

Coeds This Year May Be Only First of Many:

Women Begin Invading College

By GEORGE ALEXANDER

Traditionalists may shake their heads, but it appears that coeducation is on its way to Hanover.

The movement has been building for the past several years, and last year a major step was the enrollment of seven girls as "special students" at the College. All seven were brought to Hanover by the Drama Department, which needed competent

actresses to play female roles in its dramatic productions.

The girls, all juniors, spent the year taking courses and acting in Dartmouth Players' productions. As special students, they were allowed to take courses and receive credit for their work, but that credit could not be counted toward a Dartmouth degree. This year, one of the undergraduate dormitories, Cohen Hall, has been set aside for

an estimated 70 girls who will be studying at the College, but still only as special students.

The next goal which advocates of coeducation seek is the establishment of a degree-receiving program for females, enabling them to enroll at the College for a full four years.

Students have organized in each of the past two years a "Coed Week," during which several hundred girls from other eastern colleges have spent a week in Hanover, attending classes, eating in Thayer Hall, and participating in discussions with students, teachers, and administrators covering coeducation and other topics.

In addition, the Committee on Freshman Reading has in each of the past several years, sponsored coeducational book discussions with girls from other colleges, usually on weekends. The discussion groups have been limited in number, and virtually all have been filled within a few hours after the sign-up for them began, an indication of the enthusiasm shown for the program.

3142:7 Ratio

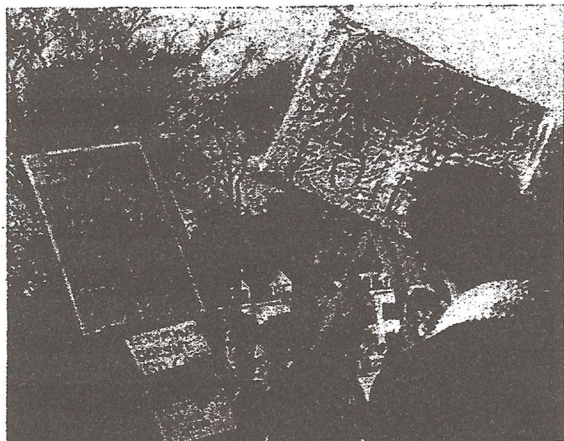
The seven coeds who were here last year found themselves in a rather unusual position—on the short end of a 3142:7 boy-to-girl ratio. Understandably, they didn't know exactly what to expect when they arrived last September, but when they left in June, most had enjoyed the Dartmouth Experience, and four of them were planning to return this year.

Big Green reaction to the girls was mixed. Those students who got to know the coeds from classes or drama productions treated them simply as fellow students—several of the girls even pledged fraternities.

Their presence probably was also a factor in the increased agitation for coeducation. They joined several demonstrations for coeducation, and also undertook activities on their own in behalf of coeducation—writing letters to the alumni magazine and the trustees was one method

used in trying to convince the administration that Eleazar Wheelock would not spin in his grave if girls were allowed to earn an A.B. from Dartmouth.

A further development, indicating more interest in coeducation on the part of the administration, occurred in mid-May, when Leonard M. Rieser temporarily stepped down from his post as Dean of the Faculty to devote more time to his work as co-chairman of a special committee appointed by the trustees to study the question of coeducation at the College.



One of the campus' less dangerous demonstrations last year was a protest against the College's "discrimination" in not allowing women to become regular students.