

## THE SKIRL

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## Editors' Effort

To those who are newcomers at F.M.C. Birthday Night may not carry much significance due to the alterations in procedure for this night in the dining room this year. To old students Birthday Night is a beloved tradition, a greatly anticipated, weekly event, an occasion to turn loose inner feelings and really have a good time.

This tradition, which we now celebrate each Wednesday night, has a history dating many years back. At that time it was decided to set aside one night when the dietitian would prepare a special meal, plus ice cream for the cakes, to accommodate those who were giving birthday parties to friends. Another purpose in mind was to eliminate much of the noise and confusion in the dining room throughout the week by having all parties on one particular night when everyone was then to engage in the merrymaking freely.

But, as we witnessed last year, the situation grew a little out of hand as many took advantage and became overly boisterous. This is just another example of human nature—we are given an inch and we take a foot as soon as we can snatch the opportunity.

We were granted the privilege of using this night for our fun and fellowship. Instead we converted our dining hall almost into a madhouse at times. Of course, it did not appear that way to us, but what about the impression we might have made upon visitors to our campus? Do we like to be called immature, unladylike, or uncouth?

It is not my intention to say that we should observe Birthday Night, quietly and serenely with long faces and stiff frames. Instead, I say why can't we sing "Happy Birthdays" to each other (and perhaps other little chants), laugh heartily, and just have a festive time so long as our acts of merriment are within reason and stay under control. It could be explained to visitors that on this one night during the week we lay aside our more reserved selves (those outward appearances proper for collegians) and become our really human selves, craving some form of entertainment.

Birthday Night now stands subject to discontinuation, depending upon the type of behavior we exhibit while on trial. Can't each of us strive for sufficient self-restraint on these nights so that we may again enjoy Birthday Night as in past years?  
M.D.

Tradition—like an old shoe, isn't it?—needs to be examined occasionally to see if it is time to search for something new to replace the old. Almost weekly on this campus we hear, "Every year it's traditional that the . . ." This phrase strikes a familiar chord to the FMC ear. And like good soldiers we fall in line and pick up the step, rather lazily, of course. A spark of initiative and a glimmer of imagination usually produce a slight variation on the basic traditional theme. But not daring to question the, "It's been done for forty years! We can't be the ones to break the tradition!" We march bravely on traditionally carrying out the tradition.

Recently many students seem to have been rudely awakened to the idea that tradition could be laid aside. The abandonment of Rat Day at Converse College has focused the attention on our own Rat Day practices. Many students have begun to question the aim of such a procedure. Does Rat Day serve any valid purpose on our campus?

We wonder if anyone has considered what purpose Rat Day has, if any. In forming plans for the continuation of a tradition there first needs to be a moment of thought to weigh the value of the custom. The plans should be made with the end clearly in mind; the method should be chosen according to the expected result. Some possible purposes of Rat Day are to scare the liver out of the freshmen, to cut some of them down to an appropriate size, to put the freshmen to a test of sportsmanship and cooperation, to help sophomores and freshmen learn each others names, to provide a day of pure undignified fun.

We need tradition as a guide, but not as a part of the honor code. We need to evaluate our traditions and then proceed. When the student body as a whole favors action that they have carefully considered, their decision should carry some weight. Student body and administration should try to think clearly and with mutual respect in making decision.  
A.McL.

## The Trivial Things

by Elaine Ward

Life as an average American college girl is quite nice— most of the time. We scurry about doing all the many things that need to be done, and twice as many things that do not really have to be done. Our existence is dominated by racing from one project to the next without taking time to think about our surroundings or to be thankful for what we have. We have our happy moments, our melancholy moods, our silly times, and our worried minutes.

Have you ever stopped to think of the trivial thing we worry about?— no dress to wear to the big dance, no one to date, no car of our own, no television in our room, no . . . The list could go on and on. Most of us never stop to think about all the things we have that many people do not enjoy.

The other day my mind cluttered with all these minute things. I had to visit Dr. Johnson's office. Have you ever been there and looked at the faces of his patients? I have never seen such expressions. They look as if they have never had a happy day in their lives. The mouths drawn into a permanent frown, the deep-set wrinkles, the sad eyes, and the callused hands paint pictures of people whose lives lack so much. They all stare off into space. Perhaps they worry about things such as: How will we buy the groceries? Where can we get some coal to heat the house? And where will I find some shoes for my child? It is no wonder that they never smile.

Even the children seem to have lost their innocent outlook on life. They perceive that life holds nothing for them but sadness, pain, and poverty.

The next time you become depressed or begin to feel sorry for yourself, go to Dr. Johnson's office and watch the faces as they pass— then count your blessings!

## HABITS OF THE HIPPIPOTOMUS

by Arthur Guiterman

The hippopotamus is strong  
And huge of head and broad  
of bustle;  
And limbs on which he rolls  
along  
Are big with hippopotomus-  
muscle.

He does not greatly care for  
sweets  
Like ice cream, apple pie,  
or custard,  
But takes to flavor what he  
eats  
A little hippopotomustard.

The hippopotamus is true  
To all his principles, and  
just;  
He always tries his best to do  
The things one hippopotomus-  
must.

He never rides in trucks or  
trams,  
In taxicabs or omnibuses.  
And so keeps out of traffic  
jams  
And other hippopotomusses.

## New Hallowe'en

by Sylvia Jennings

Remember when you could hardly wait for October 31 to come? You would plan for weeks what costume to wear on the night of "Trick or Treat." Finally Hallowe'en arrived! Then, dressed in your new costume and carrying a paper bag in your hand, you went from house to house getting candy, chewing gum, popcorn, cookies.

As Hallowe'en in 1959 draws near, we imagine that children everywhere are making the usual preparations for this occasion. But we have heard of a different and more profitable Hallowe'en. It might be named "Help a Home on Hallowe'en." Several weeks before Hallowe'en, it is announced that a certain organization is going to gather any old warm winter clothes that have been outgrown. Then on Hallowe'en night the clothes are collected by a door to door canvass. Names of families who are in need are obtained from the welfare department. Then the clothes or possibly canned goods or money, which has been collected by charitable or-

## Epsilon Chi, Zeta

## Theta Psi Meets

Both societies met Friday night, October 23, for the first official meeting of the year. They had decision night earlier in the month with sseventy-nine going to the right and fifty to the left.

Zetesian Society was entertained by their new members with a skit called "Our First Impression." Mary Mangrum narrated it as they presented their first impressions of some returning students and faculty members. (Now we know what impressions visitors must have!)

## Army Brat Replies

## To Army Brat

Dear Drena, You're right! We should read more than we do on current events not just the visit of Mr. K. But aren't you and I more keenly interested in Laos (wherever it is) because the men we love are alerted, given typhoid and cholera shots, and constantly packed and prepared to leave us?

Perhaps because we've never had a permanent home, we're interested in the problems of the Germans we skied among in Bavaria. We wondered if the devastating typhoon in Japan flattened our oriental home or injured the friends we made there. In other words, Drena, aren't we prejudiced?

More About

## Coming Events

Wed., 28, I. R. C. Meeting, 4:45; Faculty Meeting.

Sat., 31, Alumnae Homecoming, 11:00.

November

Sun., 1, Home Ec. Club Trip to Tyrona Palace, 8:30.

ganizations, are taken to the families as a gift.

We like this idea very much. We feel as if it has almost limitless possibilities today. It can be used in the church by almost any age group. In the community the civic clubs of both men and women could certainly apply it to their situations and their projects.

Of course the principle of "Help a Home on Hallowe'en" could be transferred to other days as well: for example, Saint Valentine's Day. We think the principle of this new Hallowe'en would be a very good lesson for the young people of today to learn. Hallowe'en in the past has seemed to be: "How much can I get for me?" The lesson of generosity and unselfishness is one that must be learned early. At a young age we may not realize the motive behind generosity. But as we grow older we see that in the long run as we are helping others we perhaps help ourselves most of all. The most wonderful gift we can give is ourselves.

## Eve of Hurricane Gracie

by Mrs. Fritz Weber

Everything has been done that can be done. Candles and matches and flashlights laid in convenient places, bathtubs filled with water, emergency food in, school out, lawn furniture and cars in the garage and father has flown off on a mission to Chicago leaving us alone as military men must so often do in times of crisis.

In twenty-four hours we shall be a disaster area from wind, water or fire, or the hand of the Lord will have directed the storm to spare us. Why do we strain to comprehend or explain the miracles in the Bible when we accept such miracles in our daily life as a matter of course?

## MAILBOX

Many interesting and uninteresting items pass through the editor's mailbox. Some of you may be interested in some of them. We have information on all sorts of things. Occasionally we hear from the United States Civil Service Commission— information on types of openings for college students, where civil service examinations are given, where the district offices are. If anyone is interested in entering the Maid of Cotton Contest. Please come by and pick up an application blank. We've been bombarded! If anyone would like to compete in the college newspaper contest with an editorial, some art work, a photograph, or a news article on safe driving, we have the rules for the contest and will be glad to publish your material.

Mon., 2-Sat., 7, Mid-Semester Testing Period!

Thurs., 5, Vespers, 6:40.

Sat., 7, A. A. Board Retreat

Mon., 9, Mr. Skinner's Recital, 8:15.

Nov. 10, Mid-Semester Grades Due.

Nov. 11, Faculty Meeting, 7:15  
Sat. 14, Carolina-Virginia Football Game 12:00

Tues. 17, Vespers, 6:40

Nov. 19, Concert-Lecture Series, 8:15

Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Holiday, 12:00.