

Assumption Goes Co-Ed

FALL OF '69

Assumption switches easily to co-education

By Christopher Foley
News Editor



"PARTNERS IN LEARNING": Assumption College opened its doors to women this Fall, resulting in "improved" behavior by male upperclassmen. (Gundling Photo)

Amidst the trees and neatly trimmed lawns of Westwood Hills, a moderately prosperous suburb in northern Worcester, miniskirted girls can be seen walking from building to building on the campus of Assumption College, laden with books, looking quite at home, and usually in the company of a male.

They are students at Assumption College for Women, a co-ordinate college established this fall, which broke Assumption's 66-year tradition of male solidarity and enabled the college to make a surprisingly fluid transition to coeducation.

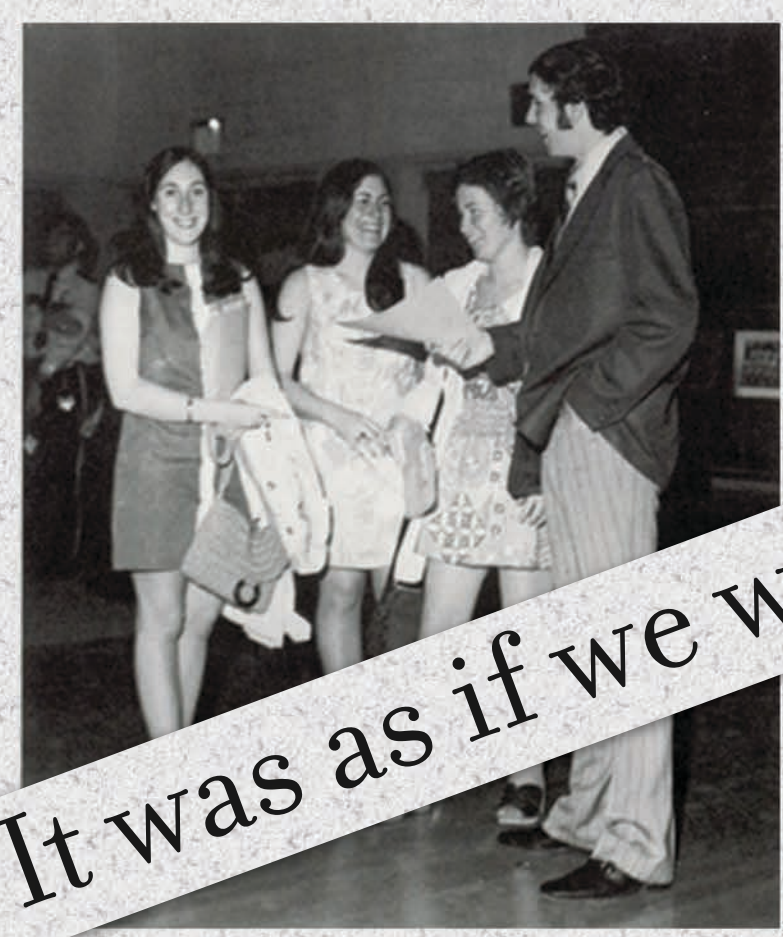
However, the name may be somewhat of a misnomer since the girls share administrations, classrooms, courses, dining and athletic facilities with their male counterparts, and will receive an Assumption diploma at the completion of their studies. The only visible manifestations of the new

college are the three nearly completed dormitories standing on a small hill overlooking the city of Worcester.

Effectively isolated from the rest of the campus by a narrow but dense clump of trees and undergrowth, the buildings' design is an unpretentious but pleasant relief from the stolid exteriors of the neo-penitentiary buildings that dot the rest of the campus. They were constructed at an estimated cost of 1.5 million dollars and will house 50 girls each. The 85 resident coeds are expected to move into two of the buildings when they are completed in mid-November. They are presently being housed in the college's inevitable Alumni Hall.

The womens' college presently has an enrollment of 125. College officials hope to achieve a parity between men and women within the next few years.

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"It was as if we were trailblazers.."



"It took courage to be here. They were in a very real sense pioneers."



"We knew we were wanted for economic and academic reasons..."



"As the first class of women, we were given the opportunity to shine..."



"You came during the period of change, a big part of the reality and relevance of which we are in need."

