

Choose One: Sheepskin or Ring

By JANET GOETZE

Editor's Note: Janet Goetze is a former Emerald Managing Editor.

Is there a senior's women's "panic," or is it the figment of the imagination of a confused male sociologist?

One of the most persistent of myths circulating through any college campus is that all any coed wants is a husband, and if she hasn't nailed one down by the time that she's a senior she enters that traumatic period known as "Senior Panic."

According to this myth, the worried coed does everything possible to become married or at the least engaged before the June sheepskin sends her into the world alone.

The myth characterizes senior women as pursuing every social occasion for a likely mate, and creating a few of their own social occasions when the pickings become slim.

But as graduate study, foreign travel, and career opportunities become more attractive for women, the myth will probably become fully recognized as nothing more than that. "Senior Panic" like the raccoon coat, will become something for the generations maturing 30 years hence to chuckle over.

Since World War II, career opportunities for women have become more numerous and lucrative. Graduate study, even for the girl who may do nothing more illustrious in her life than teach a high school English course, is coming evermore necessary in today's world. Foreign travel has become next to commonplace in the lives of college students, and the Peace Corps has been instrumental in combining the possibilities of gaining experience for future career and seeing a new part of the world.

With something more than just home and children to look forward to in life, the young woman about to receive her college degree is less likely to become gripped with "The Panic." Marriage is not ruled out of the life of today's graduating woman, but it no longer is the final end of her existence.

There are flaws in this picture, however.

Mother doesn't always understand. Overcome with excitement at the sight of her first gray hairs, mother will sometimes decide that it is time she became Grandmother. Or at least mother-in-law. She may become panicky for her daughter. She may contact a

caterer and casually hum snatches of Lohengrin about the house.

This does not make her daughter feel easy, especially if she has made her own plans for her future.

Other relatives aren't much better.

"Well, dear, I suppose you'll be getting married soon and won't that be nice?" Aunt Jenny coos, pushing a dishtowel into the near graduate's hand. "Have you picked out your sterling pattern yet?"

This line of talk may tend to cause waves of panic in the uncommitted girl, but the panic is not caused by the fear of loneliness so much as the fear of closeness—of prying mothers and other well-meaning relatives.

Women of the elder generation often don't understand the delayed idea that their younger daughters have embraced.

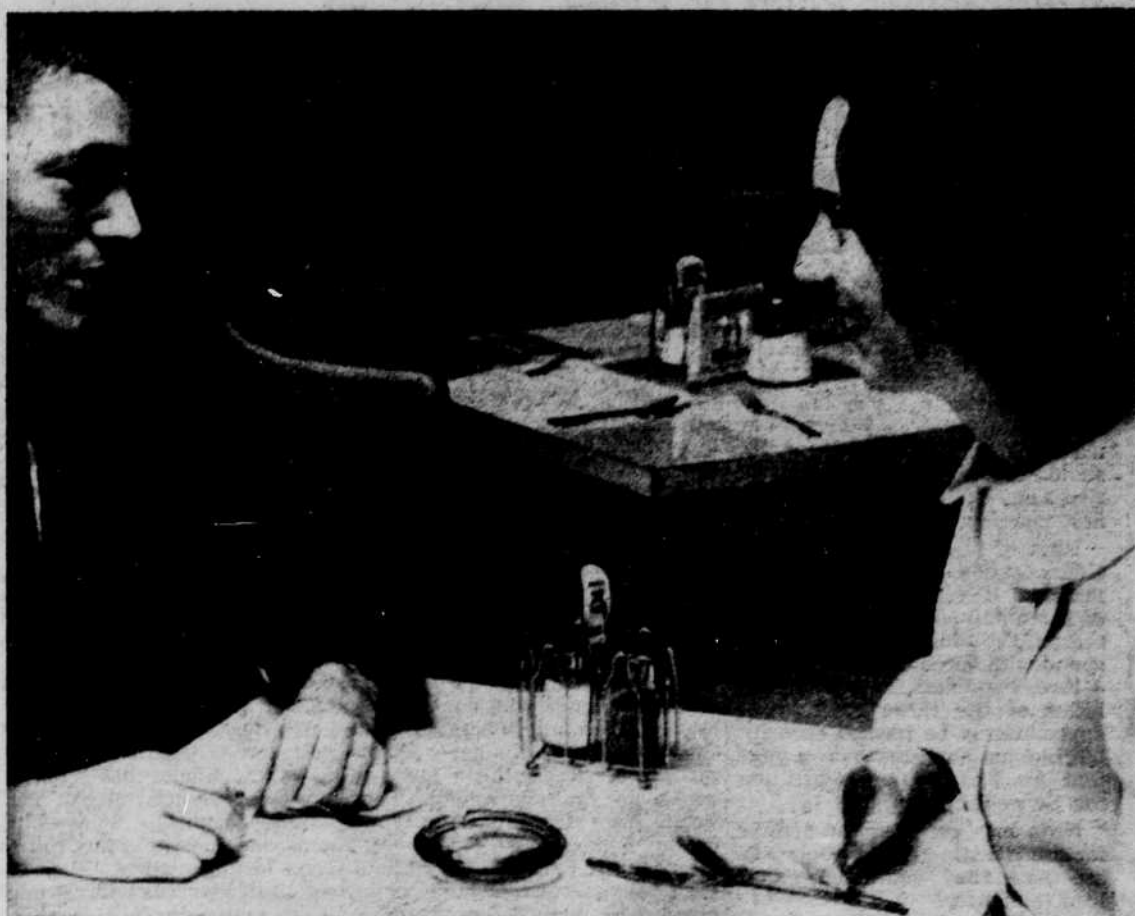
The mass media constantly tell Americans that their high rate of marriage occurs at a much lower age than that of most other countries of the world. What these mass consumption statistics fail to point out is that many of the marriages are between people who never attend college.

However, there is no denying that more people attending colleges and universities in the United States are married than were before World War II. But there is no compulsion about it. Those who want a husband or wife before they earn their degree find one. Those who aren't ready for marriage, or don't want to be ready, shove it off as a future plan.

If mother doesn't understand this, she will probably suffer in her panic alone. The senior daughter will probably be too busy sifting through bids to graduate schools or making plans for her first permanent job to calm down her mother.

Catholic Wedding

The distinction of a Roman Catholic wedding is a nuptial mass which usually follows the actual marriage ceremony. Being one of the sacraments of the Church, the important symbolic actions of the rites are: joining of the right hands of the bride and groom; the solemn blessing by the priest and the giving of the ring by the groom to the bride. This last ritual is a pre-Christian symbol of faithfulness which the Church adopted.



VANCE WELTY, a graduate in journalism, and Merilee Somner, a senior in art education, are shown here resting from the rigors of a day of modeling clothes for the Emerald Bridal Edition. Merilee is wearing a pale yellow, double-breasted coat. Vance is wearing a dark blue summer weight wool suit.

Bride's Family Can Buy Bouquet

As the costs of weddings soar—and so do the fathers of brides will agree—the question of who pays for what gets more and more fuzzy, especially when the flowers are discussed.

This is probably one of the reasons why more and more often the bride's family is now paying for her bouquet, since it is actually a part of the over-all decorative effect of the wedding and since she must order it.

However, corsages are another matter. The groom is expected

to give the mothers and grandmothers, if any, the corsages they will wear on the day of the ceremony.

He, too, may wear a carnation or a sprig from the bride's bouquet.

For the fathers, a gardenia or a carnation is customary.

The first flowers his wife receives will naturally be the groom's going-away corsage.

Flowers for the church and the reception are considered to be the responsibility of the bride's family.

Brides Always Ask

The bride's mother is the first to select her gown. She should shop promptly and tell the mother of the groom the color fabric and style of the dress she has chosen.

At a formal daytime wedding, both mothers may wear either long or short cocktail dresses. Only after 6 p.m.—the arbitrary hour set for formal evening ceremonies—should they wear traditional evening dresses. Shoulders should, of course, be covered at the church.



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