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Commentary Coeds, Cash, and Curfews [ARTICLE]

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Commentary Coeds, Cash, and Curfews

By Gary Caplan

About 20 coeds will sit around a table tonight and decide, for most intents and purposes, how the University will spend \$3,000,000 in the next few years.

Last week the University agreed to make available apartments in the Hasbrouck complex to 60 senior women with averages of at least 75. It made the decision not only because it recognized the validity of women's demands for treatment equal to that accorded men, and not only because a modicum of student pressure was exerted, but certainly because it wished to conduct an experiment.

Probably within the next five years the University will be forced to build new living units for coed matriculants because of an expanding enrollment. Apartments have a decided advantage over dormitories: they cost less, in addition to providing an opportunity for more intimate living. They're cheaper to build. Mary Donlon Hall, housing 480 girls, cost \$3.1 million. Hasbrouck apartments, housing 750-800 people cost \$4.1 million.

And thus, the University decided to conduct an experiment, to see if a small number of girls can live "responsibly" in apartments. There is a general feeling, not specifically articulated, that the experiment will be a success. Success would probably lead to the construction of apartments.

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WSGA will decide tonight whe-

bring. In examining the results of its experiment in apartment living the University may attempt through questionnaires to discover why women liked or disliked the apartments. We doubt whether these surveys could be completely accurate. We doubt whether surveys can examine one's desire for freedom.

Were the women to be satisfied with the apartments only because of freedom from present restrictions, the University may discover, five years hence, after more apartments have been built, that few women will want them.

But WSGA cannot revoke curfew privileges for all senior women just to insure accurate results from the Hasbrouck experiment. The issue of privileges appears to be slightly more important than the issue of apartments. Nor can WSGA expect to consider the single issue of privileges as rationally now as it could have previously for the two issues have become intertwined.

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WSGA might try. But it has refused to consider a further point which arises from the linking of the two. Under present University regulations, supposedly if a Cornell male and female are found in an apartment after curfew, the woman is prosecuted for violating WSGA's sign-in rule, the men for violating the student code, and if a Cornell man and a non-Cornell coed are similarly found the men

ther the experiment will be conducted. It will not decide tonight whether all senior women will have no curfews. Unfortunately, the two questions cannot be decided separately.

According to a SUN survey most women do not find Hasbrouck particularly appealing. Located far from campus, they are convenient only for developing corpulent coed calves. Closets are large enough only for a socially-aware eighth grader. The kitchen is adequate only for a refugee from Collegetown hovels.

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Were only senior women living in Hasbrouck to be given no curfews, the apartments might become appealing. There may be nothing to do in Ithaca on weekdays after 12 p.m. besides sleeping and studying, but the appeal of freedom is not limited to the material benefits it brings. Women may decide to live in Hasbrouck just because of the possibilities freedom would

is subject to prosecution. It is argued that the two most certainly aren't studying, that therefore they must be doing something else, and whether or not what they are doing is "bad," the situation of two people of different sexes in the apartment is bad for the University's reputation, and therefore the man should be punished.

If coeds were to live in Hasbrouck the present regulations would no longer make sense. A man and coed might well be studying at 3 a.m. Or they might be enjoying the end result of most study dates. Certainly, without curfew regulations, what is proper at 11 p.m. should be proper at 2 a.m. But is it? A male student might well ask, of what proper conduct would consist. A declaration on the matter should be forthcoming from the Executive Board, but the Board has chosen not to make the declaration.

And thus, progress comes to Cornell.

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