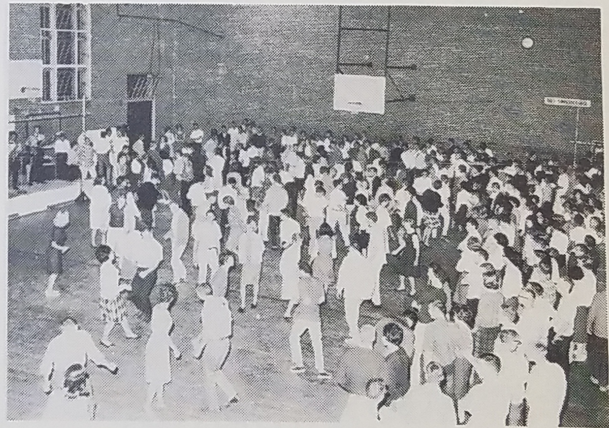


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# TRADITION SHATTERED



1961 - 1986

**Santa Clara University**

CONQUISTADARITAS  
by Edwin F. Williman

The Ages blink an eye.  
Time kicks up a fuss.  
Fifty million years  
Glare down at us.

This much is clear;  
We are the first  
Of Eve's own kind  
To enter here...  
We, the reputed chatterers,  
Arrive,...tradition shatterers:

Ending the endless wait,  
We storm this sullen gate.

The regimented foe,...  
Routed to a Man,  
His earthworks down,  
His flag in tatters,  
Scatters.....

Demure, though not  
Unsure, we come.  
The conquest is discreet:  
No beat of drum,  
No trumpets blare  
Bestirs the air  
Sounding retreat.

The terms are meet:  
Side arms, mounts  
And rank retained...  
For us, An Alma Mater gained.

We win the hallowed Gate.  
And, yet, we hesitate...  
These footprints in  
The Alameda's dust...

Here Serra, Lausen  
and Nobili's destined men  
Long sternly stood;  
And we stand now  
For.....Womenhood

The victory's complete  
And.....Sweet.

# SCU Coeds' Goal: B.A. Or Mrs.?

By JOHN MIHALAROS  
Mercury Staff Writer

SANTA CLARA — Have the women at University of Santa Clara been given an even break in publicity on why they are attending the newly - coeducational institution?

Has news been slanted to make it seem they are there only to catch their mates?

After all, no loud complaints from the coeds have reached newsrooms regarding the 15-1 man to woman student ratio at SCU.

According to Miss Peggy Major, SCU news director, some women there believe some newsmen ignored them when they said they came to SCU for academic educations.

The University this fall sent optional questionnaires to 100 coeds, to be answered anonymously.

Of the 68 who replied, 84 per cent said no and 16 per cent said yes to: "Do you think most women students at Santa Clara came here primarily because of the men?"

Fifty-five per cent said they expect to go on for graduate study. History proved the most popular major. Second place was divided evenly between pre-medical school training, sociology, psychology,

political science and English.

Business came third, biology and mathematics fourth. Strangely enough, education came fifth. Social science, Spanish and marketing tied for sixth and last place.

An explanation for education falling to fifth place is a new state law affecting freshmen this year.

It puts more emphasis on intensive knowledge of what is to be taught and less on teaching methods. Thus, some coeds who really intend to teach might have listed their majors as the subjects they plan to teach.

A case in all three points is Carol Lynn Firenzi, 18, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Warren Firenzi, 19460 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd., Saratoga.

A graduate of Los Gatos High School (eighty per cent said SCU is not the first coed school they have attended), Miss Firenzi is a freshman.

She said she will major in history and minor in Spanish, then attend a fifth year for education courses to allow her to teach history in high school or junior college.

Asked if she sees any contradiction between attending SCU to meet the man she might marry and



**STUDIOUS** — While some campus wags have hinted that SCU's new coeds are more interested in husbands than higher learning, the gals themselves insist studies come first. Here, Brenna Bolger bears down at the blackboard

★ ★ ★

under the tutelage of the Rev. Benjamin Sargent, S.J. Looking on are Carol Firenzi and Judith Kayser.

obtaining an academic education, she answered:

"No. I'm more likely to meet a man of similar interests here, one

whose career will be compatible with mine. Marriage is a career, too."

She hasn't chosen her major yet, but Brenna Bridget Bolger, 18, is fairly certain she wants to be a non-fiction writer.

"I will combine that with doing my husband's breakfast and getting the children off to school," she said.

Miss Bolger is the daughter of Mrs. Ray Bolger, 1375 Civic Center Dr. in Santa Clara. Her mother is a teacher in the Sunnyvale School District.

"Before one specializes, he should know the great ideas that have come down through the ages, how men have dealt with them, and understand present thought in the world today," she explained.

To help achieve that aim, she might serve in the Peace Corps a few years before marriage.

"Marriage and a profession can go together," she said. "I think most women here share that opinion."

"It costs about \$1,000 a year to attend college. If I came here just to get a husband, that would be rather expensive," said Judith Ann Kayser, 18, daughter of Dr. Frederick

W. Kayser, 1290 McKendrie St. in San Jose.

Miss Kayser is a graduate of Notre Dame High School and now a freshman. She wants to major in English, graduate and write feature articles for newspapers, then get married. "I might take graduate work, too," she added.

Her reason for wanting a newspaper career is: "It's one of the most important media for influencing people."

"I want to live off my own money for a while. I will learn to appreciate my husband's contribution more that way," she said.

All three coeds have high grade averages — Miss Firenzi an A minus, Miss Kayser a B plus. Miss Bolger, a sophomore, is already in the honors program.

All three coeds also said in one way or another "I like it here."

## RECOLLECTIONS:

- \* I feel very lucky and proud to have been one of the original coeds and have only the best of memories...I wish I were back!
- \* SCU was a great experience, as a prefect (for the original 80 girls) I got to know them well. We were a bit of an island at the Villa and all of our rules were hard to enforce but we obeyed & respected our rights and privileges. They did keep order to life and I believe, made dorm living easier than it is today.
- \* **Joe Tinney!!!** By the way what ever happened to Joe ...(Divine justice, he has three daughters!!!)
- \* The **housing rules** were very restrictive. But as I recall, many of those ingenious coeds managed to get around them. **Phone etiquette** was a rule...I vaguely remember "Park Lanai...uh, Moonlight Ranch...uh, Villa Ma-RI-AH."
- \* **The dress code**...playing tennis in trench coats.
- \* Most of the intelligent males were delighted to have us at Santa Clara. The freshmen were fine and considerably more mature than some of the Seniors. I imagine those individuals (and they know who they are!) look back now and realize how absolutely silly they were!
- \* **Bronco Corral (Quanset Hut) - 7-9 p.m. weekdays** could go to the library only. **1 p.m. check in on Friday and Saturday nights. No Pants on campus - must wear nylons.** The check-in gate at the Villa Maria.
- \* Dates had to wait in the lounge- weren't allowed past **"the line"** between the lounge and the apartments. Had to sign in & out on weekends; parents were sent postcards if we signed out for entire weekend-letting them know where we were (or were supposed to be!).
- \* Must be in the Villa by 9 p.m. on weekdays and we were only allowed out to go to the library (where you had to check in). In by 12 on weekends and **men were only allowed in the lounge.**
- \* All of my many roommates and our various personalities... but we made it some how! Clay M Greene - I still love dramatics... the whole ambience of the campus was and is very comforting.
- \* The impression that you were **"an easy mark"** by the fellows. Fr. Bannan, a wonderful person and confidant...
- \* Sunbathing at the Villa..."studying" in the mission gardens...**The med students putting their biology specimens (dead cats) on the food conveyor in the cafeteria.** Food fights! Phony ID's for bar hopping, fines for curfew violations. **GREAT FRIENDS & LOTS AND LOTS OF FUN TIMES!**
- \* Going to Mass at the Mission with my Dad and the morning that Fr.

McQuillen came up to us and said - "you better get an application for her, we're opening up." I walked to Santa Clara (not thru the snow!) so it was more of a choice of local school than an all male one.

\* Our adorable house parents, the Des Jardins...turning on the shower at **bed check** so someone could sneak over the wall later... wearing baby doll pajamas under trench coats to 8 a.m. class...**watching Peyton Place** in the teeny tiny lounge where the R.A.'s lived.

\* I remember the first "days of the coeds" as rather tense times...but also very exciting. The Bronco Corral was the place to meet.

\* Frosh orientation - it was a blast. The food was awful but I still managed to gain 30 lbs. The Villa-a palace, Nobili - a pit... the garden were beautiful...Fr. Lou Bannan, Fr. Terry, Mrs. Reedy all the best friends we could have...

\* Remember how the sophomore male students initially disliked us. After the first year, we were friends. Seniors, Juniors and frosh were more accepting. Housing was very nice. The campus **only had 1 women's restroom!!**

\* As far as acceptance by the male students, they threw **water balloons** at us & wouldn't allow us in the cheering section at basketball games and football games, but they did date us! (Except of course, Joe Tinney, who wouldn't go near a coed)...

\* Stanford fraternity stealing the Villa sign.

#### REMINISCENCES:

\* Absolutely the best environment, academically and socially.

\* Fr. Terry was very supportive and Mrs. Reedy took us under her wing. Fr. Bannan became a great friend, always ready to listen and give advice. If I remember correctly, Fr. Bannan came over to the Villa on several occasions to give us "pep talks" in the lounge.

\* No pants on campus...**Post card home if we left for overnight.**

\* **Snowball fight** at the apartments...**pizza thrown over the wall after hours...bars put on the windows** to keep girls in boys out... The first year no one knew what to do with us.

\* My parents were not surprised when I wanted to attend SCU, my sister had been in the O'Connor/SC Nurses program.

\* It was my father's idea that I go to SCU. The press and faculty made a big fuss over the coeds. Several years later many male alumni still hadn't accepted the coed concept.

\* Social life was great that 1st year. Many of us married fellow students. Rules were rather stringent...



## A Needle Breaks The Ice

While some men clung in desperate aloofness to the all-male tradition, distaining even to recognize the new coeds, others choose to demonstrate their he-man disgust with the whole idea.

Santa Clara became perhaps the only campus in America where passing coeds (picture at left) were booed,

even if good naturedly. The outnumbered (15 to 1) girls found themselves loudly branded as "the brazen few."

There was just one hitch in this masculine demonstration of disdain. In order to needle a girl you have to speak to her. And in speaking to her, you have to look at her.

## Co-ed Den Parents Ready

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Williman haven't got a TV set.

And the administration-named house parents at Park Lanai, new boarding facility for SC's women students, said last week they don't want one.

It's too much of a job, they said, riding herd on the university's first installment of Bronkettes.

There are 76 of these tradition shatterers, the Willimans counted. That makes 76 individual sets of responsibility, they agreed.

And that's being 76 parents at once, they said.

The Willimans, The Santa Clara learned, are houseparents of interesting background and congenial manner: a sharp contrast to hints of formality apparent to Santa Clara men.

Santa Clara women have, on the contrary, relaxed and affable "pre-fects."

Williman, for 30 years a pursuivant of the fine arts, and a student of the practical arts as well, was principal of Union High School in Pescadero for 29 years.

He was dean of boys at Piedmont High School, dramatic advisor for all school plays while principal at Pescadero, and president of the San Mateo County Teachers Association.

### FOOTBALL DIRECTOR

On the side, Williman said, he was Pescadero football director and claims membership of the Stanford University varsity team.



MR. & MRS. E. F. WILLIMAN  
... parents to 75 women

Williman's extracurricular activities, he said, were a 12-year chairmanship of the San Mateo County Recreation Committee and a charter membership of the San Mateo Blood Bank.

Mrs. Williman, the woman behind the successful man, is a conversationalist and an incisive wit.

The Willimans, whose job is an 18-hour one, have sacrificed luxury and social life in devotion to their task.

They told of a quick move to new surroundings, meeting parents, and a swimming pool full of girls.

And not least, they said, was constant trek of men of the campus.

HOUSE RULES AND REGULATIONS  
FOR WOMEN STUDENTS LIVING AT PARK LANAI

1. An atmosphere of QUIET should prevail at all times, but particularly during study period and after 11:00 p.m. Boisterous behavior, slamming of doors, loud playing of radios or record players must be avoided. No musical instruments are allowed in the apartments. No visiting of rooms is permitted after 11:00 p.m.
2. Monday through Thursday from 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. are study periods. All students are obliged to be in their dorms during this time, and they are not to leave their apartments for work in the library, meetings, lectures, etc., without permission of the student Prefect or House Parents.  
Freshmen should have their lights out by 11:00 p.m.;  
Sophomores and Juniors by 12:00 p.m.  
Sunday night check-in time is 10:30 p.m. Rooms will be checked to see if these prescriptions are being carried out. Absence from the rooms during these periods will be interpreted as violation of University regulations.
3. Those who leave the campus on week-ends must:
  - a) Sign out on the form provided by the student Prefect;
  - b) By Thursday night at the latest, fill out the postcard provided by the Prefect (which will be mailed to your parents) and leave it with her or the House Parents.Failure to follow this procedure will render the student absent from the campus overnight without proper authorization. No resident-student may leave the campus for a vacation period before the designated time without explicit permission of the Academic Vice-President.
4. Regular ROOM-CHECKS will be made at the following periods:
  - a) 7:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
  - b) 11:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday
  - c) 10:30 p.m. Sunday
  - d) 1:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday
4. The telephone may not be used between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and calls are not to be answered at these times. The telephone is not to be used after 10:00 p.m. on these nights.
5. The possession of any type of alcoholic beverages in the apartment or entering the apartment under the discernible influence of alcohol will result in suspension or expulsion from the University.
6. Men are NEVER allowed in student apartments. A lounge room will be provided to receive your guests.
7. Beds are to be made and rooms put in order by 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, and by 12:00 noon on Saturday and Sunday.
8. Sun bathing or the playing of games in the campus gardens is prohibited. Bermuda shorts and slacks are NEVER to be worn on campus.
9. The Park Lanai swimming pool will not be available to male guests. The pool will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
10. You are asked to lock your room when you are not there. It is your responsibility if anything is taken.

# The Santa Clara



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SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1961



\$2.00 Per Year

# TRADITION SHATTERED



BOB FLORIAN, BOB CALLAN AND THE NURSES

... campus will be swarming with co-eds in fall.

## Girls To Shatter 110-Yr. Tradition

A hundred and ten years of tradition were broken at Santa Clara last night.

In a surprise announcement, the Very Rev. Patrick Donohoe, S.J., officially put women on the Bronco campus.

Beginning next semester, the oldest all-men university west of the Mississippi will go co-educational.

The women will be admitted to all departments.

But boarding facilities will remain exclusively for men, according to the President.

### PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

In a press interview with the Santa Clara last night, Fr. Donohoe cited as reason for the move "terrific pressure on Santa Clara."

"A lot of people since 1956 have asked us about it. Two years ago our board of trustees strongly recommended it. We took a national survey.

"One third of the Jesuit colleges in the United States are co-ed."

### NATIONAL TREND

The President cited what he called "a national trend."

The admission of women makes SCU the first Catholic co-educational institution of higher learning in California.

Admission of women will not involve any departure from present University admission standards, said Fr. Donohoe. "We'll take them on our terms," he told Santa Clara reporters.

How many women will apply? "It is already late in the spring, and many young women made their choice for next year. Dayton started with 31 women. Now they have over 700."

The President also blamed a University deficit of from 115 to 120 thousand dollars. "Even a hundred girls would relieve the budget," he said.

"Women will bring on new needs. They will cost money. But they will add tuition."

According to Fr. Donohoe, the \$200 hike in tuition will remain for the beginning of next year.

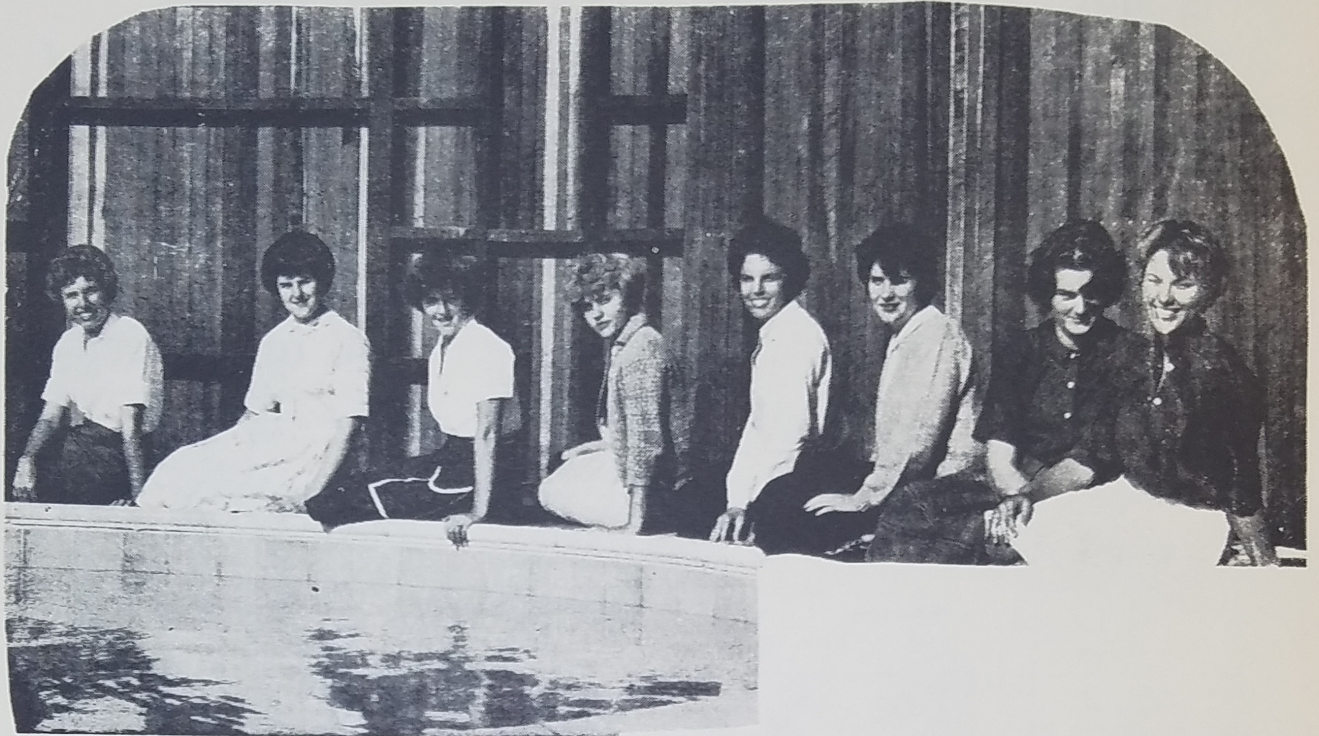
"If you are going to maintain salaries at competition, you have to have students," asserted the President. "Our upper division courses have an average of under 15 students. They could be twice as big."

For the first time, San Jose State has had to turn down students. These students are under "a terrific press for a place to go," said Fr. Donohoe.

(Continued on Page 2)







THE NEW LOOK: COEDS RELAX AT PARK LANAI  
... SCU takes on the glamor pose

'I Answer That . . .'

## Why Did You Choose SC?

By JIM BUNKER

Asked at breakfast in the student dining hall.  
PAT PEPIN, SPANISH, BELMONT, CALIF.—  
I have been asked this question so many times that it is now a part of my repertoire. I came to Santa Clara primarily for the fine Jesuit education and the Catholic atmosphere. When SCU became the first Catholic co-ed college in California, my pioneering spirit was awakened and my application was sent in.



LINDY FRISBIE, UNDECLARED, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—In stating why I came to Santa Clara in 49 small words, I could say mainly because of its Catholic education, reputed to be the finest in the West. Escaping the rains and lying in the sun was a dream but a mistake. In what other college would we find such great living accommodations and, should I say, boys, boys, boys!!!

ROSETTE GIROLAMI, BIOLOGY, SAN FRANCISCO—(1) I wanted to attend a Catholic, co-educational college, preferably in California and near my home town. (2) My high school math teacher highly recommended this University for having excellent science and mathematics departments. (3) I liked the idea of being one of the first girls to complete a college education at the University of Santa Clara.



JUNONA JONAS, MATHEMATICS, SAN FRANCISCO—I selected this University from many others on the basis that it is the closest Catholic college to San Francisco with a good math department. The fact that I have a scholarship which cannot be used outside of California made the choice a little easier. I guess the boy-girl ratio had a lot to do with it, too.

## Co-eds Thrive in Lush Lanai

Skirted answers to Bronco Benny, barred from campus dormitories by presidential edict last March, found a barn when they arrived last week.

And what a barn, they said.

Home at SC turned out to be Park Lanai, a two-story apartment building with a swimming pool constructed last year.

A retired educator and his wife will live in one of the units and act as "house parents" for the women students.

The Lanai, which is four blocks from the campus, offers spacious living and study room for 76 of the first group of women undergraduates in the 110-year history of the former all-male university.

Four girls live in each apartment, which is built on two levels with two bedrooms and a bath upstairs. The downstairs includes a large living and dining room, which has been converted into a study and lounge area.

In addition, each unit has a kitchen, used brick fireplace, and a private, fenced-in patio.

Soon after the University announced that women would be admitted in all departments in

the fall of 1961, it became apparent that more than half of those applying for admission were not within commuting distance and therefore would need boarding facilities.

The Rev. Patrick A. Donohoe, S.J., announced appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Williman of San Mateo as house parents. A former high school principal in Pescadero, Mr. Williman received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University. Since his retirement, he and his wife have made their home in San Mateo, where he has been involved in a number of civic and county activities. (See story, Page 2-B.)

## FAVORITE/LEAST FAVORITE CLASSES -

- \* Logic (Philosophy) with Jim Sweeters had the most profound effect on my life.
- \* Jim Sweeter's Logic Class... he announced the very first day that he accepted co-education and really liked the coeds, but they would really have a hard time passing his class because women just could not be logical.
- \* Dr. Beilharz and his history classes were my favorite.
- \* Dr. Sweeter's was a real challenge, but fun.
- \* Fr. Mackin's classes... looking back, I'm wondering if he knew what he started when one of this required readings in "Marriage" class was Feminine Mystique by Betty Frieden.
- \* Dr. Beilharz' history class.
- \* Fr. Brusher's History class & drama productions, Dr. Vari's European manner & style, Dr. Beilharz' fascinating presentations on California History, Dr. Hannah's US History stories, Fr. Mackin's marriage class.
- \* Favorite prof: Dr. Beilharz
- \* Favorite Classes/ Most effect: Dr. Jurika's Political Geography, Fr. Mackin's approach to study of the scripture.
- \* Most effect: Metaphysics; Favorite, Dr. Delaney on Teilhard de Chardin.
- \* Philosophy classes were great...Fr. Fagothey.
- \* Dr. Fast's- he tried to put metaphysics and physics together using DeChardin...Biology...philosophy...
- \* Dr. Krassowski, he's great! Senior Year retreat with Fr. Mackin - just a few of us went to the Beach area.
- \* Professor Beilharz!
- \* Least favorite: Shakey Jake Theology. He always screamed about fornication!
- \* Least favorite: Theology
- \* Least favorite: Fr. O'Neil used to embarass us in Theology.

- \* No sitting in the male cheering section...no eating with the guys in the cafeteria...no pants allowed in classes. Fr. Terry and Mrs. Reedy, our guardian angels...
- \* Driving to school, the laundry, the movies in a 1929 Model A...slipping through the window at the apartments after curfew... the awful "twist"--never liked it!... Feeling resented by some of the fellows in the class that first year.
- \* In 1960, Fr. President (Donohoe) came down to the SCU switchboard where I worked and asked me if I would like to be the 1st coed...I said "No way!"
- \* My first Logic class, 40 males and 1 female (me!)- it was terrible. I had to get an "A" in class to show Female logic.
- \* In 61, at Christmas time we made cookies for the Broncos and sang carols outside their dorms. Winter of '62 it snowed and the boys invaded the Villa, throwing some coeds into the pool, while Mr. Williman ran around blowing his whistle, trying to round them up.
- \* Earl the rent-a-cop used to cruise the Villa watching for "escapees" (leaving or entering their apartments through the windows!)...Mixers and the "twist".
- \* All the wonderful friends I made.
- \* As one of only three women in the Business School, classes were very difficult. Several professors took great pains to put me "on the spot" regularly. Our skills had to be perfect or we were embarrassed because "why would a girl want to be in Business?" It was not her place. **Every day was a challenge** and I hope we paved the way for women's success in that college. It was fund (in retrospect) to be a bit of a pioneer. In 1968, an editor of Mademoiselle magazine contacted me about attending a male institution in transition. The material I gave her was not quoted directly, but was used with other Ivy League schools gone coed.
- \* My parents were so relieved I wasn't attending a convent.
- \* Dress code and styles were ridiculously strict... I still don't have any **black patent leather shoes!**
- \* I loved the **beach parties** and the humorous happenings are too numerous to mention!
- \* **"Kangaroo Court"** Junior guys held this in the Adobe lounge to intimidate the freshman girls. Cafeteria - boys would seat themselves so they could watch the girls come through the line.
- \* **Climbing the wall** to get into Hancock Hall after being out all night...meeting my husband...Santa Cruz beach parties...all nighters with my roommate solving world problems!



**TRAFFIC JAM** — SCU coeds have sumptuous accommodations at a modern apartment house — but only one telephone.

Waiting to use the lone phone are (standing) Terry Kelly, Judy Gilson, Carol O'Keefe, Patty

O'Malley, Sandy Wandell, and Mary Sue Joyce, and (sitting) Judie Francoeur, Anne Waligora, Toni Amstel and Gracie Byrnes.

★ ★ ★

What it doesn't have is enough telephones. All 76 girls share a lone phone in the reception room where they meet their dates and parents. More phones will be installed later.

Use of the phone is restricted to hours before 7 p.m. and between 9 and 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, causing a traffic jam at the latter hour. More use of the phone is allowed on other days.

The girls also find they are restricted in the hours in which they may be out of the residence and are made to observe "quiet" hours for study.

But to make up for these restrictions on a lady's social life the co-eds get to eat their meals in the campus cafeteria with the men and have refreshments with them at the snack bar in the Bronco Corral.

They also find they enjoy a ratio of one woman for every 15 men.

## BECAUSE GALS HAVE ONLY ONE

# Studies or Not, P hone Stays Hot

New co-eds "integrating" the University of Santa Clara campus are finding they have plus living accommodations—and a telephone shortage.

The new Park Lanai apartment house near the campus is being provided for the girls until women's dormitories can be built on campus.

Seventy-six of the 125 women students other than student nurses at SCU stay at Park Lanai.

Each unit has a kitchen and a living room converted to a study-lounge room on the first floor and two bedrooms and a bath upstairs. Four girls share each apartment unit, each with a fenced-in patio. The apartment house even has a swimming pool.



## Admission of women shocked campus 25 years ago

### ***'Tradition shattered' by admission of women 25 years ago this fall***

By Sabrina Brown

At 5:30 p.m. March 21, 1961, Santa Clara President Patrick Donohoe, S.J., made an announcement that sent shock waves through the campus. When students recovered, many were angry and resentful. Some were sure Santa Clara was taking a path that would destroy its character.

Like it or not, however, the decision was made. Women were coming to Santa Clara.

At homecoming on Oct. 24-25 some of those first women undergraduates will meet at Santa Clara for a reunion to celebrate the event that 25 years ago helped shape the university's future. A panel discussion on the changes women brought to Santa Clara, which is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, on the first floor of Kenna Hall, is open to the public.

"It was a big surprise, although people had talked about it before," said Peg Major, then news director and now editor of Santa Clara Magazine. "Even though it was very late to announce it for fall enrollment, President Donohoe didn't see any reason to wait."

The first full-time women undergraduates did come to Santa Clara that fall. There were 100 in all: 67 women out of 453 freshman, and 33 who transferred in as sophomores, juniors or seniors. They made up 8 percent of the 1,200 undergraduates enrolled at Santa Clara that year. (For the record, women nursing students from O'Connor Hospital had been attending classes part-time at Santa Clara for several years, as had women in the graduate schools. Their presence provoked little or no response from the otherwise all-male student body.)

"Those were very exciting times for Santa Clara — and not just because of the admission of women," recalled Major. "We had a very progressive president who was enjoying a lot of success and was making broad, sweeping changes in a lot of areas. In the midst of it all, we became the first Catholic coeducational institution in the West."

Being first provided little consolation for a vocal group of men at Santa Clara who opposed the decision to admit women.

The March 22, 1961, issue of the student newspaper said it all with the screaming, banner headline: "Tradition Shattered."

An editorial in that issue of "The Santa Clara" expressed regret "that the administration has been forced to make this decision." ASUSC recording secretary Ed Pera was quoted as saying the admission of women

would "detract from the spirit of the school, from the Santa Clara image." And a column by the paper's managing editor Stephen Kent humorously suggested that new courses would have to be developed for women such as "Philosophy of the Kitchen," using the Betty Crocker Cookbook as a text, and "Shopping A," which he described as "a remedial subject that deals with the fundamentals of basket pushing, tomato squeezing and cereal prize selection."

Not all men responded negatively, however.

In that same March 22, 1961, issue of "The Santa Clara," Jerry Kerr, at that time president of the ASUSC, was quoted as saying: "Progress has to be served. I realize that at this time the student protests are vehement. However, upon reflection, I think the people will see the reasons behind it. The University has to move forward, and this is a necessary step."

Looking back, Kerr, who is now executive director of alumni relations, said he can understand why some students were so opposed to the admission of women.

"There was apprehension that unity would be lost and spirit would diminish," he said.

Of course, that apprehension has proved to be unwarranted.

"Women have really helped Santa Clara," said Kerr. "Some of our best and most active members of the alumni association are women."

Religious studies professor Ted Mackin, S.J., who has taught at Santa Clara since 1958, remembers vividly the changes women brought to the university.

"A minority of students put up a vigorous protest. They staged a number of rallies and parades on campus where they chanted 'Two, four, six, eight, we won't integrate,'" said Mackin. "At first I thought it was all in fun, but they turned out to be deadly serious. The first class of coeds were verbally harassed, especially in the dining room."

But women brought more than protests to Santa Clara.

"The admission of women was an unqualified improvement for the university," said Mackin. "The academic level just shot up and it matured the emotional climate on campus."

One of the most dramatic changes was in the "freshman week" activities, he said.

"There used to be warfare between freshmen and sophomores — mudfights and dorm raids. Once the women came that had to stop," Mackin said.

Practicing a little "pop psychology," Mackin said he believes the minority of students who put up a "vigorous protest" against the admission of women did so because they knew "they could no longer treat women as playthings."

"They had to recognize them as competitors, companions and potential friends."

**AND HERE'S TO  
THE NEXT...  
25 YEARS!**

**Alumni Association  
Santa Clara University  
October 25, 1986**