

Self-government eliminates college housemother's role

By JENNIFER IAN GRAMBS
NEW YORK — Somewhere, in some college dormitory, here must still be a housemother. But, judging from what is happening at colleges in and around New York, the era of the housemother — as she was once known — has passed.

Ironically, she has been replaced by the very students she once governed or, at the very least, by their chosen representatives. If the housemother hasn't been missed, it's because alternatives like professors in residence, student counselors, and residential directors have been doing what is generally considered a better job.

At New York University, for instance, life in each of the five graduate and undergraduate dorms goes on quite well, and the closest most students there have to come to a housemother is watching old college movies on late-night television.

Nonresident house managers and a council of resident students have been keeping an eye on things in two of the dorms.

A different arrangement exists in the remaining three dorms, one of which is Rubin Hall, the home of Prof. Carolyn McCaffrey.

Mrs. McCaffrey, a tax-law teacher, is a professor in residence in the 530-woman dorm where she shares a rent-free apartment with her husband and three children. Although NYU's Housing Office defines her duties as "being responsible for some administration like room assignments, student life, helping to start new programs," Mrs. McCaffrey isn't so cut and dried.

"It's hard to describe. I guess I'm an administrator of sorts," she says. "Nobody told me exactly what my functions were when I took the job."

AS A RESULT, she has been left pretty much on her own since a committee of students selected her a year ago. She and an assistant (another professor who lives in the dorm) "work as a team" along with student-selected seniors and graduates called resident fellows.

"All of us counsel to be a kind of friend," according to Mrs. McCaffrey who, at 30, could pass as a student herself.

Rules, regulations and curfews — "Oh, no, they went out a long time ago" — aren't a serious part of her job.

The vast majority of the problems are roommate problems," she says, adding that drugs and serious drinking are always threats but, as yet, she hasn't encountered either situation head-on.

The most interesting part of her job, she feels, is integrating some kind of academic program with the dorm's residential life. Last year Mrs. McCaffrey initiated courses on women's studies, brought them into the dorms, and is now expanding the program.

Mrs. McCaffrey couldn't think of any schools which employ housemothers today, but she remembered her undergraduate days at George Washington where curfews, "no men in dorms except Sunday afternoon," and housemothers were all grim realities.

"My housemother was largely ignored. Maybe most of the people here at Rubin feel the same way about me," she laughed. "I was never really sure what my housemother did except she had us for tea one afternoon a year."

Dormitory life at NYU's neighboring schools differs slightly, but the concept of self-government remains constant. The 1,900 undergraduate

students at Columbia University, housed in five separate dorms (three of which are coed) don't take their roommate problems to a professor in residence.

INSTEAD, each dorm has a head counselor, a senior or grad student responsible for supervision of the building's counseling program. Each floor has its own student residence counselor and all the students elect representatives to the Undergraduate Dormitory Council. The graduate dorms have eliminated residence counselors. The

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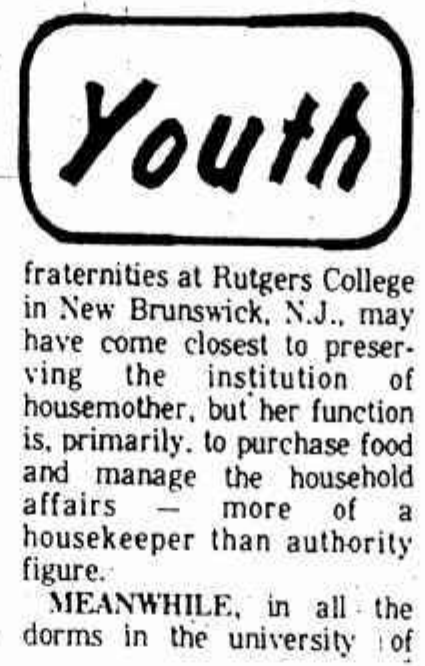
To determine the role of physique in delinquency and crime the researchers studied 100 delinquents and 100 non-delinquent boys, whose average age was 17, and 20 adult criminals, whose age averaged 34. With the ex-

word housemother hasn't been uttered at Columbia since the 1920's.

Barnard, Columbia's sister school, had only one coed dorm last year and has since added two more, shared with Columbia. Each of the three undergraduate dorms is assigned a resident director. These directors, preferably, are previous graduate students, according to the housing office, and are "responsible for the health, welfare and safety of the students." Seven graduate students help the directors.

Meanwhile, four of the 28 fraternities at Rutgers College in New Brunswick, N.J., may have come closest to preserving the institution of housemother, but her function is, primarily, to purchase food and manage the household affairs — more of a housekeeper than authority figure.

MEANWHILE, in all the dorms in the university of



which the college is the oldest part) student proctors assume the responsibility of spotting anyone with a problem and directing him to the proper help on campus.

The last of the legitimate housemothers may have been ousted from Upper Iowa College a year ago, according to Barbara Symons, a 22-year-old senior, who guarantees that the students are a lot happier now.

"We didn't like the hassle of having someone running around checking up on us. It was a strict setup before. She would always be there

checking on us after a date. There was no privacy," remembers Barbara. "So, since the student government took office, we got rid of her altogether."

The students came up with this replacement: In Barbara's women's dorm, for example, six upperclassmen, each with one intern apiece, are counselors to about 120 women. A head resident is in charge of the counselors. All are volunteer jobs, subject to the approval of a student evaluation committee, with a salary applied to the tuition.

Barbara, a counselor herself,

says her job is "to make sure everything is cool in the dorm without interfering with anyone's privacy."

One of the first rules that went out of the window along with the housemother at Upper Iowa State was the practice of keeping those housemotherly curfews. Intervisitation rights for the men on campus are also a lot more relaxed, although not nearly on a par with other, more liberal schools, according to Barbara.

So, what may have been the last of the college housemothers is gone — and no one seems to care.

It's what's happening

Psychologist's study ties behavior to physical patterns

By BARBARA LEWIS
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ception of three thin and one fat, all the criminals were muscular. Among the 200 juveniles tested, there were only 19 muscular non-delinquents, and as many as 57 muscular delinquents.

Besides these stark findings, the authors of "Delinquency and Crime: a Biophysical Approach," found that muscle-men are also less religious, less dependent upon their parents and less respectful of their teachers.

Sad Sacks of the world, unite. Your time has come. This is it.

GRAND FUNK OR WHATEVER — Don Brewer, Mark Farner, and Mel Schacher, who have had eight million-selling records on the Capital label as Grand Funk Railroad, will be going on tour to promote their new release, "Phoenix," beginning Oct. 11

in Seattle. Traveling with them on this 17-city tour, which winds up in Jacksonville, Fla., Nov. 12, will be Andy Cavaliere, their new manager.

Whether they will be billed as Grand Funk Railroad or not is part of the argument they are involved in with Terry Knight, who has been their manager and is suing to prevent them from using the name Grand Funk. Not only is Knight suing Farner, Brewer and Schacher, he is also suing their agency, CMA, and its vice president, Roy Silver, and two CMA employees, Robert Salmaggi and Vincent Romeo; the public relations firm of Levinson and Ross of Los Angeles and New York, and its principals, Robert Levinson and Al Ross, and Andy Cavaliere.

The dispute between the three performers and Knight has reached such proportions

that letters of indemnification have been prepared by the attorneys for the three, promising to stand behind anyone who refers to them as Grand Funk despite Knight's objections. The idea for the indemnification was the brainchild of Bob Levinson who believes it to be a first.

RICH OR POOR — Now that **Townes Van Zandt** has signed a 30-month contract with United Artists and moved up from the coffee-house circuit to the more lucrative college-campus-tour route, life has changed very little for him. He still has no place he calls home although he yearns for the day he can settle on a piece of land in the Colorado Rockies and own a horse or two.

It has been a lonely life and not unlike those of many folk singers who plod away without

making the top. There are lots of **Townes Van Zandts**, although few are talented. They keep moving from one town to another with a guitar and a broken-down heap of a car. And sometimes they even sleep in the car when the going gets difficult.

Townes has never had a hit record of his own but Buffy St. Marie, who has written a score of hits for other performers, chose his "Mister, Can't You See" and rode it up to the Top 40. It is all the more ironic because Buffy can't seem to write a hit for herself in the U.S. All of her personal success has come to her on foreign shores.

His current album is "The High and Low and In Between," and this is being followed by his new LP, tentatively titled "The Late, Great **Townes Van Zandt**." It's a

funny name for an album, but let us be the first to assure you that **Townes Van Zandt** is very much alive, and UA thinks on the brink of a big future.

Pilot light called potential hazard

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Because they put something flammable too close to the pilot light of a stove, three persons died in the past two years and 28 were seriously injured, the State Health Department reports.

"Unfortunately, some people forget or may not realize that within a matter of seconds a flammable substance placed even many feet away from a pilot light may vaporize and ignite, causing a flashback and possible burn," Commissioner Dr. Hollis Ingraham noted.

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