

# ST. JOHN'S COLLEGIAN

SPECIAL ISSUE

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## Adam and Eve on a Raft or Levitations from Leviticus

### AN EDITORIAL

In the fall of '51, the St. John's' community will enter a phase which we hope will in some sense at least be fruitful.

A College Forum has been called by the Executive Committee for Tuesday Jan. 23 at 8:00 p.m. to provide the college community (administration, faculty and Student Polity) with an opportunity to discuss how co-education will affect St. John's. It will be impossible at this time to anticipate the many situations which will arise when women come to live on this campus, so that this meeting can not possibly have for its purpose a solution of these problems, but rather must come to some agreement on the attitude with which these problems must be faced.

It is unfortunate that the society in which we live has found it necessary to establish separate codes by which the moral life of men and women must be judged. In considering the attitude with which we will meet these problems likely to arise next fall, we must have in mind not so much the mores of the society in which we live, as the simple fact of human dignity and responsibility to that dignity.

The fact that there is an anticipation of tension over what will come about next fall indicates that a sharp dicotomy between male and female does not represent a healthy relationship in communal life. Therefore in considering this problem it is advocated that we do not make the fatal mistake of considering women as other than students.

Parents of prospective students quite rightly concern themselves with the moral

attitude of the community that their son or daughter is about to join. What must be understood is that this attitude can not be judged in terms of the rules and regulations imposed on the community, but rather this attitude can be judged only in terms of the rules and regulations which the community proposes to itself and accepts or rejects.

Females as such have certain potentialities peculiar to themselves. It is only in terms of these, that regulations have any conceivable justification. It must be realized, however, that no amount of regulation can prevent these potentialities from being actualized.

Imposed regulations can not be enforced! All they can possibly represent is anticipated irresponsibility, and all they can possibly accomplish is to present a surface respectability. The only conceivable solution is that each student, male and female, assumes complete responsibility for his actions. This is the subject for Tuesday's discussion.

It has been suggested that a temporary group of minimum restrictions be agreed upon and observed for a stated length of time, to give women a chance to familiarize themselves with St. John's and men time to adjust themselves to women's presence. In light of the immediate novelty of the relationship this seems reasonable. After this initial period of familiarization it is hoped that an obvious solution will suggest itself.

The Editors