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Transcript:

Gowns

Dear Editor,

I should like to express through your columns a feeling that is growing among students. Why are gowns so infrequently worn as to seem almost oddities? The Handbook says: "It is expected that students should wear gowns if possible"; but this stricture is apparently almost universally ignored.

Objections to the habit come from two groups: those who say that they wouldn't be seen dead in those "medieval black rags" and those who object on the grounds of money and coupons. (But no coupons needed – Ed.) To the first of these it may be pointed out that the standard of Bedford dress is not so high that the wearing of gowns would necessarily lower it. Indeed, a well-kept gown can be a very pleasing garment. (Remember, it has the inestimable advantage of a long skirt!) It is not so easy to answer the second group of objectors except by reminding them that a respectable gown can cover a multitude of sins, for clothes that are too far gone "even for College," can thus be decently draped.

But if students spurn Ede and Ravenscroft's newest models, could not some more definite scheme for the sale of second-hand gowns be arranged?

Lastly, the wearing of gowns might help to introduce into Bedford life a spirit of dignity which is somewhat lacking. As the oldest University College for women in this country, we have too little of tradition and ceremony. It has been said that the Union Committee at G.Ms. always appear a more imposing collection of people than any other in College; This may be because of their innate good looks, but perhaps their gowns help too.

Yours, E. E.