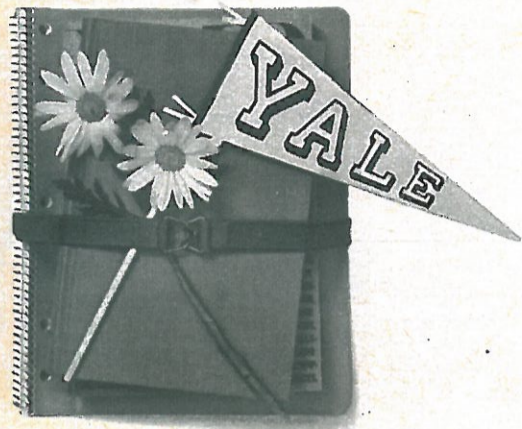


COEDUCATION:



THE WALLS ARE TUMBLING

DOWN!

What has caused the tradition-breaking mergers among the country's most prestigious all-male, all-female schools?

The way the headlines have been exploding, you'd think those men's colleges had never heard of girls before. Now—all of a sudden—the bastions of all-male education are tumbling. This fall, scores of famous and not-so-famous colleges that for centuries have catered to men only will open their arms to women.

And vice versa. Long established all-female institutions have also been thinking things over and deciding it's not such a bad idea after all to have a man around the house.

To many, of course, it's unsettling. Especially to parents and alumni. A newspaper cartoon recently showed two fathers, brows furrowed, discussing the new collegiate arrangements. "Of course I'm confused," said one to the other. "I have a son at Vassar and a daughter at Yale!"

Others besides Yale and Vassar are joining the unisex movement. Smith, Mount Holyoke, Williams, Wheaton, Wesleyan, Bennington, Sarah Lawrence, Amherst, Hamilton, Sewanee, Fordham, Bowdoin, Trinity, Colgate, the Connecticut College for Women—all are embracing the idea in one way or another. Even a traditional Roman Catholic institution like Notre Dame is negotiating a possible merger with two women's colleges—St. Mary's and Barat.

As late as 1948, twenty-eight percent of the colleges and universities in the country, including almost all of the Ivy League and Seven Sisters

colleges, as well as most Roman Catholic ones, were strictly one-sex schools. Today the percentage is down to eighteen and falling fast. By this fall, the last bastions of the Ivy League will have succumbed when Princeton and Dartmouth both enroll their first undergraduate women.

While many of these changeovers will be outright coeducational, others such as Fordham-Thomas More are following the coordinate route of Brown-Pembroke, Harvard-Radcliffe and Columbia-Barnard. Girls live close by, but the colleges have different administrations and generally different classes although even these differences are beginning to disappear in many places. Libraries, laboratories, glee clubs and other extracurricular activities, plus a few classes, are certainly shared. Still other institutions, like Smith and Williams, are pursuing their courtship in a more gingerly way: they are merely exchanging a few students for a semester or two, to see what happens.

Even prep schools are feeling the urge to coeducate. Connecticut's Choate and Rosemary Hall, for example, recently announced a sort of merger by which the girls will set up housekeeping on the Choate campus and share many of the same facilities. As one faculty wag put it: "We've agreed to live with one another, but not to marry."

Kent has already built a coordinate girls' school (Northfield) nearby;

Chaffee is moving and Taft is eyeing St. Margaret's in mind. St. Paul New Hampshire is going to exchange term. Massachusetts, a pioneer school (boys and by a road) has been like a library to make the road.

In this process ancient education happens inevitable to think of them even though the wagons rather than. Long a minor underdogs in the system, many took heady aroma of

Take Sandra, seventeen-year-old admitted to PMC Pennsylvania, two the first girl to enter tuition was found over, she didn't study by an ambivalent course. She flung by entering what strictly masculine

Petite, female look like a when she graduated in Columbia Crevania, she was del