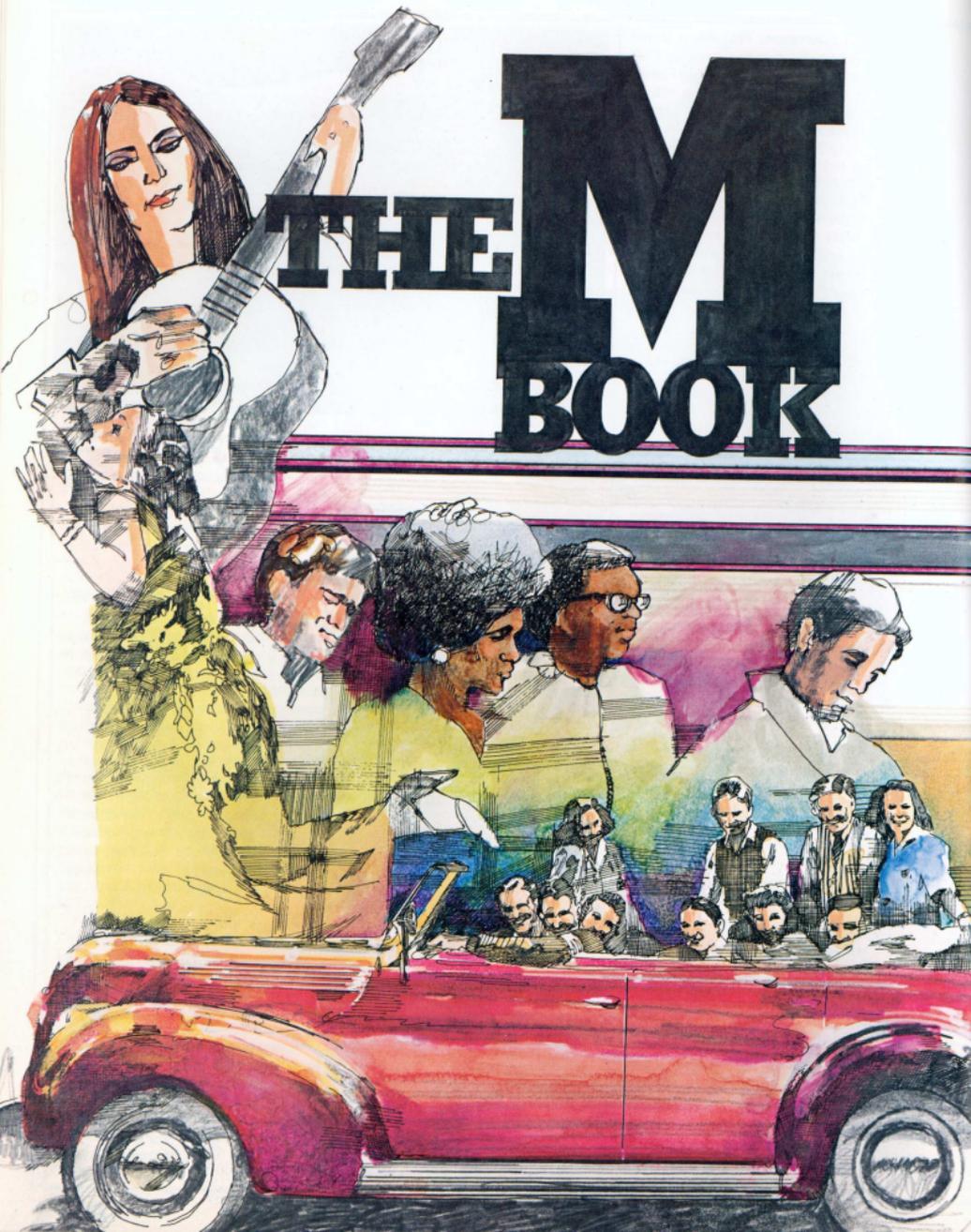


THE M BOOK



"Free at last!" thinks the naive college freshman when he steps foot on Campus.

Not quite. While he may not be under Mom and Dad's thumb, the student does have a whole new set of rules to learn. Since 1951, those rules have been listed in the *M Book*, an all-purpose manual of information which in some measure has attempted to regulate students' social lives.

Only in the last decade have the rules eased up, putting the responsibility for students' behavior on their own shoulders. That's in sharp contrast with preceding years, when University administrators considered themselves in loco parentis and tried to take up where Mom and Dad left off.

In its parental role, the University seemed much more concerned with women's morals than men's, since the majority of rules regulated women's activities. It's almost as if the University swallowed the "boys will be boys" line hook, line and sinker.

If one can wade through the columns upon columns of rules, written in stiff "thou shalt not" jargon and printed in eight-point type, what emerges is a reflection of student life through three decades.

While most students would love to see a return to 1951 season football ticket prices (\$7.80 for five home games), few would like to see the housing restrictions re-emerge.

Today only unmarried freshmen are encouraged to live in University-approved housing; most other men and women students live in apartments and discover, among other things, the joys of home-making — cooking, cleaning, dishes, etc. But from 1951 to 1965, the *M Book* reports, all students had to live in either a dorm, fraternity, sorority, cooperative or off-Campus approved housing. Women with less than 24 hours' credit had to live in a dorm — as "part of a program . . . to make a good adjustment to college life."

That was just one thing to which they had to "adjust." Others included late minutes, serenade regulations and elaborate sign-out procedures.

In 1956, freshmen women had to be in by 9:30 p.m. weekdays, 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11:30 p.m. Sunday. And if they were a little late, they were slapped with late minute charges, one minute for every minute after closing. If a

FROM PARENT TO PARTNER

By Karen Worley

woman student accumulated more than 29 late minutes, she had to appear before the Association of Women Students judiciary board. Typical punishment was being "campused": the student was sentenced to her room from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. and could receive no visitors or local telephone calls.

In 1956, women also faced late minute charges if they took longer than

20 minutes to return home from University concerts, plays or basketball games. Stamped ticket stubs were required as proof that they, in fact, had attended the event.

Serenades, those marvelous ceremonies of yesteryear in which males expressed their romantic inclinations to the girls of their dreams, also were strictly regulated. In 1951, the *M Book* reports, serenades could be answered until 1 a.m. only on Fridays and Saturdays. Appreciation could be shown with applause and a simple "good night," but no cheering or yelling was allowed, the *M Book* states. While using the serenade balcony, women had to wear street clothes — sorry, no flimsy nighties allowed.

Imagine even needing permission to take a hike! Social functions, defined in the 1951 *M Book* as "any reception, tea, party, dance, tea dance, mixer, banquet, hike, exchange, dinner, picnic or other organized social activity," required advance written approval from the Office of Dean of Students and could be held only on Fridays or Saturdays or on full days preceding full holidays. All had to close by midnight, unless special permission had been granted.

FOR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS attended by both men and women, three officially approved chaperones were needed. One had to be a man, and one had to be a full-time faculty or staff member. Couples counted as one chaperone. By 1969, the chaperone requirement had been dropped, although student groups still were encouraged to "provide opportunities for their members to visit informally with members of the faculty and staff by inviting them as guests at social functions."

The University didn't care much for costumes (special permission was needed a month in advance for costume parties), but it did come up with a dress code for female students in the 1965-66 *M*

Book. Dresses, suits, skirts and sweaters, or skirts and blouses were recommended for class and trips to the library, Student Union and downtown. For picnics and active sports, shorts and slacks were deemed "appropriate." In extremely cold weather (an unwritten rule of students defined that as 11 degrees Fahrenheit or below), slacks could be worn.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, the rules governing social conventions eased in the Sixties. "No institution of higher learning has passed through the 1960s without change, without incorporating some of the challenges to and confrontations with the social, human and educational values that have become the hallmark of that decade," reads the 1971-72 *M Book*.

By the late Sixties, upperclass women were issued keys and, in 1973, restrictions on women's hours were abolished to fall in line with laws dictating nondiscrimination based on sex.

Open houses, begun in 1967, allowed students to have guests of the opposite sex in their rooms for two-hour periods between noon and 5 p.m. on weekends. Sounds racy, doesn't it? What the *M Book* fails to report are the open door and feet-on-the-floor "recommendations."

The new freedoms also meant the disappearance of negative hours, which parents insist prove that times were tougher when they were in school. Last mentioned in the 1966-67 *M Book*, one to six negative hours were assessed for unexcused absences two days before or after a holiday. "Because of the tendency of students to extend vacation periods . . .," reads the 1953 *M Book*, "all universities use some method to protect the integrity of their calendars by penalizing students for such absences."

As times changed in the Sixties, so did the *M Book* — but not until 1971. Usually, the *M Book* included history and legends as well as a listing of traditional events. These features were noticeably absent from the 1971-72 *M Book*. A photo of coeds in striped bell bottoms and miniskirts replaced the traditional black and gold cover, and instead of the lyrics to "Old Missouri" on the picture of the Columns, there were these words by Joan Baez: "You, special, miraculous, unrepeatable, fragile, fearful, tender, lost, sparkling ruby emerald jewel, rainbow splendor person. It's up to you."

Popular lingo also crept in. Under "Interesting

things" was this encouragement: "Take a trip on culture," and, under housing, "Some students may prefer apartment living where they may . . . determine their own 'life style.'"

It didn't take long for the *M Book* to return to its traditional format, though. Just a year later, no Joan Baez message graced the Columns photo. And by the 1973-74 *M Book*, the words to "Old Missouri" were in their rightful place.

As if to put things in their proper perspective, that same *M Book* listed the first student conduct rules, circa 1870, that prohibited students from entering a billiard or drinking saloon, carrying concealed weapons, using profane or indecent language, indulging in intoxicating drinks, smoking in buildings or on Campus and leaving town without permission of the President.

But the *M Book* was to change again. Maybe the first Missouri Students Association *Survival Book*, published in 1978, spurred officials to take a new look. At least the MSA folks would like to think "the ivory tower" followed their example "to provide simple translations to red tape and rhetoric."

The 1980 *M Book* is two publications: a guide to student services and, of course, a listing of rules and regulations.

The rules and regulations supplement, printed in a newsprint tabloid format for economical, wide distribution, spells out information on fees, student conduct, academic dishonesty, grade changes, parking and housing. A new larger, more colorful format splashed with lots of pictures and artwork outlines student services with a casual, consumer approach. This slick publication, available to incoming students, is designed to last through four years of school.

CONSUMER ITEMS pop up frequently. For those times "when you just have to get away," try renting a canoe, kayak, tent and camping equipment from Wilderness Adventures "at dirt cheap rates." If you're "having a hassle with a landlord, problems with a contract or other legal concerns," the *M Book* suggests contacting the legal educator employed by Student Development. "Ever been ripped off? Or felt like you might have, but aren't sure," then call the 24-hour consumer hotline.

Clearly absent are any directives concerning students' social lives. It's about time. Because, we all know, boys will be boys. So will girls be girls. □