahue said, is that since the girls' athletic program is expanding, "gymnasium time is harder to come by."

But, no one questioned thought that was too big a price to pay.



Valerie A. Perko '73 is outlined against the gym windows during a pause in a volleyball game.



# The Last Male Bastion— Women Invade Alumni Gym

*Interviewing other students and the woman phys ed instructor, the author became so engrossed in her story that she tried out for the women's basketball team—and made it.*

By Jean Christoff '74

There can no longer be any doubt that coeducation is here to stay. Not only have two classes of women taken Pardee Hall by storm, but they have even gone so far as to invade that last bastion of masculine superiority, the gymnasium! What else could be expected? The Lafayette coeds have made their presence felt in all areas of campus life, not the least of which has been the athletic program.

After a year's "growing pains," the somewhat sporadic schedule of women's athletics that prevailed last year has been replaced with a wide variety of activities, among which are seven varsity sports, intramurals and special interest courses, such as modern dance.

The greatest expansion has been in the area of intercollegiate sports. A women's field hockey team was organized this fall, for which 27 coeds tried out. Unfortunately, the season record did not reflect the skill and enthusiasm of the players. Jane Stitzer, '74 captain, commented on the disappointing 0-5 record of the team: "We were inexperienced as a team working together. Even though we didn't

*Jean Christoff, a Dean's List student from Caldwell, N.J., plans to major in international affairs. Active in WJRH, the student radio station; a member of the women's basketball team; secretary of the International Relations Society; and a member of the Alumni Association's Long-Range Planning Committee's subcommittee on undergraduate relations, she also works part-time in the College's Public Information and Community Relations Office.*

win, our standard of hockey was very high."

The varsity volleyball team, which drew a response from 24 coeds, was more successful, as indicated by their 6-3 record. The other varsity teams, basketball, badminton, golf, swimming and tennis will also play full schedules. The scope of competition includes the Lehigh Valley colleges, and also Centenary, Albright, Kutztown and Princeton.

The intramural program for women is not as ambitious as the intercollegiate one, mostly because of attitudes and interest. Mrs. Sharon Mitchell, instructor in physical education and women's athletic coordinator, points out, "Women approach intramurals entirely differently from men. Men are more competitively oriented, while women enjoy free play much more. They tend to shy away from competitive intramurals."

There was an extremely low turnout for volleyball intramurals

when the women were requested to sign up in teams. When Mrs. Mitchell changed the policy, so that women could just go to the gymnasium to play, an average of 30 women participated each week. The open gym policy has proved to be the most successful way to involve coeds in the athletic program, although Mrs. Mitchell would like to see even greater participation by the women.

Citing a lack of space as one of the problems, she commented that she is "looking forward to the new athletic facilities so that the women's program can be expanded." She does feel, though, that an excellent job was done in temporarily providing for the women "athletes." Mrs. Mitchell foresees for the future the possibility of women's crew, fencing and archery teams. Crew, she says, could have both men and women.

Although there is interest at the intercollegiate and intramural levels the low enrollment in the



*The Lafayette women's field hockey team (in dark tops) vs. Princeton's on Freshman Field—the first home women's athletic event in Lafayette history.*



## *"Out of 250 girls, where did you get so many jocks?"*

physical education classes is a matter of concern to the department. These classes are open to both men and women, and the emphasis is on carry-over sports, such as tennis, golf and skiing. Mrs. Mitchell feels that it is a well rounded program, and that the "ones who do participate really benefit from the program."

What do the coeds think? Elise Drake '74 is a veteran of women's athletics at Lafayette. She sees a great improvement over last year in the scope and organization of the activities. She is typical of the participants in that she is proficient at several sports. This year she was involved in hockey and volleyball and will go out for tennis, her favorite sport, in the spring. This is not to mention the workouts with the crew team, although she does not intend to

compete in the regular schedule. Elise's reasons for joining athletics are personal. "It's a good way to meet people!" she says, besides being good exercise and a lot of fun. Elise does not look forward, however, to when the all-male varsity teams may be open to women. All women's lib jokes aside, she feels that men are simply physically superior; this would minimize the challenge posed by a woman player.

Pam Leveille '75 is another avid sports fan. A member of the hockey, volleyball and basketball teams, she was also the starting quarterback on the first Lafayette "Powder Puff" football team (which beat Lehigh 30-0). There is a possibility Pam will manage the men's varsity lacrosse team. Pam obviously approves of the athletic program although she



*Coach Sharon Mitchell (right) and a member of the basketball team*

would like to see a lacrosse team established for women. Another coed, Lynn Sinclair '74, is in her second year as fencing team manager and Denise Moninghoff '74 is president of this year's Hockey Club.

Denise McDougald '74, a veteran of basketball, volleyball and tennis, also finds the program satisfactory although she would like to see more women participate. She enjoys athletics as "a break from study—a change of scenery." Like Elise, Denise does not anticipate that varsity teams will go coed. The men are out to win, she contends, while the women are more interested in having fun.

And that seems to be the end result of the women's athletic program at Lafayette. The teams may not lead the scoring charts, but they enjoy themselves in the attempt. After such an enthusiastic start, perhaps the next few years will see the rise of women's athletics to rival the men's programs. As one coach of an opposing team remarked admiringly, "Out of 250 girls, where did you get so many jocks?"



*Volleyball service . . .*



*. . . and return*

# The Powder Puff Bowl— Lafayette 30, Lehigh 0

Showing that they don't think they were screened so much for their academic as their athletic prowess, Lafayette's women students trounced Lehigh's, 30-0, in the first of what both teams said they hope will be an annual "Powder Puff Bowl," a touch football game played at Lehigh's Taylor Stadium on December 5.

The Lafayette women took the game seriously and spent three weeks arduously practicing plays, blocking, passing, catching, doing calisthenics and running on Freshman Field, frequently until after dark.

Their victory was revenge of a sort, since the varsity game in the 107th meeting of the rival schools two weeks earlier had gone to Lehigh, which ad-

mitted coeds for the first time in September.

Offensive stars of the game for the Lady Leopards were Pamela Leveille '75, quarterback, who passed for one touchdown; Michelle Boardman '74, who ran for three and caught a pass for a fourth touchdown; and Lindsay Johnston '74, who scored on a pass from Debra Daniel '74 on a fancy halfback option play. They were coached by Hal Beach '73, a history major from Haddonfield, N.J.

Estimates of attendance ran from 600 to as high as 2,000 spectators. Charging 50 cents a ticket for the charity benefit game, the girls cleared \$650, which was donated to the Lehigh Valley Multiple Sclerosis Society.



*What's a team without a team picture?*





*An early game injury causes concern.*



*Quarterback Pam Leveille '75  
throws deep.*



*"Hold that line!"*

*Michelle Boardman '74 on a scoring run*





# Women and the Fraternity System

By Alan McFarland '72

There were those, in 1969, who opposed coeducation because they felt it would surely number the days of living groups at Lafayette. Yet, even before the advent of coeducation there had been a noticeable decline in new membership and a marked increase in attrition for many living groups. This trend is continuing, but to attribute these changes to coeducation is a simplistic and premature analysis.

The presence of women on campus has obviously increased recruiting pressures on living groups by reducing the number of potential members ultimately to about 1,500 men. There are, however, other developments that have increased, or may soon increase the pressure on living groups. These include increased attractiveness of College residence halls because of relaxed social restrictions, and in the future new residential facilities and possibly even a coeducational residence hall.

It may well be that in the light of recent developments, coeducation not the least of them, we have an over-abundance of living groups. Some, which have been floundering in costly inefficiency for several years, may go by the board. Unfortunately, when this happens there will be, and in some cases already has been, increased reliance on College resources, through loans and indirect subsidies, putting another strain on an already burdened budget.

If we simply stand by and watch for the demise of living groups, attributing it to coeducation, new social codes, new residence halls or the inevitable reluctance of the College to commit still more of its educational resources to living groups, then history and circumstances become the villains.

I certainly do not endorse such an attitude nor am I predicting such a dismal future for living groups. Such a future implies a static, if not stagnant, living group system. How then are living groups to deal with the old and new forces that appear to work against the living groups system as it exists? First, concerning the problems created by coeducation, it is

not necessary for the living group system to restrict its potential membership to 1,500. Already some living groups have included women in their dining plans, and I would expect the male membership of a Lafayette living group to have the collective wisdom, wit and charm to implement further changes which would make membership in the living group attractive to coeds as non-residents or, eventually, even as residents.

Of course, competing with new residence hall facilities will require investment in the physical plant of the living group to make the facilities more attractive and comfortable.

Most importantly, however, living groups will have to begin to see themselves as a system, a cooperative force in a dynamic environment. They must learn to deal collectively with the new and different challenges with which they have been, and will continue to be faced. As long as there is no cooperative effort to strengthen the system and involve it more intimately with the life of the College and community, we will continue to see 21 private entities, cut off from each other and the mainstream of College life, in cut-throat competition for a steadily declining market.

It seems clear to me that the alumni must play a major role if the living groups at Lafayette are to remain a strong and viable force. As always, any strong undergraduate chapter must rely on active financial support from alumni to maintain attractive physical facilities. However, alumni must also participate actively in the planning and organization not only of their particular undergraduate living group, but the entire system of living groups.

Students are often limited in perspective to their four years as undergraduates. It is much easier for alumni to see the living group system in the context of changing social and cultural norms, the changing complexion of the College and the demands made on the living groups by these changes. Living groups suffer most from "institutional lag," and have not made any systematic effort to keep up with changes. The perspective necessary to close this gap as well as the financial support needed to implement necessary changes are to be found at least as much among the alumni as among the undergraduates.

*Al McFarland is a psychology major from Atlanta, Ga., president of Student Government and a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.*