

# Degree in 'thinking ahead'

By Mary Kelly  
Special correspondent of  
*The Christian Science Monitor*

New York

A college president who says that girls interest her in women, and women interest her in girls, isn't in the least mixed up. It's just that she sees need for a much closer tie-in between what a girl is and what she's going to be.

Mrs. Esther Raushenbush, new president of Sarah Lawrence, can look at two age levels from a point of vantage. In her present capacity, it is the 17- to 21-year-olds who are her chief concern. But for several years previously it was the more mature woman. As founder of the Center for Continuing Education, she worked with women who wanted to go back to college or to prepare for a job.

"For the teen-ager, it is important today to learn to think ahead," she says, "and it is largely my experience with the older group that has convinced me of this."

## Be prepared!

Many of the problems of the woman out-of-college have arisen because she didn't prepare for what comes at 35 or beyond. Letters from women all over the world show a need for some kind of guidance in how to continue in some activity outside the home, part time or otherwise.

"It has started the fastest-moving educational enterprise I know," she said in an interview here. "It marks a real shift in the career of women, and I think it will become a part of the general educational movement in this country."

However, Mrs. Raushenbush emphasized that she does not urge all women to seek jobs outside the home. She readily tells women of the hazards if their husbands show reluctance or outright opposition.

## Domesticity too

"I cherish my own domestic life," she points out. "I take care of my house, with some help, and like doing it. I enjoy shopping and cooking. I happen to have a husband who is most happy to go along with my professional work and interests, but I realize this is not true in all homes."

Her husband is Dr. Carl Raushenbush, labor economist. Both like to travel. They have a son, John, who is chairman of the English department at Fountain Valley School, Colorado Springs.

Now heading an institution for undergraduates, she says she believes the attitudes of young men and women are going to change.

"For many women a capsulated life can be relatively selfish. If women have talents to be used, there shouldn't be roadblocks. If they want to continue their education after marriage, the professional and gradu-



Courtesy of Sarah Lawrence College

*Mrs. Esther Raushenbush*  
President, Sarah Lawrence College,  
Bronxville, N.Y.

ate requirements should be adjusted. Classes should be arranged for their convenience."

Sarah Lawrence College is in Bronxville, N.Y., and has 550 students. Their new college president, who took office July 1, expects to get to know a good many of them. Her "Open Wednesdays," which proved a success during the 11 years she served as dean, gave opportunity for "sizable talks" with students who ringed her office from 7 to 11:30 p.m.

It was easy to imagine them at ease with the friendly little brown-eyed woman with the warm smile, wearing (on the day I met her) a becoming two-piece dress of tangerine silk. Reared in Seattle, one of a large family of modest income, Mrs. Raushenbush was grateful for a college education. She received her A.B. and M.A. from the University of Washington and later studied at Cambridge University, the University of Freiburg, the British Museum, and Radcliffe College.

Girls today, she believes, are more knowledgeable than formerly.

"It is true that the older restraints don't hold up. There is more freedom between the sexes. The temptations are great. But I think parents should trust, rather than distrust, their children. After working for 35 years with adolescent girls, I feel they are worthy of trust. They do make mistakes sometimes. I feel we should be constructive in our concern for them."