

## NEA Special Correspondent

Champaign, Ill., March 24—(NEA).—"Wescoga," campus residence for women at the University of Illinois, is a little like a small hotel for a large convention of a United Nations auxiliary.

But thus far, despite the fact delegates from three races and half a dozen religions live and plan together under the same roof, there has been no exercise of the veto. ~~NO ONE HAS VETTED~~ ~~ANY~~. There has been a minimum of heated debate. Everyone gets along with everyone else.

Only inter-racial student house on the university campus, Wescoga is an avowed experiment in pure democracy. Sharing rooms and eating at the same table are Japanese, Filipino, American Negro and American white girls, both Christian and Jewish.

Upshot of the first two years of this small-scale United Nations living is a declaration by Rachel Davidson of Eureka, Ill., house president: "We call it a cooperative success."

Life at the house is very definitely an affair of both cooperation and co-operatives. Flat monthly rates (\$35, about the lowest on campus) are paid by the 16 house members. From house funds, ample but not fancy food is purchased at co-operative stores. Meal preparation and serv-



ive is shared by all the girls, thus saving the cost of cooks and waiters. Members do their own house-cleaning. In 1945-1946, Wescoga banked \$1500 in addition to providing new items of furniture and repairs for the house.

Wescoga coeds continually surprise students and townspeople in Urbana-Champaign by carrying their inter-racial friendships into outside recreational activities.

Bowling, alleys, ping-pong games, movie theatres, restaurants and dances are frequently

visited by groups of mixed Wescogans who refuse to concede an inch to objections of other campus houses against mixed recreation. A Negro girl is Wescoga's social chairman and delegate to campus social committee meetings.

Mixed parties in the house living room—with men representing as many races and nationalities as Wescoga itself—prove less dull than most campus affairs by virtue of the wide background of the participants. In a game of "Winkum" at a recent party, one girl's date, an Indian, had to be taught to wink.

Under sponsorship of the Methodist ~~Wesley~~ <sup>Wesley</sup> Foundation on the Illinois campus, Wescoga (Wesley-for-Gals) is a self-governing organization. Responsibilities of house-mother, Mrs. Mary Welch, are confined to those of adviser, hostess, enforcer of University house rules and Wescoga decrees. (Sponsorship by the foundation is mainly a gesture of assistance on the part of the church. All independent campus cooperative houses are required to have sponsors.)

The ideals and aims of Wescoga—to prove to themselves, the university, and the community that differences in race and religion can be effectively harmonized—are the ideals and aims of the co-eds themselves.