Women ask service at Nassau Inn 'stag room'

Nearly two dozen persons from the National Organization of Women (NOW) yesterday entered what everyone thought to be an all-male tap room at Nassau Inn and asked for the menu.

The women (and sympathizing men) were served lunch without incident and without protest from the management.

"We're not here to disrupt things, we're here to get served," commented Jennifer S. MacLeod, of Princeton Junction, seated at a table in the Inn's Yankee Doodle Tap Room.

The manager of Nassau Inn, James M. O'Connor, said, "There's not any change as far as I'm concerned.

"Our position on it is not so much that we refuse to serve women," he added, but "historically" the room has been "a stag room for businessmen."

When asked if ladies will be served in the future, O'Connor explained he "just won't recommend this room to them."

He did indicate that a policy might be established concerning serving liquor to unescorted women. O'Connor did not elaborate on the comment.

Mrs. Caroline Scheiner, chairman of the committee organizing the "sit-in," questioned O'Connor on reported discrimination cases in which ladies were refused service.

O'Connor recalled hearing about a female professor who came to the Yankee Doodle Tap Room with a group. He claimed she "wasn't turned away," but was "directed to another room."

"We have served women here in the past," he reiterated.

Princeton police chief Peter J. McCrohan, who happened to be in the tap room at the time, said "It used to be (for men only) years ago." He added that he and his wife had eaten there many times.

Mrs. Elaine Showalter, another NOW member, said the women would return to the restaurant as individuals and groups to make sure the alleged discrimination would not continue.
NOW's Mrs. Elaine Showalter: 'We will return'

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