

Read Hall

By PAT LILE, '51



The Art Center of Read Hall provides opportunity for students to pursue many activities, from leather-working to sculpture. The Art Committee also sponsors painting exhibits in Read Hall Lounge, advises poster-making groups, and other valuable services.

To present-day Missouri students and recent graduates, Read Hall is synonymous with bustling activity and fun, but pre-1940 alumni may remember it as a women's dormitory. It was in January of that year that Read Hall was transformed into M. U.'s student union.

In the ten years since 1940, Read Hall has become the center of campus extra-curricular activities. It serves as the headquarters for 11 student groups and houses the Dean of Students' office. In addition, it provides meeting rooms for countless campus organizations. Requests for meeting places have increased to the point where its bulging walls can no longer meet the demand. Two temporary buildings now take care of the overflow.

In spite of the cramped quarters, Read Hall compares very favorably with larger student unions in activities such as art and music which require little space, according to Miss Louise Robertson, resident director. In one way, this lack of space is an asset. It

gives Read Hall an intimate, informal, and friendly air which makes students feel at home.

In its administrative set-up, Read Hall has been preparing for the day when Missouri's long-enduring dream of a new student union becomes a reality. When the new union is finally completed, the administration can easily expand to direct the more comprehensive program. A policy board governs the use of union facilities and directs activities. The board is made up of ten students and seven faculty members and administrative officers. Thus student-faculty co-operation is stressed in the management of Read Hall. Dr. Jack Matthews, dean of students, is chairman of the board.

To co-ordinate activities, the office of student chairman of Read Hall committees was created this year. Harry N. Briggs of St. Joseph is the first student to hold the position.

One of the purposes of the policy board is to provide for a well-rounded social, recreational, and cultural life for students. Six standing student

committees—art, music, coffee hour, recreation, radio, and publicity—help carry out this purpose.

Read Hall's social program includes dances and mixers for new students sponsored by the recreation committee. One of the best-attended weekly social events is the coffee hour committee's coffee hour on Friday afternoons. Besides offering a bit of refreshment this hour gives the students an opportunity to get acquainted with faculty members.

The recreational program is carried out chiefly by the recreation committee, but other committees also sponsor recreational activities. The recreation committee offers students dancing and bridge lessons and bridge and chess tournaments. Winners of the annual duplicate bridge tournament compete in regional and national tournaments. Two years ago, the Missouri team won the Big Seven tournament.

This year the committee will bring the campus something new in style-shows—a style revue for men only. The emphasis will be on entertainment and proper attire for particular occasions rather than the latest creations in men's clothing.

The radio committee provides recreation for radio "hams." In the "radio shack" on the third floor, the committee has its own amateur station, WOZLN. Students may obtain amateur radio licenses through the committee's training classes.

Students interested in art can find recreation in the art committee's Art

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—Julies

MISS LOUISE ROBERTSON
Resident Manager of Read Hall