

The Salemite

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Salem students are eagerly welcoming the return during the several weeks of the Advent season for the weekly young people's meeting which was for many years a feature of the religious life of the College and of the Academy and which has had a lasting influence on the lives of more than one generation of students. Nothing quite so impressive comes with the true Christmas spirit, or so inspires one with deep and holy reverence for the beauty and wonder of the Christmas story, or so interprets to one the true meaning of the Christmas season as the talks by Bishop Rondthaler on these last three Wednesdays preceding the holiday season. There are a number of things which are done in our hearts, and which help to make Salem truly Salem; and this annual return for a few weeks to what was once a weekly custom stands as the dearest of them all.

Two weeks ago in the issue of *The Salemite* college thinking was challenged by the query, "Are women as honorable as men?" How is it that such a question, with its obvious imputation as to the honor of Salem students, is possible? The reason is too plain. There is in the student-body a group which so far has been impervious to appeals alike from the administration and from the Student Self-Government Association for strict honesty in lines of academic work, in matters of every-day dormitory living. This group fails to respond to the call for clean, straight, fair play. It is "Ferson's" Mass' phrase "the finest appeal directed at such as these finds nobody home." These students are the trodden hard-packed soil of the parable. No seed can penetrate. No honor system can take root, to say nothing of attaining a vigorous growth in such restrictive matters.

What is the remedy? Certainly not a cowardly throwing up of the hands as before an insurmountable problem. Since ordinary methods of persuasion and appeal avoid nothing, adopt extraordinary ones. Dynamic this hard soil. Let us really break up indifference or wear it thin by incessant attacks, as constant rain, beating on the hardest clay bank, reduces it at last to softness. This is no matter for half measures or compromises. The student-body must exert itself, must vindicate its challenged honor. We are in a high sense one another's keepers and we sink below the noble standard of our Alma Mater unless we individually and personally make ourselves responsible for stamping out what is low, what is mean, what is unworthy in Salem's honor system. It is only by such concerted effort on the blasts on Salem's honor that can be removed.

The remarks we make on various occasions and think apt and witty are very often, either through conscious intent or by the merest carelessness, harmful to the thing about which the remark is made. We consider the college paper one of the most efficient representatives of the student-body, and we

are certain that it is not alone our interest and our pride in the publication that is the basis for our belief. The loyal support which we have received from the majority of our subscribers and from the student, faculty and administrative departments of the institution, has been the biggest factor in strengthening our faith in the influence of the weekly news sheet.

We have been aware, often painfully so, that there has not been whole-hearted backing of our own undertaking; but we are nevertheless more than intensely shocked to learn from one of our advertisers that a Salem girl was "neutral" in the publication. The advertiser in question was himself very much surprised when the student informed him, after he had remarked to her that he advertised regularly in *The Salemite*, that "no one in school gives any attention to it, anyway." Whether this was careless or unintentional, or whether it had a definite, direct aim, we have no idea. But there are two things of which we are very certain: first, that the girl is unquestionably hurting a college organ which seeks to serve her own best interests; and, more important even, that she is displaying her total lack of loyalty to the image and giving outsiders the impression that the majority of students are of her type.

We are not asking for undeserved praise for *The Salemite*; we do not care at all for empty flattery. But we do request that if you have any serious dislike for the publication, you report the cause of it to us. We are willing, certainly, to admit our imperfections. And the deeper those imperfections will be considered, less when we have what we have been, and so sincerely for—the loyalty and support of every single Salem student.

In spite of all that has been said on the subject, mutilation of school property continues. The new chairs in the class room seem to be the object of particular malice, perhaps because of the smooth, tempting surface of their broad arms, and see initials, cartoons, and various other works of art carved on them with pen and pencil, so deeply that the marks cannot be erased. The old chairs are already badly mutilated, and the new ones are fast becoming as unsightly. No doubt resting on the chair arms is a pleasant pastime, but it is extremely self-defeating. We wish once again to urge the students to exercise self-control to prevent this defacement.

One girl said to another not so many days ago, "you think of Salem spirit as something very solemn; but my idea is a different one. To me it means 'pep' and enthusiasm." We do not pride ourselves on our ability in the line of definitions, nor are we positively certain that we have the best conception of the thing that means so much in the life of the institution and in the lives of the individual students. If the matter were referred to us, however, we should not hesitate to say that the girl who thinks Salem spirit means solemnity and the girl who thinks Salem spirit means "pep" are both thinking of it in a limited, narrow sense. It does include both qualities, but along with these are innumerable others without which there would result an unfortunate "one-sidedness." Salem spirit is "one-sided and touches every phase of collective activity or interest; it includes seriousness and dignity on the one hand, and humor and enthusiasm on the other. Be very careful when you attempt to define it lest you limit it to only a certain few phases which it seems to touch.

Courtesy in the dining room is an important matter as courtesy anywhere else on the campus, but it is here that Salem girls often fail to live up to their standard. When an announcement is made, a speaker should be accorded absolute quiet. As it is, she is often annoyed by talking and other disturbances. This noise not only prevents those interested from hearing the announcement, but it is also extremely discourteous to the speaker. It is a kind of carelessness which is unpleasant and unnecessary, and should be stopped, out of regard for the character and reputation of the student-body.

Bishop Rondthaler Speaks at Davidson

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for" that was responsible. The processes of law would be broken down. Murderers could be responsible for their acts—they would not be morally responsible. Criminals could lay the blame for their crimes on defective gray matter, and the laws would be ludicrous.

Then there would follow the denial of the soul as an entity. There would be no moral responsibility—no hope for the outcast—no grace for sinners. There would be no salvation—no hope, because of the "gray matter."

The convincing example of a man whose life was changed from that of a habitual drunkard to that of a respectable Christian gentleman, a man who later became a leader in church work, was given. "What can the mechanists say to such cases?"

"Stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has set you free. Put the same value on mind and soul as Jesus put. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"—*The David-sonian*.

LACK OF EVIDENCE

A youth seated himself in a dentist chair. He wore a wonderful shirt of striped silk and an even more wonderful checked suit. He had the vacant stare that goes with both.

"I'm afraid to give him gas," the dentist said to his assistant.

"Why?" asked the assistant.

"Well," said the dentist, "how will I know when he is unconscious?"—*Store Chat*.

Christmas Program At Cerle Francois

Program will include Appropriate Dialogues, Carols, Poems, and Holiday Stories

The French Club will have a Christmas program at the next meeting which will be held at six-thirty in the living room of Alice Clewell Building on Thursday, December the eleventh.

It is interesting to note that the students will respond to the roll call by telling in French just what they want for Christmas.

Flora Binder and Ruth Platt will give a dramatization of the story, "Les Trois Messes Basses." Mary Lee Taylor will read a poem called *Noel* by Gautier. Miss McMilline will sing a Christmas song, *Canique de Noel*, after which Christmas stories will also be read by French students. Songs will be sung at the close of the meeting.

Calendar

- Tuesday, December 9: 3:45—Hokey game
- Wednesday, December 10: 11:00—Bishop Rondthaler at Expanded Chapel. 3:45—Hokey game. 9:30 P. M.—Social Forum.
- Thursday, December 11: 3:45—Hokey game. 8:00—History Club.
- Friday, December 12: 3:45—Hokey game. 8:00—History Club.
- Wednesday, December 17: 11:00—Bishop Rondthaler at Expanded Chapel. Sunday, December 21: 5:00—Senior Vespers.

Seminar Course Open To English Majors

Dr. Willoughby Announces Next Semester's Program Which Will Center on Milton.

Dr. Willoughby, head of the English Department, announces that the Seminar Course will be open during the second semester to all English majors and to those who have done distinguishing work in English. During the first semester only the city and county teachers have been allowed to enter the course. Therefore, this announcement will be of much interest to all College students.

This is a two-hour course, but will give only one hour of college credit.

The second semester's work will be taken up with a detailed study of Milton's *Samson Agonistes*, *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*. Each student will take a special topic of Milton to work up during the year. Class work will consist of reports and discussions of Milton.

Glee Club to Present Christmas Recital

On Thursday, December 11, at Music Hour, the Salem College Glee Club, directed by Miss Lucy Logan Deola, will give a concert of Christmas music. The program will consist of an interesting variety of hymns, carols, and other more elaborate selections all of which will carry out the spirit of the Christmas season. This is the first Christmas concert ever given by the Glee Club, and students of Salem will look forward to it with interest.



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