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Campus Wheels, a University of Maine Radio Guild Program

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Transcript of a sound recording in MS 608, WLBZ Radio Station Records, Bangor, Maine, 1931-1973

Title: University of Maine Radio Guild Program, "Campus Wheels"

Date: November 15, 1951

Recording number: D 16.43; CD 7, track 5

Length of recording: 14:54

[transcript begins]

MR. UNIVERSITY: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is Mr. University bringing you another university town broadcast sponsored by the University of Maine Radio Guild in cooperation with this station. Our university town is like any other town; it's democratic. Oh, it has its followers and its leaders, but it affords an opportunity for all to become leaders. Tonight we want to bring you a story of both the followers and the leaders. We've just begun a new semester here at University Town. Several hundred freshmen men and women are only beginning to find their way around the ivy covered campus, and so we shouldn't be surprised at the note of uncertainty in this conversation between two freshman girls about to hit the hay in their new West Hall room.

JOAN: [Yawn.] That was quite a day. I'm dead.

SUE: Yeah. You'd think they'd save those tests until we had been going to class for a while. They don't have to throw them all at us on the first day of registration

JOAN: They didn't. I've got one tomorrow. So, what do you think it's going to be like? I mean, what do we do besides go to classes?

SUE: Oh, take tests, and then more classes.

JOAN: Oh, don't try to be funny. There will be dances, but only on weekends. Then church on Sunday. What's going to fill up the middle of the week? Will we have to study all the time?

SUE: Well, in my high school we had plenty of clubs and things to keep us busy.

JOAN: Yeah, it was that way in mine, too. But I've heard that college is a lot stiffer. Look at these subjects... English, American History, Chemistry, Astronomy, Public Speaking and Physical Education. I'm going to be busy all right. But without something besides studying it's going to be awfully monotonous.

SUE: Oh, go to bed. Maybe President Hauck will hear about your trouble and show you around tomorrow.

JOAN: Your humor kills me. But I do want to get some sleep. Goodnight, Sue.

SUE: Good night.

[Music plays.]

MR. UNIVERSITY: Joan, Joan Ramsay.

JOAN: Yes? What is it? Oh, who are you? What are you doing in my room?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, I'm Mr. University, Joan. President Hauck found out that you had some questions about our town, so he sent me over to help you out.

JOAN: But how did he find out? I didn't say a word to anyone but Sue.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, President Hauck knows just about everything that goes on around here. You come along with me.

JOAN: Where are we going?

MR. UNIVERSITY: To the S.R.A. Building, first of all. That's one of the most important places on campus.

[Sound of a slide whistle.]

MR. UNIVERSITY: Here we are, SRA Building.

JOAN: SRA? What does that mean?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Student Religious Association, but SRA is what everyone calls it. It's made up of members of the Hillel Foundation, the Newman Club, and the MCA, that's the Maine Christian Association, and it does a good many things. First it sponsors Embassy Week, and the Freshman Club, of which you are already a member. Then they publish the SRA newsletter which reports all of the activities of the organizations it sponsors. They also arrange seminars and discussion groups. You'll have a chance to join. They have a fall membership drive and all the new freshmen list the things they want to do. Then the work begins. But it's easy, and it's fun.

JOAN: Sounds that way. I'll be looking for them. What building is this?

MR. UNIVERSITY: The Founding Fathers called it Fernald Hall, but everybody knows it as the bookstore. Here's where we get those in-between meal snacks and buy books.

JOAN: Is it always this crowded?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, generally so. We ought to find a few wheels around here.

JOAN: Wheels?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Big shots. You know, campus leaders. Ah, there's a couple over there. Probably talking shop. If we can get through this crowd, we can meet them. Joan, I'd like you to meet Jean Frye and Greg McFarland... Joan Ramsay.

JOAN: Hi.

JEAN: Hi, Joan.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Joan is wondering what she's going to do in college besides study. I thought you two might be able to tell her something about Student Government. You see, Joan, Greg is head of the General Senate and Jean is President of the Women's Student Government Association.

JEAN: You might not be able to be an active member of either governing body, Joan, but you're very important to both. You see, you'll elect the members of them and that's the first thing to remember. Be sure to vote, right Greg?

GREG: Right, Jean. And if you vote the best people into office, you get the best results, for the two governments are charged with looking after the general welfare of the student body.

JEAN: And if you're really interested in being a member of student government, then be active, and become known among the people who live and go to classes with, Joan. Both your sorority, if you join one, and your place of residence will be sending representatives to WSGA.

JOAN: That's very interesting. But I think I'll leave government out of my schedule for a while, though. But I will vote.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, that's settled. Now let's see, who should you talk to next?

JEAN: Well, there's Walt Sherman over there. Why don't you have him tell Joan something about the campus?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Good idea. Hey Walt, come over here a minute, will you please?

WALT: You call me, Mr. University?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Yes, Walt, I did.

WALT: And what do you want on this fine day?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well I'd like you to meet a girl who's looking for something to do besides study. Joan Ramsay, this is Walt Sherman. Can you do something for her, Walt?

WALT: You can come to work for me any time, Joan.

JOAN: Really? What could I do?

WALT: Why, you could be a reporter, a feature writer, or maybe work on re-writes. Perhaps you can draw. We use artists, too. Or maybe you'd like to work on advertising or circulation. Then we also need people who can make up and lay out the paper and write headlines.

JOAN: That last sounds good. I think I'd like that. But I don't know very much about it.

WALT: Don't let that discourage you. Every newspaper is really a little school of journalism all by itself. This one is no exception. All you need is a willingness to work and learn, plus some spare time.

JOAN: Gee thanks, I will.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Slow down, Walt. Joan and I have more people to see.

WALT: So long.

JOAN: He was very nice. I'm going to like working for him.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Whoa, there, girl, you don't have to take the first job that comes along. There's more. And there's someone else I want you to meet. Flutter Floyd.

JOAN: Did you say "Flutter"?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Yes, really she's Marguerite Floyd, but no one calls her anything but Flutter. Let's go over. Hi, Flutter.

FLUTTER: Hi, Mr. University. How are you?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Fine. I'd like you to meet Joan Ramsay. Joan is worried about finding something to do besides study. Perhaps you can tell her something about debating, Flutter. Do women really do a good job of it?

FLUTTER: They sure do. That's what the married men tell us, anyway. Well, Joan, it's this way. We're ready for you anytime. All you have to do is show a little interest and come out to our meetings.

JOAN: I debated compulsory arbitration in high school. What is the college question?

FLUTTER: Well, this year, it's Resolved: that the federal government should adopt a permanent program of wage and price control. We open our season in about a month for the big intramural tournament, open only to people who are not varsity debaters. You be sure to get in on it.

JOAN: What else is there, besides this tourney?

FLUTTER: Well, last year we debated with 38 colleges and universities from 11 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. We took in all the major tournaments in this area.

JOAN: That's quite a schedule. Count me in.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, Joan, we better leave before you give away all your free time. There are still plenty of other organizations on campus.

JEAN McINTYRE: Mr. University, Mr. University, wait.

MR. UNIVERSITY: See what I mean? I knew we couldn't make it, Joan. I'd like you to meet Jean McIntyre, she's President of the Panhellenic Council. Joan Ramsay.

McINTYRE: Hi. Greg just told me you were showing Joan the rounds. I thought I could tell her about sororities.

JOAN: I've been wondering about them ever since I was accepted for college.

MR. UNIVERSITY: You have the floor, madam.

McINTYRE: Well, Joan, there are six sororities here: Alpha Omicron Pi, Xi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Pi Beta Phi, Phi Mu and Delta Zeta. Each has a maximum membership of 60, and that means that only about half of the girls on campus belong to sororities.

JOAN: Does everyone have a chance?

McINTYRE: Oh, yes. Usually we rush twice a year, and in the fall of your freshman year, each girl is entertained by each of the six sororities. This gives the members a chance to see and to get to know all the prospective candidates. Some are invited back a second and a third time. And then the sororities make a list of the girls they would like as members, and the new girls list their preference of sorority. These lists are matched as best as possible and the final selections made.

JOAN: I'd like to join a sorority, but I won't feel broken hearted if I'm not invited, now that you've explained it to me.

McINTYRE: That's the spirit, Joan. All girls should remember this, if they are not taken in the first semester they may be later on.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Thanks for the story, Jean. Now come on, my friend, we've got to get going.

JOAN: Where to now?

MR. UNIVERSITY: To the Administration Building. There's plenty for you there.

[Sound of a slide whistle]

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well here we are, second floor Ad Building. The President has his office here, but that's not what we came to see this time. Here, right through this doorway.

McINTYRE: Oh, a stage. Why, this must be the little theater I've heard about.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Right. This is the Little Theater. Four times a year the Maine Masque puts on their shows here and of course it's used for all sorts of other programs and meetings.

JAN: Oh, dear.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, someone must be here ahead of us. Let's go back stage and see who it is. Why, Jan Pratt. What are you doing here alone this time of day?

JAN: Hi, Mr. University. I might ask you the same question. What are you doing with this young lady back stage in a practically deserted theater?

MR. UNIVERSITY: [Laughing] Well, I'd like you to meet Joan Ramsay, Jan. I'm showing Joan the rounds. She's been wondering what she could do in college besides study.

JAN: Well you've certainly brought her to the right place, Mr. University. Four times a year the university is favored by a Maine Masque production. Every student may participate in those performances, including you, Joan. Open try-outs are held for all of the roles and the time of try-outs is always publicized in The Campus.

JOAN: But what if I can't act?

JAN: Well, actors are only a small portion of the Maine Masque productions. Where would Hamlet be without a costume mistress and a make-up crew?

JOAN: I guess you're right.

JAN: Of course I am. And then there is the properties crew. Sets have to be designed, built, and painted. And if you can't do any active job, why there's always ushering.

JOAN: I think acting would suit me best. Just a small part.

JAN: Then you be sure to come to our next try-outs if you missed the ones last week. Don't forget.

JOAN: I won't. Thanks a lot.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Bye, Jan, and thanks again. Joan and I have a call to make across the hall.

JOAN: What's across the hall?

MR. UNIVERSITY: The women's gym, headquarters of the Women's Athletic Association. We want to find Connie Berry if we can. She's boss lady in this section.

JOAN: There's a girl shooting baskets. Is that Connie?

MR. UNIVERSITY: It sure is. Let's go over. Hey, Connie.

CONNIE: Hi, Mr. University. Looking for some exercise for that bay window of yours?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Now don't get gay just because you're on home ground. Meet Joan Ramsay, Connie. Joan has been wondering what the university has to offer besides studying.

CONNIE: Well, nobody has much spare time around here. You like sports, Joan?

JOAN: Oh, very much. I played basketball and softball in high school, but I heard that Maine doesn't sponsor these sports competitively.

CONNIE: You heard only half the story, Joan. We don't compete against other schools in any sport, but there's competition in all sports right here on the campus. There are all sorts of leagues with first the dorms and then the classes playing against one another.

JOAN: What do you do for a fall sport?

CONNIE: Hockey comes in the fall. But there's also archery, badmitten, tennis, basketball, and softball. Plenty for all.

JOAN: I should say so.

CONNIE: We also sponsor several clubs you might be interested in. The Square Dance Club is one of the most popular with both the men and women. But the Modern Dance Club and Tumbling Club are for women only.

JOAN: Why, I could spend all my time right here.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well, Joan, I think you're beginning to see the light. Thanks, Connie. Come on, Joan, there's one more man I want you to meet.

[Sound of slide whistle.]

JOAN: Where are we now?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Second floor, Stevens Hall. Step right through this door.

JOAN: Why this is the radio studio. Does the university put on radio shows?

MR. UNIVERSITY: Well there's Bob Ellingwood back in the control room. He'll be glad to tell you all about it. Come on out, Bob. He's President of the Maine Radio Guild.

BOB: What's up, Mr. University? There's no show tonight.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Just paying a social call, Bob. Meet Joan Ramsay. I thought you might be able to tell Joan what to do with her free time.

BOB: With pleasure. We put on one fifteen-minute program here in this studio. By the way, did you ever do any writing?

JOAN: Well, I wrote a one-act play once.

BOB: You could be the answer to a prayer. We need writers, but bad. Our programs are called "University Town." We try to keep the stories about Maine and the students here. There's no end to the material to write on, just a shortage of good writers.

JOAN: Well, I don't know.

BOB: Of course it would be best if you worked in a couple of shows first, acting, or sound, or music, just to get the hang of it. We hold try-outs every week here in the studio. And by the way, we have a campus radio station in the making so there will be plenty for you to do around here.

JOAN: I'll see you then.

MR. UNIVERSITY: I think you're going to be in quite a few places at once, Joan, but right now, it's back to your room.

[Sound of a slide whistle]

JOAN: Thank you ever so much, Mr. University. I'm going to like it here. But I'll have an awful time trying to make up my mind what not to do.

MR. UNIVERSITY: But you've only heard half of it, Joan. There are many more clubs and activities than we had time to talk about tonight.

JOAN: I'll never be able to decide.

MR. UNIVERSITY: Good bye, Joan.

JOAN: [Sighing.] Decide, club, debate, paper, ah, plays, tennis, radio, study, debate, oh...

SUE: Joan, stop muttering and wake up. Joan, it's 7:30. You've got another test to take today.

JOAN: Huh? Oh, Sue.

SUE: What have you been muttering about?

JOAN: Oh, Sue, I'm never going to have time to study. There are just too many things to do around here.

SUE: What? You have been dreaming.

[Music plays.]

ANNOUNCER: Tonight's program, *Campus Wheels*, was written by Larry Jenness and directed by Faith Taylor assisted by Carol Prentiss. Joan Ramsay was played by Sally Small, Sue by Joan Jackson, and our campus wheels played their own parts. Joan Mason handled music and Al Boulier was at the controls.

This transcribed program originated on the University of Maine campus and was presented by the University of Maine Radio Guild in cooperation with this station.

This is the Maine Broadcasting Company.

[Music, eventually fading out.]

[transcript ends]

For more information about this transcript, audio recording, or other materials in Special Collections at the University of Maine, contact:

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