

Dec. 15

SOUND OFF

I am "Sounding off" in support of the article "Pioneering Toward a Girl's School Image" written by Nancy Dutton in the Pitzer Pioneer on Thursday, December 2, 1965. It is reassuring to discover that other members of the community see the menacing threat of Pitzer becoming just another women's college.

The catalogue impressed upon me the idea that this was "the" college for women and NOT just another college for women. Now that I am a member of this community, I am beginning to seriously question if this will not become another institution that will breed only more young women who come out of college only to add to the great mass of potential mothers and wives that care to do nothing else with themselves, but to vegetate in graceful living.

Women of the future, are we also going to follow our great grandmothers and hope for no other goals in our lives other than to get married and add to the population growth? Where is our self-respect and our dignity? As members of a future society, we should strive to become NOT only useful citizens to our immediate communities, but also contributing citizens for the betterment of the human race. We should try to find a goal in life that will make us helpful and useful members of society.

Edward Bellamy in his book Looking Backward describes the attitude of progressive women; "...they have quite too much spirit to consent to be mere beneficiaries of society." Do we Pitzer women have such a spirit?

I hope that Pitzer's admissions office, in admitting future Pitzer students will look for applicants with a certain "spirit" which will help to make Pitzer college the greatest undergraduate institution, an institution that educates young women who demand an intellectual challenge that will prepare them for a purposeful life.

In the meantime, Pitzer women, choose your goals high and while you are shaping Pitzer to be the most intellectually challenging women's college, also shape a most meaningful future for yourself. Have you started?
Rene Halouchko

PIONEERING TOWARD A GIRL'S SCHOOL IMAGE?

A recent French novelist has written: "L'emancipation de la femme, c'est rate! (it was overlooked, never happened)" Pitzer is an excellent example, for it seems as it it has failed to forge any novel concepts of woman hood so far. Instead, it is beginning to conform to the ubiquitous "girl's school" tradition.

How often has Pitzer's uniqueness-its pioneering spirit-been emphasized? A college is usually the expression of an individual's dream, finding its culmination in the founding of an academic community/ But what is the unique dream of our trustees and administration? Clearly, it has not been precisely stated. Perhaps they feel it isn't the time to reveal it. More likely, and perhaps most disillusioning of all, there just isn't any dream.

As far as the academic life goes, I myself cannot find a single unique premise upon which Pitzer College is founded. The catalog opens dramatically with: "Pitzer is the study of man." As one reads further, the proposed emphasis upon the behavioral sciences becomes obvious. But of what lasting value is a "special emphasis" in the behavioral sciences and how many of Pitzer's students actually come here with this emphasis firmly in mind?

In order to be fully effective, behavioral sciences require far more than a special emphasis! For example, the psychology major without a master's degree is cruelly restricted. Everything except the most routine and poorly paid jobs in anthropology, psychology and sociology are inaccessible to the individual without post graduate training and degrees. In the realm of immediate practical applicability a bachelor's degree in psychology is less useful than an art major-at least the art major has some paintings to hang on her walls.

In general, the typical girl's school aims to produce the "active community members" otherwise known as "a good wife and mother." This is a noble ideal, but it is nothing new. The enlightened mothers who use their college degree to be effective charity ball officers are "a dime a dozen."

In contrast, women confident of their femininity who desire intellectual and practical competition at the top are relatively new. The goal of producing professional women is as yet somewhat unexplored. Such a school, explicitly dedicated to the production of potential psychologists, anthropologists, and sociologists would indeed demand the presence of a dynamic idea or dream.

I would hope that there are some idealists among Pitzer's trustees, men and women who see in Pitzer a magnificent opportunity. Pitzer could draw dynamically ambitious young women, anxious not only to reap academic rewards (get a 3.0) but to express their knowledge on a high professional level. Pitzer could become an elite professional training ground for behavioral scientists without forsaking the liberal arts basis.

If so, the admission policy's gradual depletion jpf Pitzer's potential must cease. Policies must forsake their destructive vagueness and "flexibility" and adopt in their stead a straightforward statement of purpose. The ultra well-rounded active community member is not the one who's going to get her Ph.D. in order to be an effective psychologist. The temerity of our policy statements offends no one to be sure, but neither do they challenge the ambitious. this flexibility is diluting any concentration of strength and purpose.

(Girl's School Image? cont.)

Pitzer's goal seems to be to send well-rounded, active mothers and community members into our urban societies. If so, we must regrettably realize that the pioneering image is inaccurate. If Pitzer is not to become just another women's college, we must take up the challenge!

Nancy Dutton

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On the Light Side of Life

Once (and still) there was a paper named Sound Off!! It was actually very shy but no one ever knew this because it was always filled with very opinionated and forthright articles about very important matters. Now the shy little Sound Off! feels badly because here it is Christmas and ~~it hasn't~~ said a word of its own all semester. Therefore I present to you your Sound Off! with a few words to say about a subject that shouldn't arouse any controversy:

Merry Christmas

Pam Ormsbee