

## Liberal Arts at Smith College Attracts Women

By SARA STRINGER  
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It is true that Smith College students pedal bicycles to class, have worn Bermuda shorts for a decade, and are especially fond of Ivy League men.

It also is true that they are inquisitive scholars seeking higher education at the largest women's college in the world. To over two thousand undergraduates, Smith College offers a solidly planned liberal arts course of study every year.

The word, "liberal" frequently appears vague and mysterious. But according to Smith College standards, it simply defines a course of study designed to increase the understanding and power of the student as an individual rather than the student as a specialist.

"Bread and butter courses"—courses in occupational training—have no place in a liberal arts college.

A liberal arts education, therefore, should be regarded in terms of personal leadership preparation, involving a systematic study of people's thoughts, methods of expression, the world of nature, and the behavior of people as individuals or as groups.

SMITH COLLEGE awards bachelor of arts degrees to all students who have satisfactorily completed four years of study as outlined by the college. In general, this program calls for two years of diversified study while the last two years are devoted primarily to work in a major field.

A degree with honors is awarded in three grades, magna cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude, based on examination and independent work.

Master of arts degrees are offered to graduates in specific fields such as education and philosophy.



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Advanced instruction is available in practically every department of the college. A certificate of graduate studies is available to the large number of foreign students attending Smith.

IN RECOGNITION of the gen-

eral academic standards of the college, a Phi Beta Kappa society was established at Smith in 1904. Election to the society comes during senior year, although a small number of juniors also are eligible. Smith was the first women's college to be granted a charter for the establishment of a chapter of Sigma Xi Society whose membership is awarded to promising graduate students and seniors who excel in their scholastic careers.

One of the most exciting offers Smith makes to undergraduate students is the opportunity to spend junior year abroad, in France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Toronto or Mexico.

Students going to France, for example, spend the first month of their stay living with French families in Paris, then swing into their studies at the Sorbonne and other institutions.

Similar programs are staged in Geneva, Florence, Mexico City, Grenoble, the University of Toronto and Madrid.

Housing at Smith follows one simple plan: every student is a resident of one of the 25 campus houses. These houses vary in size, accommodating from 10 to 80 students. All meals are served within the individual houses.

THERE ARE NO sororities at Smith or at any of the other six eastern women's colleges.

Like all similar institutions, Smith is steeped in tradition. Ivy is planted, ceremonies performed, a Student Council governs the campus, and a smooth working social and academic system governs the conscience.

One of the happiest traditions is Mountain Day in the fall. This is a free day unexpectedly announced by the ringing of bells. On Mountain Day students are free to go and do whatever they choose.

Some study, but the majority are off for Amherst (just seven miles away), Yale or Harvard, and some really climb mountains.

A FANCIFUL celebration comes on Washington's birthday called Rally Day. It is then that the top three classes give vent to their theatrical and musical talents—curriculum, satire and vaudeville comedy all appear on the Smith stage. Families and dates come in droves to watch their off-spring and loves perform.

Also on Washington's birthday the seniors first appear in caps and gowns which they continue to wear until commencement. The appearance of seniors cycling across campus in this regalia has been likened to a herd of bats.

And what of you as freshmen? You are warmly greeted and oriented. You hang curtains and cover pillows until your rooms look livable.

NEXT, ON GO Bermuda shorts or perhaps this year, the short kilt skirt. Cocktail dresses come out on weekends, together with the new tweed suit for football games.

And when midyear exams are over and Spring vacation seems far away, you look around for something else to do.

The extra-curricular life is vast. As a freshman—you may report or editorialize on the College newspaper; you may "create" for the literary magazine; you may swing your hockey stick or drink hot-balls in tournaments; you may discuss man and God at religious meetings; and as for committees—hundreds are waiting for you to volunteer.

AND IF YOU become a Big Wheel—you might get a phone in your room while serving on Student Council or as class president. Too, you may decide to become a Grass Cup—for which you get no phone, just a loud whistle to blow at illegal cyclists.

If you lean toward the musical side of our culture, Smith is the

place for you. Even if you're a monotone, you're in luck because everybody at Smith sings! You'll even in quartets, octets, a capella, you'll go to Europe some summer and should you be really good singing your way in and out of embassies and cathedrals from Iceland to Italy.

There always is time for seasonal activity. Skiing is extraordinarily popular until sunbathing days arrive. And somehow dates, dances, pinnings and diamond rings are snatched into the schedule.

And you are hardly discernible from the rest of the under-

graduates. You are addicted to crusades or T. S. Eliot or World Federalism. You're tired acquiring an Eastern accent. You're going to Dartmouth Winter Carnival and hoping for a new formal.

You've joined the happy band of two thousand plus pedaling to class on their way to Higher Education at Smith College.

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## Three Weeks Of Holidays During Next School Year

With all area schools due to open shortly after Labor Day, youngsters can look forward to not much more than three weeks off during the entire school year.

Parochial schools, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, St. Hugo of the Hills, and Holy Name, are unable to release a school schedule at this time. Sisters who comprise the faculties returned to their posts this week and have not as yet been able to complete the schedule.

First break in the school year, one to affect all public schools in Birmingham, Southfield and Bloomfield Hills districts, will come on Oct. 14, his will mark the two-day conference for the Michigan Educational association's sixth region.

While there is no "time off" attached, the first semesters end Friday, Jan. 22, the new semesters begin Jan. 31.



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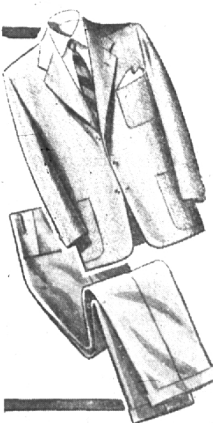
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