

DOWNFALL.

BY KAY HALSELL

A Short Story Intimating That Freshmen Are Better Lovers Than Seniors

The ole' mess hall was all aglow with soft lights and from the inside could be heard the slow, rhythmic strains of "Cocktails for Two". Ah, you guessed it, a Corps dance was just beginning.

That afternoon the Aggies had just conquered their ancient gridiron enemies, T C U in a hard fought game and the fightin' Aggies were all in the mood to paint the town red. In fact there were some who already had a marvelous start and were gaining speed every minute.

Jimmy, a fair-haired, not unhandsome Aggie, who hated himself not at all, came sauntering up to the annex steps in company with a golden-brown haired girl, named Mary, who had deep languorous eyes that sparkled like diamonds, and skin that resembled sheer satin. Mary had a smile for everybody, and there wasn't an Aggie loitering on the mess hall steps that didn't turn to stare in admiration at her, and allow the smile to freeze on his face as he saw who she was with. A few sneered and even the sound of "raspberries" could be faintly heard.

Jimmy, of course, was a senior. As a "Fish" he wasn't disliked for the simple reason that he didn't take the trouble to know those other than in his own company. As a Sophomore and Junior, however, he came out of his shell, so to speak, and garnered quite a reputation for having a size 8 head for a size 6 hat.

He was undaunted by the looks from his "Brother Aggies", and took Mary on to the dance floor and proceeded to show them, much to the disgust of other Aggies, just how dancing as an art really should be done.

Mary was finally "cut" by a tall redheaded Fresh-

man, whose only right to fame was the name, Columbus. He had a pleasant face and at a glance people were pleased at his instant handshake and open acknowledgment.

Mary, herself, was quite attracted by this Freshman, and when he luckily caught her at intermission, they strolled for the nearest exit. Of course, the moon was up, and they found solace in the back seat of a big black car parked in the shadow of the trees near Aggieland Inn.

Columbus started talking in earnest to Mary, for to him, this little girl was the acme of all the visions of loveliness that he had ever sustained.

He talked to Mary of love, and whispered sweet nothings in her ear. When intermission was over, Mary and Columbus went back to the dance firmly agreeing that it was love at first sight. Mary made Columbus promise not to mention their love to a soul, for she was the guest of another boy for the week-end, and she didn't want to put him on the spot. Columbus agreed, for he neither knew or cared who the boy was.

They began to dance again, and Columbus relinquished Mary to another boy who in turn was tagged by Jimmy. "Where in the duce have you been", demanded Jimmy, but he was greeted by a demure little smile and a "wouldn't-you-like-to-know" look in her eyes.

Came midnight! And the sweet strains of "Home Sweet Home" floated over the dance floor, signifying that the dance was over. Jimmy and Mary headed for town for a bite to eat while Columbus strolled aimlessly back to the dormitory feeling like a man who has just seen an angel.

Columbus climbed the steps of the dormitory to his stoop, and stopped one door short of his own to see if the occupants were home yet, for as the Gods of Fate would have it, Jimmy and Columbus were not only in the same company, but were also next door neighbors. He saw no one home to whom he could tell of meeting "the sweetest girl in the world", so he went to bed and dreamed of "brown-haired loveliness" all night.

Sunday came, and Columbus, after the routine duties of a Freshman on Sunday morning, went in to tell Jimmy of meeting the "one and only". Jim was half awake when Columbus came in and when Columbus started to tell him of his love affair, Jimmy grumbled something about "write me a letter about it, freshman", and went back to sleep.



"Write me a letter about it, Freshman."