

'Possums . . .

Tuesday night as I was leaving the Salem office I heard a rustle in the dogwood bushes right outside of the door. "Kitty, Puss, Kitty" I whispered, for I like little kittens. My eyes became accustomed to the darkness, and I saw the shape run across the brick floor, and under the steps leading to the Main Hall. It was a 'possum! At first I was almost scared, and then I smiled to myself. Who would believe that I saw a 'possum on the campus!

Today I learned of two ideas also new to the campus. The ideas are unique and different.

The Pierrettes are beginning work on their latest production "The Heiress", and they want it to be a success. Publicity must be keenly organized. And it has failed, in most cases, for the past few play productions. The new idea is this;

The Publicity Committee plans to sponsor a Poster Contest to find a striking, artistic, and informative poster to advertise and draw an audience to "The Heiress". All Salem students who would like to enter the contest are to draw a design on poster-size paper, complete with lettering, and turn in the poster by February 28 to Mr. Shewmake.

Assuming that a design of superior originality and good taste can be found among the entries, then that one design will be "silkscreened" into a number of uniform posters. This one pattern will be on each poster advertising "The Heiress." The student whose work is chosen will receive \$5 and a free admittance to the play.

The other new idea was announced by Emily Baker in chapel this week. The Scorpions are trying an idea for two weeks. From 3:00 until 6:00 on Saturday afternoons, the Day Student Center will be open to Salem girls and their dates, or groups of girls. Games, cards, music, dancing, chess, drinks, candy and popcorn are offered to those who would like to "come over" and entertain themselves.

For a long time the majority of Salem girls have complained about the lack of places of entertainment on Saturday afternoon. Now a new idea has been thought of and will be put into tentative practice. How will we respond?

How we respond is of great importance. For "The Heiress" to be successful, the publicity must be effective. The effectiveness of the publicity depends on the poster which wins the contest, and the contest depends on the participation of the students.

Likewise the Saturday afternoon gathering at the Day Student Center depends on us. What we cause to happen, happens for us. We are the ones who will be affected by this new plan.

It is time, I believe, to look with interest on the "possums" of Salem College. When the "new" appears on campus it is natural to draw back in hesitation and perhaps doubt; yet, it is easy to smile to ourselves and admit that the "new" can survive with the traditional.

Bebe Boyd

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Editor-in-Chief Betty Lynn Wilson
News Editor Jo Smitherman
Assistant News Editor Nancy Cockfield
Feature Editor Bebe Boyd
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COSMORAMA

By Sally Reiland

As we were saying last week—when our literary tide welled up against a cutline sea-wall which read "to be continued" — There comes a time when we even ignore I. R. S. call downs for unrolling levis, in order to lean toward the latest best seller shelves in the library; a time when we quit gobbling the sea-horses of the past for just a few days, and try nibbling on the closer-to-shore white caps.

On the lighter side of such as Elizabeth Bowen's writings, we find **Good Morning, Miss Dove** (Dodd, Mead and Co. \$2.75) quite delightful (honestly, Miss Byrd, there's no other word to describe it) indeed. Written by a native North Carolinian, Frances Gray Patton—the daughter of a noted newspaper editor in the state, and wife of a Duke English professor—this small town classic becomes peculiarly universal upon realization that everyone has had a Miss Dove during her schooling . . . Miss Dove—that firm fixture of the elementary school system who indoctrinates generations of animal-like children to proper posture, neat appearance, good manners and conformity (the latter above all else); that person of no uncertainty—present, past or future—who makes little boys wash their mouths out with yellow laundry soap for saying "darn", and who is known to all generations of a small town as "the Terrible".

This character, you will find in the reserve book section where the creative writing class reads with anticipation of producing a sequel. With her, we guarantee three hours of inward chuckles—as you recall that third or fourth grade teacher

of yours, who, you will be convinced, must have been Mrs. Patton's model for Miss Dove!

Slightly more satirical, but one which may strike home, is a recent by Randall Jarrell—associate professor of English at W. C. in Greensboro—called **Pictures from an Institution** (Alfred A. Knopf, \$3.50). It is, as the book jacket announces, "a wonderfully imaginative evocation of that modern and peculiarly American product, the progressive college for women." There's little space left to discuss, but can suggest that you become acquainted with Gertrude Johnson (no kin to our own seniors of the same name, she declares), the creative writing professor at said Benton College, where, as the book opens, we learn that: "Half the campus was designed by Bottom the Weaver, half by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Benton had been endowed with one to begin with, and had smiled and sweated and spoken for the other" . . . And where we see a cloud passing over the sun, and "there comes trailing from the gymnasium, in maillots and blue jeans, a melancholy procession, four dancers helping to the infirmary a friend who had dislocated her shoulder in the final variation of 'The Eye of Anguish'."

Week before last, we ended on the corner of Salem Square—anticipating the coming of the full-length English movie cartoon version of George Orwell's **Animal Farm** (Harcourt, Brace and Co., \$2.95). For those lovers of political satire, the book may serve as a good preview to the movie—in its allegory recounting the story of a revolution in barnyard terms and

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By Maggi Blakeney

Impressions:—

Through the New Jersey marsh lands . . . rain splashing on the window . . . past strong black and gray steel girders . . . then rush, rush to the nearest taxi . . . dampness and rain . . . feet wet and fingers cold as you travel up Broadway . . . stomach empty, just because you are a little afraid . . . this is 99 Clairmont Avenue . . . so don't be . . . remember you are a senior . . . a senior at Salem College . . . name tag and key . . . room assignment . . . "This way to Prophets Chambers" . . . your heels click down the corridor, down the stairs, through the tunnel, up some more steps . . . this is Prophets Chamber . . .

"This was once the home of the president. Now the guests of the seminary stay here. There have been many great men in your room . . . Tolstoy for instance. Take a look at the guest book when you have time."

Smile . . . close the door . . . and rush to get your tooth brush . . . cold water on the face, oh! . . . that is better . . . Go to the window to see just where you are . . . LOOK! . . . it's snowing . . . the wind is blowing it into drifts against the building across the street . . . Why there is Riverside Baptist Church . . . and a pink sign spelling ALCOA . . . looks pretty far away, though . . . can't tell in the dark . . . dinner at six . . . you had better go . . .

Sit here . . . but this looks like the speakers table . . . Dr. Brown . . . think I saw his name on the program . . . "ME" . . . Oh . . . the "Y" sent me . . . it is not like our dining room at all . . . huge beams across the ceiling, great men's portraits on the wall, and the window at the end has thousands of tiny panes of glass in the diamond shape . . . it is open just a little and the wind whips in . . . like a mead hall, this dining room . . .

Dr. Kennedy makes the introductions . . . "Welcome, to the third group . . . women equal to men in almost everything except the Presbyterian Church" . . . we laugh . . . Dr. Kennedy has such a nice voice . . . and so you begin to feel at home now as you and the seventy-five other girls make your way back down the steps to the Social Hall . . .

"Would you girls please move over to the other side of the room?" . . . and so here you sit waiting for the beginning . . . not quite sure what to expect . . . As you sit the wind whistles past the stone walls outside, but here you are warm . . . Webber and Dr. Brown . . . Dean and professor . . . better take notes . . . Webber leans on the heavy Gothic table . . . "The World That Challenges The Gospel" . . . There is an open fireplace behind him . . . and you know there is a stage behind you . . . gray rugs on the floor . . . big windows . . . everything big . . . big like New York . . .

"New York a symbol of the world . . . a world of all types . . . composite of the good and a great deal of the bad . . . a dehumanized world . . ." This is Webber speaking . . . speaking without notes . . . "We can use our religion four ways . . . in 'THIS WORLD' . . . escape . . . rebellion . . . apathy . . . and self concern . . .

Now Dr. Brown . . . "The Gospel that Challenges the World" . . . nervous, glasses, states his purpose and three main points . . . then he emphasizes them . . . just like a professor . . . wish everyone could hear this . . . Now move on—on to the Kennedy apartment.

Last night snow—today sunshine . . . we are right on the Hudson . . . and the Alcoa sign is across the river . . . Riverside Church in the sun looks like sugar coated candy . . . it almost glistens . . . it must be cold—the wind is blowing those men's overcoats out behind them, and they walk with their heads down . . . hurry . . . today you hear Reinhold Niebuhr . . . He tells you of the hazards . . . then tells you the don't . . . Talks by—a director of religious education, a missionary, and a professor of religion . . . Sketch Miss Andressian's picture like you sketched Niebuhr . . . the girl next to you is looking so you had better stop . . .

Oh to remember all of it—to be able to tell everyone . . . How lucky you are . . . you think of all this as you walk back through

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Letters To The Editor:

Editor's note:

Nancy Gilchrist feels that Salem students will be interested in a letter she received from Gen. Carlos Romulo after his visit to Salem.

Dear Miss Gilchrist:

I appreciate your letter of February 8th. It is gratifying to note that, having shared my thoughts with you, such thoughts have left an impression in your campus that has made my visit as pleasant as it was fruitful.

It was a real pleasure to be with that excellent group at dinner and

I will always carry with me the memory of my all too brief association with you and the others who were present that evening.

The spontaneous standing ovation with which my speech was greeted by your audience has thrilled me and touched me, and I wish I could thank all of you personally for your generosity.

Thank you again for your letter and I hope that soon our paths may cross again.

Sincerely yours,
Carlos P. Romulo

Here And There

By Freda Siler

France: After 233 days Premier Mendes-France and his government was overthrown by a confidence vote. The vote was a North African policy, but Mendes-France was really voted out before he could proceed to the program he most wanted to put over—a dramatic overhaul of the French economic system.

In his 233 days Mendes-France:

- (1) Negotiated a cease-fire in Indo-China.
- (2) Forced the Assembly to decide (against) on EDC and then to accept German rearmament.
- (3) Opened negotiations for a settlement in Tunisia by offering autonomy.
- (4) Reached agreement with Germany on the Saar.
- (5) Restricted overproduction of alcohol; issued free milk to school children.
- (6) Persuaded Britain to keep four divisions permanently in Europe.
- (7) Adopted several over-due constitutional reforms; introduced essential electoral reforms.
- (8) Raised the wages of industrial workers and some government servants.

Russia: The Central Committee of the USSR (125 of the most powerful Communists) met in Moscow

last week in a secret session lasting five days. Nikita Khurshchev, the party's first secretary, made an address that was printed in all Moscow newspapers.

The facts disclosed were not very cheering to the Russians. In August, 1953, Malenkov had started a policy of producing more consumer goods. This was to come to an end and heavy industry to take over. There also must be an increase in wheat production. In reality, the USSR is facing a food shortage. Harvests were hampered by bad weather; the meat and dairy industry suffered severe setbacks.

Not only did Malenkov's "consumer goods" policy go out, but he went out also. Bulganin, who is more capable of running the heavy industry production, is taking over. **England:** Last week a conference of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers was held in London. India's Nehru was very much in demand, as were his views. The other ministers gingerly tried to find out his views on Formosa. It soon became apparent that Nehru, with milder backing from Ceylon's Sir John Kotelawala, thought that the U. S. should abandon the Nationalists.

The other ministers, with some individual variants, favored Eden's plan, which would swap the offshore islands and U. N. recognition

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