

We're Tired...

We're tired of hearing it said that the world is falling apart and can't last much longer, that we'll never see another normal Christmas, that young people are going to the dogs. We won't believe all this, and because we won't believe it, they call us frivolous youth and accuse us of being over-optimistic and of never thinking beyond next week-end's dance.

But this isn't fair. Optimism is characteristic of youth, and we believe we are right when we say that we still have a pretty good chance of being alive this time next year, or even ten years from now. Certainly we're optimistic—it's a good kind of optimism, though, that says the world may seem wrong, but we can at least look for what is right and try to do something about the wrong. We're optimistic, but why try to kill it? Why condemn us for it?

Youth must have a chance to make up their minds about what they think, and this is hard to do when older people find only criticism. They accuse us of having no sense of honor—no morals and ideals. And they use the basketball scandal to prove their point. But who started the scandal in the beginning? Whose idea was it? Certainly not the idea of the college basketball team.

Then they decide they will give us a chance to show that we have morals; so they let us use the honor system for governing ourselves. And they give us our exams in two parts so that we can't discuss it during our break. Is this any way to show us that they have faith in our sense of honor? There's little incentive to be honest when we know that we are being patrolled anyway.

They accuse us of listening to anything anybody says—of being unable to distinguish between what is right in a person and what is wrong. They tell us that as soon as we hear someone praise communism, we become communists. But who talks communism to us? We didn't think up the idea ourselves. Besides, there is little in our own government at present to make us think that it is right. Our country is run by the adults, not the youth. We can't even vote yet. So it is their place to show us this right. Our problem is that we can see only corruption where we look for good.

We are optimistic, but what's wrong with that? We do have ideals, but we need leadership. We want to distinguish between right and wrong, but we can find little good to use as a basis of distinction. Maybe, then, it is not we who are to blame. All we ask is that we be granted our youthful optimism—that we be encouraged, not condemned.

E. M.

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Rat Week Poll

By Mary Ann Raines

At the close of rat week a poll of students was taken to determine "Should Rat Week Be Abolished?"

Among the sophomores it was practically unanimous that rat week should not be abolished. As one student said, "Rat week is a tradition to which both the freshmen and the sophomores look forward. It is a test of good sportsmanship and it can be lots of fun if it is taken in the right spirit."

The freshmen were divided in their opinion. Fifty percent were in favor of rat week and fifty percent were against it. There were many points brought out on both sides.

"It promotes a closer relationship between the classes and causes

the freshmen to become better acquainted with the sophomores. It breaks up the monotony of college life and gives everyone something different to do."

"It may promote closer relationship between the classes but that relationship could be fostered in a better way. It takes too much time from studies and serves no purpose except to create bitter feelings."

It was the general opinion that if rat week is to be continued some improvements should be made. It was suggested that rat week should come closer to the beginning of school, that it should last only one day, and that a study hall should be required. It remains to be seen whether or not rat week will continue as a Salem tradition.



By Emma Sue Larkins

Katy Kombs had been preparing for Rat Week ever since the first week of school when some assuming little freshman not only snapped on her current boy-friend, but slithered off with him.

She had first of all practiced up on Gestapo tactics. This involved shouting, snarling, stomping, screaming, and scaring which involved three call-downs. The call-downs were administered by the same assuming freshman who besides being a "snake" was also a "proctor."

So it was with much enthusiasm that Katy chanted, "Freshmen, the Sophomores are coming after you." It was with a great deal more enthusiasm that Katy began her own private version of Rat Week.

Attired in black and holding in both hands a lemon which she sucked if she ever had the slightest desire to smile, Katy achieved the desired effect as the big bad soph.

The theme this year was the Sophomores as Adam and Eve (mostly Eve) and the Freshmen as snakes. (Obviously Katy had been chairman of the committee who decided on the theme!)

Katy took a great deal of pleasure in snarling "Slither Snakes". The assuming Freshmen looked especially good crawling on the Katy made her slither across the hockey field and back three times the day she forgot to make up Katy's bed, and Katy received her fourth call-down. Besides being a snake and a proctor, the assuming freshman also checked rooms for I. R. S.

She was also a good sport much to Katy's distress. She adored being ratted—she exhilarated in it—she blossomed from it.

By the end of Snake Week she had sung "Beautiful Wilson" at least fifty times besides composing three new verses to it that were a delight to all on campus.

The "flirting freshmen" had learned the "Snake Song" backwards and forwards and had mastered the "Snake Crawl" down to the last slither.

She had set a new record by writing 125 Snake letters and had received no less than 100 "interesting" answers. (Katy had had a suspicion that the flirting freshman would be good at writing Snake Letters—too good!)

Going even further she had proposed to every male who had appeared on campus and had gained some very promising replies. Even Stevie Gramley said "yes" to the proposal, because as he put it, "All boys like snakes."

Not only boys but everybody liked the Snaky Freshman. She was clever and so very funny. Her impersonation of Katy at Stunt Night as "The funniest looking sophomore ever" earned Katy a sizable reputation. Every one on campus—from Dr. Gramley to Lucy Spencer — laughed continually when they looked at Katy.

However, no one laughed quite as furiously as did Katy's ex boy-friend who came up for Snake Court. Katy had been looking forward to having him see the freshman as she really was a down-trodden snake without make-up or curls. Katy had been anticipating the day when her ex could contrast the lowly flirting freshman with her—the mighty sophomore. Katy was sure he would see her as "The Eve who could get her Adam and kill the snake."

Adam saw her as Eve all right—the Eve who had enslaved men too long—especially him. He was through with Katy, instead of Cupid Katy the Snake had struck his heart.

Right after Snake Court with which the flirting freshman sang "I've Got You Under My Snake-Skin" and "I'm A Venom-Packing Mama"—Adam and the snake slithered off to the Garden of Eden. (Carolina Fraternity Court in modern language.) They left Katy alias Eve holding the bag—of lemons.

Dear Papa...

By Anne Lowe

Dear Papa,

Yesterday I talked to a boy who had been in Korea for a year. He said he had been looking in the papers and trying to find out how far the boys had gotten since he left. All he could find was politics. Then he said he found one small article about a certain hill. He said it looked like people over here had forgotten that the boys were still fighting and dying and were only thinking about "will so-and-so run for president?"

England is also looking at politics. The Tories and the Laborites are getting pretty hot in their campaigning. Churchill said, "It will be a very hard thing for people if I win—I want sweat and tears in order to avoid blood." That man sure does throw out some powerful words, doesn't he, Papa?

Mr. Clem Attlee, who is against Mr. Churchill, is the quiet type. He calmly tells folks what he thinks about things. He says, "Mr.

Churchill is an old-fashioned politician, and I suppose he can't change his methods." This reminds me of when Jackson Mahaffey ran against Old Pink for the town council. Jackson was fiery too, but he won.

In the meantime the Egyptians are calling the British THE ENEMY. I sorta agree with the Egyptians about that treaty they made with England, but I'm still wondering what they're going to do about it.

Our vice-president, Mr. Barkley, doesn't get into the news often. It seems he's going to get a little publicity soon though. I noticed that Barkley's secretary and a Senate committee lawyer are accused of helping swing a \$1,100,000 government loan to build a luxury hotel in Florida. I hope none of our boys in Korea find out about this. They might think some folks are more interested in getting money than saving soldiers' lives.

Your ever lov'en daughter,
Anne

What God Has Joined

Editor's Note: Below is the unedited text of Dr. Julian Lake's sermon on marriage delivered Oct. 7 at the First Presbyterian Church. Because of space limitations the sermon will be printed in several sections dealing with the several subjects found in the marriage ceremony.

Text: Mark 10:9—"What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder."

Our text is taken from the tenth chapter of Mark, the ninth verse, where we have these words of Jesus: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." In the year 1946 there was one divorce for every three marriages in America. Need I explain the meaning of it. It does not mean that one-third of all people who were married at the time were divorced, nor does it mean that one-third of all the people married in that particular year were divorced; but it meant that of the number that were married in that year, one-third of that number were divorced, that is, a third of that number of people were divorced, some of them may have been married for years. That is serious enough, is it not? Things have gotten a little better, thank God, since that time, but not too much better. If one-third of our business houses should fail, you would do something about it. If one-third of the schools in America should close their doors, you would take steps to remedy that situation. If one-third of the farms in the United States should fail, surely the Farm Bloc would be marching on Washington. Well, one-third of the marriages broke. We ought to do something about it. Let me suggest a very simple thing we can do this morning. We can read, study, and take to heart the wedding ceremony.

Some of you are not married yet, some of you are already married. When you stand before the minister you never hear what is read. You only come to consciousness long enough to say "I will" or "I do," depending on what marriage ceremony you have. Let me

suggest this: that we make a study and absorb and take to heart the wedding ceremony. At perhaps the most impressive and dramatic moment of the ceremony the minister asks the couple to join their right hands, then he says to them, "Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." It is a quotation from Jesus and Jesus is quoting from the Book of Genesis. Of course, the quotation is slightly altered. Where you have "what" in the Bible, you have "whom" in the wedding ceremony, but it means the same thing. "Whom God has joined together, let no man put asunder." Jesus was answering a question put to Him by Pharisees—"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Now, millions of people who are not Pharisees ask that question. I want you to note that Jesus lifted it out of legalism and put it on a high spiritual plane. Now you understand that the answer of Jesus has been the battlefield of theologians and Biblical students for hundreds of years, and this morning I don't want to get into that war. Let's avoid it if we can; but let me make one or two statements about what Jesus said. Jesus was not a legislator, He did not belong to the Senate or the House of Representatives. He was not a lawyer or a legalizer. Jesus, I feel, was not thinking about law when He said, "If a man divorces his wife and marries another, he is committing adultery." Jesus lifted this whole business up onto a high plane and He said that God so made man and woman from the beginning, it goes against the grain of their creation and their very nature for them to be married to a person and then have that marriage break up and marry somebody else. And I think that people who have experienced that would be the first ones to agree with it.

Note that in this passage of scripture He said, "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife." It is very necessary that we note that for this is precisely what a man and woman should do. When

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