

The Spectator

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HOME OF THE BULLDOGS
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Sunflowers and Sandburrs

At least one member of the McPherson Ministerial Alliance takes a sensible stand as regards political parties. In a recent chapel talk Reverend W. H. Upton was heard to remark, "I am not a Republican nor a Democrat nor a Socialist. I try to be a human being."

One day this week a clan of common flies decided to use Sharp Hall for conference headquarters. And one student whose mind has difficulty in staying put, counted the flies. They totaled one hundred and fifty-seven.

The director of the all-student musical society, commonly called the Choral Club, is known for his bits of dry humor, his told-over-and-over-again stories. And at this week's rehearsal he out-did himself with funny sayings. Quite unlike his usual demands that vocalists follow instructions to the letter, Wednesday night he addressed men musicians thusly, "Men, pay no attention to the directions. They were made for pre-war consumption."

The Society for the Development and Preservation of the Slug Worm held its annual formal banquet at Fahnstoeck Hall last Tuesday night. A prominent junior, Robert Mays,

was the guest speaker. His topic was, "The Ups and Downs of Ice Skating." Les Rogers was the toast master, we are told. The menu was as follows:

1. Two kinds of jelly. (Orange and grape)
 2. Cheese
 3. Peanut butter
 4. Cookies
 5. Angel Food cake.
 6. White soda and orange drink.
 7. Bicarbonate of soda.
- It is doubtful that such food will ever be served again, as it had disastrous effects on the diners. Oh well, who cares about slug worms?

At one time in his adolescence "Dear" Eugene Lichty was a sandburr in the flesh of his high school faculty. He declared that the very "worstest" chastisement of his life was a "licking in front of assembly." And now he's S. C. M. president and gallivants over the country preaching sermons to youth.

Marriage and family provides young boys and girls with extremely interesting discussions. Wayne Parris reports that Indian widows are required to "shave their heads off." "Just above the ears." Later he changed heads to hair.

What Ho! No Frosh?

With the freshmen outnumbering every other class on the campus, one would think that by this time we should be noticing a definite greenish cast to at least a large number of the students. Yet, this year we hardly realize that there are freshmen. No green caps appear . . . only one slipper line thus far . . . few shoe-polishing sprints.

Now, perhaps it is a compliment to the freshies that we scarcely realize that they are such . . . and yet, maybe it's a slam on the upperclassmen. I realize, of course that the scarcity of boys makes it impossible to have a strenuous type of initiation we once had . . . and maybe that's for the best.

Nevertheless, some of these underclassmen, themselves, have been heard to say that they do not feel as if they had been initiated. It was fun over in the gym that night, but they miss the "knocking around" that is supposed to be the right of all good freshmen.

It used to be the custom for a group of rules to be posted stating that the freshmen were expected to show considerable respect for older students. Both freshmen and upperclassmen (especially sophomores—they were usually still stinging from the taunts of the year before) derived a good deal of pleasure from these traditions.

Today in the dorm just before dinner the bell rang and there was a general rush for the stairway . . . Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, alike, pushed and crowded one another to form a line down to the dining hall. Back in the good old days the "babies" of the campus waited patiently for everyone else to go down before they began their descent! See what I mean?

When the freshmen were called on to sing the school song in the dining hall and later at the watermelon feed, many of them were unable to do so. Part of this may be due to the fact that they have not been required to carry their "Growls" with them. Right now there are undoubtedly very few of them who can sing old "Sacred Truth" and get tune and words correct.

I'm not in favor of browbeating the poor freshmen into showing deference to older students, but I do think that these newcomers would get more fun out of thinking over their college days if they could tell tales of once having been forced to black shoes of the future president of the United States or of how they used to be bossed around by that meek little woman across the hall. (Not to mention the pleasure the upperclassmen could derive from doing a little of the "bossing.")

We hear a lot about the war's slowing up production nowadays . . . and it probably cannot be helped that the first semester will likely be almost over before the green caps arrive.

In spite of this, however, we can do something to make these little "frosh" realize that they are pretty new. We mustn't let them be disappointed . . . so let's show a little spirit and initiate them . . . in a nice way, of course!

"This Day We Sailed West"

... for that was our course," were the words recorded on the log-book of the "Santa Maria", flag-ship in which Christopher Columbus embarked over four hundred fifty years ago.

Next Tuesday marks the four hundred fifty-first year since this noble Genoan and his crew caught their first glimpse of land in the Western Hemisphere.

When Columbus began his journey, it was truly a voyage into the unknown. As his log-book indicates, he was far from sure what he would encounter. About all that he was certain of was the fact that they were starting out in a general westerly direction.

The tale of how the discoverer stuck to his "course" in spite of the fact that many of his crew members were discouraged and ready to turn back is one which is familiar to all of us . . . So is the lesson which may be drawn from it. Yet this lesson is applicable and bears repeating.

Most of us here in college are "westerly bound". We know about as much about what lies ahead of us as Columbus did when "behind him lay the gray Azores, ahead the gates of Hercules". Especially during these days of uncertainty is it difficult for us to determine exactly where our "course" will lead us.

There may be times in which the members of our crews will desert us, also. We, too, may learn of insidious plans for the destruction of some of our most cherished hopes. War and the things which accompany it have already wrecked more than one life. We, of course, are young and do not intend for this to happen to us . . . and it very likely will not.

Nevertheless, if we are normal human beings, we cannot help being direly affected by it. A people cannot live through such a period of horror without expecting later to see many of their fond ambitions for future life thwarted.

To me the idea which is exemplified in Columbus' ability to keep on with the task he had laid out for himself is almost as important as the discovery, itself . . . I do not mean to detract from his remarkable findings, but merely to take a different slant on the subject . . . After all, someone else probably would

have found our native land if Columbus had not done so at just that particular time!

Here was a man who had conviction . . . in this case it happened to be one to the effect that the world was round. Few people agreed with him. He had to talk long and hard in order to get anyone interested in his idea. When he started out he knew nothing except the fact that he had a course, rather indefinite to be sure, and that he intended to stay on that course until it was proved wrong.

We too have some idea of the course we intend to follow as college students and as citizens in later life. If we can carry out our ambitions without deferring from our "courses" to any greater extent than did our friend of long ago, we'll be doing right well!

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Our President Comments:

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
The following is a quotation from a recent book by Stewart Harral of the University of Oklahoma entitled, "Public Relations for Higher Education."


If anyone needs a multiple personality, it is the college president. His public expects him to be a scholar, author, speaker, salesman, diplomat, politician, administrator, financier, minister, and public relations counselor of the highest rank. He is supposed to be an authority on everything from Einstein's theories to the latest methods of growing zinnias. He is almost certain to have conflicts with many groups because of numerous "bosses". The strains and worries of the office are many, but his position is rich in satisfactions and opportunities.

Demands on his time are continuous. If members of the Stitch and Chatter Club of Middletown invite President X to address them, they want him and not one of his colleagues as a substitute. If the football team ends its season near the bottom of the conference ladder, the president is told what to do "for the good of the university" by self-appointed advisers from alumni ranks.

If an unpleasant story breaks on the campus, it is the president who must take the brunt of the criticism. If this or that freshman fails in two courses, the president must listen to the worried parents. It is a rare day when he does not face enough problems to exhaust the average man. If he travels over the state to make contacts, the critics say that he is neglecting his administrative duties. If he remains in his office most of the time, his friends feel that he should devote more of his efforts toward strengthening off-campus relations.

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Pep Club Reverts To All-Girl Quota

"The Barkerettes" is the new name chosen by the eighteen girls who remain from the last year's personnel of the Pep Club. Since there are so few men back in school and it would be impossible to have the proper balance of fellows and girls, the club decided to reorganize into an all-girl club.

The quota has been set for twenty-five members. This means that there will probably be seven girls taken in this year.

A uniform dress of white sweaters with the Bulldog emblem and red skirts has been adopted as the standard garb. All new members will be expected to obtain these articles.

A committee has been chosen to begin work on the new constitution. It is hoped that through these changes a "peppier" and better club will be born.

A paper will be posted on the bulletin board to get the names of students who wish to apply for admission to the "Barkerettes."

Alumni Publication Changes Its Form

The McPherson College "Alumni News Letter", a publication undoubtedly little known to many individuals but nevertheless a regular periodical, has been changed somewhat recently.

The issue for October, 1943, has come out as a printed four page pamphlet. When the custom of publishing such a letter began, it was in the form of an elaborate magazine which appeared once a year. This was quite expensive.

Later the need was felt for a letter which would be published more than once a year. Consequently the "Alumni News Letter" became a mimeographed sheet which appeared three times annually.

The "Alumni News Letter" is the official publication of the McPherson College Alumni Association. Miss Doris Drescher, secretary of the Association, gathers the material and has it printed.



Mail Call

Ernie Dale writes from California: "I'm in the library, and have just finished my lessons, so I'm taking time out to write. I got the first issue of the "Spec" this evening. I really did enjoy reading it too. It hardly seems possible that it would be out already, but then I'm in school too. I pored over that Spectator until I had read every bit of news in it. The assignments here make those at McPherson seem like a cinch. Where they gave you one page to read there, they seem to give one chapter here. The most remarkable thing is that we actually get the material covered in class, or at least the high points.

"The courses I'm taking here right now are supposed to be review, and they include chemistry, physics, and mathematics. The mathematics includes algebra, trigonometry, analytics, and calculus. That's only three hours a day in class for those three, but they're all in the afternoon. In the morning we have such things as physical ed., close order drill, study periods in the library, military correspondence class, etc.

"Last night three of us went up town. It is a nice large town, with a business district about five times as large as McPherson. There are several good theaters there but they are old designs. The whole town, in fact, seems old. It must have been an early California city by the looks of it. There are many dark-skinned people here, Mexicans, Chinese, Portuguese, and I suppose others which I don't know. The town is an interesting one to visit."

Ernie's address is: Pvt. Harold E. Dale STAR Unit 3910 Co. "C" Sacramento Junior College Sacramento, California.

Bob Burkholder, who is attending

Squints from the Sidelines

No doubt most of you like good basketball games. In comparison of the attendance ratings of all types of sports, basketball is the most popular game in the United States. Have you ever wondered just what it is that makes you like the game so well? Maybe it's the thrill of all the action and color. Perhaps you like to be a part of the crowd. Whatever your reason or reasons may be, here are a few things that I think might heighten your enjoyment of basketball:

First, watch the players as they warm up directly before the game. They do not play around or clown. Their warm-up is systematic and has a purpose. This purpose is to warm up the muscles that will be used in

the game. This warm-up also helps to relieve the tension that is natural on every player. While the game is in progress, there are many things to notice. Watch the players as they pass the ball. Notice their skill and coordination. Think also of all the coordination such ball handling must require. Do the teams ever pull any trick plays or seem to be able to make the best of their advantages? Is their method of making goals just a process of running to and fro and throwing the ball whenever they want to? Or do the plays seem to have a purpose? All of the above mentioned items are just part of the game of basketball. May they help you to understand the game better, thereby affording you more pleasure. Here's hoping.

We Are Active



The Puck-The Puck-Who's Got The Puck? The puck's the thing while Hockey Season is in full swing. Join in the fun and build up your health as well as your quota of black and blue

a quartermaster's school in Camp Lee, Va., seems to enjoy the Spec too. He writes: "I received the Spec yesterday... It seemed pretty good to be reading the old school paper again even though the names familiar to me are becoming scarcer and scarcer. I hope they run the service men's column again this year, as that is the best way I know of keeping up with so many guys that I would lose track of otherwise.

"This past Sunday I was in Washington, D. C., and what a time I had. I'm still getting over it, but it was really some fun. I was fortunate in getting a ride to Washington with a fellow in our outfit so I didn't have to mess around with crowded trains or buses. On Sunday morning we went down to the Brethren Church. On our way we walked past the Capitol and the White House.

"We saw about all of the historic places but didn't get to go in many of them. We did go in the Lincoln memorial though and as all tourists and visitors do, we went to the top of Washington Monument. I'd really like to spend at least a 3-day pass in Washington sometime."

Bob has only about three weeks more left until graduation. Until then his address will be: Cpl. Robert Burkholder Co. E. 1st Q.M. Sch. Regt. The Quartermasters School Camp Lee, Va.

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spots. We can make points for notices. W.A.A. now Joyce says—so keep on coming and we'll be with you on Mondays and Thursdays—same time—4:30 on the trail of the puck!

The Last One In Is A "Nigger Baby"!
—Seems to be the theme at swims! Learning how with the helpful advice of those who know is fun—but definitely! Meet in front of Sharp at 3:30 Wednesdays for the hike down—and then the delightful dip—incidentally a malt afterwards tastes good. Be seeing you!

Fresh Air Fiends
The outing club is still planning to meet soon. Nothing is definite as yet—but the air's buzzing with snitzy ideas. Keep your eyes peeled for

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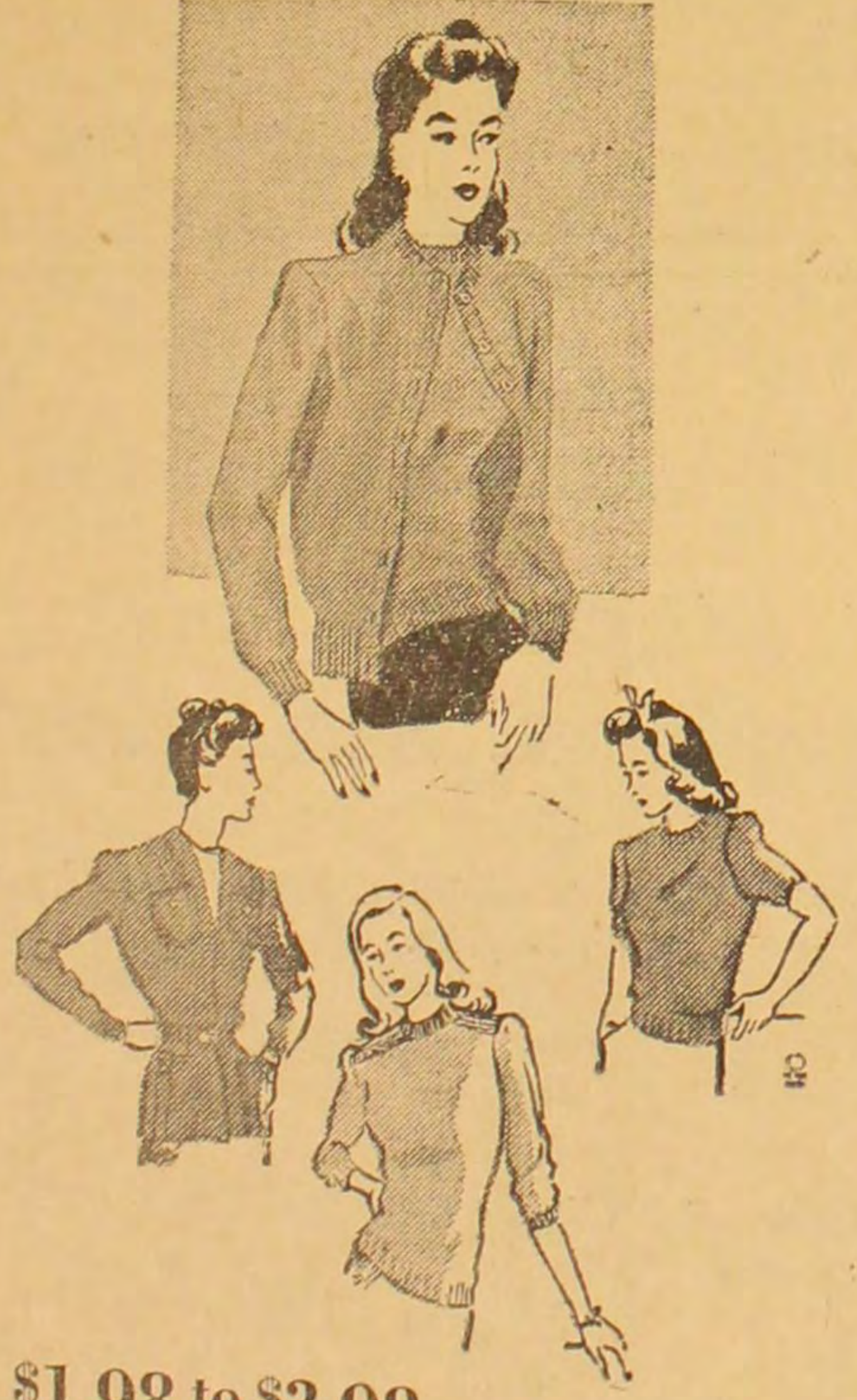
Come, Knit, Hands, And Beat The Ground
Let Joy be unconfined as we trip the light fantastic with Lucille in the gym of a Tuesday night. 6:30 is the time, and we are the gals—come one, come all and join the merry gang!
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