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Inside out Leave it to the Girls [ARTICLE]

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— Inside Out —

Leave It to the Girls

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Feminine logic, like a non-Euclidian geometry, seems to operate in a universe all its own. At least this is what we gather from the current debate over the abolition of curfews for senior women. Caught in the crossfire of pro and con are the issues of morality, maturity, drunkenness, automobile accidents and even kidnapping. Most of these arguments are irrelevant, if not downright absurd, but in a highly irrational sort of rationalization of their respective positions on the curfew questions, the girls have adduced these insanities and in consequence have confused the issue considerably.

Aside from any administrative problems, which the University will presumably work out in its own inimitable, bureaucratic way, the curfew issue is simply a question of whether senior coeds will be allowed to decide for themselves what time they want to go home at night. But immediately the question of morality and maturity is raised.

Perhaps it is because WSGA meetings are involved; there has to be a solemn, earth-shaking issue to discuss if they are going to call in the whole Assembly. They will have to debate for a while, until they can make a solemn pronouncement on whether the maturity of a girl in her twenties is such that the regulation of her hours may be left in her own unsure hands. They also take into sober consideration that "agemates of senior women have been living independently in the business world for several years." In other words, whether in the business world or any other world in this day of feminine emancipation, women of comparable age have managed to survive life's pitfalls without superimposed curfews.

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From the discussions of the "morality question" one would gather that it is immoral to stay out after 1:30 on Saturday night. It is implied that since everything is closed in Ithaca by 1 a.m., no one could possibly have anything to do except fornicate. This seems to be a rather hasty conclusion of those panic-stricken souls scandalized by the suggestion of curfew abolition. If one holds morality to be something more than a sham su-

otherwise, and the chance to offer proof is not even allowed. Most of us will chalk up moral deviations to the fallibility of human nature and feel that for just this fallibility the curfews should be maintained. But again, this is expected the worst. In the end, however, the whole issue devolves upon a personal decision, and we cannot collectively pretend to be our brother's keepers.

Another argument that has been brought to the defense of curfews is that drunkenness would increase as the hours rolled by and that the ensuing raucous conduct and reckless driving would jeopardize the safety of every coed. Those temperate persons who hold thusly, having perhaps had little experience in such matters, will be relieved to know that even such excesses as drinking are indeed not limitless. For those who are inebriated by midnight usually will not be functional at 3 a.m., they will be unconscious and blissfully out of harm's way. And so, as if by some natural law, the amount of potentially dangerous drunkenness tends to remain constant, if it does not actually decrease as party time goes by.

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And then there seems to be come consternation about men not bringing coeds home since there are no curfews to break and therefore no MJB action with which to threaten the recalcitrant beaux. Fortunately, where the MJB fails to exert its persuasive pressures the higher powers-that-be fill the vacuum; numbered among the Federal statutes are several provisions for the care and handling of those engaging in a crime known as kidnapping.

If every imagined bete noire is considered, one would think that after 1:30 a.m. on a curfew-less campus a sort of state of nature would prevail in which life would be nasty, brutish and lusty. Gremlins, werewolves, and other assorted lecherous types might be prowling around—all, of course, subject to questioning by the campus police if found in the proximity of the dormitory precincts. And might not the senior dorm nightwatchman be a "security risk": after all, he is a male. Then the only modest proposal acceptable to the more

morality to be something
perstructure, then this is certainly expecting the
worst of people. All are assumed guilty until proven
squeamish would be the substitution for curfew
of armed eunuchs patrolling the campus.

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