The Distaff Side

Dames Extend Welcome To 1300 Students' Wives

Originally limited to wives of undergraduate students, the Dames revised entrance requirements in 1935 to allow wives of research assistants and part-time staff members. The wives of staff members have their own organization called the MIT Maids, seven members of which sit on the MIT Dames Advisory Board. The Dames are also organized on the Board system. The presidency is held by Mrs. George G. Heiles, and the first and second vice-presidents by Mrs. Albert G. Stimson and Mrs. James Robinson respectively. Other offices include Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter, Fellowship, Hospitality, Service, Publicity, Inaugural Chairman, and Membership chairman. The board meets twice monthly; one meeting is open to husbands and the other to Harvard wives.

As with most new societies, the Dames started out in 1923 with the driving impulse of providing a home away from home for young graduate couples. The clothes for the social activities of the Dames were popularly known as the MIT Danaes. The student who was interested in joining the Danaes was asked to fill out a form and include a photograph. The application was reviewed by a board, and the student was then given a date on which to return and to interview the board members.

The social activities of the Dames are numerous and varied. This year started out with neighborhood ref- eres for which 500 new wives in the Boston area were cosponsored. Following this was a dinner meeting with the wives of students' wives and the president of the Harvard Wives was called in as a speaker to talk about the social activities of the Danaes.

The Danaes have been very effective in helping the MIT community. During the Christmas season they have helped out on the T.C.A. Red Cross Blood Drive. Another one of the many projects undertaken at Christmas is the making of Christmas cards and a donation of these cards to the Heart Fund. The social activities of the Danaes are many and varied. This year started out with neighborhood referes for which 500 new wives in the Boston area were cosponsored. Following this was a dinner meeting with the wives of students' wives and the president of the Harvard Wives was called in as a speaker to talk about the social activities of the Danaes.

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