Dr. McBride Analyzes Symposium On Women’s Threefold Interests

By DEBBY ROMOTSKY

“Marriage is the common expectation of more than 90 percent of all college women,” observed Dr. Katherine McBride last Wednesday in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center, as she concluded the two day Jones College symposium on “The Role of the Educated Woman.”

Dr. McBride, president of Bryn Mawr College, and a former Dean of Radcliffe College, discussed the problems raised by the dual role of the educated woman as both wife and mother as she spoke on “For College Women: Continuity or Re-Entry?”

During her discussion of this topic, Dr. McBride attempted, as well, to analyze and correlate the speeches which had already been presented as part of the symposium.

“Women,” commented the tall, commanding educator, “are continually forced to make choices, to reach decisions which must be made with the goal of a successful marriage and family life in mind.”

She regrets, however the facility with which some young women will choose a career which does not really interest them merely for the sake of getting a husband. A sense of fulfillment must be imparted by her vocation if “a woman wants as good a chance as a man.”

A college degree, she cautioned, must not signal the end of education for a college woman. Reading, studying, thinking, all are essential in order to create the continuity of a truly educated life and a profitable career.

Balance between continuity on the job and continuity at home is the constant goal of the educated woman, and it is a goal for which temporary sacrifices must frequently be made. It is unusual indeed for a woman to be able to simultaneously serve her three main interests: family, career, and community.

Re-entry becomes a problem when the stresses of family life —most notably the presence of very young children—force a woman into temporary retirement from her profession. Both in the academic and in the commercial worlds, this has become a very real problem; yet, it is one which more and more women are suc-

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successfully facing.

“Feminine fallout,” Dr. McBride pointed out, has come into popular use as the term employed to describe withdrawal of women from anticipated studies in graduate school. Expansion of fellowship programs is constantly being undertaken to prevent women from leaving their studies as a result of the strain it imposes on their new family budget.

It is for women who have completed their college work and have embarked upon a career, but who resign in order to raise a family that the problem of “re-entry” appears.

“An absence from her field for more than two years,” observes the Bryn Mawr president, “is sufficient, particularly in technology, to require renewed study in order to catch up with recent developments.”

Dr. McBride suggests that “women wanting eight or ten years to spend exclusively with their family will not choose the rapidly-changing technological fields, but will plan for service rather than research professions.”

Characterizing the education of woman-power as an “underdeveloped natural resource,” Dr. McBride encouraged today’s women, whether in her job or in family life, to strive for self-realization, in an attempt to reach her most challenging goals.